

10-2008

Gordie News, October 2008

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

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Recommended Citation

West Chester University of Pennsylvania (2008). Gordie News, October 2008. Retrieved from http://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/gna_sp_series/17

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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





Al Maletsky, friend of the GNA



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 red-tailed 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 Ecology | Biology | 277 | 14 | Tiebout |
| Science, Technology & Environmental Systems | Honors | 314 | 35 | Welch/Morgan |
| Population Biology | Biology | 470/570 | 14 | Fairchild |
| Freshwater Ecology | Biology | 476/576 | 14 | Fairchild |
| Introduction to Ethics | Philosophy | 180 | | Woolfrey |
| Environmental Geology | Geology | 336 | 12 | Lutz |
| Environmental Geochemistry | Geology | 331 | 24 | Lutz |
| Introduction to Geology | Geology | 101 | 400 | Helmke |
| Soils | Geology | 490 | | Helmke |
| Applications of GIS | Geography | 424/584 | | Coutu |
| Environmental Applications of GIS | Geography | 402/502 | | Coutu |
| Humans & the Environment | Environmental Health | 102 | 75/semester | Shorten |
| 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

