



# Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

Volume 15, Number 2

June 2012

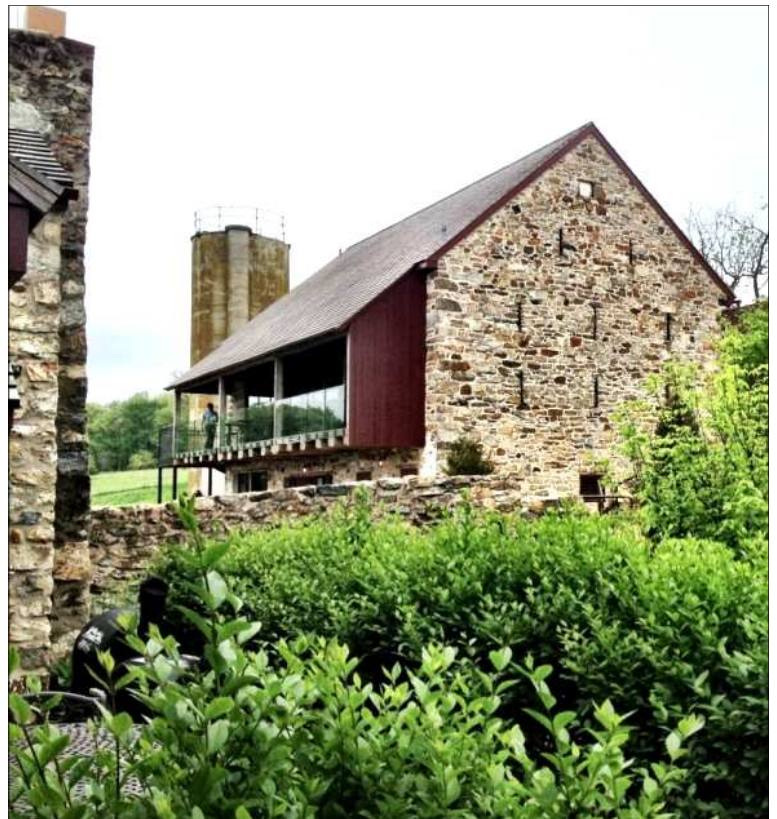
## Wyebrook Farm Refreshing! Breathtaking! Stunning!

Take a ride to northwestern Chester County and enter a rural world of refreshing scenery. The winding, narrow roads lead to the community where 18th-century plantations and 19th-century farms supported both the iron industry and the agricultural economy. After observing miles of dry stone walls, turn into a farm lane, pass the woods and a breathtaking vista opens before you from horizon to horizon. You have arrived at Wyebrook Farm.

The recently restored fieldstone farmhouse, summer kitchen, Swiss Bank barn and agricultural support structures creates a stunning hillside landscape, which is a vestige from a rich past that has existed for more than 200 years.

The forest was dense in William Penn's back country, and yet immigrants were attracted to the rolling hills and misty vales. The acreage that later became Wyebrook Farm was the dividing line between European cultures. Welshmen took possession of the northern hillside land while Scots and Scots-Irish settled on the southern acreage as part of Plantations #7 and #8 in Springton Manor. Penn's sons had moved the Manor to this area after his death in 1818.

Gradually grist mills plus iron furnaces and forges were interspersed among the plantations. But, alas, there



*The restored barn houses the market, café, and butcher shop.*

was trouble brewing in the neighborhood. In 1760, fourteen men rode their horses to Philadelphia to meet with the Governor of the colony. Their complaint – they wanted the price of the land lowered because the soil was poor and rocky. The earth could not support healthy crop yields; but the resourceful immigrant families resorted to raising sheep just like in their native Scotland and constructed stone walls as property boundaries and field divisions.

The Chester County Historic Preservation Network is an affiliation of local organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving Chester County's historic resources and landscapes through education, facilitation, and public and private advocacy.

During most of the nineteenth century several generations of the Trego family enhanced the farm's productivity and were not influenced by the popular vogue of "scientific agriculture". Nearby the Potts family constructed and operated Isabella Iron Furnace, and later workmen laid track through the farm for the Downingtown – Waynesborough Railroad. Farmers discovered that they had a better profit if they

and rolling hills was slated for a development of 100 houses.

A few years ago Dean Carlson, a native of Minnesota and former



*Wyebrook Farm presents a fusion of the past and future of farming.*

created cooperatives to make butter and cheese from their milk and cream, which could be shipped on the finger railroads to the Lancaster, Wilmington and Philadelphia markets.

Once again James P. Trego rejected another trend. He retained the traditional farming practice of raising fields of wheat, oats, Indian corn and rye. In 1879 he harvested 65 tons of hay, 5 bushels of clover seed and 21 bushels of grass seed. After his death in the 1880s, the Potts family acquired the farm as an adjunct to nearby Isabella Iron Furnace.

In 1894 the noise and bustle of the furnace was silenced forever. But Mr. Potts did not layoff his workers; he simply instructed them to build miles and miles of beautiful dry stone walls along both sides of the roads. Today it is one of the largest collections of stone walls in the United States. William Potts, the third generation, owned Wyebrook Farm during the Great Depression. Thereafter a string of owners tried to make a profit until the tranquil valley

bond trader, envisioned an alternative to the industrial food supply through organic farming at Wyebrook Farm. He said, "By creating a polyculture on our farm we produce the healthiest animals and best food without the use of artificial fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, hormones or antibiotics."

Dean meticulously rehabilitated the fieldstone buildings and structures, that includes an adaptive reuse of the Swiss Bank Barn with a store on the upper level and a café on the lower level complete with a commercial kitchen.

On June 20, 2012, farm Chef Janet Crandell, an instructor for ten years at the French Culinary Institute in Manhattan, will be preparing our dinner. She is also the farm butcher and has appeared on the Food Network. Only local products from Wyebrook Farm and neighboring producers will be used for the meal.

Come and enjoy!. A place is waiting for you at the table.

- Jane L. S. Davidson

### The Chester County Ledger

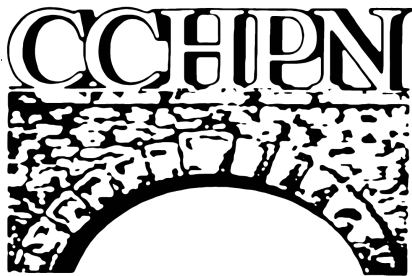
Editor Matthew E. Roberson  
Circulation Director Robert Layman

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Direct all queries to: The Editor, CCHPN, P.O.Box 174, West Chester, PA 19381. Letters to the Editor and articles for the *Chester County Ledger* are welcome. There is no guarantee, however, that submissions will be published. No such submissions will be returned. The CCHPN does not necessarily endorse the content of advertisements herein.

*Printed on recycled paper.*



# 2012 Volunteer Recognition Celebration

**June 20, 2012, Wednesday**

## **Wyebrook Farm**

**150 Wyebrook Road  
Honey Brook, PA**

**All are welcome!**

All are invited to come out to our annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration, honoring the accomplishments of Chester County's Historical Commissions and HARBs and other volunteer preservationists! We hope every Historical Commission and HARB will be represented!

- ✓ Come and walk the grounds of the historic farm complex!
- ✓ Participate in the Roll Call of the Successes and Challenges of our Historical Commissions and HARBs!
- ✓ See who receives this year's Historic Preservation Awards!

This event is co-hosted by the West Nantmeal Historical Commission and Board of Supervisors and Wyebrook Farm.

### *Evening's Schedule*

5:00pm Self tour of the Historic Farm Complex  
 6:00 Buffet Dinner is served  
 6:45 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony  
 8:30 Closing

Fee: \$25.00 for all attendees

For more information, call CCHPN at:  
1-877-44-CCHPN (1-877-442-2476)  
Registration is by this mail-in form only.

Be sure to wear casual clothes and walking shoes because the ground is uneven!

Map and directions are on the next page.



Please Print

## **Registration Form**

**RSVP by June 13, 2012**

Municipality/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Additional Attendee(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to include your membership dues with your registration, please check below:

- Individual (\$20.00)
- Municipality/Organization (\$85.00)

### **Total Payment Amount For Registration**

Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

plus membership dues, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to CCHPN**

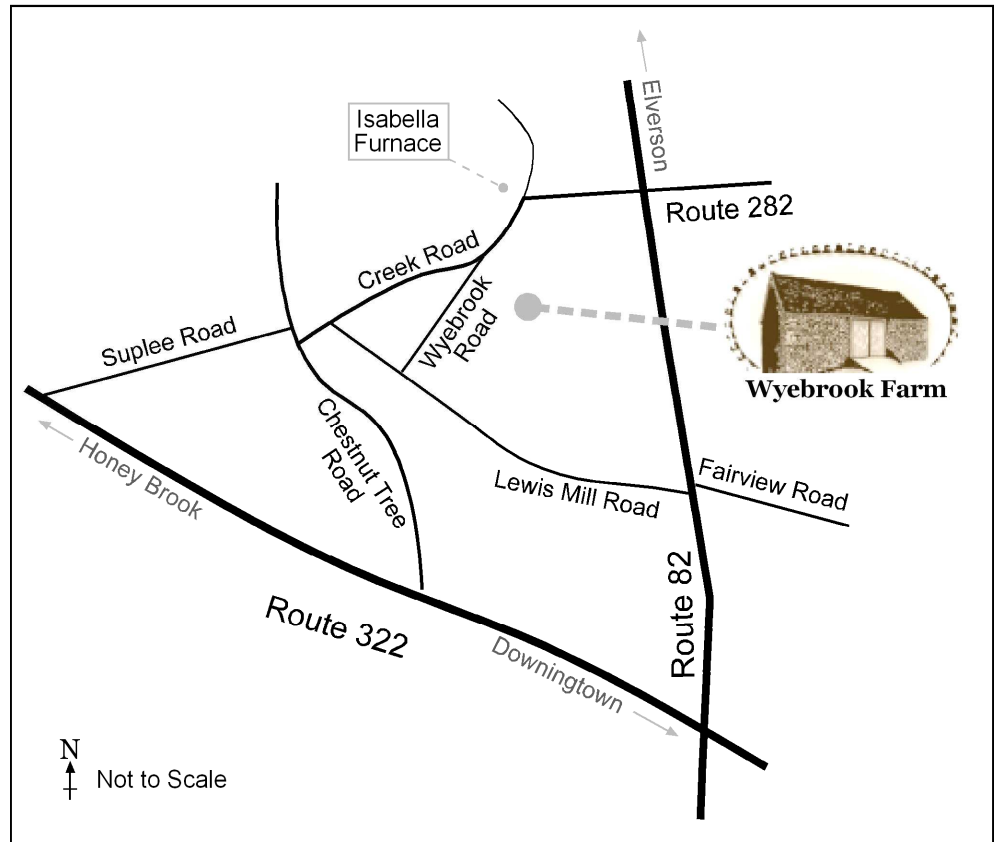
No refunds after June 13.

**Mail form and check to: CCHPN, PO Box 174, West Chester, PA 19381. *Thanks!***

From the South and East:  
Take Rte. 322 West, turn right onto Rte. 82 North. Turn left at Lewis Mills Road. Take a slight right at Wyebrook Road. The farm is on your right

From the North:  
Take Rte. 82 South, turn right at Creek Rd. and turn left to stay on Creek Rd at the T intersection. Turn left onto Wyebrook Rd. The farm is on your left.

From the West:  
Take Rte. 322 East, turn left onto Suplee Road, right on Chestnut Tree Road, Left on Creek Road, right on Lewis Mill Road, and left on Wyebrook Road. The farm is on our right.



All are welcome to the 2012 Volunteer Recognition Celebration!

Please pass along this information to anyone you know who may be interested. This newsletter with this registration form is available on our website, <http://www.cchpn.org/newsletters.htm>

We look forward to seeing you!

## Summer 2012 Town Tours and Village Walks

The Chester County Board of Commissioners through Chester County Facilities and Parks, the Chester County Historical Society, Westtown Township, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, and the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau announce the 18th summer of sharing Chester County's heritage during the annual "TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS."

Town Tours & Village Walks is a series of free summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and sites. Explore the entire county on Thursday evenings, June 14 - September 6. Tours begin at 5:30pm and generally last 50 minutes, with the last tour leaving at 7:30pm. Each tour is designed to inform, entertain and increase awareness of Chester County's rich heritage and historic landscape. A number of our sites offer a good selection of restaurants and shops to enjoy after your tour.

This summer, Historic Yellow Springs (HYS) invites us to an Art Exhibit, and tour and the Mill at Anselma will open their doors with a mill demonstration. We will return to favorite historic villages of Marshallton and Unionville, and add a special new tour of St. Peters Village. Uwchlan Township invites us to join in their 300th anniversary. The Boroughs of West Chester, Kennett Square and Oxford will feature their historic districts. For the first time, East Pikeland will tour the Revolutionary War Continental Powder Mill and West Nantmeal will explore its iron heritage at Isabella Furnace and Langoma Mansion.

A new addition to the summer program is the Talks & Walks lecture series which combines a 45-minute lecture by one of Chester County's historians on a topic of interest with a tour of the property that is being discussed.

Last year, over 2,000 Chester County citizens and visitors enthusiastically endorsed the assortment of historic evening walking tours! In 2005,

Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission awarded the program one of two statewide educational awards.

For more information, contact Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, at 610-344-6923 or [kmarshall@chesco.org](mailto:kmarshall@chesco.org) for a brochure.

- Karen Marshall



*The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts owned much of the village of Chester Springs for use as their country school. HYS will focus on this period in this year's tour.*



*The revitalization of Oxford is underway with the Oxford Masonic Hall at the center of the effort.*

## 2012 Town Tours and Village Walks Schedule

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Jun. 14 <b>West Chester Kick-Off and Tour</b><br/>For reservations: 1-877-442-2476 x.101</p> <p>Jun. 21 <b>Baird Park &amp; Uwchlan Township Campus</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.102</p> <p>Jun. 28 <b>St. Peters Village</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.103</p> <p>Jul. 12 <b>Scandals, Scoundrels &amp; Spirits in Kennett Borough</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.104</p> <p>Jul. 19 <b>Village of Marshallton</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.105</p> <p>Jul. 26 <b>The Mill at Anselma</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.106</p> | <p>Aug. 2 <b>The Country School at Chester Springs (1916-1952) &amp; Art Exhibit</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.107</p> <p>Aug. 9 <b>The Continental Powder Mill on French Creek</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.108</p> <p>Aug. 23 <b>Oxford Historic District Stroll</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.109</p> <p>Aug. 30 <b>Isabella Furnace &amp; Langoma Mansion</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.110</p> <p>Sep.6 <b>The Village of Unionville</b><br/>1-877-442-2476 x.111</p> |
|---|---|

### Talks and Walks Lecture Series

A new addition to the summer program is the Talks & Walks lecture series, which combines a 45-minute lecture by one of Chester County's historians on a topic of interest with a tour of a site that is being discussed. Advance registration is \$4.00/person. Contact Karen Marshall, Chester County Facilities & Parks, [kmarshall@chesco.org](mailto:kmarshall@chesco.org) or 610-344-6923. Day-of registration is accepted on-site unless otherwise noted.

**Sunday, June 10, 2 pm**  
**Miracle of Innovation at Springton Manor**  
*Talk & Walk: Springton Manor Farm*  
*Presenter: John Miller, Park Technician and Historian*  
 \$4/person, children under 12 free. Preregistration required, limit 15 participants.

**Sundays, May 27 – September 2, 1-4 pm**

**Hibernia Mansion Tours,**  
**Hibernia County Park**  
 \$4.00/person, children under 12 free.

**Sunday, June 3, 2 pm:**  
**Abraham Lincoln & Coventryville**  
*Talk: Coventryville United Methodist Church*  
*Walk: Coventry Forge Trail Warwick County Park*  
*Presenter: Tom Walsh, Historian*  
 \$4.00/person, children under 12 free. Preregistration requested.



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## 2012 Chester County Preservation Fair Another Success!

Despite the beautiful weather on that fine April day, the second annual Chester County Preservation Fair drew more than 100 attendees, presenters, exhibitors, and volunteers. Historic Yellow Springs, Inc. and the Chester County Historic Preservation Network wish to thank everyone who participated. Though the Exhibition Hall and workshops were not as full as we want them to be, the Fair is young, and it's improving every year. In follow-up discussions the attendees all found the presentations useful, especially the Preserving Our Heritage track for history and heritage-related nonprofit organizations. The Presenters were pleased with the attendance and the quality of the questions they received, and the

Exhibitors all said that they appreciated the opportunity to present themselves to the public in this forum and hope that the leads they got will turn into work for them.

We are always looking to improve the Fair, so if you have any comments or advice for the Fair Committee, please forward them to me at [meroberson@gmail.com](mailto:meroberson@gmail.com). In particular we want the presentations to cover issues that are important to you, so please give us your input. See you next year at the Fair!

Matthew Roberson  
Fair Coordinator

## Spring at Longwood Gardens

It is not often that our annual March workshop is festooned with colorful flowers, blooms and landscapes – let alone St. Patrick's Day festivities. Usually we prepare for possible snow, sleet or flooding along the Brandywine.

But, through the generosity of Longwood Gardens, the jewel of Chester County, over 70 historic preservationists, and members of historical commissions and planning commissions were treated with a beautiful day, good food provided by The Terrace restaurant staff, and full access to the Gardens. Oh, by the way, they also learned about some of the most common historical resource reviews in the Commonwealth.

CCHPN continued its focus on helping municipalities and interested professionals and individuals. Last year's Spring Workshop, at the Chester County Historical Society, piloted the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Section 106 new grass roots

education program. The Fall Lecture, at Brandywine Museum, highlighted PENNDOT's and Preservation PA's joint Section 106 database called PA Project Path.

This Workshop brought together experts Dominic Rocco of the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Gaye Lynne Criswell of the Chester County Conservation District, and Susan Zacher, formerly of PHMC's Bureau of Historic Preservation. The topic was DEP's Cultural Resource Notice requirement in the land development process.

Paul Redman, Longwood Garden's Executive Director, welcomed CCHPN and its guests and spoke about a multi-year land development project in which Longwood Gardens and State, County and Municipal governments worked together in the major Route 52 relocation project. This multiyear effort is a model for positive collaboration to achieve environmental, cultural and land use excellence.

Each expert gave hints, experiences, suggestions and contacts to assist in identifying and dealing with these often complex projects. A St. Patrick's Day theme was used to create a case study for the workshop.

CCHPN would like to express our appreciation to the Board and Staff of Longwood Gardens and to our speakers who generously volunteered their time and expertise to help the public.

Bruce Knapp  
President CCHPN

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Chester County Historic Preservation Network

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PLEASE FORWARD

Please come and  
join us for our

**2012 Volunteer  
Recognition Celebration**

Wyebrook Farm  
Honey Brook, PA

**Wednesday, June 20**  
5:00 - 8:30pm

Details Inside!

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The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

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[www.CCHPN.org](http://www.CCHPN.org)

To download a Directory of local preservation trades and services, please visit:

[www.CCHPN.org/preservationfairdirectory.htm](http://www.CCHPN.org/preservationfairdirectory.htm)