

FRIENDS OF HARTWOOD

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Special points of interest:

- October 11 Hay Day
- October 25, Haunted Hat Tea
- November 1, Vine Cutting

Contributions to the Friends of Hartwood can be sent to:

Hartwood Mansion
200 Hartwood Acres
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

ATTN: Don Horn

To receive emails and future newsletters, please email:

friendsofhartwood@gmail.com

TEENS TURN OUT TO WORK ON TRAILS IN HARTWOOD

Excerpts from the Pittsburgh Post Gazette
Thursday September 18

The teens were part of a volunteer group working to maintain the trails for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. "We have 20 to 30 miles of trails at Hartwood. The volunteers are critical in helping us with the trails," said Andy Baechle, Director of parks for Allegheny County.

Joe Downing, secretary of the Friends of Hartwood Council, helped organize Saturday's work session, which involved about 14 volunteers, including the scout troop that his daughter Sierra belongs to — Hampton Cadette Troop 198. "As you can see, the trail has grown to be about 20 feet wide. This is because of erosion, so we want to re-route the trail and narrow it back down," Mr. Downing explained to the volunteers.

Mr. Downing, of Hampton, has been on Friends of Hartwood



Volunteers help clean the trails

Council since April 2007 and is well acquainted with Hartwood's Trails.

"at first, I had to spend many hours just walking the trails to become familiar with them. Since I enjoy hiking anyway, this was certainly a labor of love."

He said the Hartwood trails

have been worked on over the years by members of Pittsburgh Trails Advocacy Group, which was founded to encourage trail users to work together to maintain and conserve the trails.

As part of its effort, the trail advocacy group often
(continued on Page 2)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL T.V. CREW AT HARTWOOD ACRES

A Discovery Channel T.V. Crew was at Hartwood Acres last month filming a documentary on Michael Koehler who has been selected as one of the 10 finalists in the 2008 Discovery Education/3M Young Scientist Challenge.

A spokesperson for Discovery Communications told me, Michael, 15, a 9th grader at Hampton High School was selected for his video entry on Beroulli's Principle using everyday technology to communicate basic scientific concepts, and that the documentary will

air in January (Date to be announced) on the Science Channel.

The 10 student finalists will compete in the nation's capital from October 4 to 6, 2008 for the chance to win \$50,000 U.S. Savings Bond
(continued on page 2)

TEENS TURN OUT TO WORK ON TRAILS (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

Schedules volunteer work-days on the trails. "In 2008, for instance, PTAG organized three work days attended by about 25 volunteers who put in a total of nearly 100 volunteer hours. Allegheny County

Park staff provided support by supplying tools, transportation and repair materials such as gravel," Mr. Downing said.

"The main goal of our work days is to repair and prevent the erosion and damage that

occurs from overuse by bikers, hikers and equestrians," he said.

"This is done by digging out and grading problem spots and help drainage and 'armoring' soft spots by re

placing mud with packed gravel. We also look for close spur trails that tend to spring up when people decide to

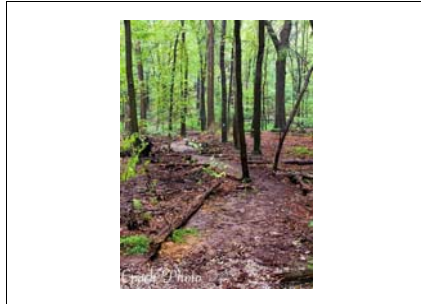
shortcut between trails."

Despite the weather, Mr. Downing was pleased with the results. "We hung in there and after the rain stopped, we were able to fix up about 100 feet of worn trail. It looked a lot better when we were done than when we started" he said.

Although it was hard, dirty work, the teens didn't seem to mind.

"Well, it isn't like I was hoping to come and work in the mud," Emily Altmeyer said, "but this is helping the trails and the park. I like doing that."

- Kathleen Ganster writer



The trails at Hartwood Acres

THE GARDENS AT HARTWOOD ACRES

The biggest and most impressive garden at the Allegheny County owned Hartwood Park, is the formal garden, which was designed for the Lawrence's in the late '30's, by noted Washington D.C. landscape architect, Rose Greely. Every year, the palette changes, but always delights! Most of the plants are grown by county employee, Dave Wesley in two greenhouses located down by the stable complex. New this year is a tall and very colorful Amaran-

thus, this plant is 3-4' tall with vibrant colors and is used throughout the garden, adding lots of spice. Sadly, this garden has to be protected from not only the deer, but the dreaded groundhog; wires carrying electricity do the job, both at chest height for the deer, and lower for the groundhog.

The Terrace Garden located at the rear of the Mansion has no protection from Deer or Groundhogs. Mostly planted in annuals, emphasis

has been placed on plants the Deer don't like. Two Salvias, 'Victoria' and 'Guaaranitica' (black and Blue), Tall white snap dragons, Ageratum 'Blue Horizon' (2 1/2' shorter front of the border type), and Chelome in colors of pinks and purples complete the list.

This year we added the annual Cosmos, but Deer are browsing it, so it will be eliminated from next years' planting. Live and Learn!

- submitted by Sally Foster

"but this is helping the trails and the park. I like doing that."

Discovery Channel Cont. from Page 1.

As well as the title of "America's Top Young Scientist of the Year".

NASA will host the competition finals at its world-renowned Goddard Space Flight Center, located near Washington D.C., where students will demonstrate their science prowess in a series of team-based, interactive chal-

lenges focused on this year's theme, "The Science of Space."

The film crew followed Michael to Hartwood Acres, where he flies the remote controlled airplane he built from scratch under the tutelage of the Allegheny Park Flyers Club.

His Mother, Julie, a Paraprofessional in the Hampton School District, does the driv-

ing to Hartwood as Spice, the family dog looks on.

Michael told me he would like to attend Carnegie Mellon University and then go to work for NASA or Boeing.

Good Luck Michael!

- Submitted by Bob Koplert

VINE CUTTING NOVEMBER 1

Hello Volunteers!

For several years a dedicated group of volunteers have been "attacking" the Grapevines in the woods at Hartwood. Hundreds of aged Oaks have been compromised by these vines. Join us for 2 hours on Saturday morning November 1, 2008 from 10:00 to 12:00. Please meet at the old theater tent....just down from the Mansion. Leave your car there.

What to bring:

- Loppers for cutting larger vines.
- Hand Clippers for smaller

stuff.

- Wear protective glasses if you have them.
- Gloves a **MUST!** We may be cutting some poison ivy vines which are viable even if they look dead!
- Small saws work well too for larger vines.
- Water, coffee, coke. whatever helps!
- Wear long pants, socks tucked in.

No gas powered tools allowed.



Volunteers help cut vines at Hartwood

That's it...see you there.
RSVP to Hartwood's Office
412-767-9200

HAUNTED HARTWOOD?

Over the years there have been many people who have spent time in the Hartwood Mansion. Staff, Volunteers and guests have all occupied the house since the Lawrence family turned the property over to the county upon Mary Lawrence's death. Many of the staff and volunteers have reported feeling a presence in

the house when they are walking through the corridors alone. Some say it is Mrs. Lawrence looking after her house and those that care for it. The staff feels Mary "Checks up" on what is being done and if she doesn't like something she lets it be known. There have been lights that have flipped on

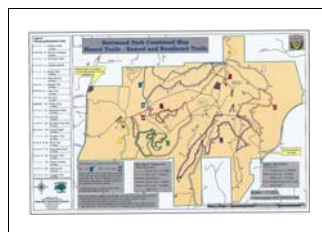
after repeatedly being turned off and individuals have reported feeling someone following them as they walk through the house. Visit Hartwood this fall and who knows you may feel a spirit or two following you.

-submitted by Charlene Campbell

"The staff feels Mary "checks up" on what is being done and if she doesn't like something she lets it be known."

NEW TRAIL MAPS BEING DESIGNED

There is currently a problem in that the color blazes on the trails don't appear on the maps in the kiosks, while the County map available on the web site doesn't show the trail numbers and names. Brian McBane of the County GIS department has devised a combined map that will use symbols along with colors and numbers, and a legend of trail names. Having the symbols makes identifying trails much



New proposed trail map

easier. You just find the name or number of a trail in

the legend and follow the symbols for that trail to see where it starts and stops.

Soon the new maps will be available in brochure form as well as the web site.

Friends of Hartwood

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To preserve and protect the natural environment and cultural heritage of Hartwood Acres

MEET BOB VISHNESKI, PHOTOGRAPHER

Fall at Hartwood is a wonderful sight! The autumn colors are emerging, the air is brisk and all of the animals that inhabit the park are making the most of the days until winter sets in. One regular visitor to Hartwood is local photographer Bob Vishneski. Bob and his wife Tanya walk the park almost everyday of the year and many have come to recognize him as the "Deer Man," a title earned by his ability to befriend the resident herds. Bob's pictures are an amazing diary of the park during all seasons and he has captured every angle giving special attention to light. A fan of infrared photography Bob shoots many of his pictures with an infrared dedicated camera that allows him to capture nuances the naked eye misses. Almost 30 years of experience and experimentation have allowed Vishneski, to take his hobby to



Photographer Bob Vishneski

has agreed to allow the Friends of Hartwood group to borrow pages of his visual diary to raise funds for the park. Selected images of Hartwood will be sold in the gift shop and at Hay Day. The images will be sold in the form of photographs and note cards. Please visit the Friends of Hartwood website for more information. They are a wonderful way to remember family, friends, teachers

new levels and the ever increasing technology has given him the ability to manipulate and enhance color and focus. His pictures of Hartwood range from Black and White studies of the Lawrence mansion to moonlit paintings of the various landscapes to abstract close ups of 600+ acres of flora and fauna. Generously Vishneski

during the holiday season throughout the year. To view Bob's images please visit his website Epoch photos at <http://www.epochphoto.com>

- submitted by Charlene Campbell

