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PARK PICKS
by
FRIENDS OF THE ALLENTOWN PARKS

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Lake Muhlenberg—Rare Bird Sightings



Visitors from as far away as California have been on-hand to view a rare migratory bird in Allentown. Since January 10, a rare Pink-footed Goose

has been spotted mingling with the Canada Geese at both Lake Muhlenberg and Dorney Pond. Why such profound interest? The Pink-footed Goose breeds in Eastern Greenland and usually winters in Europe so its visit to Allentown provides birdwatchers from across the United States a once-in-a-lifetime viewing opportunity!

Interested in more? Take a gander over to the lake at Trexler Park to view a rare Greater White-fronted Goose. Since the first spotting on December 13, we are pleased to advise that it has apparently now taken up residence there.



With these and other remarkable sightings, Allentown ponds and lakes have become important stopover points for waterfowl to rest and feed during migration or when storms blow them off course. Another case on point— a Dovekie was recovered in the Lehigh Valley in December, believed to have been blown off course. This small chunky black and white bird of the open Atlantic Ocean breeds along high arctic coasts and only makes its way southward in winter as far as New England. It is the smallest of the auks (the Puffin family) in the Atlantic.



As you visit our parks and waterways, enjoy the sights and sounds for you never know what unique opportunities you may encounter. Allentown's parks provide wonderful habitat for all sorts of birds and animals and reconfirms the importance that we continue to maintain and restore these precious resources.

Contribute to Friends of the Allentown Parks via United Way



We are pleased to announce that **Friends of the Allentown Parks** is a **United Way approved** organization for the Donor Choice Program. Simply complete your **United Way Donor Designation Form** and list Friends of the Allentown Parks as **your designated charitable organization**. Then follow our activities and see your donation at work.

Thank-you for your support!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2013 SPRING DISCOVERY WALKS

DISCOVER THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS IN ALLENTOWN'S PARKS

April 6 (Saturday) @ 10:00 a.m. – Discover the historical 1930s **WPA Stoneworks Projects** at Fountain Park and Daddona Lake and Terrace led by Michael Molovinsky

April 20 (Saturday) @ 10:00 a.m. – Join Friends and Scott Burnet of the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society as we visit Lake Muhlenberg for **Birdwatching** (special bilingual session)

April 27 (Saturday) @ 10:00 a.m. – Botanist Claudia Steckel shows us the remarkable splendor of **Mosses, Lichen and more** at the South Mountain Reservoir

May 4 (Saturday) @ 10:00 a.m. – Muhlenberg College Professor Kimberly Heiman discusses the importance of **Urban Park Restoration** at Lake Muhlenberg

May 18 (Saturday) @ 10:00 a.m. – They creep! They crawl! They sometimes fly! Muhlenberg College Professor Marten Edwards takes us on an adventure of **Insect Discoveries** at Cedar Creek Parkway.

May 25 (Saturday) @ 10:00 a.m. – Visit Lehigh Canal Park for a **Walk through Time - a Historical and Visual Perspective of the Delaware & Lehigh Trail** with Silas Chamberlin, D & L National Heritage Corridor Director of Stewardship & Interpretation.

These are just a few of our upcoming events. More to come in future issues of Park Picks.



Friends of the Allentown Parks
2700 Parkway Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18104

Phone: 610-432-7275
info@allentownparks.org
www.allentownparks.org