

Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council  
13555 Beaver Dam Road  
Cockeysville, MD 21030



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## PANCAKE BREAKFAST 2011 Flip Them and They Will Come! And They Did!



Photo taken by Jim Curtis

# TRAILBLAZER

April/May/June 2011



Supporting Oregon Ridge Park  
and Nature Center for 29 years

## MUSIC IN THE WOODS

May 14, 2011, 10 AM – 4 PM

Upon arrival, one can hear *Music in the Woods* before taking two steps from the car. In fact, the lyrics from a popular hit song in a well-known Rodgers and Hammerstein musical immediately pop to mind — slightly altered, of course. “The woods come alive with the sound of music...” The exciting sounds of dulcimers, mandolins, harmonicas, banjos and guitars are enough to set the leaves on the trees a-quiver and would even inspire Apollo, the Greek God of Music, to do a jig or two.

Musicians of every caliber come to share their renditions of many of our favorite tunes. You can join them. It's not too late to call the Nature Center and sign-up for a spot.

Many of our favorite bands and performers will be returning, including the Back Porch Players, Looney Tunes, Painted Trillium, High Strung, the ORNC Band, the ORNC Dulcimer Gathering, Christopher James, Laurie Ballentine, the Witt Family, and Charm City Rapper Dance, a traditional English Dance troupe with a maypole.



Soap-maker Barbara Stratton, a new vendor this year, will join returnees Bryan Burns with his handcrafted flutes, the Master Gardeners of Baltimore County who will sell plants, and Beaumont Pottery.

Music in the Woods has become one of our most favored events. It's a melodious gathering of families, friends, lovers, and music enthusiasts of all ages. It's a time to lay back, sing along, tap your toes, meet new people, and snack on hotdogs and soda.

If you have your own instrument, bring it along and join a jam session. And if the spirit moves you to break into song or do-si-do with your partner, don't be shy. That's what it is all about at...

**MUSIC IN THE WOODS!**

**And...It's Free!**

Oregon Ridge Nature Center & Park Council, 410-887-1815; info@oregonridge.org; www.oregonridge.org; TDD/Deaf 410-887-5319

## PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY WEEKEND

MAY 7 and 8, 2011  
10 AM - 4 PM  
IT'S FREE

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Friday** - Camping Begins, \$1/person. Please call 410-887-1815 to register.

#### Saturday and Sunday, All Day

- Knappers chipping points
- Hands-on activities for all ages
- Shooting bows and arrows, blowguns tossing atlatls and making clay coils and pinch pots.

#### Saturday

- 11:00 am Demos by Doug Meyer on making *Riverbed Blowguns*
- 11:30 am Demo by Greg High on making *Pipes, Spirits and Smoke*
- 12:30 pm Dan Firehawk Abbot, *Cooking Demonstration*
- 1:00 pm Scott Silsby, *Dibble and Digging sticks*
- 2:00 pm Guy R. Neal, *Primitive Traps that Produce.*
- 2:30 pm Bill Kaczor of Ancestral Knowledge, *Cooking with Your Pot and Eating It, Too.*
- 8:00 pm Saturday Evening Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Schindler  
Talk: *Our Dietary Past: How Technology Changed our Relationship with Food*

#### Sunday

- 8:00 am Traditional Bow Shoot

Food Vendor - Charcoal Deli

To obtain an agenda or more information, call Kirk Dreier 410-887-2817 or ORNC at 410-887-1815

## ORNC COUNCIL SPEAKER SERIES

### THE DEER DILEMMA

By Robert W. Stanhope, Naturalist  
April 18 at 7:30 PM

Spring is here and soon your azaleas will bud and pop into...huh oh! Deer alert! Those azaleas are scrumptious entrees for the increasing number of deer browsing yards like yours. Nonetheless, the subject of deer management remains a touchy one. Everyone agrees there's a problem, but not everyone agrees on what to do about it. Naturalist Bob Stanhope is well acquainted with every side of the issue and is empathetic to those holding strong, diverse opinions.

Bob is a member of The Coalition for Responsible Deer Management, a group of concerned citizens who have formed to address the issues created by deer overpopulation in Baltimore County. Their goal is to prompt the Baltimore County Council and the County Executive to take appropriate actions to solve this growing problem. In his presentation, Bob will provide deer facts and explain how overpopulation threatens public safety and health, damages crops and residential/commercial landscaping, hinders forest re-growth,



and reduces ecological diversity. He will talk about how the problem evolved and about the most effective management methods.

Bob Stanhope is well known in Maryland for his contributions as Chief Naturalist for Baltimore County. In 1980 he became the first Baltimore County Naturalist/Director for the newly built Oregon Ridge Nature Center. In 1991 he became Chief Naturalist for Oregon Ridge Park, Benjamin Banneker Park, and Cromwell Valley Park. He helped design and develop Marshy Point Nature Center and worked there until his retirement in 2009. Now he has returned to his roots and trail guides at Oregon Ridge when he isn't working on environmental projects.

## ELIZA YACHIMOWICZ A RIDGE RUNNER TO REMEMBER

Eliza Yachimowicz is a good sport. In her affable way, she has had to teach many how to pronounce her last name. But once you get to know Eliza, you will not forget her. She has just recently become a Ridge Runner at Oregon Ridge and has quickly and quietly made a place for herself.



Eliza heard about the Ridge Runner program from her mother who read about it in an issue of the *Trailblazer*. She explains, "I thought it would be something fun to do over the summer, but I like it so much I decided to continue on with it." She especially enjoys feeding Jack the Starling. He must like her too, because he calls to Eliza with his "Jack, Jack" repertoire and amuses her with his continuous array of sounds and words. Jack has competition, however. The Red-Tailed Hawk seems to have the upper perch when it comes to Eliza's affections. Of all the animals, she says she likes caring for "... the hawk by far. He is so quiet and gentle." Sounds like Eliza and the Red-tail have much in common.

Eliza is a good sportswoman, too. Sports are her favorite hobby and pastime, lacrosse being her sport of choice. "I love the speed of the game and what is entailed in handling the stick." Eliza also enjoys some extra-curricular activities after school and just hanging out with her friends.

At home Eliza is responsible for the care of her dog Libby and her fish. When she gets home from school she plays with Libby, feeds her, and bathes her when needed. She also likes

to read when she is alone, mostly fiction along the lines of *The Twilight Saga* by Stephanie Meyer. Eliza studies hard and is a good student with a 3.4 GPA at her middle school. She says her favorite subjects are science and American history. She finds them both "...engaging, interesting, and I'm always excited for those classes to begin. Not to mention I succeed in them."

As for Eliza's plans for the future, sports and science seem to win out over history. She hopes to attend Northwestern University or the University of Maryland to become a sports physiologist or work in the field of sports medicine.

The ORNC staff hopes Eliza will remain a Ridge Runner throughout her high school years. We are happy to have her as part of the team.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE! PLANT A TREE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD!

The Growing Home Campaign provides homeowners with \$10 coupons for trees purchased at local participating nurseries. There are many good reasons to plant trees, including reducing polluted storm water runoff, saving on energy costs and increasing property values. The Growing Home brochure and \$10 tree coupons are available at all public libraries, recreation and parks facilities, senior centers, or at [www.growinghome.info](http://www.growinghome.info). For more information, please call 410-887-4488.

Growing Home Campaign

Make a Difference, Plant a Tree  
Greening Begins in Your Own Backyard  
[www.growinghome.info](http://www.growinghome.info)

### THRUSHES WHISTLE WOODLAND TUNES

by Director Courtney Peed

Spring's budding beauty is indeed a feast for the eyes. It is also music to the ears. On your next visit to the park, stand quietly at the edge of the woods or in the meadow, close your eyes, and listen to an ornithological symphony. You may hear the cheery whistling of the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), one of the first songs of spring. If a haunting, flute-like melody reaches your ears, you are among the lucky souls to be soothed by the song of one of our most camouflaged songbirds, the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). The songs of a thrush invite you to take a moment on a warm day to sit on one of our log benches and embrace the solitude of the forest. (\*Listen at home via the websites at the end of the article)

Like all members of the Thrush family, the Wood Thrush and the Robin, along with their cousins the Eastern Bluebird



(*Sialia sialis*) and the Hermit Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), have strong legs with a "booted tarsus." This means that the scales on the leg are fused instead of spaced apart, which protects the leg as the thrush scratches for the dozens of insects eaten daily.

Robins are known for being "early birds," perhaps because of their worm-catching ability. Robins rely on sight to find worms in the ground, not sound as once thought. They often wait for gardeners to turn over soil so that they can see grubs and worms more easily. Baby robins can eat up to fourteen feet of worms a day, which can lead to fierce and rowdy competition over these tasty invertebrates. It is lucky for the Robin that settlers brought earthworms with them to the New World, since worms had been eliminated in North America during the last ice age.

Robins received their Latin name *migratorius* from the fact that thrushes are by nature neo-tropical migrants. Though robins might have been migratory in the past, most of them now stay here in winter and eat fruits and berries. Wood Thrushes, however, are still migratory and travel to South American rainforests each winter to gobble down insects and stay warm. They return to the Eastern deciduous forest in

spring for the same reasons, but they also nest and rear young in the understory, close to the ground to make foraging easier. This nesting behavior has made the Wood Thrush an object of conservation interest. Their populations have declined by 43% overall since 1966 due mainly to habitat destruction here and in South America. The large deer population has cleared the Wood Thrush's habitat in Oregon Ridge's forest. Deer browse the understory constantly, making re-growth impossible and leaving no shrubs for nesting. While the Wood Thrush song remains a constant along our trails for now, the day may come when their song is heard no more during a walk through our woods.

This spring we hope you enjoy hiking along our trails to listen for the poignant melody of the Wood Thrush, or explore the meadow to hear the joyful song of the American Robin. Perhaps you will agree with poet George Meredith that a thrush sings "of the young time with life ahead." Happy hiking and listening!

- [http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/American\\_Robin/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Robin/sounds)
- [http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood\\_Thrush/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood_Thrush/sounds)
- [http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern\\_Bluebird/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Bluebird/sounds)
- [http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Hermit\\_Thrush/sounds](http://allaboutbirds.org/guide/Hermit_Thrush/sounds)

#### TRAILBLAZER STAFF

Editor/Design/Layout: Mary Jane Shanks  
Managing Editor: Joe Salvaggio

#### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

**Writers:** Mary Jane Shanks, Courtney Peed  
**Photographers:** Jim Curtis, Stephen McDaniel (Go to *events* on <http://mcdanielphotography.com> for more pancake breakfast photos), Staff

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Articles for the Sept/Oct issue are due July 5.

#### ORNC STAFF

Director	Courtney Peed
Naturalist/CS1	Shannon Davis
Admin. Aide/Naturalist	Todd Thropp
Building Maintenance	Pat Bedgar
Part-Time Naturalists	Brina Doyle, Nate Lapinski
Weekend Naturalists	Nicole Beaver, Tanvi Gadhia
	Caitlin Myers, Pam Ward
Building Attendants	Noot Canoles, Mike Kaufman

### THE CHESAPEAKE — Past, Present, and the Keys to a Sustainable Future

By Ned Tillman, Author  
May 16 at 7:30 PM

Take a minute and think about the Chesapeake Bay. Did you grimace just a little? If you did, you probably experienced that tiny pang of guilt that passes through many of us when we allow ourselves to acknowledge that we could be doing more to protect this valuable estuary and surrounding watershed.

Ned Tillman's book *The Chesapeake Watershed: A Sense of Place and a Call to Action* is the 2010 winner of the Best Book on Environmental and Natural Resources and the Excellence in Journalism Award\*. During his presentation, Ned will share anecdotes about growing up in Maryland's watershed area, talk about what he has learned during his career working in the environmental industry, and offer achievable ideas on how individuals can help to protect this threatened treasure.

Ned Tillman received a BA from Franklin and Marshall College and a MS from Syracuse University in earth and

environmental sciences. He is the Chair of the Howard County Sustainability Board, past chair of the Howard County Conservancy, and a Sustainability Advisor to local businesses,



colleges, and non-profit organizations. His firm, Growth Adventures, LLC, helps these organizations assess opportunities and develop plans for embedding good sustainability practices into everything they do.

Ned Tillman knows that all paths lead to the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Speaking from his own experience as an active sportsman and environmentalist, Ned says, "We only care for the places we love." His goal is to encourage you and other

individuals to get outside and find the path that leads to the places you love.

(\*Awarded, respectively, by The American Society for Public Administration and the Renewable Natural Resource Foundation)

#### MEMBERS ONLY CAMPING

Beginning May 28 at 5 PM and ending May 29 at 9 AM, members and their families can join us for a campout. Breakfast and s'mores will be provided for \$10/family. Please call for reservations.



#### USHER IN SUMMER AT OUR FREE FAMILY PICNIC

Members and friends are invited to gather at Oregon Ridge Lake on Monday night, June 20, at 6 PM, for Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council's annual Free Family Picnic.

Take an early evening swim or a woodland stroll, paddle a canoe into the twilight, stretch out on the beach, and when it is good and dark, huddle round for campfire songs and roasting marshmallows over hot coals for tasty s'mores.

Pack a picnic basket with hamburgers, chicken or whatever you would like to eat and maybe a bottle of cheer. The grills will be all set with hot coals. It's FREE, so bring family and friends.

#### LOOKING TO SUMMER AND FALL!

**THIS IS OUR CAMP ISSUE!** Our summer camps are the most affordable camps in Maryland and are popular for their hands-on, dirty shoes, and just-plain-fun activities. ORNCC "members-first" sign up. Open the enclosed Summer Calendar right now and call on the specified registration date. Don't delay, camps fill up quickly!

**TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING** - September 6 through 9, from 10 AM to 1 PM. The \$25 fee is refundable after leading your first solo hike. Learn about bees and other insects, primitive technology, and more.

**HONEY HARVEST FESTIVAL** - October 1 and 2, 2011, from 10 AM to 4 PM, FREE. Check out our website, [www.oregonridge.org](http://www.oregonridge.org) for details. It is a great family event.

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST 2011 TOPS THE CHARTS

*Flip them and they will come!* More than 5000 pancakes were flipped to feed 1560 people at Oregon Ridge Nature Center's Pancake Breakfast, a record thus far. It was also our most profitable, \$8500 less a few outstanding expenses. Plus, our membership "Get-A-Free-Breakfast" drive attracted 40 new members. Over 100 dedicated volunteers put on the breakfast this year and they accomplished it with only one "almost" glitch — attendance was so high on Saturday that we were sure we would run out of sausage on Sunday, but we did not. Thank you volunteers and thank you to those who came to our breakfast to enjoy the pancakes and sausage, music, raffles, and camaraderie.

Aside from the breakfast, the box raffles topped the fund raising attractions. The box raffles included free passes donated by Hunt Valley Motor Coach (a trip to Atlantic City), Boordy Vineyards' Wine and Herb Festival, Ladew Topiary Gardens, Pennsylvania Railroad Museum, Fire Museum of Maryland, and Earth Treks. Brick Bodies, the Oregon Ridge Beach, and Merritt Athletic Club donated free memberships. Additionally there was a Basket of Cheer, REI Camp Mini Kitchen, an oil change from Brooks Huff, gift card packages from Wegmans and Greetings and Readings, a foursome outing at Turf Valley Golf Club, McCormick Spices with Rack, and a Greene Turtle Happy Hour Party with T-Shirt. We appreciate the continued support of these local businesses.



The smooth execution of this event might indicate that it comes easily. Nothing could be less true. The planning committee, many of who have been doing this for 10 or more years, work hard to prepare. Jeanne Cole lines up the volunteers, Cas Warfield orders food and supplies, Ginna Naylor orders sausage and provides the Basket of Cheer, and Bill LaBarre orchestrates the pancake flipping crew and is our committee chair, aided ably by Jeanne Cole and Jim Curtis. Noot Canoles runs the gift shop and Anne Canoles is the financial officer for the event. Dave Powers handles publicity, Polly Roberts orders flowers, John Canoles organizes the box raffles, and Walter Massey hosts as Master of Ceremonies.

Many others work in a myriad of jobs: grilling sausage (some of our bravest souls); clearing tables; mixing batter; pouring juice; selling syrup, candy and flowers; painting faces; taking admission; greeting diners; manning the membership table; and selling raffle tickets. This year the Oregon Ridge Band and the Oregon

Ridge Dulcimer Gathering supplied the music, enhancing the warm, festive atmosphere that is always a staple at our breakfasts.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for next year's Pancake Breakfast — March 3 and 4, 2012. We hope all of our outstanding volunteers will return to insure that your time with us is as filling, fun and festive as it was in 2011.

(McD) Indicates photos taken by Photographer Stephen McDaniel. (JC) Indicates photos taken by Jim Curtis.



Thumbs up and full tummies from happy breakfast eaters (McD)



Smiles from the littlest mermaid (McD)



Ridge Runners (L to R) Ilona Wittenberg, Bella Wanis and Shea Sandifer mug for the camera while Ginna Naylor (right) serves breakfasts (McD)



John Rigley & Dave Power wash dishes (McD)



Gayle Meiers cheerfully clears tables (McD)

Laurie Psoras sells pansies (JC)

The ORNC Dulcimer Gathering takes a break (JC)



Scout and Becky Stein sell the sweet stuff (JC)



### OUR VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF ARE TOPS!

Dean Adle  
Griff Atkinson  
Martin Ballard  
Emily Buonsignore  
Mary Ann Busse  
Ann Canoles  
John Canoles  
Noot Canoles  
Jon Christiana  
Debbie Cole  
Jeanne Cole  
Jim Curtis  
Jocelyn Curtis  
Jamal Daniel-Cody  
Jackie Devine  
Joey Devine  
Frank Dickison

Bill Diegel  
Kirk Dreier  
Millie Dreier  
Winnie Dreier  
Ezeckiel Eclarino  
Mindy Flamholz  
Katya Gavin  
Mary Genovese  
Susan Genovese  
Diane Gleason  
Mark Gingrich  
Martha Harris  
Christine Hart  
Donald Hart  
David Hartnett  
Lisa Hopkins  
Kathy Hubberman

Christopher James  
Tommy Jones  
Ann Kerns  
Jack Kerns  
Jerry Kirkwood  
Pat Krasowski  
Bill LaBarre  
Bill LaBarre, Jr.  
Holly LaBarre  
Sue Leslie  
Walter Massey  
Nancy Mattingly  
Sandy McCann  
Kathy McAllister  
Erin McCleary  
Angie McDaniel  
Steve McDaniel

Bob Meier  
Gayl Meier  
Dean Merritt  
Carol Mantegna  
Bradley Moore  
Ruth Moore  
Ginna Naylor  
Cindy Necaise  
Kathy Obbogy  
Kevin O'Neill  
Charlie Parks  
John Parks  
Kate Parks  
Katharine Patterson  
Beth Peterson  
Ben Poscover  
Jim Potter

David Power  
Laurie Psoras  
Sue Reif  
Summer Riddle  
John Rigley  
Polly Roberts  
Scott Roberts  
Sue Ruhl  
Joe Salvaggio  
Shea Sandifer  
Mary Scott  
Martin Schugam  
Paula Schugam  
Ashby Shanks  
Mary Jane Shanks  
John Smothers  
Eileen Stanley

Becky Stein  
Scout Stein  
Mark Surgies  
Rashid Taleb  
Carolyn Thim  
Dick Thim  
Todd Thropp  
Paul Waldman  
Bella Wanis  
Cas Warfield  
Joe Warfield  
Bob Willasch  
Emily Witt  
Lou Witt  
Ilona Wittenberg  
Eliza Yachimowicz  
Lodge & ORNC Staff



L to R, Bill Diegel and Lou Witt grill sausage while Jack Kerns mixes batter (McD)

