

Craighead House Chronicles

Volume II No. 3 Spring 2017



Govment

President's Message

That's the way I heard the word "Government" as a child, and it's still what I call it in my head when I talk to myself. It means "a power outside me that compels me to behave in a way that I would not choose for myself." Sure, I understand that misbehavior ought to be controlled, but that applies to others... MY actions are always well-reasoned. I use my money for good things; THEY want to waste it on bad things. I get my advice from wise friends; THEY listen to fools. Perhaps you think along similar lines.

So what was the Craighead attitude toward the State and Federal government? And what can we learn from them to help us chart a proper course in preserving their legacy at Craighead House? I believe that they were cautiously cooperative with governmental bodies, and never lost sight of their own goals and values. Limited space prevents a detailed discussion, but let the interested reader see Tom Benjey's new book: *Glorious Times* p.163 for a fascinating story of Jean's run-in with the US Army when she innocently

John Coyle

spilled the beans about the atomic bomb in her 1943 *Washington Post* article.

Regarding Frank and John, see p.201 describing heavy-handed National Park Service meddling which put an end to their grizzly bear studies about 1970. Through it all, they lived very long and productive lives, churning out hundreds of publications and



(Continued on last page)



CRAIGHEAD HOUSE COMMITTEE CORPORATION BOARD

Dr. David Masland,
Founding Member
1923-2014

Dr. Johnson Coyle,
President

Ann Benjey,
Secretary/Treasurer

Thomas Benjey
Trish Carlucci
Lu Conser
Laurie Craighead Rudolph
June Shomaker
Dr. Drew Stoken

Anthony Deluca,
Solicitor

Bill Turner
Newsletter Editor

Linda Sweitzer
Education Coordinator

A 501(c)(3) Organization
www.craigheadhouse.org
CraigheadHouse@gmail.com

Mission Statement

The mission of the Craighead House Committee Corporation is to preserve Craighead House and put it to use as a community learning and support center for educational activities related with the Craighead Naturalists' areas of interest and to house offices and museums related to conservation, writing, art, and local history.

Grants & Projects

We have submitted proposals to the following agencies for grants the first quarter of 2017:

- Yellow Breeches Watershed Association for landscaping along Old York Road and for native plants.
- Carlisle Barracks Spouses Club for signs to announce events.
- Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau (CVVB) for improvements for the parking lot and ADA access.

We are designing a new informational brochure with the CVVB on a SNAP grant which will pay for the printing and distribute a portion of those printed. These flyers are to be ready to hand out at Foundry Day in Boiling Springs.

Proposals are in work for grants from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Department of Community and Economic Development to complete parking lot and ADA access improvements.



Life-Changing: John C. and Me (cont'd from Winter 2017)



Frank Craighead Jr.'s Cabin in 1980

Upon arrival, I purchased a few magazines and was given others that told the story of the western Craighead family, not just their remarkable work with Grizzly Bears, but falconry, rock climbing, wild-flowers, white-water rafting, films, books and the outdoor adventures of Frank & his twin John following WWII. The Craighead children were also featured as rugged & highly skilled westerners.

We spent weeks exploring the mountains, rivers, and lakes of the Teton region, including the Idaho side of the mountain chain. We soaked ourselves in hot springs near Wilson and I fell in love with the prettiest food server west of the Mississippi in Moose! We went camping in Yellowstone and I was absolutely mesmerized by the geysers, wildlife, and Grand Canyon of Yellowstone.

At the time of our visit, the elder John was in Montana, and most of the Craighead kids were in Alaska, so we spend a good amount of time with Frank. He could not have been more accommodating, helpful & gracious. I had my first ever Elk dinner in his cabin under a stunning photograph of him holding a trout. I was told he had a talent for fashioning fly rods "on the quick" out of nothing more than tree branches. He pointed-out local fishing spots for us and I remember asking him some questions about Antelope Valley at the time when he and his brother first arrived, and about his interest in fly-fishing. He spoke earnestly about the hardships of the early settlers,

especially their tenacity. A Prince from India, I believe, was also visiting, working alongside Frank with falconry. I often saw them working together that summer.

I was also very fortunate to meet the Laubins, the closest neighbors. One day during our visit, Frank asked if I could help move a steamer trunk. So we rode over to the Laubins cabin together to fetch it. There was a Tipi on the Laubins' property and I was given the "grand tour," like a visiting dignitary. It wasn't until later that I learned of their remarkable story having been adopted by a Native American tribe and their international recognition for documenting and recreating Native American dances and tipis.

What I found so welcoming about our visit to Wyoming was the friendliness of all the Westerners we met. I must have been 16 years old at the time, with shaggy blond hair and beat-up blue jeans, and yet, every neighbor, "old timer", or family friend we encountered was genuinely open, interested, trusting, and self-effacing. I still remember these wonderful and warm interactions 40 years later!

By the time our trip ended, I was absolutely determined to build a career involving the outdoors. The success of the Wyoming & Pennsylvania Craighead family proved to me it could be done; to weave together a life filled with outdoor adventure and professional success. When I returned to PA, I enrolled in our local community college as a biology major. A field class would bring me to Florida a year later to study marine environments in Big Pine Key and Everglades ecology in Everglades National Park. Upon my return to PA from Florida, I immediately transferred to the Florida Institute of Technology and spent my undergraduate years studying Environmental Science in the Sunshine State, which I never left.

And now, at 54 years old, I have spent a rewarding career in the environmental field, having reached retirement age in 2016. I have remained true to my dream of a life spent exploring the outdoors taking road trips & hiking throughout Florida and many beautiful spots in the USA. Although I no longer hunt, I am still an avid fisherman, in both fresh & saltwater, a dedicated fly-fisherman & fly-tyer. I enjoy being a passionate nature photographer and longtime volunteer in the Florida Park Service, assisting with interpretative hikes, prescribed burning, photography classes, etc. And, as a member of CCA-Florida (Coastal Conservation Assoc.), I get to share my passion of all things "outdoors" with others.

I think back on those years in Pennsylvania with great fondness; for the beauty of Bucks County, PA, and the adventures shared with friends. I have two brothers resting in-peace at Newtown cemetery, and when I visit I always stop-by to say hello to John Craighead. His gravestone, with its carved woodland setting, is a fitting tribute to his passion for the forests & streams he ... we ... spent so many hours exploring.



Exterior painting is being made possible thanks to the generous support of the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau (CVVB) and several individual donors. Winter halted the process but soon the "new coat" for the Grand ol' Lady will be completed. Thanks to an individual donor and G. B. Stuart Charitable Foundation, the wheelchair ramp and rebuilding the sleeping porch, were finished last fall. Painting should be completed by mid-April.



Upcoming Events at Craighead House

Sat. April 22, 3pm to 5pm: **Nature Photography by Crystal Hunt**; Learn What, Where and How of Capturing the Best of Mother Nature. Open to the public; Ages 12 and up.

Sat. April 29, 1pm to 1:30 pm: **Perennials Exchange**; bring zero to five plants and take home new ones.

Sat. April 29, 2pm: **Create a Pollinator-Friendly Garden** with Penn State Master Gardener Ruth Osborne.

Sat. May 6, 2pm to 5pm: **Games and Fun from Pre-TV Days**; Play games from the 1930s—badminton, dodge ball, croquet, Wiffle ball & board games. Ages 6 and up. RSVP.

Wed. May 10, 6pm to 8pm: **Make a Gift for Mom**; Ann Howell Woods will assist children with two Mom's Day projects. Ages 4 to 10. RSVP.

Tue. May 16, 6pm to 8pm: **Fishing at Craighead**; Bring your rod and bait or contact Laurie if you need a rod. No RSVP unless rod needed. All ages welcome.

Sat, May 20, 3pm to 5pm: **Not So Creepy Creek Critters**; What lives in and around the Yellow Breeches? Find them, learn their story and test creek for its PH chemistry. Ages 6 to 15 or younger if accompanied by a parent. RSVP.

Tue. May 30, 6pm to 8pm: **Metal Detection Exploration**; Search for treasure around Craighead; All welcome. Retrieved items stay with Craighead House but child finders get rewards. RSVP.

Tue. June 6, 2:30pm to 5:30pm: **Tubing and Swimming the Yellow Breeches!**; Our natural water park is open for fun and exploration. 12 tubes will be provided, please bring your own if you can. Wet Fun for all ages! RSVP.

Tue., June 14, 6pm to 8pm: **Metal Detecting**; Search for treasure around Craighead; All welcome. Retrieved items stay with Craighead House but child finders get rewards. RSVP.

Sat. June 17, **Making Bamboo Fishing Poles**; Final plans and time to be announced. *RSVP.*

Sun. June 25, **Master Gardeners Tour**; Craighead House will be a stop on garden tour. PA Honey Queen & PA Falconry and Hawk Trust will make presentations.

Tue. June 27, 2:30pm to 5:30pm: **Tubing and Swimming**; Our natural water park is open for fun and exploration. 12 tubes will be provided, please bring your own if you can. Wet Fun for all ages! RSVP.

RSVP your name & phone number to rudolphlaurie@ymail.com in case of schedule changes

Volunteers

Got tech skills? If managing social media exposure, crowdfunding posts and tech-based communications is your thing, Craighead would love to have your assistance! Our spring and summer activities are gearing up. Successfully spreading the word and building attendance without great expense is key. If you would like to help in any way, please contact us at CraigheadHouse@gmail.com.

A spring yard clean up is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 22. Bring rakes, gloves & water to drink.

Iron Bridge May Be Saved

Workin' Bridges, a national nonprofit dedicated to preserving greenbelts and historic truss bridges, recently submitted a request to Cumberland County to take ownership of the Craighead bridge in So. Middleton Twp.

The county had sought a buyer for Craighead Bridge since 2014. When Workin' Bridges discovered Craighead Bridge's situation, it looked at what could be done to preserve it. Julie Bowers, executive director of Workin' Bridges, said it initially wanted to preserve it in place—something it usually does since most truss bridges are too large to put somewhere else. However, she said they realized that couldn't be done with Craighead Bridge. Instead, Workin' Bridges is offering to pay the cost of dismantling the bridge, restoring it and finding a buyer to construct it in another location in the country. Workin' Bridges doesn't have a potential owner for Craighead Bridge yet, but the prospect is still promising. "I think it's a good size and a good candidate," she said.

The Carlisle Sentinel

You can donate to Craighead House:

on-line at CraigheadHouse.org

OR

By mail to:

Craighead House Committee

P.O. Box 335

Boiling Springs, PA 17007



Craighead House team at NCTC.
 (L to R)Tom Benjey, Shireen Farr, John Coyle (below), Lu Conser (below), Laurie Craighead Rudolph, Cory Adams, Katie Hess

Guvment (from page 1)

images that energized millions to appreciate and preserve the natural world.

So it was on a cold evening on January 31, 2017 that seven Craighead-lovers arrived at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV for a four-day conference: Balancing Nature and Commerce.

We learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed taxpayer-supported topnotch student lodgings and gourmet meals on a beautifully wooded campus. Thanks, guys. But wait, your tax money was NOT wasted this time. Listening to experts and networking with other groups from across the US, we learned of a dozen new ways to promote our mission, and to better fund our projects with government grants. We also became aware of our interdependence with regional

attractions such as the Appalachian Trail, Yellow Breeches and Letort watersheds, and the village of Boiling Springs, to name just a few. Discovering the rich resources of the US Fish and Wildlife Service greatly expanded our ability to provide topnotch programs and exhibits.

So, it is just as you would expect with the Guvment... there's good news and bad news. The good news is that we have found all the resources we will need to tell the Craighead story and inspire our grandchildren's grandchildren. The bad news is that a good portion of that is still under YOUR control. Grants will require matching funds. Programs will require volunteers. The Craighead House Committee intends to keep their heads down, avoid excess government entanglement, and focus on the mission. And we appreciate your support.