

FIRST OXYGEN DAY- A REAL GAS!

It was early August, 1774 when Joseph Priestley, working at Bowood House, England, first isolated a gas we know as oxygen. It took until March of the next year before he realized that the gas was new with something extra special about it. Objects burned brighter in it, mice breathing it in enclosed spaces lived longer. After breathing it himself, he would write in his Memoirs: "The feeling of it in my lungs was not sensibly different from that of common air, but I fancied my breast felt peculiarly light and easy for some time afterwards." Priestley's achievement and what it has meant for human health were the focus of Oxygen Day, a new Friends' event held Aug. 4, 2012 at Joseph Priestley House. The Friends partnered with the Respiratory Care department of Geisinger Medical Center,



Cathy Beeler & Kelly Cresci

Danville, to plan and stage the program, which was free to the public. In addition to Ronald Blatchley's ever-popular chemistry demonstrations, including how to make oxygen at home, the audience learned from GMC staffers Cathy Beeler and Kelly Cresci how therapeutic use of oxygen developed only very slowly. Actually, it would take about 100 years before the first effective ways to administer oxygen to ease respiratory distress would begin. Priestley joked in his Memoirs that oxygen, or "dephlogisticated air" might become a luxury item. Could he have imagined the lightweight apparatus that in 2012 allows oxygen-dependent patients the mobility to travel around their communities?

Many thanks to Beeler and Cresci for their enthusiastic help in "inventing" Oxygen Day.

FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE



P.O. Box 346
Lewisburg, PA. 17837



POSTINGS FROM PRIESTLEY HOUSE

Newsletter of
The Friends of Joseph Priestley House

Number 54 Fall 2012

www.josephpriestleyhouse.org

570-473-9474

2012 SEASON

Open weekends from 1-4 pm from mid-March thru November with tours at 1, 2 and 3 pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, November 4,
2012

Heritage Day

Open from 1 to 4 PM
Dr. Priestley's demos at
1:30 and 2:30 Regular
Admission fees

Sunday, January 6, 2013

Twelfth Day

Open from 1 to 4 PM
Dr. Priestley's demos at
1:30 and 2:30 Regular
Admission fees

PRIESTLEY HOUSE GIVES "GOLD" AT PINEKNOTTER DAYS

The Friends had a booth at the annual Pineknotters Days, which is held in Northumberland for several days around the 4th of July. Barb and Bruce Johnson spearheaded the effort, setting up the booth and getting materials. This year they held a goldfish bowl toss. For a small fee, children tried to toss ping-pong balls into goldfish bowls. Those successful with his or her tosses won a goldfish; actually everyone won



Mackenzie Stuck and George Specht staff the Friends booth at Pineknotters Days, July 2012.

something. The booth was good exposure for the Friends and generated over \$1,000 in revenue.

ARCHEOLOGY AT PRIESTLEY HOUSE



Archeologist Steve Warfel discusses discoveries at Priestley House

Former State Archeologist Steve Warfel spoke of the past archeological field work at Priestley House including investigations resulting from the discovery of the 1800 Sambourne architectural drawing of the house in the archives of the Royal Society in London. Many of the artifacts discovered during excavations are in the state museum in Harrisburg.



Visitors from the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education (Photo by Bob Minard)

Thirty-five attendees at the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education held at Penn State this year, visited Priestley House on July 31, 2012. Costumed docents were on hand to greet these guests and Dr Priestley (Ron Blatchley) discussed

18th century chemistry in the Pond Building. The visitors came from many different states and countries for the conference, and choose the Priestley House tour as a conference session. They were full of lively and challenging questions about the site.

HISTORY CAMPERS EXPERIENCE THE 18TH CENTURY

History Campers for 2012



Camp leader Lindy Fasold with Rylee Kerstetter, wearing a dress made by her great-grandmother made when she was a little girl.

This summer, our history campers had the opportunity to experience what daily life was like for children in colonial times. During their "time travel", they got to meet Ben Franklin and Joseph Priestley.

They were also introduced to a young Joseph Priestley who spoke to the campers about religious freedom in his day in the nearby historic Priestley Chapel.

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JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE
473 PRIESTLEY AVE.
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

2012 HOURS OF OPERATION

March thru November
Every Weekend
Except Easter Sunday

Visitors Center
Open 1-4 p.m.
Tours Given at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

Special Tours
Can be arranged by calling
570-473-9474 or by e-mail at
info@josephpriestleyhouse.org

Special Assistance
Individuals who need special assistance or accommodation to visit The Joseph Priestley House should contact us in advance to discuss their needs.

To join the Friends of Priestley House
Call 570-473-9474 or visit
www.josephpriestleyhouse.org

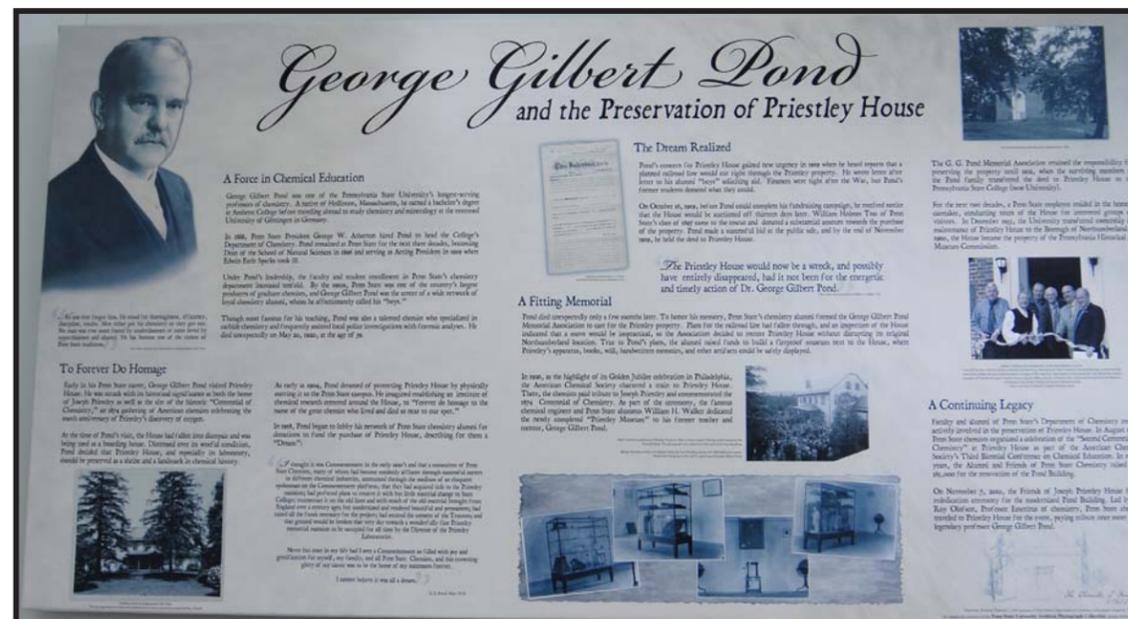


Joseph Priestley Timeline Exhibit, North wall Pond Building (Photo by Tom Forney)

The Friends commissioned The Joseph Priestley Timeline Exhibit, which premiered in the Pond Building on September 18, 2012 at a reception before the annual meeting. The exhibit consists of eight large panels printed on canvass to emphasize portraits of Priestley and others used in the design. Priestley is noted as the inventor of the modern timeline in the introductory panel.

Six panels depict Priestley's life and achievements in different locations and time periods. The final panel depicts his life in Northumberland. The timeline exhibit was researched and written by Mary Ellen Bowden and designed by Michael Tobin of AdOne Advertising and Design of Sunbury. AdOne printed and mounted the panels. Scott Onsager was in charge of hanging the exhibit.

REMEMBERING GEORGE GILBERT POND



The Friends commissioned a poster on George Gilbert Pond to help visitors gain a greater insight into the role of the Penn State professor who preserved Priestley House. Research and writing for the poster was contributed by Kristen Yarmey, a 2005 Penn State Chemistry graduate and author

of: Labors and Legacies: The Chemists of Penn State 1855-1947. Graphic design is by Anthony Cianchetta. The large poster hangs on the southwest wall in the Pond Building. On the building's exterior the 1926 plaque is displayed dedicating the Priestley Museum to George Pond.