In Memoriam

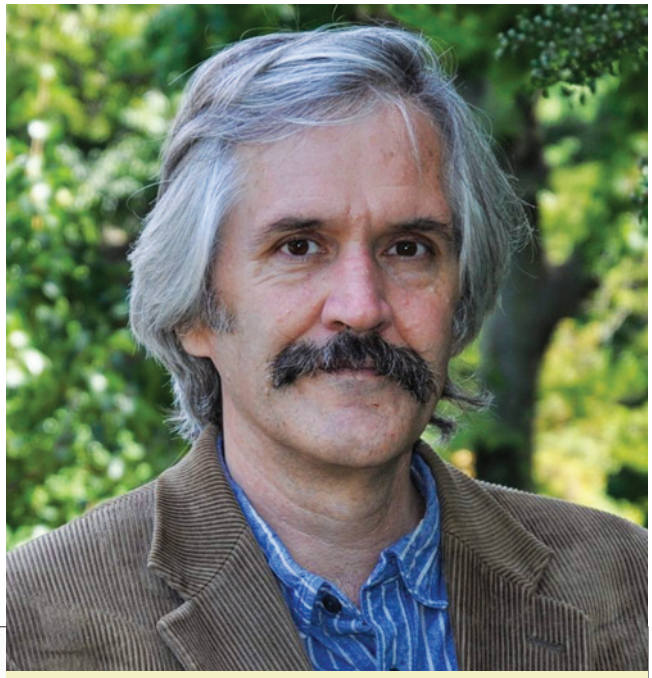
Joel T. Fry

22 February 1957 – 21 March 2023

We are saddened to report the premature passing of Joel Fry, youngest son of former Tredyffrin Easttown History Club president C. Herbert Fry and his wife Barbara.

Joel grew up in Berwyn, and graduated from Conestoga High School before receiving degrees in Anthropology and American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania. He joined Philadelphia's historic Bartram's Garden in 1992 as its Curator and Historian, and during his noteworthy three-decade tenure, developed a reputation for excellence respected around the world. "Remembering Joel T. Fry (1957–2023)," a substantial tribute written for the Bartram's Garden website, can be found at **https://www.bartramsgarden.org/remembering-joel/**.

Among his numerous other skills, Joel was a gifted and sensitive photographer, and I was greatly impressed by a photo essay of Berwyn he created in 1980, proudly shown to me by his father three decades later. Two images of the Fritz Lumber property from that collection are shown here.



Joel Fry – Renowned curator of Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia; world-famous botanical historian; graduate of Conestoga High School and the University of Pennsylvania; friend of the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society.

And hardly a day goes by that I am not reminded of, and grateful for, Joel's efforts in allowing his mother and father's vast collection of Tredyffrin and Easttown memorabilia to be passed to the TEHS after Herb's passing in 2018. It was Joel who called to tell me of his dad's death, and we immediately began planning the details for the vital process of assessment and decision across the Fry Collection, and then arranging transportation and integration of the assets under the watchful care of the Society's Archivist, Cheryl Leibold. Had Joel not been "in our corner" at that stressful time, there would have been no assurance that the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society would have been the recipient of those lovingly collected treasures.

Joel, rest in peace … and thank you.

— *Roger D. Thorne*





Images from Joel Fry's 1980 Berwyn Photo Essay

(UPPER RIGHT) Two quaint retail structures, originally built by the Fritzes on their Berwyn property, here stand unkempt in 1980 along the Lincoln Highway near Woodside Avenue. (LOWER RIGHT) In years past, the Fritz business was as well-known as a coal purveyor as a lumber supplier. This photograph shows the abandoned coal auger along the north side of the property once used to fill coal delivery orders based upon size and grade. *Courtesy of Joel Fry, TEHS Image Collection.*

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