

TRAIL TALK

The Official Newsletter of The Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail



Emerald Necklace Awarded To FOCHT

The Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail (FOCHT) was honored with Lower Merion Township's Emerald Necklace Award for Open Space Preservation at the August 5th Township

Board of Commissioners' meeting held at the township building. Established in 2006, previous winners include: Ken Davis, Harry Olson, and Thomas Connelly. This year's annual award presentation was cablecast live on LMTV (Comcast Channel 7 / Verizon Channel 37).



(left) The Award. (above) A basket of FOCHT goodies. (below) From left: Friends Secretary Kathy Burns, Commissioner Bruce D. Reed, Commissioner Paul McElhane, Friends President Nancy Winkler, Stephanie Black, and Friends Treasurer Drew Ries.



SCA Crews Help Clean up the Trail This Summer

The SCA (Student Conservation Association) partnered with FOCHT and Lower Merion Township for six weeks this summer from July to August to help clean up the Cynwyd Heritage Trail. According to SCA, their members protect and restore community green spaces in all fifty states. Says Nancy Winkler, President of FOCHT, "...we are so pleased to have formed a partnership with this motivated and eco-conscious group of young people."



Trail Designer Selected

A joint venture between two firms, Studio Bryan Hanes / Studio Gaea, has been awarded the trail design contract for the Cynwyd Heritage Trail. They were chosen for their commitment to civic engagement and sustainability, and reputation for high-quality design.

County Commissioner Joe Hoeffel tours trail and Manayunk bridge



Prior to presenting the Township with a \$1.3-million municipal grant through the County's Open Space Program this past summer, along with fellow Commissioner James Matthews, Montgomery County Commissioner Joseph Hoeffel toured the proposed Cynwyd Heritage Trail and the Manayunk Bridge. The grant is to

purchase roughly eight acres from Westminster Cemetery and to commence construction of the Trail.

Construction of Cynwyd Station Moving Forward Expected to be completed by Winter

While it seemed like Lower Merion had slowed down over the course of the summer, there was actually a consistent flurry of activity at the Cynwyd train station. Great strides are being made with revitalization of the station: It is now fully stabilized, with new windows, doors, and a roof. The pillars on the tracks side were rotten, and had to be jacked up and replaced. Volunteers are working on scraping down the old paint, and SEPTA is generously donating services to install a new sewer line. The contractor, Stumpo Construction, is making sure that every detail gets proper attention. The plan is to have a new and improved station by this winter and a re-dedication celebration in the spring.

Joe Surnick speaks to Full House About Trails

On July 13 over 40 people turned out to hear Joe Surnick, President of the Schuylkill River Development Corporation, present a slide show on "Best Practices in Trail Design." There were lively group discussions around refreshments after the talk. This was the first in a series of member programs the Friends will be presenting.



Report on the Friends

The Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail (FOCHT) is now a registered 501c(3) non-profit organization.

Our chief aim is to support the development and maintenance of the Trail. Along with promoting activities along the trail, FOCHT supports the Township's volunteer work days and is fundraising to promote trail awareness and help support its amenities. As of the date of printing, we have raised more than \$10,000, and there are over 100 paying members of the group – including many corporate members – who hail from Lower Merion Township and Narberth Borough and their surrounding townships.

Upcoming events

- **Mike Weilbacher, Executive Director of the Lower Merion Conservancy** will be leading a nature walk on the trail on Sunday, November 8 at 9:00am. This will be a fun and educational walk for all ages! Meet at the Cynwyd Station, afterwards join us for the Adult Design Workshop.

Volunteers Needed

We need your help, your time and your talents!

The Friends are looking for volunteers to help with projects including membership development, fundraising, volunteer work days on the trail and communications. Please contact Nancy Winkler at nwinkler@comcast.net.

Designer-Led Community Input Meetings:

There are a series of **Design Focus Groups** for this fall which are open to the public at large. These meetings will focus on the design aspect of the trail. Some locations are yet to be determined so please check www.cynwydtrail.org for updated information.

All meetings will be in the Conservatory at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd

- Children's Workshop
Oct. 25, Noon to 3:00pm
- Adult Workshop
Nov. 1, Noon to 3:00pm
- Nov. 17, 6:30pm
- Community Meeting
Jan. 26, 6:30pm

Trail Clean-Up Days Fall/Winter 2009

October 24/25
November 14/15
December 5/6
January 16/17
February 13/14

The Township sponsors workdays once per month on both Saturday and Sunday of the work weekend from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm. Tools and materials are provided along with refreshments and give-aways. Please check www.cynwydtrail.org or email nwinkler@comcast.net for more information.

Trail designer Kim Douglas of Studio Gaea will speak on the trail at noon following the Saturday November 14th workday.

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To contact the Friends group

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