

Craighead House Chronicles

Volume I Number 2 Winter 2016



Late Season Tomatoes

President's Message

It is late fall here in south central Pennsylvania. Only a few flakes of snow have fallen, but frosty mornings have withered my garden leaves. I had been enjoying cooked homegrown tomatoes with my breakfasts since encountering that custom while traveling in England last summer.

One recent morning as I was scouring my garden for the last edible bits, I was moved to photograph my bowl of meager yet tasty tomatoes. Here is the wisdom I gained while reflecting thereon.

Late season tomatoes, though battle-worn and scarred, still retain their flavor and nutritional value. They even seem more pungently flavored due to concentration of their goodness by cold dry weather, improving like aged

wine or cheese. If you can look past their weathered skins, you'll see they still have a lot to offer.

With apologies to my fellow Craighead House Committee members and the Craighead Naturalists, let me suggest that this Craighead House project was conceived, and is being driven by, Late Tomatoes.

Our founding Committee Members were in their 7th and 8th decades. Most of our volunteers, not to mention our donors, are over 30, and a few are over 90. John Craighead lives in Montana and will be 100 this coming August. Frank was working on his final book

when he died at 85 as was Jean at 92. We are all determined to live as long a life as possible, rich with meaning and useful work to be done. Let me



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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.

Late Season Tomatoes

encourage you all, whether young and comely or weathered and worn, to join us, sharing your love of nature with others. Let's paint the porch, not sit on it.

My cousin Judith, herself a daughter of a Craighead House Kitchen Wall Artist, Emily Coyle, offered me her friend's Thanksgiving blessing yesterday. I share a portion of it with you readers, and my wise Craighead House volunteers... "for the spring of our birth, the summer of our youth, the fall of our maturity, and the winter of our wisdom, and for the bounty of the food before us, we give many thanks."

Thanksgiving 2015

Grant Applications

We have submitted five grants to local and national foundations and government grant programs in 2015. Grant activities continue throughout the year. In 2016 we anticipate that we will apply for grants from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the South Mountain Partnership, Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, and a number of other grantmaking organizations. The proposals will focus on needs such as the sleeping porch, mechanical systems, kitchen art, and teaching curricula.



Board member Laurie Craighead Rudolph, aka Mrs. Claus, hosted a Christmas event for the children at Craighead House on December 6.



Restoration Report

Completed Fall of 2015:

Donations by Donald Goodyear and Barbara Lillich were used to preserve the artwork on the west kitchen wall. 3D scanning of the entire house was donated by RI-KORE, Inc.

The house Roof was replaced by Raccoon Valley Roofers with funds donated by the G.B. Stuart Charitable Foundation and Cumberland County School Librarians.



Kathy Stoken, wife of board member Drew Stoken, and architect Bob Cianfichi selected appropriate colors for the house's exterior. With a significant discount from Sherwin-Williams, Kathy painted the front door and entrance, including some intricate trim details.

Ongoing:

Porch roof replacement will be completed as soon as weather permits using materials donated Carlisle SynTec Systems.

Projects Needing Funding:

Sleeping porch, ADA restroom, and Mechanical systems.



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Clean Up Days



Volunteers have been very busy to cover the west kitchen wall at Craighead House this fall. On Friday, October 16, as part of its annual Day of Sharing, the United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County Executive Director Lucy Suter Zander sent two groups of workers. Staff members of Hooke, Hooke, and Eckman Realtors (picture p. 5), under the direction of long-time volunteer Ann Roeder, pruned the hedge along the road, bushes on the side of the house, and overgrowth in the yard. President John Coyle, board member Lu Conser and newsletter editor Bill Turner hacked away as well. With brush cleared, foundation stones for the privy are now visible. Who knows what might be discovered if we excavate the filled-in pit?

Starr Whitten of Hooke, Hooke and Eckman and Linda Sweitzer scraped layers of paint from the window trim boards that will be reused. Linda is new to the area and, along with volunteer coordinator Beth Roeder, has been scraping paint all summer.

Linda and her husband Brad lived in Maryland for many years and began volunteering for Craighead House shortly after arriving here. Brad mowed the lawn the entire growing season, keeping the place looking

United Parcel Service (UPS) workers primed German siding

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presentable.

June Shomaker donated a fall wreath that hung on the door this fall. Again this year, Ginny Goodyear donated a lovely Christmas wreath that is illuminated after dark.

On Saturday, November 21, with the help of Joe McCorkel's donated dump truck, Beth Roeder, Vera Lee Otto, Drew Stoken (with his tractor), John Coyle, Bill Turner, and Tom Benjey loaded the brush piles in the yard and hauled it to the township's nearby mulch center. With the truck then empty, they used it to haul 50 surplus stackable chairs 2nd Presbyterian Church in Carlisle donated to the house. On their return with the chairs, they fortuitously found Eagle Scout Matthew Bear and his



grandfather, Art Bear, cleaning leaves out of the education center they had constructed in the summer. Matt helped the several-decades-older volunteers carry the chairs to an upstairs bedroom for storage.



Student Volunteers

McKinley Knoop, a sophomore at Dickinson College, has been working with Craighead House since September. McKinley, who is from Rhode Island, is an International Studies and History double major, with an Arabic minor. She emphasized that she has a “passion for the preservation of historical places” and wanted an opportunity to get “hands-on experience with the practicalities behind protecting and restoring historical landmarks.”

McKinley’s skill with social media has already improved our website and increased our internet presence, and she has been patiently helping board member Lu Conser to learn more about the world of social media. Over the past several months, McKinley has been instrumental in

- Expanding tags (keywords) on Twitter & Google so that more search terms identify CH
- Increasing the number of Twitter feeds & Facebook posts
- Setting up an About Us homepage on our website
- Promoting the Santa event at Craighead House

Adding photos and captions to various of our webpages
Our thanks to McKinley – she is a great asset to Craighead House.

Monica Wilson, a graduate student in applied history at Shippensburg University who is also an artist, found the November ABC27 piece on the art painted on the kitchen walls fascinating and contacted us. She is helping to identify artists who made unsigned pieces. The next step will be learning more about the artists and back stories for the individual pieces.



Monica thinks the pencil sketch of Woody Woodpecker was done by the same artist who did the colored version, Dave Dowhower. If anyone knows more about this drawing or Mr. Dowhower, please contact us.

Coming at the Educational Center in 2016:

First Day of Trout Season, Food for Fisherpeople. (*Date TBD*)
April 30, 2016, Perennial Plant Exchange.

April 2016, Larry Luxenburg will talk about the Appalachian Trail. (*Date TBD*)

Early Presbyterians in the Colonies (*Date TBD*)

Beekeeping at Craighead House (*Date TBD*)

Off-Site Presentations:

April 11, 2016, 1PM; Tom Benjoy will present "The Craighead Naturalists" at Mechanicsburg Women's Club.



Freshly painted front entrance decorated for Christmas

AAA

Donations sent by December 31 are tax deductible for 2015

Craighead House's 2015 Annual Campaign is now underway. An annual campaign is like a "friends of" outreach for support. Our annual campaign raises money to keep the lights on so to speak. The funds raised are used to make mortgage payments, pay utility bills, pay for insurance, and make minor repairs. Craighead House has no paid staff. Board members receive no pay; they donate significant amounts of money and time to Craighead House. Major renovations are accomplished via competitive bid with money donated to the capital campaign and from grants.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, please make checks payable to Craighead House Committee, P.O. Box 335, Boiling Springs, PA 17007. A 501(c)(3) organization. Visit us at craigheadhouse.org Like us on Facebook. Contact us at craigheadhouse@gmail.com.



Craighead House Committee Corporation
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