

2nd Annual Pennsylvania Park and Forest Awards Banquet a Success!



Roy Siefert, District Forester for Tioga State Forest, 3rd from right, and members of his staff accepted the Forest of the Year Award.



Obie Derr, Park Manager for Moraine State Park (2nd from right), accepted the Park of the Year Award.



Susan Taylor, Executive Director of the Friends of the Delaware Canal (2nd from right), accepted the Friends Group Improvement Award.



President of the Friends of Laurel Hill (4th from right) and Sue Bittner, Park Volunteer Coordinator (2nd from right) accepted the Friends Group Education Award.

Award winners are shown with sponsor representatives and PPF President Marci Mowery. All photos on this page: Joe Frassetto

On May 6, one hundred conservation and business leaders and invited guests joined the Pennsylvania Park and Forests Foundation at the Country Club of Harrisburg to honor this year's recipients of the Foundation's annual awards.



Keystone Legacy Award winner Rose Chase, 2nd from left along with Marci Mowery, PPF President (left), Bruce Heggenstaller, Woolrich, award sponsor, and PPF Board Chair, Wendy McLean.

The top honor, the Keystone Legacy Award, was presented to Rose Chase, who in 1979, helped to champion the protection of the Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens in Chester County.

"Rose to this day, refuses to take full credit for the success of the project," said Marci Mowery, Foundation President. "It was her energy, drive and charm that paved the way for others to rally in support of the Barrens and resulted in its ultimate protection."

The Government Award, sponsored by Mr. Joseph Ibberson, is given to a person or department at any level of government to recognize their work in the stewardship of Pennsylvania's state park and forest system. Jerry Walls, who retired in 2007 after thirty years of service as the Executive Director and CEO of the Lycoming Planning Commission, was given this year's award for his work to implement



Jerry Walls and PPF Board Chair, Wendy McLean.

large landscape projects that connect numerous state parks and forests, raising their value and accessibility for recreation and community revitalization.

The other awards presented included:

- ◆ *Forest of the Year (sponsored by Dominion)* — **Tioga State Forest**, spanning Bradford and Tioga Counties, for its role in the development of the Pine Creek Rail Trail and their diverse efforts in recreation and forests management.
- ◆ *Park of the Year (sponsored by PPL Corporation)* — **Moraine State Park**, Butler County, for their exemplary role in working with diverse user groups, park improvements, commitment to recreation, and volunteerism.
- ◆ *Friends Group Volunteerism Award (sponsored by Pa Parks and Recreation Society)* — **Mountaineer Search and Rescue**, Elk State Forest, for their outstanding work assisting in, or managing, search and rescue efforts as well as construction and maintenance of hiking trails.



Five of the 24-member Mountaineer Search and Rescue Team were on hand to receive their award.

- ◆ *Friends Group Improvement Award (sponsored by Lentz, Cantor & Massey, Ltd.)* — **Friends of the Delaware Canal, Delaware Canal State Park**, Bucks County, for their outstanding restoration and stewardship work to maintain and improve the Delaware Canal and its surroundings.
- ◆ *Friends Group Education Award (sponsored by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania)* — **Friends of Laurel Hill State Park**, Somerset County, for their outstanding stewardship and educational efforts at Laurel Hill State Park.