

February 6, 2011

PARK PICKS
by
FRIENDS OF THE ALLENTOWN PARKS

Join us today! Become a member and help make Allentown's great park system even better.



(Based on the song "While Strolling in the Park One Day;"
Words & Music by Ed Haley. 1884)

While strolling in the park one day
In the merry merry month of February
I was taken by surprise
By...four, yes four, GREAT BLUE HERONS
at the Trout Nursery!

Great Blue Heron @ Trout Nursery

Great Blue Herons are familiar sights in the Lehigh Valley. Travel to Allentown's Queen City (aka Lil'-Le-Hi) Trout Nursery and you may catch a glimpse of these beautiful birds. Fish are a staple of their diet and some ingenious herons in their quest for scrumptious trout have found ways around the protective netting on the "ponds." Unfortunately, this is a safety hazard for both the birds and the fish. If you see a trapped bird, please report it to the White-Snyder House (aka the "hatch house") at the Nursery or phone the Allentown Communications Center at 610-437-7751.

**FRIENDS PRESENTS "EVERYTHING YOU EVER
WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TROUT NURSERY"**

Plans are underway for our 2nd annual tour of the Trout Nursery. Allentown Watershed Specialist Mike Gilbert will discuss the care and habitat of the fish as well as a brief history of the nursery and general points on Allentown's watershed. Special treat: an opportunity to feed the fish! Visit our website and watch newspaper listings for date and time.

WANTED: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are requested on improving the signage and wayfinding at the Lil'-Le-Hi Trout Nursery. Please e-mail your comments to: info@allentownparks.org or send via mail to Friends of the Allentown Parks, 3000 Parkway Blvd., Allentown, PA 18102. All suggestions are welcome. You CAN make a difference!

**WINTER WEATHER DAMAGES SEVERAL
NETS AT THE NURSERY**

In October, the trout nursery underwent renovations and unveiled a new protective netting system for the ponds. Due to the recent heavy snows and ice, two of the nets collapsed and several trout were injured. The Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation were at the scene, rescuing fish and, until replacement nets arrive, continue to work diligently to ensure the safety of the trout.

Queen City Trout Nursery also known as **Lil'-Le-Hi Trout Nursery** was established in 1883 on a property owned by Reuben Troxell and leased for 20 years to the state for fish hatchery purposes until the state moved its operations. In 1907 General Harry C. Trexler purchased the hatchery, bought an adjoining 100 acres and opened the grounds to the public. Allentown acquired the hatchery from the Trexler Trust in 1949. In 1951 the hatchery was designated a cooperative nursery and continues to be a popular attraction for both Lehigh Valley residents and visitors. The Lehigh County Fish & Game Association, Trout Creek Fish & Game Club and the Pioneer Fish and Game Protective Association provide volunteers to clean ponds, stock trout and sell fish food.

Come and visit!
Queen City Trout Nursery
2901 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Allentown, PA 18103

Learn how you can help make Allentown's great park system even better. For more information: www.allentownparks.org. To become a member or volunteer please contact us: e-mail info@allentownparks.org. or phone 610-437-7750.

Thank-you for your support.



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