

Cromwell Valley Park

Fall 2019 Newsletter & Program Calendar

www.cromwellvalleypark.org

410-887-2503

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**Educational Programs – Seasonal Programs – Community Service Projects – Bird Watching
Habitat Restoration – Hiking Trails – Summer Day Camp**

A TRAIL FOR ALL

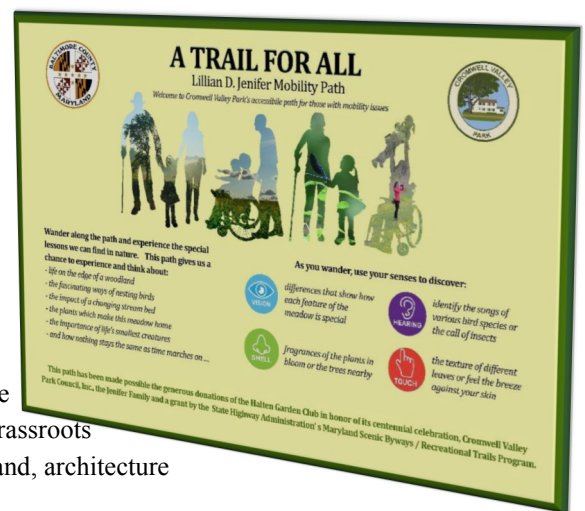
When the fall season begins at Cromwell Valley Park we will be opening a new nature trail, a trail that is accessible for everyone. Such a provision for visitors has been a CVPC dream for more than a decade.

The new trail is reached from the Willow Grove park entrance, and is within the Birders Trail to the right of the entrance road just before the Minebank Run. The path is a 380-foot loop path that is surfaced and has minimal grade changes to make it inviting for wheelchair or other means of assisted mobility. Along the path are several benches for rest and contemplation.



The Trail for All is named for Lillian Jenifer, a founding member of the Campaign to Save Cromwell Valley, who passed away on May 19th, 2017. Integral in preserving the land which is now Cromwell Valley Park, Lillian was a grassroots supporter and activist in the preservation of the valley's land, architecture and history.

*Cromwell Valley Park has a new trail:
the Lillian D. Jenifer Mobility Path.*



Educational signage along the route shares facts about bird nesting behavior, insect life in the meadow, the plants and animals living in the meadow and riparian zones along the Minebank, and the unique characteristics of life where the forest meets the meadow.

Help to achieve the objectives of this project came through monetary grants and donations and time spent by skilled and talented members of the Cromwell Valley Park Council. CVPC board members implemented the project, including researching possibilities for the physical space, managing administrative tasks, creating text and image content, and providing graphic layout for signage. Council members and park visitors who are great nature photographers provided images to help tell the stories of the land and its fauna and flora inhabitants.

We thank the Halten Garden Club, a long-time partner of our park, for their donation of \$10,500 for the project. This donation honored Halten's own centennial celebration. The State Highway Administration's Maryland Scenic Byways / Recreational Trails program provided grant money, and an additional donation of \$2,500 came from Dr. Dennis McQuage. Other generous donations from CVPC members and the Jenifer family gave us what we needed to bring the project to fruition. Volunteers like former board member Alan Lake and longtime board member Sharon Childs have kept the mission alive over the years to create this Trail for All. We are grateful to all who have contributed to Cromwell Valley Park through the years with donations and special expertise that help share the joys of this very special place.

Halten

The Halten Garden Club was established in 1916, beginning at the Halten Farm in Sparks. For more than 100 years this club has been involved in gardening and plant education, advocating the benefits of gardening and landscaping and sharing the joy of beautiful gardens in public spaces around Baltimore. From creating the gardens at the main branch of the Baltimore County Public Library in the early 70's to providing educational projects at local schools and special celebratory planting at Fort McHenry and Cromwell Valley Park, the Halten Garden Club keeps the garden faith going. We are so very fortunate to have earned their trust and help to make our accessible nature trail a reality.

Candid from the CritterCam

Cromwell Valley Park Council is fortunate to have some great volunteers. Some serve on the board, some get involved with projects at the park, some are seen helping out at events throughout the year, and some do all of that. Bill Curtis is one of those. Bill is also a Certified Maryland Master Naturalist. Those who become Maryland Master Naturalists, after completing a training program offered through University of Maryland's Extension system, are committed "to preserve and share the state's environmental wealth". To remain certified, these volunteers provide a minimum of 40 hours a year in activities that support that mission. The CritterCam is one of Bill's contributions to sharing that environmental wealth.

Here is a collection of images from that camera that is placed at opportunistic locations at the park. Check out the number of species that show up night or day at one location.

by day



by night



Predator and prey occupy the same space, sometimes just minutes apart.

To see Bill's CritterCam pictures over the years, please visit <http://cromwellcrittercam.blogspot.com/>

a well-worn path



A beaver, a raccoon and a fox all travel the same trail. Like humans, they look for the easy way to get from here to there. More shared space.



GET READY FOR HAWK WATCHING

by John Canoles

As this newsletter reaches you the lazy days of summer will be waning. The summer haze should soon begin to give way to fast moving fall skies and the greens of summer will give way to the colorful array of autumn. The changing colors of the leaves may represent the coming of a new season to most people, but for hawk watchers the fall season begins with the fall hawk migration in late August. This annual ritual is observed by thousands of birdwatchers each year.

Birdwatchers flock to lookouts along mountain ridges in Maryland, Pennsylvania and other points along the Appalachians and along ridgelines and shorelines across our region. The most famous place to observe the fall hawk migration is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Kempton, PA. Hawk Mountain is visited by thousands of hawks and eager hawk watchers each season. Large numbers of hawks migrate along the ocean, as well. Hawk watches are organized all along the Atlantic coast. These coastal lookouts, such as Cape May, New Jersey, also provide an opportunity to witness the fall migration of shorebirds. The fall migration is, however, not restricted to the mountains and the coast. Sharp-eyed hawk watchers can catch a view of the migration from backyards and hilltops throughout our area. The ridgelines that pass through Cromwell Valley Park help create wind patterns that direct flights right over the park, and a dedicated crew of volunteers spend many hours each fall recording the number and species of hawks passing overhead.



Broad-winged Hawk

Melissa McMasters, Memphis, TN

For many years my father and I tallied the fall migration from our home in Sparks just a few miles, as the crow flies, from the ridgelines at CVP. That experience, coupled with the ongoing counts at CVP and at the old Mount Vista golf course, confirms for me that the fall migration is widespread over central Maryland.

In general, the fall migration has two seasons. The early migration begins in late August and continues to late September. This period of the migration is dominated by the broad-winged hawk. Each fall the "broad-wings" gather into large flocks and head southward, primarily along eastern migratory routes. These flocks use thermals, heat rising from the earth's surface, to provide lift to assist in their flight. The result can be hundreds or thousands of birds swirling together in a single thermal. This phenomenon is referred to "kettling". A single day total of 21,448 broad-wings was observed at Hawk Mountain in the fall of 1979. The broad-wing migration, in our area, usually begins during the first part of September and lasts to the beginning of October. The 14th to the 24th are typically the peak days of broad-wing flights. While the broad-wings provide the quantity of the early portion of the fall migration, they are not the only hawks passing through our skies. Other hawks typically seen migrating from late August through October include bald eagles, osprey and American Kestrel.

The second half of the season begins in early October and continues through November. This period of the migration is marked by the diversity of species that can be observed. In early October sharp-shinned hawks begin to dominate the skies. "Sharp-shins" do not migrate in vast numbers but prefer to fly alone or in small groups of three to four birds. The sharp-shins may be seen soaring but typically fly quickly and directly with a flight pattern of flap-flap-flap-glide. This flight pattern is typical of the accipiters, the "short winged hawks". Another accipiter which migrates primarily in October is the Cooper's Hawk. The Cooper's Hawk is slightly larger than the average sharp-shin but these birds can be difficult to distinguish at a distance. Other species associated with the later season of migration include red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, turkey vultures, and golden eagles. The red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks become the most common migrants in late October through early November. Golden eagles are infrequent at best in our area but are typically observed in the mountains migrating through late November and into December.

While the hawk migration is, arguably, the most spectacular migration in our area, it is not the only migration happening. Songbirds, ducks, geese and even butterflies and dragonflies will also be migrating through the area in the upcoming weeks. September is a good time to catch the monarch butterfly migration as they begin their flight to South America. Any monarch seen flying high in the sky is probably on its way south. The hawk watch crew at CVP also counts butterfly migrations.

Join in the fun by stopping by the Hawk Watch at CVP. Most weekends one of the counting crew will be on hand and will be happy to help you find, see, identify and appreciate this event of nature that is winging over the park. A Hawk Watch Weekend is scheduled for the weekend of September 14 and 15 - a great time to see hawks, butterflies and more.

Cooper's Hawk flying



Sharp-shinned Hawk flying



Cromwell Valley Park Council Celebrates!

After more than a few years of work by a steadfast team of volunteers led by Jim Kelly, the lime kiln stabilization and restoration project in the Lime Kiln Bottom area of the park became the focus of a celebration. On April 28th project leaders, volunteers and supporters came together to recognize the accomplishment.

Jim is a long-time Council member and advocate of preserving and restoring the historic structures that are part of our Park. He kept the many-faceted project moving ahead to its completion.



Thank you, Jim!

Visit our website:

cromwellvalleypark.org

to learn the history of the kilns and, even better, walk the trail along the Minebank to see the completed restoration. Interpretive signs at the site explain the purpose, workings and history of the kilns.



THE CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL &
BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US



"DOWN ON THE FARM" FOR OUR ANNUAL FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL!



Saturday, October 12
(Rain date - October 13)
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Live Entertainment

Local Crafters & Artisans

Children's Farmers Market

Hay Scramble

Beekeeper—Hive Demo

Face Painting

Pony Rides

Cider Pressing

Rope Making

Hay Rides

Nature Center Exhibits

Family Crafts & Games

4-H Animal Clubs

Earth Oven Cooking

Search & Rescue Dogs

Puppet Shows

Native American Activities

LOCATION:

Cromwell Valley Park's
Willow Grove Nature Center
2175 Cromwell Bridge Road
Parkville, MD 21234
for more information
call 410-887-2503

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

\$5 per car
donation
is appreciated!

CVPC presents a speaker series:
A NIGHT OUT WITH NATURE

Sherwood House at Cromwell Valley Park, 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road.

This series is intended for adults. \$10 per person.

Register online: <https://cromwellvalleypark.campbrainregistration.com/>

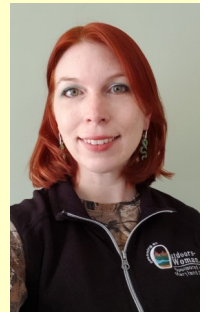


“The View Below: Underwater Life in Mid-Atlantic Streams”

The underwater world is unexpected, largely unnoticed and breathtaking! Join us as **Keith Williams** shares his adventures of exploring and discovering the underwater world of our mid-Atlantic region rivers and streams. Keith’s book *Snorkelhead, Adventures in River Snorkeling* was published in 2016. **Friday, September 6, 7 to 9 PM**

“For Goodness’ Snakes” Learn the basics about snake biology, why we should care about snakes, and information on several of the species that call Maryland

home. From the secretive and colorful rainbow snake to the social timber rattlesnake, Maryland’s snake species are highly diverse. **Keny Wixted** is an education and outreach specialist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service. **Friday, October 4, 7 to 9 PM**



“Falconry”

Join a Falconer to discover the world of raptors. Learn what it takes to become a falconer, how to train a bird of prey, and the joys of your first free-flight!

Jenna Krebs is a conservationist and environmental educator. Jenna has held naturalist positions with the National Park Service, the Maryland State Park Service, and currently with Irvine Nature Center as their Animal Care Manager. **Friday, November 1, 7 to 9 PM**



Baked & Grilled Stuffed Jalapeños

10 jalapeños

8 oz. cream cheese, softened to room temp.

4-5 strips cooked bacon, finely chopped

1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese

2 green onion, finely chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

4 tbsp. panko breadcrumbs

2 tbsp. parmesan

1 tsp. paprika

salt & pepper

olive oil

Kristin McFaul | McFaul's IronHorse Tavern
(Kristin serves the park as Treasurer of
Cromwell Valley Park Council)

1. In one bowl, mix breadcrumbs, parmesan, paprika and salt & pepper place to one side.
2. Cook bacon to your liking, drain and chop/crumble. I personally like mine very crispy.
3. Add bacon to cream cheese, cheddar cheese, green onions and garlic and mix well.
4. Slice jalapeños long-ways, forming two boat-like shapes. Deseed with a teaspoon and begin filling with your cream cheese mixture. You want them filled to just above level height, around 1 tbsp. per 'boat' should be fine, depending on jalapeño size.
5. Flip each boat upside down in to your breadcrumb mixture and gently press so the crumbs attach, forming the crispy layer.
6. Place evenly spaced on an oiled baking sheet and bake for around 10 minutes at 400°F, to heat through the center and they start to bubble. Grill pepper side down for around 5 minutes or until golden and crispy on top and slightly scorched on the bottom. Enjoy with sour cream, but they are great by themselves!

The next general meeting is scheduled for
Monday, September 9, 2019
7 pm at the Sherwood House.

Please join us!

Cromwell Valley Park
2002 Cromwell Bridge Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21234



DEPARTMENT OF
RECREATION AND PARKS

Park hours:
Sunrise to sunset

Cromwell Valley Park Newsletter Staff

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