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Gordon Natural Area History & Strategic Plan

10-2008

Gordie News, October 2008

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

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GORDIE NEWS

(Oct 2008) 2:8
Erika Szonntag, editor
Gordon Natural Area for Environmental Studies
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
(A Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation)



Special Announcements & Dates-

Watch for Earth Week (April 18-25, 2009 activities)

Help save postage: If you have an E-mail we can add you to the Friends of the Gordon Natural Area (http://www.gordonarea.org) and other activities

Contact Erika Szonntag with feedback or ideas for articles at es631042@wcupa.edu

:: What's New? ::

October 18th Gordon Area Workday Huge Success!

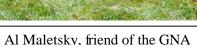
Many thanks to all the volunteers who came to help out. We cleaned up some trash, closed off trails, and removed lots of invasive plants like oriental bittersweet. 32 new trees were planted as well. Below are some snapshots from the morning.



Bruce Arnold, friend of the GNA, with another tree planter









Erika Szonntag, Editor of Gordie News, & Laurie Sherman making wreath from oriental bittersweet vines

Below are some pictures from the Homecoming Weekend Alumni Event as well. A redtailed hawk from the Great Valley Nature center made a guest appearance.







Claire Birney, Mary Ellen Josephs, Kathleen Sanger, Milissa Cauler; all PROUD of their new GNA hats!

Dr Hertel with new anti-trail bike weapon!





New kiosk built by WCU's carpentry shop-GREAT JOB! Also thanks to the trail bike rider who left his/her bike at the entrance to the GNA (remember, no bikes in the GNA-thank you)

RESEARCH & DEMONSTRATIONS in the GORDON AREA

FUNDING SOURCE (11/1/08)	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
PA Sea Grant	Stream organism survey
PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) - Wild Resources Program	Invasive species and deer effects on native plants
DCNR- Tree Vitalize through the Chester Co. Conservation District	Restore GNA forest
US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service	Invasive species demonstration area
USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services	Deer numbers survey
Center for Invasive Plant Management	Garlic mustard effects on red oak roots
WCU Technology Fee Grant	Salamander survey

Visitors to the Gordon Area



PA Cyber Charter School science teachers visit the Gordon Natural Area

Janet Ebert (our contract botanist) and Jack Holt (did plant survey for Dr Overlease) in GNA. Janet and Jack did a plant survey in the GNA in 2007. Janet has also worked on our forest health monitoring and deer/invasive species plots.



WCU Classes and Activities in the Gordon Natural Area

Class	Department	Number	# Students	Faculty
Ecology	Biology	270	40	Tiebout
Vertebrate	Biology	277	14	Tiebout
Ecology				
Science,	Honors	314	35	Welch/Morgan
Technology &				
Environmental				
Systems				
Population	Biology	470/570	14	Fairchild
Biology				
Freshwater	Biology	476/576	14	Fairchild
Ecology				
Introduction	Philosophy	180		Woolfrey
to Ethics				
Environmental	Geology	336	12	Lutz
Geology				
Environmental	Geology	331	24	Lutz
Geochemistry				
Introduction	Geology	101	400	Helmke
to Geology				
Soils	Geology	490		Helmke
Applications	Geography	424/584		Coutu
of GIS				
Environmental	Geography	402/502		Coutu
Applications				
of GIS				
Humans & the	Environmental	102	75/semester	Shorten
Environment	Health			
Carbon Cycle	Geology	101	60/semester	Waber &
				Srogi



This is a photo from a deer survey the GNA is doing with USDA APHIS. Corn is used to lure deer (and raccoons), which are then photographed by motion detecting cameras.

Billion Tree Campaign

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a campaign to plant trees all over the world. The Gordon Natural Area has pledged 200 trees thus far. World target-pledged-planted/the Gordon Natural Area

Target	
~ ®	7,000,000,000/200
•	
Pledged	
	4,100,965,730/200
Planted	
	2,551,245,811/168

Visit http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/

GNA Supporters:

2004: Presidential Initiative (WCU); Environmental Council (WCU); USDA Forest Service Henderson High School Environmental Club; Friends of the Gordon Area

2005: Wegman's; Yellow Springs Farm Native Plant Nursery; Environmental Council;

Henderson High School Environmental Club; Friends of the Gordon Area

2006: Yellow Springs Farm Native Plant Nursery; Valero Energy Corporation; National

Wildlife Federation; Henderson High School Environmental Club; Friends of the Gordon Area

2007: Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (PA DCNR), Wild Resources Program;

WCU Alumni Association; Darlington Biological Society; MENTA Café; Yellow Springs Farm Native Plant Nursery

2008: Redbud Native Plant Nursery; Aramark; PA DCNR, Tree Vitalize Program; USDA Forest Service

Contact: ghertel@wcupa.edu; 610-436-2722; 484-883-3371

■ NO TRAIL BIKES ARE ALLOWED IN THE GNA – They have increased the length of trails by 300% and are impacting the biodiversity in the GNA.

DOGS NEED TO BE LEASHED – Students doing laboratory assignments have been attacked by unleashed dogs.

WCU Public Safety: 610-436-3311; 911 calls-tell them you are on Stadium Rd

