



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOHN COYLE

Unwittingly, you step right on the creature and keep walking. She moves slowly ahead through the darkness, munching her dinner, uninjured. Two inches beneath the leaf litter she knows it's not egg-laying time yet, but soon...

Most of the main characters in Jean's 100+ books are vertebrates, animals with backbones. This is understandable because vertebrate readers find them more relatable, cute, and cuddly than the creepy-crawly invertebrate worms, spiders, sponges, corals, insects, and shellfish.

Far more numerous on the earth however, are the invertebrates, often revealed in subtext as fascinating and beautiful in their own way. Thus, the cute and cuddlies draw readers to experience the creepy-crawly world through different (primitive or compound) eyes.

So it was, that on a breezy June afternoon in Rector, PA, our family arrived at the Powdermill Nature Reserve for a short walk in the woods. Little did we suspect that it was the one week in 17 years that the periodical cicadas would crawl out of the earth, sprout wings, fly, mate, lay eggs in tree branches, and die. For the next 2 hours we heard and saw cicadas everywhere. We learned about them through an excellent ranger talk and video, and eventually mounted a few recently deceased newlywed cicadas.

What fascinating creatures they are, differing in many ways from the annual cicadas we all know well. I wandered through the woods pondering all sorts of thoughts about the diversity of nature and the meaning of life!

Brood VIII is underground now at Powdermill, until 2036. Brood X will emerge in Cumberland County in 2021 and you will have an opportunity to enjoy an experience like ours. But don't wait passively... get outside today with a companion. Take along a child if possible. I guarantee YOU will find something fascinating and beautiful in its own way if you just look. This is the Craighead House message.

As I often say: "there's never a bad day in the woods."



News from the Board

Jean's Book-of-the-Month Celebration

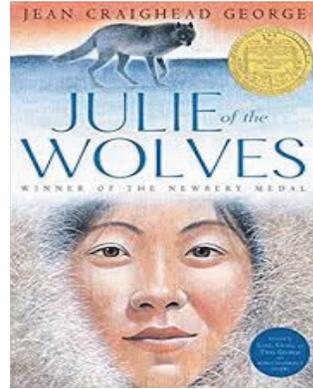
This year, one of the ways Craighead House is honoring the 100th anniversary of Jean's prolific career as a writer of children's books about nature is with our Book-of-the-Month celebration. Titles were chosen on the basis of being still in print and readily available to readers from bookstores and libraries across the country.

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 pick up one of these books and enjoy it yourself!

The following books have been selected for the third quarter of the year. More information can be found on our website.

www.craigheadhouse.org

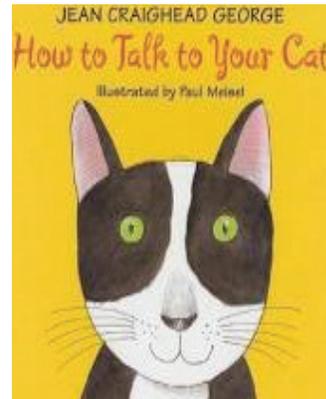
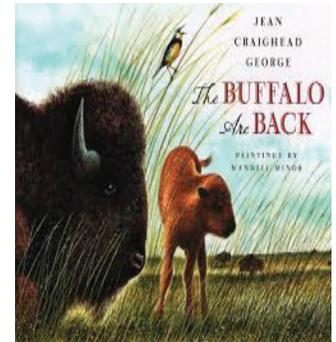


JULY

We celebrate Jean's 100th birthday month with the book that earned her the prestigious Newbery Medal.

AUGUST

Jean probably researched this book while visiting the Tetons and her famous twin brothers, Frank, Jr. and John.



SEPTEMBER

Communicating to your cat or dog can be a challenge. Trust Jean to help. She wrote a book to assist with each four-legged friend! Your pet will love you for reading either book to him or her.

Craighead House Committee Corporation Board

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The Craighead House Committee Corporation was established to provide an educational and recreational resource that focuses on nature, literature, history, and respect for our environment as exemplified by the life's work of the Craighead family of naturalists.

Craighead House Committee, P.O. Box 335, Boiling Springs, PA 17007
CraigheadHouse@gmail.com
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

www.craigheadhouse.org



Friends and Family Honor *Jean Craighead George*

by Laurie Craighead Rudolph

On a hot, late June afternoon, an enthusiastic crowd joined with Jean's three adult children, Twig George Pittinger, Craig George and Luke George, to see the recent Craighead House improvements and hear their stories of life with their extraordinary mother, Jean. My cousins traveled from Alaska, Colorado, and Maryland to honor their mother's 100th birthday, bringing tales of wonderful times, many from days by the tranquil but inspiring Yellow Breeches at Craighead House.

The day's events began with a reading from *How to Talk to Your Dog*, hosted by Vicki and Dean Clepper and Kim Ronan, starring dogs Pepper and Trigger.

Margaret Young, "Falconry Girl," and her father Sean, brought three birds: a red tail hawk, Cooper's hawk and a kestrel. They spoke about raising them, their personalities and hunting habits while each majestic creature eyed the listeners a few feet away.

On the porch, tables were covered with pictures of Jean, her books and several stuffed animals from the books. Seventy of her books were displayed as post cards on strings, wrapped around the tall tree stump in the yard that will hopefully soon be a *My Side of the Mountain* reading center.

Jean's daughter, Twig George Pittinger, spoke first. Twig recalled many events, including her mother lamenting the fact her brothers, John and Frank Jr., often escaped their required naps by shimmying down the sleeping porch rain spout to continue their adventures.

Craig George said that Jean never re-read her books. And when asked which was her favorite, she would say, "the one I'm writing now." Educator, Luke George, noted the wide influence Jean's books had on education, as witnessed by their inclusion in elementary curricula nationwide. All expressed gratitude for the success of the preservation campaign and the renewed interest in their family's heritage that related events about the Craighheads have generated.

This was likely the last time my cousins will be able to visit the Craighead House together. Soon after concluding their talks, Twig, Craig, Luke and other family members traveled to Penn State University for a bench dedication for Jean,



Vicki Clepper and Kim Ronan with dogs Pepper and Trigger.



Falconry Girl, Margaret Young.



Melissa Killinger, Bosler Library, showcasing Jean's books.

then to Chappaqua, NY, for a dedication of a library in her name.

Happy 100th birthday, Jean Craighead George! She was a one-of-a-kind writer of books that helped young readers fall in love with nature, the outdoors and wildlife. There will never be another author quite like Jean Craighead George. To this day, she continues to inspire so many with her stories of outdoor adventures.

100
YEARS

Jean's Birthday Celebration

featured family talks and meadow walk



The Anniversary of the 100th birthday of one of the greatest authors of children's books called for more than a day, so we planned two!

On Saturday, June 29th, Twig, Craig and Luke, Jean's three children visited the house and spoke about their mother to the many people gathered in attendance. Displays from Craighead House partners and an unexpected salute to Jean from Mother Nature, punctuated the event!

For her actual birthday, July 2nd, our final Craighead Weekday Walk began at the house and journeyed into the adjacent meadow, a favorite scene of adventure for Jean and her twin brothers, Frank, Jr. and John. Craighead Education Coordinator and Messiah Assistant Professor of Education, Sarah Fischer, led the walk that included a reading of *Summer of the Falcon* and cupcakes!

All month, Bosler Library (Carlisle, PA) honored Jean with a display of her books in their children's section, featuring the Craighead House, Book of the Month, Julie of the Wolves, for which Jean won the prestigious Newbery Medal.

I can't begin to thank those involved! But I'll try anyhow. Thanks to the participating partners who joined in the Jean Craighead George's 100th Birthday Celebration.

A special thanks to my friends Crystal Kerns and Georgia Bear who kept me focused on numerous parts of preparing for the event. Grace Willacy helped with many things, as she has with the numerous children's activities I have conducted at the house.



Twig George Pittinger tells about the day her mother set a big rock in front of she and her brothers and declared: "here are some sculpting tools, let's chip away and see what comes out of this."

A very big hug of thanks goes to Crystal Hunt, one of the wildlife photographers, who decided to inspire donations by daring everyone to take the "Nestea Plunge," falling in the creek backwards. She donated \$60 to the Craighead House. Ava Hough, Charlie Willacy and Todd Stoeck took The Plunge. Thanks for your support!!!

Craighead Board members, Larry, Sarah, Lu, Melinda, John, Bill (with his wife, Carol) pitched in. Our contractor, Joe McCorkel, his crew and wife Susan, went the extra mile to get the parking lot, comfort station and brick walk projects done -- plus other needed jobs far beyond the scope of work -- in spite of days on end of rain!

Finally, a big Craighead thank you to all who took time out of their busy lives to join us on June 29th and July 2nd, 2019.

*Sincerely,
Laurie Craighead Rudolph*



Luke George and Sarah Fischer talk about the significant effect Jean's writing has had on children's education across the nation.



Grace Willacy sings for attendees.



Luke George, Twig George Pittinger, Laurie Craighead George, Patti and Dirk Hoffman.

Events Coming to Craighead House

PA Honey Queen, Kaitlyn Stauffer

Monday, August 12, 9:00 a.m.

See into a bee hive and enjoy free honey sticks and recipe cards!

Presbyterian Historian, Reverend

David Myers

Sunday, September 8, 2 p.m.

Learn about Early Presbyterians in the Cumberland Valley from nationally recognized historian.

(rain date September 15).

Alliance for Aquatic Resources Monitoring {ALLARM} Workshop: Stream Health 101

Date and time to be announced.

In this workshop, you will learn more about stream ecology from the acclaimed Dickinson College stream monitoring organization.

**For more details,
go to our
Facebook page
or the website.
Scheduled events may
be subject to change.**



craigheadhouse.org

Craighead House Hosts Successful Weekday Walks Program



Ben Mummert, Central PA Conservancy's Director of Land Protection and Stewardship (far right) leads discussion on conservation efforts at Letort Spring Garden Preserve.

This summer we held a program series called Craighead House Weekday Walks held at various locations around the community that featured some significance to the Craighead family story.

The format was a leisurely walk outdoors while at the same time hearing some Craighead history and learning about initiatives underway at those locations today.

Our first Weekday Walk of the summer was held at Letort Spring Garden Preserve, one of Eugene Craighead's favorite fishing spots. Tom Benjey shared that Eugene was an entomologist and a well-known fly fisherman who wrote numerous articles on the sport, as well as invented his own fly, the Craighead Streamer.

Then, Ben Mummert, Director of Land Protection and Stewardship for the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, led us on an interpretive walk of the property to learn about past and present conservation efforts.

Our second walk was held at Big Spring Presbyterian Church in Newville where Jane Graham, a lifelong member of the congregation, led us on an interpretive walk of the church building and cemetery dating back to the 1730s. We learned about Reverend Thomas Craighead, the first ordained minister of the church, an immigrant and family ancestor, who died in the pulpit

Dickinson Farm Weekday Walk featuring Farm Director, Jenn Halpin (far right), along with multi-generational program participants.

of the Big Spring church minutes after an impassioned sermon.

Connecting with more recent Craighead history, we met at the Dickinson College Organic Farm for our third walk, a property that was owned by Frank Craighead, Sr. in the mid-twentieth century. Jenn Halpin, farm director, led us on a walk around the farm to learn about the many contributions the farm makes to our community.

We had the chance to hear about the farm's efforts to produce their biofuel, the role of the American toad in the farm's ecology, a new innovative "snack garden" and much more.

Our final Weekday Walk of the summer was held at Craighead House on July 2nd, the 100th anniversary of Jean Craighead George's birth. Sarah Fischer, Craighead House Education Coordinator, led a walk around the property.

We celebrated Jean's legacy by hearing excerpts of her novel set at Craighead House, *The Summer of the Falcon*, read aloud and also learning about some of the real-life events that inspired the plot of the book. Birthday cupcakes were enjoyed by all at the conclusion of the walk!



Renovation Progress at Craighead House

Nothing worth achieving is easy, a wise person once said. For Craighead House the images showcase just such a challenge.

The new comfort station, parking lot and brick walk to the house have been completed and they are a fantastic addition!

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. Plaster and floor work also needs to be done.

Donations of cash or materials would be most appreciated.

Once we have an occupancy permit, we can hold classes and events inside the house, something we've wanted to do since the beginning.



We also received a generous \$1,000 donation from the Carlisle Garden Club, thanks in part to the efforts of a long-time supporter of Craighead House. We are grateful to all Carlisle Garden Club members and hope you will enjoy the house and grounds as our events occur.



Craighead House Committee
P.O. Box 335
Boiling Springs, PA 17007

In Memoriam

We received some sad news this quarter. Early volunteer Louise Heckman has died an early death as the result of a long bout with cancer. She toiled tirelessly cleaning up the overgrown yard and hand scrubbed the grimy kitchen woodwork among other things.



Louise Heckman

Even though she became physically unable to volunteer, she held up in her thoughts and had Craighead House mentioned in her death notices. As a result, over twenty people gave donations in her memory. She even helped Craighead House after her death. Louise will be missed.

**Please consider donating
to Craighead House!**

craigheadhouse.org/donate

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Thank you for your support!

Craighead House is a
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