



The Friends of DWGNRA Newsletter

Winter 2023

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Greetings!

Welcome to the Winter 2023 Friends of DWGNRA Newsletter!

The Friends of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) hope that you are enjoying a strange Winter season in the park this year!

There are several road closures for the season due to weather and natural events, so it is always a good idea to check out the Park's FaceBook page for up-to-date information on parking and other conditions in the Park before visiting. Visit the Park's alerts at

<https://www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>.

View of Raymondskill Falls during the Christmas freeze - Bill Keenan

Winter is relatively mild, so far

Well, winter is here, though not with the kind of cold and snowfall that we have often seen in the past. Regardless, there are still plenty of things to do and sites to visit in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA). The photo, by Charlie Fineran, shows how the recent snow we have had affected mainly the higher elevations in the area.



In fact, the lack of snow means that most of the trails in the park are still accessible, whether it's to the top of Mt. Minsi or Mt. Tammany, the Ridgeline trail, or elsewhere. And even if we do have some snow over the next few weeks, the McDade Trail and others are great for practicing your cross-country skiing or snowshoeing skills. And you can check in at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) to see what kind of outdoor activities they are offering. PEEC periodically offers some very reasonable classes on snowshoeing or cross country skiing, and usually can supply the equipment, too!

Keep in mind, though, that as the weather changes, some roads and access points within the park could be closed for road-clearing or other winter maintenance. To stay updated on any changes, check out the park website at <https://www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>.

View from the top of Millbrook Rd looking west into PA - Charlie Fineran

A History of Art in the Park

On March 23 and April 20 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, Marie Liu, a local artist and history buff, will be giving two presentations on the history of Art in the Park at the Shawnee Inn from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. A donation of \$5 per person is requested if you are not a current member of Friends of DWGNRA. Members are free, as are children under 12.



Marie is a well-known local artist (Painter of the Poconos) and Director of the ARTery Gallery in Milford. Also, Marie was DWGNRA Resident Artist from 2015-16 and during her tenure developed a presentation about the History of Art of the Minisink/Pocono Region, which she has continued to develop and deliver at various historical societies and venues in the area. She also writes about history and art for the Pocono Living magazine.

The first presentation on March 23 will cover the period from the Lenape Nation to the Hudson River School (until about 1876). The second presentation on April 20 will pick it up from that point until and go until the 1970s. Our area has a rich history in the arts, and Marie does a wonderful job of presenting some very interesting information on some well-known and not so well-known people in the area covering all types of creative talent.

We will be posting on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page soon! Please pre-register if

you get the chance.

Lenape Nation History and Culture Presentation



On May 20th the Friends are honored to host on an event on the Lenape Nation covering the history and culture up through the current activities of the Lenape people of this area. Adam DePaul of the Lenape Nation of PA will be leading a presentation at PEEC from 1 pm to 3 pm covering the history and culture up through the current activities of the Lenape people of this area including NJ, which promises to be entertaining as well as informative.

Please bring the whole family, the little ones in particular, to enjoy this unique opportunity to meet some of the local Native Americans and enjoy their story and culture. This event is free and open to the public.

You may write to info@friendsofdewanps.org to reserve a spot at this event. Or watch our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) for more details and the opportunity to register online. You may also want to visit the Lenape Nation of PA [website](#) and/or [Facebook](#) page to learn more.

A "Sneak Peek" at PEEC

by Stephane Sherman-Barr, Director of Education at PEEC

We've enjoyed a gorgeous Fall season here at PEEC. As the forest begins to prepare for winter hibernation, PEEC is also seeing a shift to the winter season. We celebrated a successful 50th Anniversary in October during our Harvest Festival. PEEC welcomed over 600 guests that day who enjoyed our free hayrides, live music, games, crafts and various educational exhibits at PEEC. Since then, we have been busy with hosting a variety of school field trips and beginning our third year of offering PEEC in the Classroom Outreaches.



We are into the winter season now, so keep a look out on our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) for some of our upcoming 2023 programs. Wacky Science Adventures are fun for the family as your blooming mad scientist can learn about Chemistry or Physics by doing hands-on experiments like making slime or launching bottle rockets. If you are looking for some outdoor adventures, we have various nature exploration programs including Animal Tracking and a Winter Ecology hikes. All of these programs will focus on the amazing adaptations and preparations animals make for surviving the cold of winter. There are also a slate of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing adventures you can take part in, as well as a Vegan Board Game Dinner scheduled for February 25.

It is also the time where we tend to be more inside. If you have a young

adventurer in need of some outdoor excursions, we will be offering a 3 day Family Camp Weekend on Presidents' Day weekend. Registration is now open online at www.PEEC.org.

From all of us here at PEEC, we wish everyone a happy, healthy remainder of winter, and we hope to see you again soon!

PEEC front pond- George Johnson

Delaware River Sojourn 2023!



Looking even further ahead, and well past any threat of snow, the annual Delaware River Sojourn for 2023 will occur from June 16th to the 23rd. This annual event is organized by the very special Delaware River Sojourn group who plan this event every year (except for the worst of the COVID-19 shutdown) on various parts of the Delaware River.

The theme of this year's event is **Running Free**. The Delaware River is the longest undammed river east of the Mississippi, and is surprisingly scenic and wild being in the most populated part of the United States. This year, the Friends of DWGNRA have joined the many partners that work together to make this happen, as the middle part of this year's journey will be through the DWGNRA. The journey will be in the DWGNRA on Tuesday, June 20th, when the Friends will be present as the paddlers progress through the park. Even if you do not paddle, you may want to volunteer to help with the take-out, put-in, or prep of the site visits. You can sign up on the river sojourn website (below) or contact the Friends - be it for one day or more, we would be happy to have the help!

Anyone can sign up for the full trip, or just a section of the trip as it runs down the river. Visit the website at <https://delawareriversojourn.com> to learn more, and think about joining the paddle or volunteering to help support the group directly or via the Friends (send a note to info@friendsofdewanps.org).

Upcoming Events

Click on the linked event names or host names for more information

COVID-19 is still with us, but not slowing us down. Please join us at an event, masks are optional unless the venue requires them. That will be noted when necessary.

For things to do with other DWGNRA partners:

Visit PEEC at their website, www.PEEC.org.

Visit Peters Valley School of Craft, www.petersvalley.org.

Visit the Walpack Historical Society, www.walpackhistory.org.

Visit the Millbrook Village Society, facebook.com/Millbrook-Village-Society-413672305431861

Visit the Friends of Marie Zimmermann, friendsofmariezimmermann.org

PEEC has many events throughout the winter and early spring!

Check their calendar on their website under programs or [click here!](#)

February 25, 2023

PEEC Vegan Board Game Dinner

5:00 to 8:00 at PEEC - \$35 per person, \$25 children under 10, call for reservations

Hosted by the *PEEC*

For more information [Click Here](#)

March 23, 2023

History of Art in the Park - part 1

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Shawnee Inn - \$5 per person, free for Friends members

Hosted by the *Friends of DWGNRA*

For more information [Click Here](#), details will be under Events when ready

April 20, 2023

History of Art in the Park - part 2

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Shawnee Inn - \$5 per person, free for Friends members

Hosted by the *Friends of DWGNRA*

For more information [Click Here](#), details will be under Events when ready

May 20, 2023

Lenape Nation History and Culture Presentation

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at PEEC - free to the public

Hosted by the *Friends of DWGNRA*

For more information [Click Here](#), details will be under Events when ready

June 16 - 23, 2023

Delaware River Sojourn - Running Free

Visit the Sojourn website for details of all the options and costs

Hosted by the *Delaware River Sojourn partners*

For more information [Click Here](#)

About Us

Our Mission

The Friends strive to preserve the natural, historical, recreational, and cultural features of *Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area* (DWGNRA).

By *gathering donations* and *finding volunteers*, the Friends are able to

DELAWARE WATER GAP



provide funding for vital park projects, as well as support day-to-day operations.

[Donate Today](#)

[Volunteer](#)



Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter. Remember to contact us via the website or Facebook with your thoughts and suggestions.

Sincerely,
Friends of the DWGNRA

Friends of Delaware Water Gap National
Recreational Area

Email Us: info@friendsofdewanps.org

Visit Our Website: <http://www.friendsofdewanps.org>

Connect With Us:

