

Chronicles



CRAIGHEAD HOUSE

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

Volume IV No. 1 Fall 2018

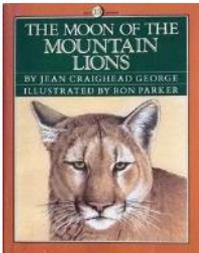
WILD

President's Message

John Coyle

Quiz: What do these have in common?

The lifespan of a Macaw...



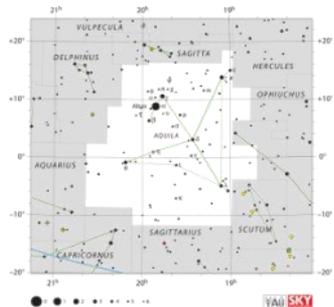
Time since publication of Jean Craighead George's book, *Moon of the Mountain Lions*...

350 dog-years...



Traveling time for a photon of light from the binary star Delta Aquilae...

to reach your eye tonight?



(Continued on last page)



CRAIGHEAD HOUSE COMMITTEE CORPORATION BOARD

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1923-2014

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Education Coordinator

A 501(c)(3) Organization
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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 & Support Update

Bid document development is underway for the grant project (Parking Lot, PennDOT driveway entry, and Comfort Station) which is being funded by DCNR, CCPD and CVVB. Once the plans are finalized, they will be forwarded to DCNR for review and approval. Once approved, we can solicit contractor bids. It is our hope to be under contract for the work this Fall, with final completion in the Spring.



OUTDOOR RESTROOM - SOUTH



OUTDOOR RESTROOM - EAST

Summer 2018 Activities

Laurie Craighead Rudolph conducted several children's activities at Craighead House in spite of frequent rains. We had booths at the A Day at the Lake celebration in Boiling Springs and the McLain Celtic Festival. Tom Benjey made presentations to both Carlisle Rotary groups.

See photos on right →

Jean Craighead George—The Great American Read

In August, WITF, the PBS station local to Craighead House, interviewed Craighead House President John Coyle, Education Coordinator and Messiah College professor Sarah Fischer, Jean Craighead George's daughter Twig George, and Tom Benjey for a piece they were filming about Jean Craighead George. It was to be a 5-minute segment for the station's portion of PBS's *Authors & Their Hometowns* program, a half-hour piece to accompany PBS's *The Great American Read*. They were also making a piece about John Updike, another writer with ties to Central Pennsylvania.



Above: Sarah Fischer, Craighead House Education Coordinator, speaks to WITF for their *Authors/Hometowns* Program.

We were disappointed that the Jean Craighead George piece didn't make the cut for the PBS piece when we viewed the broadcast of *Authors & Their Hometowns* Tuesday evening. However, WITF did broadcast the 5-minute Jean Craighead George piece on September 13 and 16. It can now be viewed on-line from WITF's website: <https://video.witf.org/video/great-american-read-the-wild-world-of-jean-craighead-george-nes82j/>



Donor Appreciation Board
... a permanent "thanks" to Craighead Donors

We are so grateful for the dozens and dozens of generous donors who have made our progress possible. Happily we are close to physically acknowledging their support with a Craighead House Donor Board fixed to the outside porch area.

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 will be installed once the construction of the Donor Appreciation Board is complete.

Actual images of a Red Tailed Hawk and Bald Eagle for the Donor Board, crafted by Craighead Board member, Dr. Drew Stoken, and painted by Kathy Stoken.



Kathy Stoken has painted a scene, including the Craighead House, above which the birds and name plaques will be affixed. Coyle Lumber Company is making a weather-proof frame to surround the board and protect it from the elements and vandalism.



This Cooper's Hawk will represent the \$5,000 to \$9,999 donor giving level on the plaque.

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 nameplate should read.

Wild (cont'd from page 8)



There is something wild in the heart of every boy and girl... Craighead House is an ideal place to nurture that. One by one, the old mill dams on the Yellow Breeches are coming down and we are witnessing the return of its scenic wildness. With the help of organizations like Trout Unlimited and Yellow Breeches Watershed Association we look forward to a day when the stream will appear as it did in 1886 when Charles Craighead brought his new bride Agnes to the place we now call Craighead House. Here is where children play and learn to love nature; where eels once swam by...and we are keeping an eye out for their return.



Thanks to Jorie Hanson of Boiling Springs for this photo and the two star photos used on page 1.

The Brothers Wild Helped Save America's Rivers

When you swim, fish, canoe or kayak, keep in mind when our rivers and streams weren't always clean. Their current state is due in large part to a pair of identical twins who took upon themselves the task of protecting America's waterways.



A half-century ago on October 2, 1968, President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, putting into law the protections for streams Frank Jr. and John Craighead had envisioned for years. No longer living, the identical twins cannot celebrate with us the golden anniversary of the work of which John Craighead said he was most proud in a November 2011 *National Geographic* interview. Selecting this one achievement from the twins' numerous others indicates how important it was to them.

Growing up in the Chevy Chase section of Washington, DC in the 1920s and '30s, the twins spent much of their free time during the school year exploring along the nearby Potomac River. They spent their entire summers in and along the Yellow Breeches Creek which was literally in the backyard of what they called "their ancestral home," the house at Craighead Station, Pennsylvania in which their father was born and grew up. It was there the 15-year-old high school students trained their first Cooper's hawks for falconry. This effort led to their first *National Geographic Magazine* article, which was published in the July 1937 edition, accompanied by 25 of their photographs. This article, and their 1939 book that followed, *Hawks in the*

Hand: Adventures in Photography and Falconry, popularized a sport previously unpracticed in North America.

Although their careers took them in such diverse directions as traveling to India, developing and operating a wilderness survival school for downed Navy pilots, writing groundbreaking dissertations for their doctorates, performing the first and most influential study of grizzly bears, and pioneering the use of radio telemetry in tracking large mammals, concern for flowing waters was never out of their minds. Perhaps their love for waters began when they were small boys swimming in and catching eels on a trout line out of the Yellow Breeches to please their grandfather. Or it could have been their schoolyear weekend excursions canoeing the Potomac alone or with their father, noted forest entomologist Frank Craighead, and Newbery-Award-winning sister Jean Craighead George. Regardless of when this love started, it remained throughout the twins' lives.

After returning home from World War II and completing their doctorate degrees at the University of Michigan, the Craigheads rafted the Salmon and Snake rivers while conducting survival training from a base in McCall, Idaho, deepening their love for these waters. Seeing the rapid decline of rivers, as a result of dams built by the Corps of Engineers across the country, distressed the twins. This concern prompted actions on their part, including making films for *National Geographic* television specials, writing articles to educate the public about the problem and fighting the building of dams, starting with the Spruce Park dam.

John Craighead first proposed the idea of protecting a system of "wild rivers" with an article he presented at a conference at Montana State University in 1957. Moving this concept toward legislation began during the twins' grizzly bear study when they learned of plans to build a hydroelectric dam on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. In 1958 Frank Jr. prepared a paper on river classification at the urging of Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. The brothers worked for 14 years writing papers and gathering data to support legislation for a federal action to protect the waters they so loved. They began work on "Wild River," a *National Geographic* television special to generate public support for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. However, the bill, containing much of the Craigheads' language, was enacted before their film could be released.

Encouraged by the federal government's actions, the states have enacted their own designations. The Potomac, in and along which the Craigheads played and explored during the schoolyear, is a Maryland Scenic and Wild River. Yellow Breeches Creek, along which the Craigheads lived in the summers has been designated a Pennsylvania Scenic River as has nearby Letort Spring Run in which they attempted to catch the wildest trout in the state.

Wild (from page 1)

(Answer: 50 years)

It is now 50 years since Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, inspired and substantially written by the Craighead twins, Frank Jr. and John. A lot can and has happened in five decades, but here by the Yellow Breeches in Craighead, PA not much has changed since 1968. And I suppose that is the point of the legislation. One thing has changed, however, preservation of the Craighead legacy at its origin.



According to the Act:

- Wild rivers are free from impoundments (dams, diversions, etc.) and generally inaccessible except by trail. The watersheds (area surrounding the rivers and tributaries) are primitive and the shorelines are essentially undeveloped.
- Scenic rivers are free from impoundments and generally located in undeveloped areas, but are accessible in places by roads.
- Recreational rivers are readily accessible by road, with some shoreline development, and may have been subject to some impoundment or diversion in the past.

What is a wild thing? Untamed. Free. Unrestricted. Invoking a feeling of carefree, unfettered living. A river without dams, a bird without a cage, a child without a video device. We can follow this theme ever since Frank and John's "Adventures with Birds of Prey" in the 1937 *National Geographic*, and Jean's *Vulpes the Red Fox* in 1948. (continued on page 5)

**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**