

# Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE

VOLUME 28 • FALL 2022



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Another year is speeding by. At least this year we were able to meet in person once again! This issue of the newsletter includes notes of recent meetings and highlights of programs through the end of this year.

But first, please read the next article below— and consider helping our historical society in a meaningful way, without a huge time commitment.

Thank you!

Jane Jane Niering, *President*

## Could You Help with One Small Task?

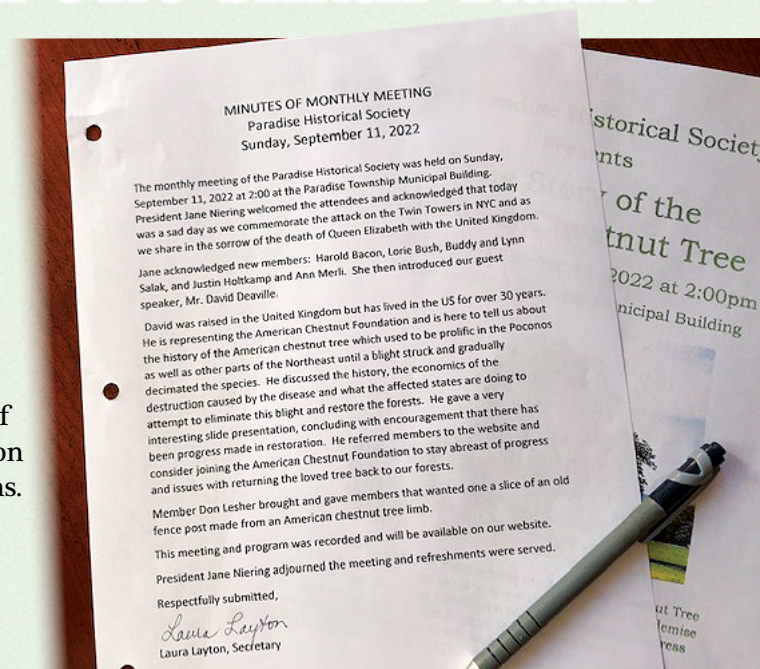
After more than 10 years of dedicated service, Laura Layton is retiring as Paradise Historical Society's secretary. She has done so much, that we're dividing her work into smaller tasks.

Can you volunteer an hour or two once in a while to help? Here are the four tasks — please consider helping with one of them!

**1. Meeting Minutes** This involves taking brief notes of each meeting, including date, location, name of speaker or program, any special announcements or other happenings of interest. Because our meetings are recorded (thank you, Aaron Imbt!), there is no need for detailed notes of the presentations. These short reports are kept in a notebook. You would also send a copy to the PHS president.

**OR**

**2. Member Roster** Once a year, you would send a letter to members reminding them to renew their dues and advising them to send a check directly to the Treasurer. The Treasurer takes it from there. The same procedure is followed as new members join. You would keep the list of active, paid-up members up to date.



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COLLECTING, PRESERVING  
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

Fall



# Highlights from...

# Recent PHS Meetings

## AUGUST PICNIC

### Summer Gathering at The Roof

Our annual gathering at The Roof park drew 37 members for a picnic feast — proving that the society has a talented group of cooks and bakers as members! Baked ham and every conceivable kind of side dish and dessert were on the menu.

Don Collins explains his antique mower at the Annual Historical Society picnic.



The American chestnut was a giant of Pennsylvania's woodlands.



## SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION

### The Prospects for Restoring the American Chestnut Tree

When the first Europeans set foot here, this majestic, massive tree (often 100-feet tall and 15-feet in diameter) dominated the eastern forest from Georgia through Pennsylvania (right here in our own woodlands), into New York, Maine and into Canada.

According to David Deaville, a member of the American Chestnut Foundation, a devastating fungus known as the chestnut blight struck in the early 1900s. By the 1950s, the American chestnut had all but disappeared — and is passing from living memory. Some older homes in Paradise Township have columns, woodwork

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## Could *You* Help with One Small Task?

**OR**

### 3. Meeting Refreshments

If you can help with this, it would mean calling a few PHS members and asking them to bring a treat to share at that month's meeting. You don't need to bake yourself!

**2**

**OR**

### 4. Coordinating Speakers

The board of directors determines the meeting's programs. The secretary, as needed, may contact the speakers to determine if any audio/video equipment will be required and coordinates any

*Continued from Page 1*

other necessary arrangements. The secretary also distributes by email or regular mail monthly announcements for the upcoming meetings.

Be a part of our historical society — please call 570 839-5702 to volunteer. **PHS**





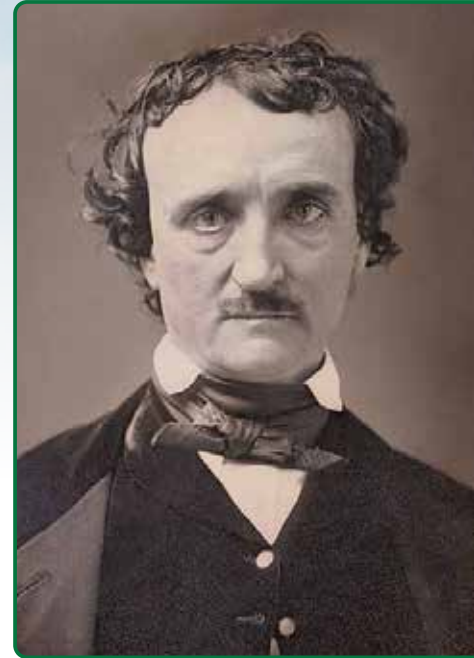
and mantels made of this beautiful, straight-grained wood. The chestnut was a source of food, lumber, paneling, telegraph poles, railway ties, and even tannin for tanning leather.

Have we lost this, useful, iconic tree forever? Find out what is being done to try to save this keystone species at [www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org). Or listen to David Deaville's talk on our website [www.paradisehistorical.org](http://www.paradisehistorical.org)

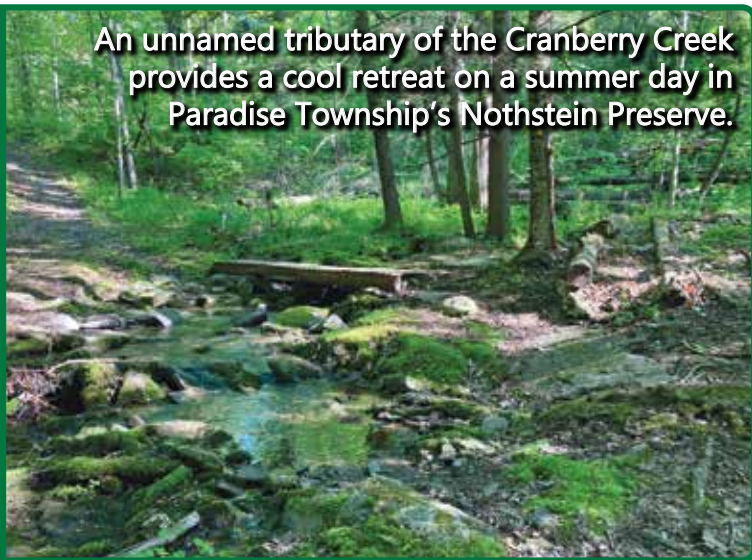
## OCTOBER PRESENTATION

### Dark Tales of Edgar Allen Poe

Rick Smith loves researching historical events and people — and sharing his findings. At our October 2, 2022, meeting, he was back with us to discuss a subject appropriate to the Halloween season — the poet and short-story writer Edgar Allen Poe, master of the macabre. From Poe's unsettled childhood to his international fame to his mysterious — and still unsolved — death, Rick gave the highlights of Poe's life and discussed the real-life mayhem and murder on which Poe based his tales of horror. For a creepy reading of *The Raven*, performed by Christopher Lee, Rick suggests [www.youtube.com/watch?v=BefliMIEzZ8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BefliMIEzZ8)




An unnamed tributary of the Cranberry Creek provides a cool retreat on a summer day in Paradise Township's Nothstein Preserve.



## NOVEMBER PRESENTATION

### The Nature of Paradise

At our November 6 meeting, Carol Hillestad outlined the open space properties in Paradise Township that have trails, views, creeks, and waterfalls for the public to enjoy. The Township owns a network of about 1,400 acres set aside for active recreation, nature preserves, hiking, hunting, and fishing. Fishing clubs, hunting clubs, private communities and individuals, and other organizations, such as Pocono Heritage Land Trust, have also preserved land here. Trails on Mt. Airy Casino land are open to the public, and protected by a Conservation Easement held by the Township. Even land that is not open to the public benefits everyone, and enhances property values — by protecting the green views and rural character we love about the Township, as well as protecting birds, wildlife and pure drinking water, while preventing erosion and mitigating flooding. To see a map of Township properties and trail maps go to [www.paradisetownship.com](http://www.paradisetownship.com) then click on Departments, then Parks and Recreation. "Nature is not a place to visit. It is home." 

## DECEMBER MEETING

### An Ace Store Christmas Returns

This program is open to members only. The Ace Store has been a fixture in East Swiftwater for generations. It recently had a facelift. During the meeting, you will be able to immerse yourself in a 19th century general store. For information call 570 839-5702.



***Note that no meetings will be held in January and February 2023.***

Paradise Historical Society  
P.O. Box 94  
Henryville, PA 18332

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

# *In the Works...* **FOR Next Spring**

*Some suggestions  
we've had for  
programs include...*



Nauman's Garage

## **Trains and Hobos:**

Living on the move, riding the rails.

## **Maple Sugaring:**

A field trip to see a local sugaring operation.

## **Paradise Trivia Day:**

Did you know a dancing bear once performed in Paradise?

## **Garages In and Around Paradise:**

How many local garages do you know about?

## **Agnes at 50: The "Other Flood":**

The costliest hurricane in the US at the time.

## **Civilian Conservation Corps:**

Nearby projects and the people who built them.



**Do you have an idea for  
a program? Perhaps it's  
something you've seen  
elsewhere or a program  
you'd like to research.  
All ideas welcome!**

## **Remembering Pocono Manor:**

The grand old lady  
of the Poconos.

## **Pocono People's College:**

A short-lived, but influential  
educational experiment. [PHS](#)

**Become a  
Member  
Today!**

## **YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!**

Please help Paradise Historical Society collect,  
protect & share the interesting history of our area.

- ☐ Student or Senior (65+) - \$8.00
- ☐ Individual - \$10.00
- ☐ Couple - \$20.00

- ☐ Family - \$25.00
- ☐ Corporate - \$50.00
- ☐ Sustaining - \$100.00

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send the completed form and check (no cash) to:*

Paradise Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 94, Henryville, PA 18332



Fall 2022

## **PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:**

Harold Bacon  
Lori Bush  
Danny, Debbie & Mike Deutsch  
Justin Holtkamp & Ann Merli  
Buddy & Lynn Salak

## *The Directors & Officers of Paradise Historical Society are:*

Bruce Estell    Peter Gonze  
Carol Hillestad    Aaron Imbt  
John Layton    Laura Layton  
Harold Metzgar    Jane Niering  
Sandy Dietz

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