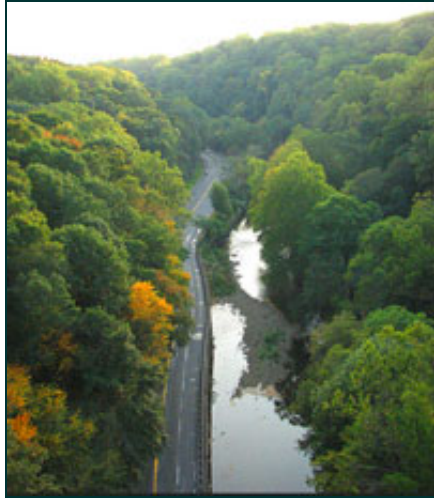


# HERMITS GLEN GAZETTE

*The Official Newsletter of the Kelpius Society*

**February 2013**



The Kelpius Society has been meeting on a monthly basis for several years now, except during the summer months. We're fortunate to have a wonderful and commodious space for our meetings - the Physick House, located at 4th and Delancey Streets in Society Hill - where J. Del Conner, a scion of the distinguished Physick and Syng families, is our host and fellow member. *(photo left: courtesy [Flickr](#))*

Our meetings are usually well attended, are always productive, and are sometimes contentious. As I see it, this is a sign of health in an organization. When people are motivated to come to meetings, and beyond that, participate in friendly argument and debate, then all that's left to do is make workable plans and follow through on them. But over the years our priorities - or perhaps our emphases -- have changed. In earlier times the focus was on fundamentals -- establishing the parameters of the site, getting the historical marker in place, reconstructing - and then performing - the music, and publishing essential documents and reports. Our task these days is to live up to the standards set by our founders, while following paths they opened onto higher ground. *(photo below: courtesy [Maggie Blank](#))*

Our commitment to the Kelpius site, located in what is now Fairmount Park near the Henry Avenue Bridge, endures. Some of our members recently visited the site with *questions*, given that the location of the Kelpius cave hasn't been definitively established. There's a spring, and a springhouse dating to the 19th century at the site where many believe the Kelpius cave was located. AMORC, an eminent Rosicrucian society, erected a monument there some years ago that's become a local landmark. Our view is that Kelpius may have meditated there -- but maybe not. The geology of the area provides numerous openings



and occlusions, any of which could be “our cave”. We’re not sure. We want to know more.



We’ve also sponsored archaeological research at the site, and expect to have new findings in hand by springtime. And we’ve had discussions with a Drexel University botanist who’s interested in conducting a plant survey, to determine the local succession of plant species and establish the age of the older woody specimens. Alongside that inventory process, we plan to catalog the various plant species, then begin restoring the native and removing the invasive plants. That would be a first step on the path of site improvement. A

concurrent step would be to establish trails, and identify viable destinations for those trails. For example, we’ve had discussions about constructing a sundial or labyrinth adjacent to the historical marker on Hermits Lane. The historical marker already functions as a gateway to the site. A trail could be laid from that area to the Rosicrucian marker. Such a path would traverse the heart of the Kelpius settlement area, and encourage further development of that historic and symbolically significant locale. *(photo above: The Hermitage, courtesy Google Earth)*

These and other topics have populated our discussions at meetings, outlining ever-present concerns, and defining our mandate at the Kelpius Society.

We invite everyone in the reach of this newsletter to submit comments and ideas to [info@kelpius.org](mailto:info@kelpius.org).

[Click here](#) to read the full text of my article.

Best wishes,

Tom Carroll, President

The Kelpius Society