



# CRAIGHEAD HOUSE

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CALL

JOHN COYLE

I heard it first when I was about 6, looking through some of my Dad's stamps and photos. It was faint. Our son, Thomas, heard it too but it was louder. As he finished college it became deafening. He was about the age of twins John and Frank Jr. when they could no longer ignore that persistent sound, the call of *The Wild*.

Trips west in their youth opened the Craighead twins' eyes to the vastness and breathtaking beauty of North America beyond the Mississippi, and the need to preserve it. My father was fortunate enough to travel in 1940 with three companions of his youth, Dave Masland, Mike Masland, and Bill Shelley, on a life-changing summer road trip west. It included a stop in the Grand Tetons region of Wyoming, the Craighead twins' new home. Stamped envelopes, postcards and tiny black and white prints from that trip piqued my childhood interest.

I'm sure you have heard all kinds of calls. Crows, squirrels, blue jays, and different Moms each have distinctive calls. Some calls are not so literal but they persist, such as to a profession, vocation, a place to live, or a college major. Some are easy to ignore, while others are not.

The growing noise of our world can drown out these calls, especially the call of *The Wild*. Bill Shelley, Mike and Dave Masland, and Bill Coyle eventually closed their tired eyes here in Carlisle, PA. But the Craighead twins lived and worked in *The Wild* of Wyoming and Montana the rest of their many decades.

Sister Jean's call was to writing about *The Wild*, and my son Thomas was called to Colorado. So when we recently

bought a small condominium within sight of the Rocky Mountains, it was just to make visiting our first two grandchildren easier. You know how persistent that sound can be.

What are YOU hearing? When you get away from "the noise," for example by the Yellow Breeches Creek at Craighead meadow, what speaks to YOUR heart? If it is a call to spend more time in nature, and perhaps to share it with others, why not volunteer at Craighead House? All levels of participation are valued, from pulling a few weeds to becoming a board member. You never know where that call might lead you! This is America, you know.



*Carolyn Johnson Craighead, mother of the Craighead twins and Jean Craighead George, painted this self-portrait from life at Craighead house. Many times did she stand a step to the right in the kitchen doorway and proclaim, "Oh Boys! Boys!", in often futile attempts to interrupt "the call".*

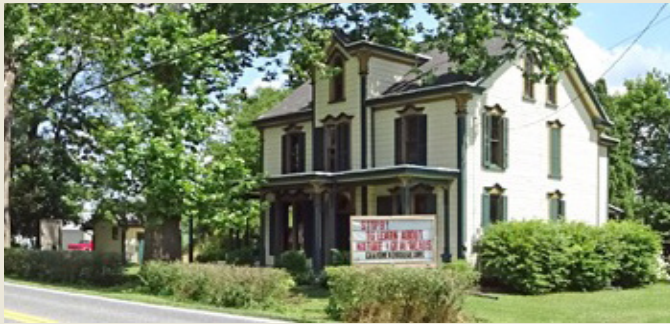


*While Bill Coyle was not a saver of memorabilia, fortunately my mother Helen Gulden Coyle was.*

## Image Doctor

Changes to the Craighead House exterior and grounds required new photographs to be taken, largely for use on our website. A Craighead House friend, Dr. Don Roeder of Boiling Springs, an amateur photographer and virtuoso trumpet player, stepped up and visited the house numerous times. His efforts yielded dozens of wonderful images. A few are on our new website.

Craighead House thanks Dr. Roeder for donating his time and considerable skills.



## Stop the presses! Chronicles Hits Pause

Five years ago, Bill Turner accepted the unpaid position as editor of the then-proposed Craighead House newsletter. He started by suggesting Craighead House Chronicles as the name for the quarterly publication.

Since then, with help from knowledgeable volunteers, four editions were created each year—eight when you consider that the print and on-line editions each require different paths to publish.

The job wasn't easy, since there was no budget and articles weren't always submitted on time or in a condition to print. Five long years is more than enough for anyone. But Bill continues to volunteer in other ways.

We have searched for someone to fill his shoes but have been unsuccessful. So, Craighead House Chronicles will go on hiatus after this edition is released and will remain so until someone steps forward. The newsletter has been popular since its initial release. Bill, we thank you for a job well done.

*Editor's note: Board, I appreciate the kind words. Allow me to note that nothing worthwhile is easy nor created in a vacuum! Better said; "When was ever honey made with one bee in a hive?"*

*- Thomas Hood*

## 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](http://www.craigheadhouse.org)







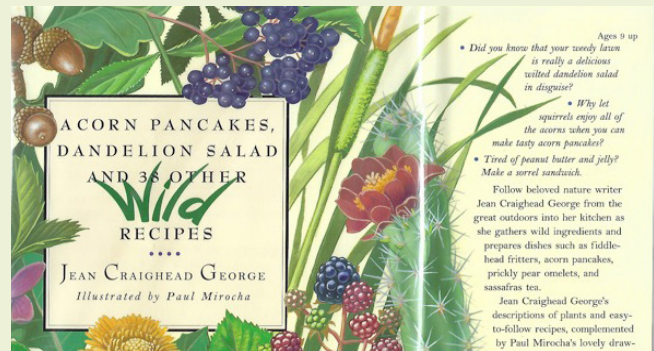
# Craighead Wild Recipes

## ACORNS

Jean Craighead George started her book with acorn recipes following an alphabetical listing, but I sense she also liked the results they yield. Who doesn't like pancakes and bread, especially during the cooler months ahead?

Most years this ingredient is easy to find but not always the easiest to prepare. White oak acorns -- from trees with no sharp hairs on the leaf lobes -- are the best to use since they save time in boiling to reduce the natural tannin.

Nonetheless, prep involves boiling, snapping off the outer coats and boiling again until the water comes clear. Roast them in a 200° F oven until brittle. They are snack-able as is or ready to become flour in a coffee grinder.



## Acorn Pancakes

- 1/3 cup white flour
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 1 cup acorn flour
- 1 1/4 cups milk
- 2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 3/4 tsp. salt

Mix flours, baking powder, and salt. In another bowl mix egg, milk, and butter. Pour milk mixture into dry ingredients and stir just enough to moisten dry ingredients. Spoon onto greased hot grill or skillet. Flip and turn once. Serve with maple syrup or wild jellies.

## Rail Trail Walk Cancelled

Orchestrating a safe environment for families to participate in meaningful programs, even outdoors, has remained difficult.

So, unfortunately, the planned Letort Trail walk from the Spring Road trail head to Craighead House will be planned for the spring of 2021.

Please watch our website for updates and possible late breaking announcements of events, including our Bluegrass on the Breeches concert, featuring Charm City Junction. Naturally, our program plans will evolve around the status of community health.

We miss seeing our Craighead friends. Thank you for your patience!

## Web Help Wanted!

Craighead House needs a person (or persons) to help us maintain our website and social media links.

Our new website will need someone who can work with committee chairs and board members to keep news from the Yellow Breeches Creek timely and inviting.

This is not a big job – at most several hours a month should be adequate.

If interested, please contact us!  
[info@craigheadhouse.org](mailto:info@craigheadhouse.org)

# Roger Craighead

During the beastly hot summer of 2011, Ann and I met Roger Craighead and his caregiver, Jo Anne Close, at Indiana University in Bloomington. We were both receiving separate therapies for cancer and one day accidentally met in the waiting room. That chance meeting led to a talk and a visit at the house he was renting on Monroe Lake. Also present was Roger's faithful companion Bobby, a black Labrador retriever.

At 6' 3" tall, Roger would not easily be mistaken for a Pennsylvania Craighead. His father, Milton, apparently knew the connection between Minnesota Craigheads and the naturalist branch because he arranged for Roger to spend a high school summer with twins Frank Jr. and John. That Milton had a photography studio might have been a factor in sending Roger to Wyoming to work with the naturalists.

On his first morning filming the Yellowstone Park grizzly bears, another of Roger's nonCraigheadian traits made itself known. He wasn't an early riser and the naturalists rose when the sun was still low on the eastern horizon. Roger's contribution to documenting the grizzly study with photographs was lugging heavy equipment to camera locations. He didn't become a wildlife photographer but he did work with his father in his portrait business and, apparently, learned a lot.

After high school and a tour in the Navy, Roger worked for a cabinetry company and later started his own wedding photography business. He became so successful that as many as 12 people worked for him. Weddings are held almost entirely on weekends, which allowed free time during the week to care for his elderly parents and to apply his carpentry skills to building his vacation home on Blake Lake in Balsam Lake, Wisconsin.

Jo Anne recalled, "Roger loved to watch the Nascar races and I believe he actually attended a race or two. Roger owned two Corvettes, a 1994 and 1999. One is silver and one is red. One is a T-top and one is a convertible, which are in his garage at the lake home.... Roger also liked football and was a Minnesota Vikings fan."

Roger's life was no bed of roses. He was afflicted with several health issues over a long period of time, including multiple types of cancer. Even Job would have been unwilling to trade places with him. But Roger maintained good cheer and overcame all of them—until this summer, that is.

In July, he called me to get Craighead House's exact name and address. Roger's voice was strong when we talked but he knew his end was coming soon. Even then he was

*Below: Roger was a loyal supporter of Craighead House over the years. Ann and I were always cheered to receive his annual campaign response, in a sticker-covered envelope, because it meant Roger was still alive and kicking.*



*Above: Roger and his black Labrador retriever, Bobby.*

cheerful. I last called him on August 8, but he couldn't talk because the nurses were preparing him for some sort of treatment. Early the next week, Jo Anne called to say he had passed on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Jo Anne and her husband continue to take care of their old neighbor by serving as executors of his estate, which is a quite a task. Fortunately, Hmong<sup>1</sup> neighbors are interested in buying his St. Paul home and another longtime friend and neighbor, Tom Russ, takes Bobby to Lake Phalen to swim at 6:30 AM. Rest in Peace, Craighead friend.

<sup>1</sup> Former Vietnam war allies who were relocated to the United States for their safety.

## Check out our new website...

Our [Craigheadhouse.org](http://Craigheadhouse.org) website, long awaited and painstakingly re-crafted by Craighead House Committee Director, Tom Benjey, is now upgraded to better reflect the image and operation of similar NPO sites on the web. We hope you are as pleased with our new look as we are!

