

# Chronicles



## CRAIGHEAD HOUSE

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

Volume III No. 4 Summer 2018

### Canoe

President's Message

John Coyle



*L to R: Mary Klaer, Anna Eby (Laurie Craighead Rudolph's great grandmother), Myra Eby Craighead, Mr. Klaer, Uncle Austin (assuming last name Eby) and Samuel Eby (Laurie's great grandfather)*

The Craigheads spent summers beside the Yellow Breeches and loved the outdoors, that's for sure. We usually associate them with falcons, grizzly bears, and other sorts of animals, but the twins considered the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act their greatest achievement. I wonder what adventures they had on the water at

Craighead House that helped instill in them such a love of water and streams?

The question is pertinent, because although rebuilding the old dock is probably prohibited by current conservation laws, an Eagle Scout project will soon provide a canoe

*(Continued on last page)*



**CRAIGHEAD HOUSE  
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1923-2014

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Sarah Fischer  
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A 501(c)(3) Organization  
[www.craigheadhouse.org](http://www.craigheadhouse.org)  
[CraigheadHouse@gmail.com](mailto: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 & Support Update**

Work on the parking lot/ADA-compatible outdoor restroom project has progressed. As mentioned previously, it is being funded by grants from Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, Cumberland County Planning Department, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), donors to our Capital Fund, and professional services in the form of in-kind donations.

Surveyor John Bixler laid out the precise location of the restroom and holding tank and architect Bob Cianfichi continued the design work for the project. He expects to submit for review the bid specifications to DCNR in July and to receive contractors' bids in August, with construction starting in September, if not before.

Our 2017 Annual Campaign to cover operating expenses continues. Although it is not the largest campaign we've had in terms of the dollar amount received, it is the largest in the number of contributors which has exceeded 100, the first triple digit total in the Craighead House's history! We are thrilled and have attempted to thank all donors with, at minimum, a personal note, if not a hand shake and face-to-face "thank you." We are overjoyed to have such broad support!

That said, we humbly and truthfully continue to state the obvious; "much remains to be done!" For example, the shutters are one of our final targets for exterior restoration. And, of course, the interior of the house needs considerable electrical and plumbing work, plus complete HVAC systems. Your assistance would be another blessing we would happily welcome. Again, **Thank You All!**

# Craighead House Committee Receives Award for Preservation



Above: (L to R) Jason Illari, CCHS Executive Director; Lindsay Varner, CCHS Community Outreach Director; Dr. Johnson Coyle, President, Craighead House Committee Corporation; Ann and Tom Benjey, Craighead House Board, Founding Members.

On May 10, the Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) honored the Craighead House Committee with its inaugural **Award for Preservation**, saying *"thank you for all you have done to help preserve Cumberland County history"* ... and for the *"monumental task of saving the Craighead House"*.

Cumberland County Historical Society honors  
**The Craighead House Committee**  
For outstanding preservation practices to save Cumberland County's  
Historic 1886 Craighead House on the banks of the  
Yellow Breeches for generations to come

Presented May 10, 2018 at the Cumberland County Historical Society to  
The Craighead House Committee

 CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
Collecting Engaging Sharing  
Stories **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

## **Craighead House Programming: *here, there and on the web!***

### ***"My Side of the Mountain" Day Camp at Craighead***

Craighead House hosted days 2 and 3 of Mechanicsburg Environmental Club's *My Side of the Mountain* day camp on June 19 & 20. The 18 children attending the camp interspersed fishing, wading & crawfishing in the Yellow Breeches between talks about the Craighead naturalists and reading *The Summer of the Falcon*. Tom Benjey gave a talk on Tuesday and Matthew March of Cumberland County Historical Society presented on Wednesday. Camp coordinator Paul Garrett reported, "In spite of very threatening weather, the camp went perfectly."

### **Craighead House Historian, gave local talks**

Tom Benjey gave several talks about the Craighheads' youths to other groups this past quarter: Sarah Fischer's pre-service teachers class at Messiah College, John Graham Public Library, Middlesex Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg Environmental Club, Appalachian Trail Museum and Carlisle Kiwanis. Tom also gave Anne Keene a tour. She is the author of *The Cloudbuster Nine*, a book that included sections on professional baseball players' interactions with the Craighead twins while attending their wilderness survival course, during training to be Navy pilots during WWII.

### **Watch the NCTC "*Glorious Times*" interview**

On June 21, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Historian Dr. Mark Madison, hosted an interview/talk with Tom Benjey as part of their **Conservationists in Action Series** in the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) television studio. The video is available for viewing from their archives at: <https://nctc.fws.gov/resources/knowledge-resources/video-gallery/conservation-action.html>

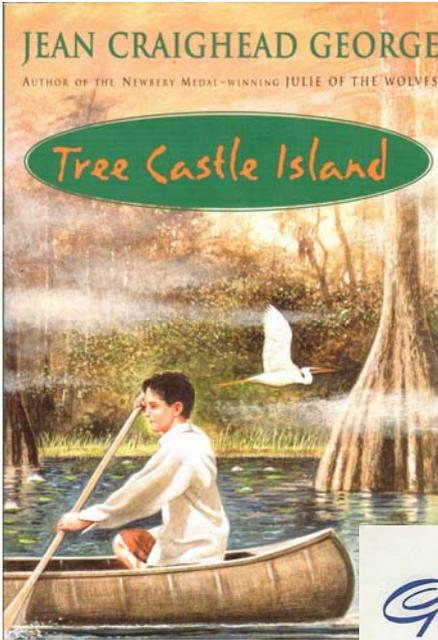
## **You can donate to Craighead House**

**on-line at: [CraigheadHouse.org](http://CraigheadHouse.org)**

**OR**

**By mail to:  
Craighead House Committee  
P.O. Box 335  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007**

# Canoe (cont'd)



Jean Craighead George's *Tree Castle Island* not only featured canoeing, it included identical twin boys

This is the 1962 invoice for the canoe John Coyle is making available for use.

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18 foot	Light weight	67 lbs.	253.00	Not available	19.00
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20 foot	War Canoe	117 lbs.	345.00	Not available	19.00
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Paddles, varnished ash, 48" — 49" — 5' — 52" — 56" — 59" — 6'		For 18' and 20' Canoes (4 pieces uninstalled)	4.30
Carrying yoke	4.00	Full length, 2 pieces 13'—18' uninstalled	14.10
Aluminum oar locks, per pair	9.40	Full length, 2 pieces 13'—18' uninstalled	11.00
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7 feet	13.85		
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8'	16.95		

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# CRAIGHEAD HOUSE

## Summer 2018 Education Schedule

New this year will be a **Water Balloon Battle** in July that will be more than just a fun way to cool off. As part of the clean up, we will discuss the environment and keeping our land trash-free, because even small metal or plastic items can threaten wildlife. In August, two "**Game Nights**" are planned with 1930s-era games such as Parcheesi, Old Maid, Whiffle Ball and Croquet, along with 21st Century fun with Squirt Painting and Making Slime.

### Here is the Summer Season schedule:

<b>Metal Detecting</b>	Weds., July 18	6 pm to 8 pm
	Weds., August 8th	6 pm to 8 pm
<b>Tubing &amp; Water Balloon Battle</b>	Tues., July 24th	2 pm to 4:30 pm
	Weds., August 8th	2 pm to 4:30 pm
<b>Fishing for Children &amp; Adults</b>	Sat., July 21st*	5 pm to 8 pm
	Weds., August 22nd	5 pm to 8 pm

***Must know how to fish!***

Please bring your rod if you have one. I will have a limited number of rods available. ***SIGN UP ASAP!***

<b>Game Nights</b>	Weds., August 1st	5 pm to 8 pm
	Sat., August 18th	5 pm to 8 pm

*(See details above.)*

**Contact Laurie Rudolph at [rudolphlaurie@gmail.com](mailto:rudolphlaurie@gmail.com) if you want to sign up for any of these programs.** Parents please note: I expect to have some help at these programs, so you may drop off your child or you are welcome to stay.

Please have your child bring water and a snack along, although I do bring some snacks. Class size is limited so get in touch with me as soon as possible. \* One detector will be available to share or bring your own. Look forward to seeing you, Thanks! -LCR.

**Meet Craighead's Education Coordinator  
Welcome Sarah Fischer !**



***After teaching elementary school for four years, Sarah received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Penn State University. She is currently Assistant Professor of Education at Messiah College, teaching Literacy Methods courses for pre-service teachers, Instruction Design and Assessment, and Children's Literature.***

***Dr. Fischer hopes to apply her passion for place-based education —learning in the community by being there and doing—to Craighead's future education programming.***

***Sarah naturally enjoys reading, beekeeping, and exploring nature with her family. She also collects Little Golden Books that have been scribbled in by children...she has over 300 in her collection!***

***Sarah lives in Mechanicsburg with husband, Donnie, and daughter, Adelaide.***



## *Canoe from page 1)*

rack at the edge of the old railroad bed, and I'd like to know more about the 1930's streamside, and the young Craigheads' watery adventures.

**So I arranged to interview 12 year-old Connor Petula of Mt. Holly Springs**, shown below, whom I recently engaged in conversation at a holiday party. In the fourth grade he found Jean Craighead George's *My*

*Side of the Mountain* at the school library. After devouring that, and *Far Side of the Mountain*, he found *Tree Castle Island*... the book he will carry in his head forever.



In subsequent canoe trips at his Grandmother's NY pond and especially at Laurel Lake here in PA, Connor began to experience that certain peaceful-yet-thrilling feeling of being alone on the water that canoers know well. Only a hundred paddle-strokes from his family, yet out of sight, he felt himself transported to the Okefenokee Swamp. Was that a log, or a 'gator? Who or what lies

around that bend in the creek? This is the wilderness experience that many of us long for today.

This is the power of Jean's books and the core of the Craighead legacy; to enter the mind of a child like a seed, then one day bring forth fruit in the form of an avocation or occupation in the outdoors. I'll wager that many of you readers have had a similar transformation. Encouraging youth to "read a book, then go outside" has always been my vision for Craighead House.

*And my canoe?* An indestructible 13 foot Grumman Aluminum that Dad purchased in 1962 for \$201.24. "*Hey John, that's a lot of cash back in '62,*" you say. Well, it averages out to less than 1 cent per day. ***Priceless, I say!*** And it will be available soon at Craighead House ***free*** for responsible paddlers to use. Contact me for access to the canoe rack: John Coyle, at [craigheadhouse@gmail.com](mailto:craigheadhouse@gmail.com).