



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

Volume IV No. 3 Spring 2019

Rehabilitator

President's Message

John Coyle

Jean Craighead George's *There's an Owl in the Shower* is our Book of the Month selection for April. Like many of her stories, this begins with a sickly, orphaned baby animal saved by a child and nursed back to health in spite of adversity. Many adventures follow.

Doesn't this strike a chord in your soft old nature-loving heart? I know that it does for me. What more primal urge is there than to save the life of a cute baby animal, who then grows to love

you as you train him for life in the wild? And of course, you envision releasing him at the proper time to find a mate and live a long and happy life, returning with his offspring to visit you thankfully again and again over the years.

Alas, this dream is often spoiled by two things: the reality of life, and the government. In the interest of anonymity, let me just say that "friends of mine" have experienced this repeatedly as they followed their primal urge and rescued baby animals. I suspect most of you readers belong in that group.

You know what happens. The cardboard box with an old towel and the injured (*fill in your animal*) is in a quiet, warm place. You searched the internet for advice on care and feeding for your baby, ignoring advice to consult a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. It's a 60 mile drive to one who takes your species, and you fear they will let it die alone in a cage. Your vet won't treat wild animals. Those little eyes are looking at you for help... and so, you become an outlaw. It is no coincidence that Jean's early books feature rescued animals while newer books focus



Here is Poe the Crow, thanking you kind readers and your outlaw friends for all those animal rescues.

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CRAIGHEAD HOUSE COMMITTEE CORPORATION BOARD

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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 & Support Update
The construction bid has been awarded for parking lot improvements/ADA outdoor restroom project, and a contract executed. Building permits are in the works and construction will start in April. We are excited to get these important improvements underway! The Board owes a large debt of gratitude to architect Bob Cianfichi, who prepared the documents and shepherded this effort through the maze of regulations and approvals, on a pro-bono basis. *We thank you, Bob!*



Since the lowest bid was still higher than our budget, cash and in-kind donations of materials such as roofing, electrical and plumbing items for the restroom will be helpful in reducing the matching funds. Craighead House Committee is required to contribute to the restroom project.

(Continued on page 7)

Jean Craighead George's 100th Birthday Celebration

Plans are being finalized for events at Craighead House and other venues to honor the 100th birthday of one of the greatest authors of children's books, Jean Craighead George. A Newbery Medal winner and runner up, Jean's books featured themes of the natural world and the environment.

So, "book-mark" the date:
Tuesday July, 2nd!

And the one on this page is being reproduced to help all readers, young and old, preserve Jean's legacy by experiencing and sharing the rich stories that this student of nature has penned. Get your FREE one at Whistlestop Bookshop in Carlisle before they run out! July 2nd is her actual 100th Birthday. So, why not read her Newbery Award-winning book, *Julie of the Wolves*.

* Contact us for book mark details @ <https://craigheadhouse.org>



Jean on her last visit to Craighead House in 2011 with lifelong friend Dr. David Masland.



NEWS from the CHH Board

Jean's *Book-of-the-Month* Celebration

This year, one of the ways Craighead House is honoring the 100th anniversary of Jean's prolific career as a writer of children's books about nature is with our Book-of-the-Month celebration. 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.

This is the first step in a comprehensive outreach plan drafted by Sarah Fischer, Craighead Education Coordinator, who strives to create programming that will expand audiences via a curriculum targeting Engagement with Nature, Immersion in Literature and the Arts and Connection to History.

It is our hope that schools and libraries will adopt this Jean Craighead George book list in whole or part to encourage adults and children alike to read more about nature. Look for signs at libraries and bookstores to see if the ones you patronize are participating. You can also do this on your own.

In the first quarter of 2019, *Vulpes the Red Fox*, *The Tarantula in My Purse* and *One Day in the Woods* were Jean's featured books. The following books have been selected for the second quarter of the year. More information can be found on our website, CraigheadHouse.org.

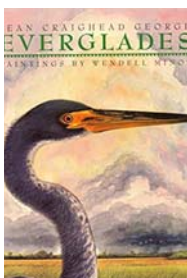
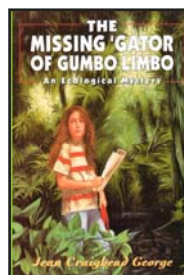


April

Borden Watson hates spotted **owls**, and with good reason: his logger father lost his job because efforts to protect the birds has stopped cutting of trees in northern California's old-growth forests. Unaware that the baby is one of the detested species, he takes him. It's people versus owls in this entertaining, family story.

May

This exciting ecological mystery for tweens features a missing 'gator and Liza Poole, who lives in a tent amid tropical birds and exotic plants. A race to find the gator, Dajun, the protector of Gumbo Limbo, will take you deep into the Everglades for the answer.



June

This book traces the canoe trip of five children through the Florida **Everglades**, the evolution of this unique area, and the harmful impact humans have had on its once-abundant life forms. Nature writer Jean Craighead George spins a mesmerizing tale, while Wendell Minor captures its lush beauty with powerful paintings.



free! *5th Annual* **public invited!**

Perennial Plant Exchange

Saturday, April 20
10 a.m.

craigheadhouse.org

Craighead House Perennial Plant Exchange is Fun & Free

Is it an oxymoron to say that Craighead House has an annual perennial exchange? Well, in any case, 2019 marks the fifth time that CH has sponsored the exchange of perennial and native plants. The free event is scheduled for *10:00 AM, Saturday, April 20 at Craighead House (318 East Old York Road).*

Here's how it works - to participate in the exchange, bring up to five perennials and you'll receive a ticket for each plant you bring. After everyone has arrived and had a chance to look over the plants, the ticket drawing begins. As the tickets are drawn, each person gets his or her choice of one plant per ticket. It is a great opportunity to find interesting or unusual plants, or just get some more of your favorites at no cost.

After the exchange, take time to walk around the property; read the informational signs on the Craigheds, their work, and their home; and relax on the beautiful banks of the Yellow Breeches Creek.



Craighead House Joins the JCG GoFundMe Campaign—You can Too!

What could be more fitting than to donate to the Children's Garden at Penn State in honor of Jean Craighead George's 100th birthday?

The Craighead House board has voted to donate to the GoFundMe campaign that was started by JCG and Penn State supporter Jeni Kocher Zerphy. Ms. Zerphy noted that "This Penn State alum would have been 100 in July...I've always loved Jean's books, but I especially enjoy sharing *A Tarantula in My Purse* - the true story of life in the Craighead George house with 3 children & 173 wild animals! If you haven't read it, check it out!" Another donor said, "I remember her reading to my first grade class growing up in Barrow [Alaska]. Great lady and amazing author."

The campaign has already raised over \$3,000 toward the goal of \$5,000. If you would like to support the campaign, go to the GoFundMe website and search for "Jean Craighead George" or go directly to <https://au.gofundme.com/jean-craighead-george>.



**You can donate to Craighead House
on-line at: [CraigheadHouse.org/donate](https://www.CraigheadHouse.org/donate)**

OR

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

Craighead House Educational Programming

for 2019 began March 26th, when Dr. Sarah Fischer presented a talk on Jean Craighead George's books to 500 students at Iron Forge Elementary in Boiling Springs. Based on the long lines of children asking questions and getting Jean's books, Sarah's talk was a hit! One of the other many highlights of the new Craighead House Educational Series are the **Weekday Walks** to be held at 6:00 p.m. weather permitting:

- Wed. June 12 at Letort Nature Preserve
- Wed. June 20 at Big Springs Presbyterian Church
- Mon. June 24 at Dickinson College Farm
- Tue. July 2 at Craighead House

They will include 1-2 mile fitness walks, history and Craighead connections.

Grants & Support Update (continued from page 2)

Also in the bid stage is the shutter restoration project. We hope to soon receive the three bids required by the Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority's Facade Restoration Grant Program, and to award the contract for this last piece of exterior restoration.

Our focus now shifts to putting the interior in sufficient condition to obtain an occupancy permit. For starters, the house needs rewiring and plumbing. An estimate for rewiring the house is being sought to gauge the expense of that important interior upgrade. Also ahead is converting the powder room to an ADA-compliant restroom. With those things in place, a heating and air conditioning system can be installed. But that's not all, some plaster and floor work needs to be done. Donations of cash or materials would be most appreciated.

Carlisle Barracks Spouses' Club Supports Craighead House

Craighead House has received a \$500 grant from the Carlisle Barracks Spouses' Club. The funds will help to purchase and install fixtures for the accessible restroom. The club has provided several grants to CH since 2014. In addition to the current grant, their support has helped to purchase books for educational programs, tables for activities, and a tent for outdoor events.

The Craighead family has a proud tradition of serving in the armed forces, and we are grateful for the partnership that the Carlisle Barracks Spouses' Club has forged with us.

more on free-living animals and protecting them from harmful human activity.

In 1948 there were few laws against amateurs rehabilitating wild animals, but lately restrictions have proliferated.

But take hope, the Pennsylvania Assoc. of Wildlife Rehabilitators, <http://pawr.com> has a user-friendly website where you can find the nearest person actually trained and legally permitted to care for your baby.

While there, why not click on the links there telling how YOU can become a licensed rehabilitator?

Cumberland County, for example, has none. When you get your license, Craighead House will promote your service.

Yellow Breeches Watershed Address

The U.S. Post Office, mapmakers, and electronic navigation systems, all help us determine the street address of Craighead House. But this amazing place also has a Susquehanna River Watershed address, a unique geographic location within a 27,510 square mile chunk of land that includes Pennsylvania, portions of New York and Maryland. This vast system of land, rivers and streams, connects the people living in the region to the waterbodies near them.

Directly linking Craighead House to the watershed is the Yellow Breeches, a vibrant and scenic stream that bubbles just beyond the clearing in back of the house. The Breeches begins six miles away as a trickle out of the South Mountains and meanders for 56 miles through flats, forests and farmlands before it joins the Susquehanna near New Cumberland. The river, fortified by the Breeches and a myriad of other waterways, flows steadily on to deliver half of the Chesapeake Bay's freshwater at a rate of 18 million gallons per minute. For the family of naturalists who lived and played at Craighead House, the Breeches and surrounding habitat served well as their outdoor classroom. One we believe should continue to invite and inspire new students of all ages. Because history proves that the thriving ecosystem the Craigheds encountered in their backyard was the inspiration for wondrous things to come.

Just for fun, can you name the stream nearest to where you live?

How has that waterway inspired you?



And a makeshift badge I made from a Kosher meat package, for renegade rehabilitators to cut out and wear.