

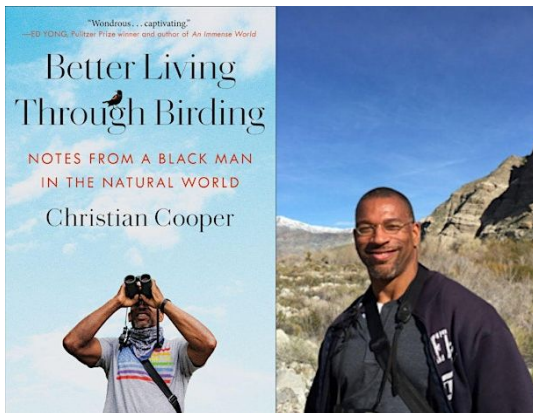


VALLEY FORGE PARK ALLIANCE

Inspiring appreciation for and citizen stewardship of Valley Forge Park since 1976.

E-News - March 26, 2024

Meet Christian Cooper! Better Living Through Birding



Christian Cooper is a self-described “Blerd” (Black nerd), an avid comics fan and expert birder. While in Central Park one morning in May 2020, Mr. Cooper was engaged in the birdwatching ritual that had been a part of his life since he was ten years old when what might have been a routine encounter with a dog walker exploded age-old racial tensions. Mr. Cooper’s viral video of the incident would send shock waves through the nation.

Equal parts memoir, travelogue, and primer on the art of birding, *Better Living Through Birding*, tells the story of Mr. Cooper’s extraordinary life leading up to the now-infamous incident in Central Park and shows how a life spent looking up at the birds prepared him, in the most uncanny of ways, to be a gay, Black man in America today.

Better Living Through Birding recounts Cooper’s journey through the wonderful world of birds, including his life-changing birding expeditions through Africa, Australia, the Americas, and the Himalayas. Mr. Cooper writes about birds and what they can teach us about life, if only we would look and listen.

Join us for this special conversation between Mr. Cooper and VFPA Board Member Jason Hall, founder of In Color Birding Club. Books can be purchased at the event through Reads & Co., the official bookseller of the Valley Forge Speaker Series.

[Learn More and Register](#)

View the Solar Eclipse at Valley Forge

Join park staff and volunteers at the [Wayne's Woods picnic area](#) on Monday, April 8, 2024 from 2:00-4:30 PM for special programming and to watch the partial

solar eclipse!

Pick up a free pair of eclipse glasses (while supplies last), earn a special Junior Ranger Eclipse Explorer badge, look through a solar telescope, learn about the science of eclipses, and learn about the historical solar eclipses experienced by the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

Kids can even become Junior Rangers on this special day! The Junior Ranger Eclipse Explorer booklet and badge are available during the eclipse programming.



[See All the Special Eclipse Activities](#)

John Armstrong, Sr. – Frontiersman, General



John Armstrong was born a Scotsman in 1717. He completed his education in civil engineering before emigrating to Pennsylvania in the 1740s. Soon after his arrival, he was selected by William Penn to be the surveyor for the Penn family in western Pennsylvania.

While demand for surveyors was great at the time, conflict took him from his profession into battle. The French and Indian War was in full force in central and western Pennsylvania, and Armstrong was elected Colonel of militia troops in the Cumberland Valley area. In 1758 he and his militia would assist in the successful attack at Fort Duquesne. During that expedition, he would meet and associate with a Colonel from Virginia named George Washington.

Upon his return, he continued his role as a brigadier general of Pennsylvania militia when the Revolutionary War broke out and was subsequently given the same rank in the Continental Army. That year, he was sent to Charleston, South Carolina to use his skills to plan a defense of their port before returning to Pennsylvania, taking the position of Major General of the Pennsylvania militia during the Philadelphia campaign.

Following the Battle of Germantown, Armstrong, now 60 years old, sought permission to withdraw from his command. He was granted a discharge and returned to Carlisle. In 1778 he was elected to Congress. That June, he attended a council of war meeting with Washington at Valley Forge. He continued to be a member of Congress until 1780.

[Read the Full Story at the Valley Forge Muster Roll](#)

Save the Date for Bark in the Park, April 28

B.A.R.K.

IN
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PARK

SUNDAY,
APRIL 28

11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

WASHINGTON
MEMORIAL CHAPEL
IN
VALLEY FORGE PARK



ALL 4 PAWS
RESCUE

Join us for an afternoon of
pup-centric activities
including B.A.R.K. Ranger
training and induction.



K9 RESORTS

SPONSORED BY LUXURY PET HOTEL



VALLEY FORGE
PARK ALLIANCE

INQUIRIES TO
MEMBERSHIP@VFPARKALLIANCE.ORG

Register Now

Important Update: Paddle for the Park

Due to construction at the paddle club, the annual Paddle for the Park fundraiser will not be held this spring. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your ongoing support. Stay tuned for future events!



Covered Bridge Garden Club Spring Plant Sale



Covered Bridge
Garden Club

2024
Spring
Plant
Sale



ORDER DEADLINE APRIL 10, 2024
Curbside Pick-up 12-5pm
Thursday May 2, 2024
1909 Welsh Valley Rd, Malvern Pa
www.coveredbridge-gardenclub.com

It is now officially spring! Time to start thinking about warmer weather (we hope) and the upcoming summer season. Go to www.coveredbridge-gardenclub.com to order your plants now! Order deadline is Wednesday, April 10! Pick-up day is Thursday, May 2.

Part of the proceeds of the Covered Bridge Garden Club's plant sales benefit the Valley Forge Park Alliance, so you will be doing good for the park even as you beautify your yard. If you have any questions, please contact [Sue Heist](#) or [Kathy Guinan](#).

Pssst! Want your name and logo on our newsletter?

*Email info@vfparkalliance.org to find out how -
and you'll get a Friends Circle Membership too!*

YOUR LOGO

I Support The Alliance!



Donate Today! Text WASHINGTON to 565-12



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