

Dear Friend of the John James Audubon Center,

Montgomery County and National Audubon Society are pleased to announce that the highly anticipated restoration and safety upgrades to the historic home and barn, as well as the winterization of the pavilion at the John James Audubon Center will begin in 2015. Highlighted below are some of the improvements you will see this coming year.

**Pavilion (starting in January)**

- Movable glass doors to allow four-season usage
- Upgraded lighting
- On-demand heating and air conditioning

**Museum/Historic House (starting in March)**

- Electrical upgrades
- Repair of chimneys and exterior walls
- Painting and repair of ceilings and walls
- Replacement of lighting
- New public restroom

**Barn (starting in March)**

- Handicapped accessible entries
- New classroom
- New public restrooms
- Birding lobby
- Section of upgraded roofing

In order to manage construction with the least risk to visitors, staff, collections, and the structures themselves, **the historic house/museum will be closed March 10, 2015 through August 2015.** The grounds will remain open daily from dawn to dusk.

The upper level of the barn and pavilion will be used for some special events, including the annual Sapsucker Festival on March 7. A mobile exhibit will be available for spring field trips. Unfortunately, due to dust and vibration created by construction in the barn, we are reluctantly cancelling our April Art Show. In lieu of that show, we are developing a special Plein Air event that will be announced in January. Plans are also underway for an exciting spring event that will be held in lieu of the Friends of a Feather gala.

*Membership information:* Mill Grove members will have the option to extend membership benefits for six months, or renew as usual and apply a portion of their membership fee as a donation. With income for the Center limited, this is a critical time for members and friends to invest in Mill Grove's ongoing operations and amazing future.

Preserving our historic assets for upcoming generations is just the first step toward realizing a more dynamic future for Mill Grove. This will include a new visitor center to properly interpret, exhibit and house one of America's finest collections of John James Audubon's art.

We take seriously the responsibility and challenge of guarding Audubon's legacy while meeting modern visitor needs and interests. Across the country there are outstanding examples of thoughtful new structures and programming in iconic locations such as Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, George Washington's Mt. Vernon, and Mark Twain's home in Hartford, CT. Our master site plan, which was completed with significant community input, will guide this next phase. We are proud to announce that Kimmel+Bogrette Architects will lead us from that initial concept to a final design.

Thank you for your support and understanding during this exciting time. John James Audubon Center staff will be hard at work on-site throughout the winter, moving, planning, and teaching. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 610-666-5593 x101. We sincerely hope that you will visit our beautiful property with miles of walking trails and fantastic birding while we improve the historic house and barn.

Sincerely,

Jean Bochnowski  
Director, John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove