

# Craighead House Chronicles

Volume III No. 1 Fall 2017



## *Show Me!*

### President's Message

John Coyle

We've all heard that. It means that it is easy to say you will do something, but many will not believe it until they see the result. Someone you know might have said that to you; when you were younger, of course.

And you may also have heard that "Nothing succeeds like success." So with that in mind, let me explain what has been going on at Craighead House as 2017 winds down.

If you have driven past, you probably have noticed that things look different this year. The dumpy gray house in the overgrown yard is now brightly colored and fresh, and is surrounded

by a much nicer lawn and plantings. And if you drove by on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, you might have seen a crowd of happy people filling the yard, learning about nature & conservation. Many of them asked, "Why can't we go inside the house?" or "Why did they paint the outside before fixing up the inside?"

Allow me to explain. A wise Craighead House Board Member suggested over two years ago, "Why don't we paint the front door for Christmas, so passers-by can see we are making progress?"

*(Continued on last page)*





## **CRAIGHEAD HOUSE COMMITTEE CORPORATION BOARD**

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1923-2014

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### **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**

As reported in the Summer 2017 edition, our major grant focus this year has been to submit applications to the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau (CVVB), Cumberland County Planning Department, PA Department of Natural Resources (DCNR) and PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) for the improvements to the parking lot required by PennDOT and the township plus an adjacent ADA-compatible restroom.

As reported previously, CVVB informed us that they will grant us \$15,000 for this project. Cumberland County Planning Department has now awarded us a grant of \$25,980. We're keeping our fingers crossed for the DCNR and DCED grants, the awarding of which have been delayed by the state's budget situation. We hope to have good news to report on this front in the next issue.

Lu Conser submitted a request to the Carlisle Barracks Spouses Club for pop-up tents to use at outdoor events on- and off-site.

### ***Upcoming Events***

**October 22 Sun @ 2:00 p.m.**  
*Scots-Irish in the Cumberland Valley.*

Dr. Cotten Seiler, Professor of American Studies at Dickinson College will present a talk about the colonists who settled in the Cumberland County and their impact on our nation's history.

## *Kanji on the Kitchen Wall*

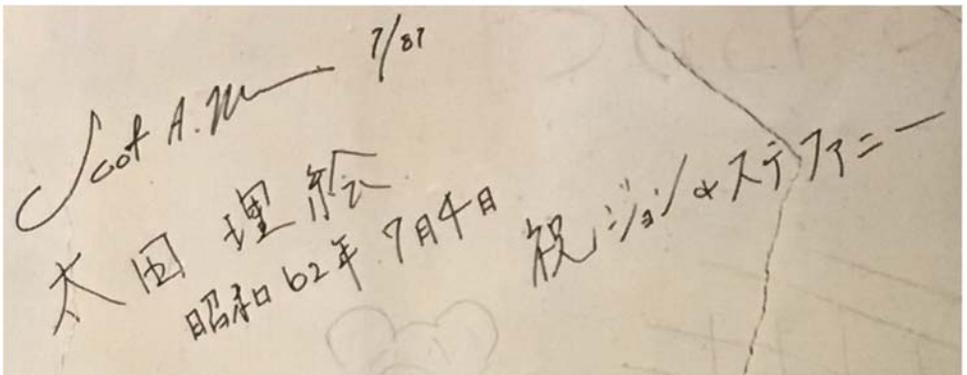
More information about a piece of artwork on the kitchen wall was gained recently when Lynn Dunbar's Taiwanese husband, Huei Sheng Kao, translated the kanji as best he could. Apparently, the Japanese adapted the Chinese system of writing and made modifications to it, not all of which are familiar to Chinese speakers. So, he immediately identified it as being Japanese but wasn't able to translate every symbol due to the Japanese adaptations. This is his translation:

First line is the writer's name. Japanese names are usually 4 syllables/characters.

Second line shows the date in Japanese terms: 62nd year of Hirohito's reign, or July 4, 1987. Hirohito's name after death is Showa. When emperors die, their name is changed to reflect the era of his reign.

Third line says, "in celebration of" ???

Having this valuable information in hand, we made a guess as to this inscription's origin. Surnames of Craigheads and friends that start with the letter "M," the only intelligible character of the writer's family name, that came to mind were Masland and Muir. John Muir, son of Ruth Ann Craighead Muir, verified that his brother Scot, who had been living in Japan, had inscribed this on the wall in July 1987. The occasion being celebrated was John Muir's wedding which took place at Craighead House at that time.



Scot Muir's inscription above the northeast kitchen doorway

## *An Art Mystery Solved*

We recently received a call from Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) saying that they had received a voicemail over the weekend from a woman who had lived in a Craighead house and had drawn on the Craighead House kitchen wall. We arranged to meet with her an hour later.

Faye Baer Peachey from Alberta, Canada, now 79, was visiting the area where she grew up with three of her grown sons when she recognized some sites from her youth. Her preacher/farmer father, Mervin Baer, worked Frank Craighead's farm for three years prior to his retirement from government work and return to Boiling Springs. Faye recognized the barn, which is currently a key component of the Dickinson College farm, but didn't immediately recognize the stone house across the road she had lived in as a young girl because it had been changed considerably during the intervening years.

Faye recalled her fire-and-brimstone-preaching father arguing with Frank Craighead about farming methods. One of Frank's theories she remembered in particular had to do with planting rose bushes close together to serve as fences to confine cattle. One she didn't know about was him planting the bamboo that still stands in the corner of the field.

She recalled having canoed in the Yellow Breeches Creek in 1944, when she was six, with her two older sisters at another Craighead house. Faye remembered a nice girl helped the Baer sisters get into the canoe and paddled it. It might have been Jean. She could have come up from Washington with her parents.

Faye told about being invited to stand on a table to draw on the kitchen wall. Mrs. Peachey wasn't certain she drew the drawing immediately adjacent to the light switch, but her sons were sure she did it. They recognized it as being very similar to the doodles she made in church during boring sermons.



## *Craighead 80/85 Anniversary Celebration*

A beautiful September Saturday of history, education and fun beside the Yellow Breeches Creek marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Frank Jr. and John Craighead's first *National Geographic* article and the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twins popularizing the sport of falconry in North America by training a pair of Cooper's hawks at Craighead House.

The freshly trimmed and landscaped yard was constantly occupied with visitors of all ages who stopped to peek at the celebrated wall art through the kitchen windows, visit with Eli DePaulis at the Appalachian Audubon Society booth, see the red tail and red shoulder hawks and listen to their handlers, Sean and Margaret Young, talk with Laura Basso of the Yellow Breeches Watershed and ask questions of Tom Au, Justina Wasicek and Mike Crochet from the Clean Air Board of Central PA.

Demonstrations occurred throughout the day. John Coyle's starting a fire with flint and metal gathered an impressive and curious youth group. Dusty Wissmath of TCO Sport Shop spent 40 minutes in the creek talking and demonstrating techniques for fly fishing. Mellissa Killinger, from Bosler Memorial Library, read sections of Jean Craighead's books to all those joining her by the old millstone. And the Penn State Master Gardeners of Cumberland County planted an herb garden on the western side of the kitchen area while answering questions.

Tom Benjey, conducted two historical tours around the house grounds and creek areas. Tom traced the Craighead family origins from 1714 when Rev. Thomas Craighead, a Scots-Irish Presbyterian minister settled in the Carlisle area.

Brown's Lunch Box provided visitors a variety of options from their on-site food truck.



Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania representatives Justina Wasicek, Mike Crochet & Tom Au discuss fine particle pollution issues. with visitors.

## *Geology of the Cumberland Valley*

Mountain building, millstones and creek creatures were just some of the topics of Dr. Kip Bollinger's recent interactive program at Craighead House. The long-time educator and former PA Science Advisor, recently took participants on a fascinating two-hour "backyard field trip" at the property for his Geology of the Cumberland County for his talk on September 24.

1. After an introduction to the attendees' underfoot foundation, Dr. Bollinger first stopped at the outdoor Craighead Educational Center. The four major rocks (Limestone, Shale, Sandstone, and Quartzite) were noted as our Great Valley's most common rock types. Faulting, folding and eroding principles were explained and their causes and implications tied to local agriculture, industry, waterways and the famous Boiling Springs "bubble". Dr. Bollinger credits the Triassic Diabase Sill for the village's notable attraction.
2. He next focused on the Yellow Breeches' power, utility and health. Working beside the stream, Dr. Bollinger led participants in calculating the creek's flow rate and volume as it relates to powering a mill for processing grain. The existence of a diverse macro-invertebrate population in the water was observed and analyzed by the group.
3. Aboveground topics included the critical relationship between respiration and photosynthesis, as demonstrated via "the burning candle" activity. Mills of the region were discussed in the context of stream management and economic vitality with an emphasis on Craighead Mill and Station.
4. Returning to the house porch, Dr. Bollinger outlined and provided resource materials on related subjects such as radon, watershed maps and protection, pasture management and conservation basics. Brochures on these and other related subjects were distributed. All are available free of charge from the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Dr. Bollinger has taught earth sciences at the high school, college and graduate school levels. He completed 20 years of teaching and 18 years at the Pennsylvania Department of Education as the Science Education Adviser. He actively consults with local schools, intermediate units and publishing companies. He has lived in Carlisle since 1972.

## *Donor Acknowledgement*

Now that the house's exterior paint has dried, we can acknowledge the numerous contributions made by generous donors. Each donor will have his, her, their or its name engraved on a brass plaque adjacent to the image of the raptor corresponding to the donor's giving level. Because cumulative donations are considered, the plaques won't be installed until after the 2017 annual campaign giving is complete. After that, when a donor's giving level reaches a new threshold, that donor's nameplate will be moved to be adjacent to the image of the bird representing the higher giving level. Donors will be contacted to find out exactly how their nameplates should be worded.

Our thanks to Tyler Crise, graphic design major at Lock Haven University, for his help in designing the display.



The Cooper's hawk above is an example of one of the ten birds used to represent giving levels.

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

## *Show Me! (from page 1)*

Sure enough, we got a donation of a beautiful Christmas wreath, lots of compliments, and an increase in giving. Not enough, however, to finish the entire house and grounds. Weighing its options, the Board then decided that our MISSION of nature/ conservation education could be accomplished outdoors in most weather.

So with the most threatened kitchen artwork secure, we decided to finish off the exterior while we continued our outdoor programming. A grant from the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau (CVVB) for two-thirds of the cost made the painting possible. Sure enough, we received some unsolicited donations and lots of compliments. We will see about that “increase in giving” this fall. We hope additional community members and groups might have been waiting to see if anything worthwhile would come of our dreams and initial donations, before investing in the project.

On your trip to view the new Craighead bridge at Rt. 174, during a Sunday drive to enjoy the fall colors, or to/from your daily travels, you might see evidence of sound planning, hard work and generous donors’ gifts has transformed that dumpy gray house and grounds. We will carry on outdoors as well as possible until that great day when we can finish the interior and the parking lot, obtain an occupancy permit, and open the doors to the public.

There’s another old saying: “When the train starts rolling, people will want to get on board.” I hope you will decide to ride along as we bring nature to the community, and the community to nature.



In the foreground, Melissa Killinger of Bosler Memorial Library chats with Bob & Demi Hauseman. John Coyle talks with Laura Basso of Yellow Breeches Watershed Association at Craighead 80/85 Anniversary Celebration.