The Official Newsletter of The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club

February 2, 2020 saw the largest crowd in the history of Groundhog Day Celebrations. Who could imagine that soon after Phil returned to his cozy underground home for his usual social distancing to await spring, that all of us would be social distancing as well?

Like everyone, the Club is making the changes and adjustments we needed to get through the COVID-19 pandemic. As President Bill Deeley handed me the Groundhog Cane to transfer the Presidency, Bill told me that Phil wanted the world to know that Phil will be at Gobbler’s Knob February 2, 2021 for the One Hundred and Thirty-Sixth Trek! How the Inner Circle and the faithful followers celebrate may be a bit different, so stay tuned as we will adjust to necessary mandates and safety precautions that may still be in effect this coming February.

On a lighter note, Bill and Phil have been teaching me Groundhoge, which only the President can translate while holding the Groundhog Cane. To tell the truth it is a lot harder than I thought!
Passing of the Cane Continued --- The Fair Weatherman

There are a lot of nuisances: winks, ear movements, and squeaks. And that’s just from Bill! As soon as I am proficient in Groundhogese and can communicate directly with Phil, I will update you on what Phil has on his mind over the next several months.

In the meantime, the Inner Circle is preparing for the Annual Picnic and Elixir of Life Ceremony which is held every year on the second weekend in September.

The picnic is all outdoors so we have 250 tickets for sale which be purchased online or from any Inner Circle Member. This fun event might be a bit different as we comply with the Governor’s mandates to keep our patrons safe, but a good time is guaranteed for all.

For our visitors, Gobbler’s Knob is always open, 24/7. We are starting to reopen our newly remodeled Visitor’s Center and office as we adjust to COVID-19 restrictions so check our Website for the new hours. For those looking for souvenirs online, we have plenty of great new Groundhog Day and Phil items that are perfect gifts throughout the year.

As a prior Groundhog Club President said: “There are a lot of serious things in the world, but Groundhog Day is not one of them.” But it is serious fun which we all need on occasion. The Inner Circle is focused on continuing that serious fun and the wonderful whimsical worldwide holiday we all know as Groundhog Day. Punxsutawney and Western Pennsylvania is absolutely beautiful this time of year. Please come visit us and see Phil in his hometown for a few hours. It will lift your spirits. And soon, it will be Groundhog Day, again!

New Products!
Visit shop.groundhog.org to order today!
The Annual Groundhog Picnic is set for Saturday, September 12th at Gobbler’s Knob from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are $20 and include a steak dinner with a vegetarian option.

The Elixir of Life Ceremony will be immediately following dinner. With each sip of the Groundhog Punch Phil takes, he will receive 7 more years of life and longevity. How many sips will he take this year? We will have to wait and see!

This year’s event will look different, just like any event in 2020.

The following rules will be followed:

- Masks or face coverings must be worn to attend the event.
- Social Distancing Guidelines will be followed.
- Attendees must be 21 years of Age or Older.
- No tickets will be sold at the Door. All Governor Orders and Mandates will be followed. Any and all of these are subject to change at any time.

Traveling from a different state? Check the link below for a list of the most up to date states that are listed as high risk. We ask that you follow the recommended guidelines, the Elixir of Life Ceremony will be live on Facebook for those that are not able to attend this year’s event. Traveling from these high-risk states to the picnic will not be permitted and we will not be able to let you in to the event.

[Click Here]
The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club is continuing its efforts to raise funding for the project called, Destination: Gobbler’s Knob.

**How can you help?**

**There are many ways to support this project, here are few ways:**
- Monetary Donations
- By visiting Punxsutawney now and after we have the project complete
- By communicating the exciting project to others
- Continued support of Groundhog Day and Punxsutawney Phil
- Communicate to us way that we can improve a visitor experience year-round.
- Shop on our website shop.groundhog.org

Interested in donating? [Click here!](#)

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**The Groundhog Club is on…**
Make sure to follow us on Instagram—punxsyphil

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**Who is ready for another painting with Phil?**
Keep checking Phil’s social media for updates!
A new stump is on its way! It was time for new upgrades for Phil. Members of the Inner Circle careful removed the existing stump and have put it in safe keeping. The Inner Circle plans to have it on display, more details on this to come!

The Inner Circle carefully selected a new stump after much research and deliberation. The new stump will be placed and ready for its debut for the Annual Groundhog Picnic and Elixir of Life Ceremony. Stay Tuned!
The Gobbler’s Knob Wine Festival will be held Saturday, October 3rd. There will be two sessions this year. Session One: 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. and Session Two: 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. The entire event will take place outside, so dress for whatever the weather may be! The event will not look like our normal wine festival, for this year’s event tickets will be sold by table. We will be following all social distancing and mandates from the Governor of PA. So how will this event work this year?

All attendees must be 21 years of age or older and must wear face coverings. There is only one type of ticket for the event this year which is $30 per person. Tickets will be sold by table. The event will a pairing and sampling event. Prepared food will be served while samples will be delivered to the tables. Tables will seat 2,4, 6, and 8 people. If you have 6 people in your party that wish to attend, one person will by a table of 6 for the event. If you have 7 people in your party, you will need to purchase an 8-person table, even though one seat will be empty, it will be paid for. We are not able to fill empty seats with people who are not attending together for safety reasons. No exceptions will be given.

Attendees will be able to visit the wineries stations to purchase wine by the bottle, but no sampling will take place at the stations. Social distancing will be followed at all of the stations. Face coverings can be removed at the table while enjoying the delicious food.

Although the event will look different, it will still be a great event. Tickets can be purchased at this link: CLICK HERE!