



"What the Kennedys are to politics, the less famous Craigheads are to nature – a prolific and accomplished clan." – Kirkus Reviews

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOHN COYLE

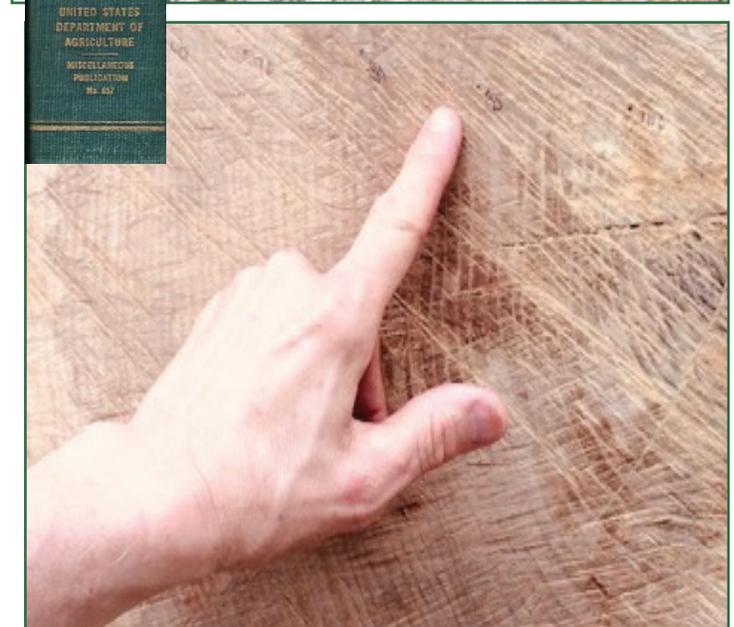
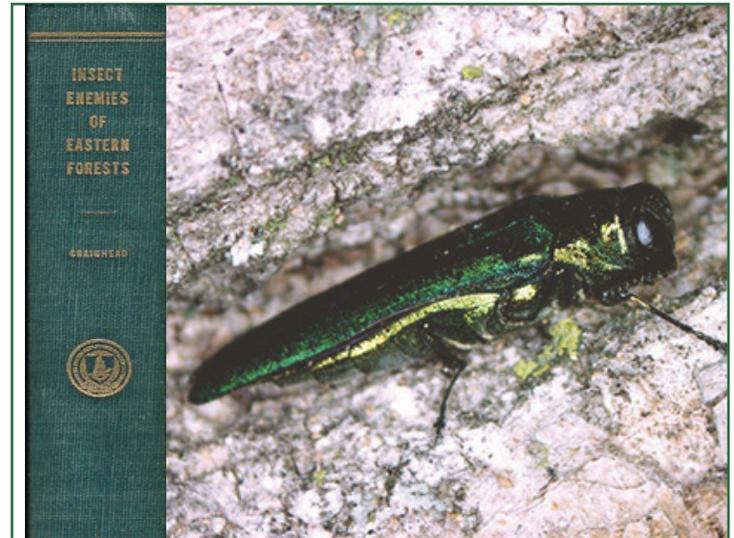
With a terrific crash, a 3-foot diameter green ash toppled to the earth across the abandoned rail bed next to Craighead House. It was mid-morning, Tuesday, September 10, 2019, the final minute of her 115 years.

In 1904, the freight train passed by this small sapling just after crossing the Yellow Breeches on the way to Carlisle from Pine Grove. Off to the left, Agnes Craighead's Irises waved in the breeze from the locomotive's belching smoke. Her diameter was nine inches when the hurricane of August 1933 covered her roots. (See me pointing out the 1933 annual ring.) According to Jean's *Summer of the Falcon*, page 103, the tree watched as Frank, John, and Jean Craighead, along with my father and his sister Emily, swam past on the swollen creek, ducking under the bridge.

By 1949, Craighead House was used only occasionally by various members of the extended family. While the twins and Jean had moved away for careers and family-raising, our great green ash presided majestically over the daily trains passing through Craighead Station. And inside Craighead house, a copy of Frank Craighead Sr's newly published book, *Insect Enemies of the Eastern Woodland*, might well have rested in the bookcase. Turning to page 464, you could have read Frank's description of "the Ash Borer." Seventy years ago, even he could not have predicted how travel and commerce would someday bring pests from many nations to his own backyard.

And so it was in 2012, when the Emerald Ash Borer arrived in Craighead PA, the house was grey and dark, inhabited only by raccoons and birds. Those who came to "save the Craighead House" barely noticed as her branches began to die. Six years later, it was obvious that the end of the line had come for the great green ash. Kind offers of reduced fees and debris removal lightened our financial load, and she was safely converted to a massive stump, a new seat for visitors at the outdoor education center.

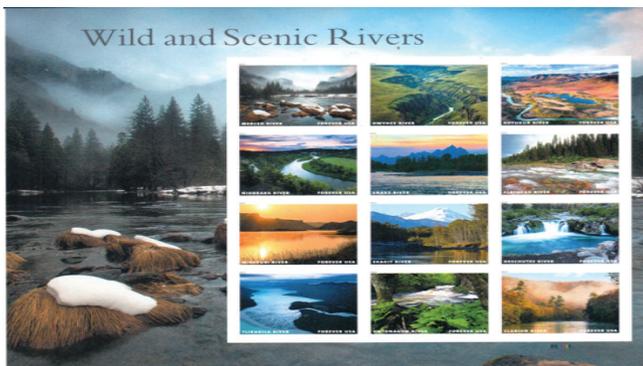
But in the spring when the tiny green shoots emerge, I suspect the borers will have moved on and we may see nature's miracle of rebirth.



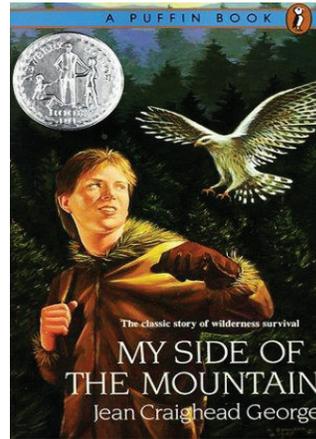
Message from the Board

As the season changes and we become more inclined to hunker down with a good book, we'd like to remind you that Craighead House continues to mark the 100th anniversary of Jean Craighead George's birth with our quarterly installment of the Book-of-the-Month program. Jean's prolific career as a writer of children's books has encouraged adults and children alike to read more about nature. Thanks to our Education Coordinator, Sarah Fischer, we strive to continue that legacy with this and other efforts.

Titles were chosen on the basis of being still in print and readily available to readers from bookstores and libraries across the country. Relevance was also a consideration. More information can be found on our website.

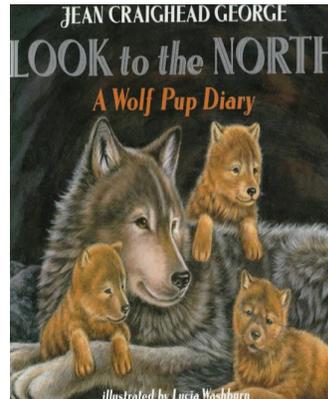


The U.S. Postal Service honors the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act and the efforts of the Craighead twins, Frank Jr. and John, who considered their efforts in helping to shape the law their greatest achievement. Only 60 million were printed so hurry and get your set!



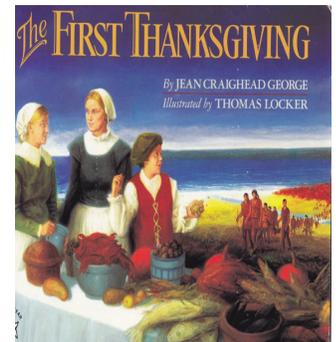
November

"... this beautiful book brings fresh insight and fairer balance to the traditional story." – Kirkus Reviews



October

In addition to being the favorite of so many readers, **My Side of the Mountain**, turned non-readers into readers and rightfully deserves its Newbery Honor.



December

Jean fell in love with wolves when writing **Julie of the Wolves** and never lost that emotion.

Craighead House Committee Corporation Board

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The Craighead House Committee Corporation was established to provide an educational and recreational resource that focuses on nature, literature, history, and respect for our environment as exemplified by the life's work of the Craighead family of naturalists.

Craighead House Committee, P.O. Box 335, Boiling Springs, PA 17007
CraigheadHouse@gmail.com
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

www.craigheadhouse.org



Construction

When we acquired adjacent land for the parking lot, it became apparent that significant costs would be involved in satisfying PennDOT and township requirements. Experience with holding educational programs for children informs us that an outdoor restroom is a necessity.

So, our architect, Bob Cianfichi, drew up plans for the improved parking lot and an innovative structure reminiscent of a railroad station that reminds visitors of the historic use of the property. The building houses an ADA-compatible restroom and a utility shed to store maintenance equipment. It sits adjacent to a handicapped accessible brick walkway from the handicapped parking space to the base of the wheelchair ramp at the house. The benches/trellis unit, underwritten by Dee and Chip Fenton, is placed over the walkway marking the entrance to the property.

Lu Conser and Tom Benjey set about getting quotes for the work from area contractors and wrote up proposals to granting institutions. Several awarded us grants for the project. Final approvals from authorities necessitated some changes to the project design, increasing cost. Our architect advertised for bids. Those that came in were for more than we had expected but, through generous donations by individuals to the capital fund, we were able to complete the project. The lowest bidder, McCorkel Construction Services, broke ground in May of this year. Work was completed in time for us to host two events celebrating Jean Craighead George's 100th birthday.

Ribbon Cutting

The parking lot and comfort station were officially opened to the public at the ribbon-cutting ceremony held on August 22. In spite of stifling heat and humidity, the event was well attended. Speakers included Mike Eschenmann of DCNR, Stephanie Williams representing Cumberland County, and State Senator Mike Regan.

The major donors for this project were DCNR, Cumberland County Planning Department, Isabel Carpenter Masland through The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, Carlisle Barracks Spouses Club, Carlisle Garden Club, Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, and generous individual donors. Almost all of the grantors were represented at the event, which was well covered by The Sentinel in a front-page piece with photographs and in its on-line version.



Craighead House Comfort Station facilities will open annually for the first day of trout season remaining open during daylight hours through October 31st.



John Coyle provides remarks at the official opening of the comfort station and parking lot.



Craighead House Board Members (from left): Larry Smarr, Tom and Ann Benjey, Lu Conser, John Coyle, Bill Turner and June Shomaker (center) cutting the ribbon.

Shutters

Restoration of 49 exterior shutters was completed in mid-June. A Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority Façade Restoration grant and generous donations from Barbara Hallowell, Larry Rowe, Rusty & Judi Shunk, and Isabelle & Charlie Gibbs made this possible. With the exception of minor but persistent maintenance, the exterior of Craighead House is fully restored. Our efforts now turn to the challenge of funding the interior restoration projects.



Craighead Programs Update

Early Presbyterians in the Cumberland Valley
Reverend Dr. David T. Myers, son of an Army chaplain, retired pastor and longtime resident of Boiling Springs, recently gave a talk at Craighead House titled, "Early Presbyterians in the Cumberland Valley." Thomas B. Craighead was one such pastor, serving a small congregation in a frontier settlement about a day's ride west of Harrisburg. We know it as the Big Spring Presbyterian Church in Newville.

He also donated to Craighead House the book, *History of the First United Presbyterian Church of Newville, 1764 through 1977*. Our thanks to Reverend Myers!

Dr. Myers is a founder and frequent contributor to the This Day In Presbyterian History website (thisday.pcahistory.org).

Other Programs

On September 24, Tom Benjey presented a program titled "Jean Craighead George: The First 100 Years" to the Institute for Retired Persons at Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA.

Education Coordinator, Sarah Fischer, held three Tuesdays at Craighead House programs for Yellow Breeches Middle School children in September and October.



Appreciating our donors...



Drew and Kathy Stoken have finished making the beautiful donor appreciation board and have installed it in a most prominent place on Craighead House.

**Please consider donating
to Craighead House!
craigheadhouse.org/donate**

Craighead House Committee
P.O. Box 335
Boiling Springs, PA 17007

Thank you for your support!

**Craighead House is a registered
501(c)(3) non-profit organization**