



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

www.wvalleyhs.org

215-646-6541

P.O. Box 96, Ambler, PA 19002

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The Wissahickon Valley Historical Society's annual spring/summer pot-luck picnic

Monday, June 10
appetizers at 5:30, supper at 6
main dish and soft drinks provided
BYOB

hosted by Gloria and Bob Myers
1280 Pinetown Rd., Fort Washington
215-628-4949

Please let them know if you plan to
attend and what you dish you plan to
share.

The traditional "corn auction" will be
held.

i.e. - Bring a "goofy or nice wrapped
gift" to be auctioned off.



This is a fun evening to socialize. New members are especially welcome.
Hope you can make it.

Report from the Trip to Worcester Historical Society and the Skippack Historical Society

The WVHS/HSW May 21st outing was well attended and very interesting. The group started at the Farmers' Union Hall (maintained by the Worcester Historical Society) where we had a tour of the farm museum on the main floor of the refurbished barn. The array of farm and home implements brought back memories for many members. We were impressed with the displays and came away with ideas for our museum.



Our second stop was the Indenhofen Farm House which is maintained by the Skippack Historical Society. Charlie Miller gave us a tour - complete with stories - of the house.



Both sites are well worth a visit. Check their websites for dates and times. There is a re-enactment each fall at the Indenhofen Farm. Mr. Miller noted that both sites are near to Wentz Farm, one of our excellent county parks.

Some members can attest to the fact that the area also offers some good restaurants. Thanks to all who shared rides.

Recent Donations

Lloyd Conard, of North Carolina, recently donated two tools which complement our Conard Auger/tool collection.

The wooden based plane, at right, came from Monmouth County, N.J. It has no manufacturing names on it, other than on the cutting blade, to verify what company actually made it. The Conard Auger Company made metal parts (including the frog) for several plane making companies in the Delaware Valley.



Planes came in various sizes - depending on the lumber to be smoothed. The blade could be shaped to create moldings.



The barn auger bit, at left, would fit into a handle and used to "drill" holes in wooden posts and beams. Then 2.5" dowels would be used to make locking joints.

The metal parts of both of these tools were likely made at the Conard Auger Company of Fort Washington. The company was owned by the Conard family in the late 1800s and early 1900s and was located across Bethlehem Pike from Clifton House along the Sandy Run Creek.

The Conard family were long time residents of Whippen. Two WVHS founders, Dot and Henry Conard, lived in The Cloot which is at the intersection of Penllyn-Blue Bell and Stenton.

Residents for Open Space at Lindenwold Estates

by Member James Magaziner

A new organization has formed that is promoting their vision of what they think the Lindenwold property could be. They call themselves "Residents for Open Space at Lindenwold Estates (ROSLE)" Presently a property development team comprised of Endeavor Properties, Guidi Homes, and the Goldenberg Group has proposed a 378 unit, densely built mixed-use complex for the 45 acre site that for years has been known as St. Mary's Home for Children.

ROSLE's vision is that the St. Mary's property would remain open space for the Upper Dublin and Ambler community. I spoke with Tracy Semen who, while raising her two young children, is one of the many concerned local residents trying to promote ROSLE. ROSLE believes that the property can be kept open for general recreational use including fishing, canoeing, winter cross country skiing, hiking, etc.

ROSLE's belief is that by keeping the 45 acre site open, Upper Dublin would joining the ranks of other local first class townships - such as Whitemarsh, Radnor, Whitpain, and Lower Gwynedd - that have significant open space. ROSLE is looking for like-minded residents of Upper Dublin and Ambler Borough to join in their mission. To learn more about ROSLE go to their website at www.lindenwoldestate.org or visit on Facebook at Residents for Open Space at Lindenwold Estates.

ROSLE is meeting bi-weekly at the Upper Dublin Township Building. The next meeting is Wednesday, June 4 at 7 p.m.

The group want to preserve and open the castle, lake, sunken garden and other spaces to the community - which have been closed to the public for many years.

Changes Approved by Spring House Area

In a recent conversation with Lower Gwynedd Township supervisor Mark Gray, we learned of some zoning changes and development approvals that will affect the Spring House area. Whole Foods will be moving their store from 309 down to the SpringHouse corner. The steps involve the demolition of the complex which includes the Starbucks and Appoggio's Restaurant. They will both have new sites nearer to the pond - after the demolition of the house which has been the site of several businesses over the years.

The new Whole Foods will be similar to the one at Plymouth Meeting - much larger than the existing one.

Meanwhile Giant has abandoned plans for a gas station at the corner of Bethlehem and Norristown across from SpringHouse Tavern.

Mr. Gray also talked about the Ingersoll House which is located behind the Lower Gwynedd Township Building. Over the years, the Township has replaced windows and the roof as well as installing heating. A use for the building is still being sought.



Scouts Work on WVHS Library

On Saturday, May 24 a group of Scouts under the direction of Scout Walker Smith spent 3 hours working on our library. All books were carefully moved out of the room while new bookcases were constructed and moved in. Photo to left shows the specially constructed bookcase for atlases and original documents.

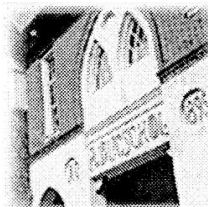
The young men will also be hanging new shades for the library as well as replacing window moldings. Walker is working on a display arrangement for the Conard tool collection mentioned above.

SpringHouse Questers, after their grant chairperson Grace Renz met with Walker, offered to support the project.

By the end of June the library will be re-assembled and will offer a safer, more useable place for storing materials and doing research.



Attention: The Schoolhouse will not be open on Thursday a.m. on June 5. Open again on June 12



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