

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Fall 2016



Photo: Xiawei Zhang, Ricketts Glen State Park, 2016 PPFF Photo Contest Honorable Mention

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Coming Full Circle: CREATING NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS

By: Rachel Baur, Environmental Education Specialist Supervisor, Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center



A hundred years ago we had urban and rural living...and not much in between. If you grew up rurally, you were likely on a farm or a small town close to a wooded area, fields, streams, and lakes. "City kids" had empty lots and the occasional park. What did these environments have in common? Give kids a pile of dirt, some rocks, and a bunch of sticks and they will get dirty and have fun.

Even with the addition of vast suburban areas, today we have a new idea for reviving outdoor play, and it's called "natural playgrounds." The natural playground is typically a designated space with as little man-made components as possible. Using native plants, rolling hills, and lots of trees, they are designed with the intent of bringing children and people back to nature. *continued on page 3*

*"The world is
mud-luscious and
puddle wonderful."*

— e.e. cummings

The photographs featured are from the Chickadee Nature Discovery Area's Annual Mud Day Celebration at Nolde State Forest held in May.

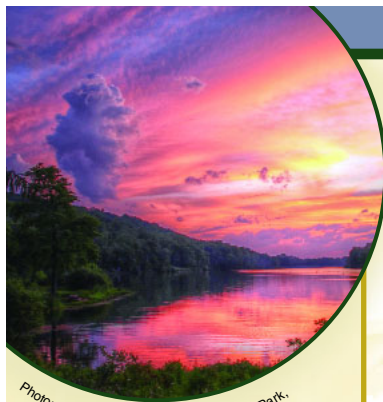


Photo: Carolyn Anderson, Keystone State Park,
2016 PPFF Photo Contest Honorable Mention

President's Message

Marci Mowery



When we start to pull together the fall newsletter, I often find myself scratching my head in astonishment, wondering where the summer went and how it might already be September. With filled days at work and evenings enjoying family and friends in the outdoors, summer quickly becomes autumn, and the cicadas sing their song of a summer well-spent. I hope that you, too, created many fond memories with family and friends in your state parks and forests.

Speaking of parks and forests, you WOWED me with your enthusiasm when legislation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly threatened to change our parks in immeasurable ways. Your phone calls, letters, and visits made a difference! Thank you for being a strong voice for ensuring that our children and grandchildren have access to a great park and forest system.

You not only loaned your voice to the cause of conservation of our state lands, you loaned your time and talents. When we started the summer, we identified 37 graffiti hotspots across the state, the hardest hit being

"Thank you for being a strong voice for ensuring that our children and grandchildren have access to a great park and forest system."

Hammonds Rocks in the Michaux State Forest. Four volunteer days later, the 6500 square feet of graffiti has been considerably scaled back to just a few hundred square feet. Cleanups also occurred at Beam Rocks and Cove Rocks, and are started for Buzzards Rocks.

Or perhaps you assisted us at an event, or worked a trail with a friends group, or picked up litter during a park or forest visit, or alerted a ranger to vandalism that you witnessed. There are so many ways that we collectively care for our parks and forests, and for this I thank you. Enjoy the newsletter—it's a celebration of all that we accomplished together.

*Yours in the Outdoors,
Marci*

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Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation Becomes EarthShare Member Group

If your workplace participates in EarthShare, you now have an opportunity to support the work of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation through your workplace giving campaign.



EarthShare, a nationwide network of the most respected environmental and conservation charities in the U.S., recently named Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) as a new benefiting member for 2017. As one of EarthShare's newest members, PPFF will be participating in employee engagement and workplace giving programs across Pennsylvania and across the country so employees can easily support Pennsylvania's state parks and forests through their workplaces.

For almost 30 years, EarthShare has supported nearly 600 of America's most respected environmental and conservation nonprofit organizations through the original crowdfunding – workplace giving. Workplace supporters aid in the preservation of our world's natural areas, as well as supporting public health and the protection of our air, water, land and wildlife. By offering the EarthShare program, forward thinking companies give their employees ways to connect with purpose at work, along with an opportunity to easily and effectively support causes that matter to them while they help build a sustainable future.

Did You Know? PPFF is able to accept your TAX DEDUCTABLE donations of stock to support our work and/or projects in state parks and forests. Visit www.PaParksAndForests.org for more information



Coming Full Circle: *CREATING NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS* continued from front cover

While Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are by definition natural playgrounds, the Friends of Nolde State Forest's Environmental Education Center created something special to encourage children to explore off the trail - the Chickadee Nature Discovery Area. The fenced play area provides boundaries for adult supervision. Packed with interesting natural objects, children engage in a non-plastic play experience; they make up their own games and play by their own rules. The benefits of playing in a natural environment include lots of moving parts, multiple textures, unusual things to look at, and a variety of scents and sounds. Plants, animals, and insects pique their curiosity. Families, schools, or other groups (like scouts, etc.) have an absolute blast finding new ways to "turn over a rock." The discovery area is always changing so their nature play experience is never the same twice.

Development of the Nature Discovery Area would not have been possible without contributions from the Friends of Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, who provided the funds for the installation of the split rail fence, materials to create the entrance sign, the low profile wooden bridge, the plant teepee, and river stones for the dry rock river.

Volunteers from the Reading Hospital, Governor Mifflin Middle School, and many other individuals helped gather natural materials from the forest for use in the discovery area. They spread the stones and created the river of rocks, painted the birdhouses that adorn the area, painted hopscotch pavers, and built a teepee and rustic benches. Three years later the area remains a favorite project for the DCNR Conservation Volunteers who assist in raking the leaves, mulching the area, and sharing ideas for new and changing discovery features. A little teamwork goes a long way with keeping the area interesting and inspiring for the visitors.

continued on page 4

What does it tell you when all you can see is a GREAT BIG SMILE?



The mud pit is a popular attraction at the annual Mud Day celebration in May. Poet Carl Sandburg said it best: "There is an eagle in me that wants to soar, and there is a hippopotamus in me that wants to wallow in the mud."

These girls are sharpening their observation skills and investigating natural objects.



Playing in a dirt kitchen is a great way to encourage imaginative play.

Photos courtesy of the Chickadee Nature Discovery Area



Trainings Abound

Empowered volunteers learned new skills this fall in workshops focusing on chainsaw safety, trail maintenance, and food safety. Funded through private donations, a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and through the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society, these workshops enable us to improve the visitor experience while assisting state parks and forests meet their management goals by working shoulder to shoulder with staff.

Coming Full Circle: *CREATING NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS* continued from page 3

The first features at Chickadee included a moving parts teepee to build and take apart, complete with a make believe fire ring with wooden flames, surrounded by child sized log benches, courtesy of an Eagle Scout project...and it has never stopped growing or changing. The children that play in the area also add new elements or move and reimagine the old ones; which is, of course, exactly the point.



Children can help build movable structures



Kids developing balance and cooperative play

And what comes of all of that play? It contributes to the social, cognitive, physical, and emotional well-being of children. Play is most beneficial when it is child driven and unstructured. Play improves motor skills, develops creativity and imagination, encourages social development, promotes problem solving skills, creates inquiry, and reduces stress. Children learn to balance and coordinate while developing their independence and learning the value of teamwork.

Other natural play areas are presently being developed or considered at Pine Grove Furnace, Cowans Gap, Nescopeck, Nolde, and Delaware Canal state parks.

Nature play is a foundation for environmental stewardship... and how fun and important is THAT?



Clean up in NDA is volunteer favorite



Projects, like these ladybug houses for NDA are also a volunteer favorite

The Newest Old Idea

What is a natural playground? Simply stated, a natural playground is an area where kids can play with natural elements such as dirt, water, wood, plants, and found objects like pinecones, acorns, feathers, and leaves. Everyone can remember a favorite place to play in a natural environment like a nearby vacant lot, a field, wooded area, a park, or even your backyard. Today, many children don't have the time or access to engage in this kind of play. Many families' calendars are filled with obligations; children spend most of their day in school, daycare, and organized after-school sports and activities. Often when kids finally have some time to themselves they tend to flock to electronic games and television instead of going outside.

Without free, self-directed playtime to invent their own activities and games, exploration and free expression go to the back burner. Research indicates increased free play time and access to natural areas improved concentration and impulse control, emotional coping and stress reduction, stimulation of creativity, reduced ADD and ADHD symptoms, and improved motor coordination.

Natural playgrounds are typically very safe because they include few or no tall structures and no equipment with moving parts. They can be relatively inexpensive to build. A natural playground can be planned for children with a spectrum of abilities and ages to play together. Inclusive play can go beyond providing for ADA access and focus on a range of abilities and interactions between kids.

These environments offer a wide range of benefits such as increasing physical activity, fine and gross motor skills and cognitive development. They are also used in horticultural therapy for rehabilitation of mental and/or physical ailments. The technological age has changed the ways in which children play, arguably contributing to childhood obesity. Playing in natural environments increases participation rates and decreases absenteeism, decreases bullying, decreases injury rates, increases focus and attention span, and helps with social skills in schools.

It's up to us: parents, schools, communities and stewards of our shared natural lands to re-introduce to children what it means to play in the outdoors. You protect what you love!

If you would like to support natural play areas in state parks, make a contribution at:
<http://bit.ly/ppffnaturalplay>

Connecting Gateway Communities to Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests

By: Cathy McCollom

In record numbers, visitors are seeking ways to enjoy outdoor recreation. Navigable rivers, hiking and biking trails, forests, and parks provide opportunities for nearby communities. And these communities, in turn, can offer new support to parks and forests. Residents become more fully invested in the health of the park as a mutually beneficial partnership develops.

Beyond offering lodging and food and other services, towns near a state park or forest can introduce a region's heritage and history through attractions, museums, and events. Gateway communities are discovering ways to encourage longer stays as destinations themselves, in turn increasing the economic impact on town and region.

Through a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation launched a Gateway Community project in Ligonier, in the heart of the Laurel Highlands. Working with McCollom Development Strategies LLC, an active team including civic and municipal leaders and directors from Linn Run SP, Laurel Ridge SP, and Forbes SF, are exploring the concept of Gateway communities. The team developed projects and programs to effectively connect visitors and residents to amenities, services, recreational pursuits, heritage, and historic sites found in the parks, forests, and local communities.

“Gateway communities are important not just for providing food, lodging and transportation and other business support for visitors, but also as portals to cherished landscapes.”

- National Geographic

Projects include:

- Marketing materials targeting rainy and sunny day activities in both town and park.
- A mobile-based walking tour highlighting charming and historic Ligonier and detail routes to nearby Linn Run State Park and Forbes State Forest.
- Enhancing existing websites with information for visitors.
- Working with PennDOT to add additional vehicular signage so visitors to the park can easily find the community.
- Creating a new regional map.
- Hosting open houses for community and community leaders in Linn Run State Park and Forbes State Forest.



Ligonier, Pennsylvania

Photo credit CountryLiving.com



Into the Future with PPFF Marketing

PPFF is embarking on a new path to re-energize its marketing and promotions for years to come. With the input of friends and stakeholders, and the help of a marketing agency, our end goal is to create a long-lasting and meaningful campaign that reaches and engages users, providers, and partners of parks and forests across Pennsylvania.

Our work is inspired by the belief that Pennsylvania parks and forests are powered and empowered by PPFF, our chapters, and volunteers. As an active participant in improving our commonwealth's quality of life, PPFF is well-positioned to tell a positive, visionary, and inclusive story about our work and impact.

Stay tuned for more - visuals included - during the fall season.

Stewarding Hammonds Rocks

On a cold grey day in November a couple of Stewards of Penn's Woods volunteers went to Hammonds Rocks in the Michaux State Forest because they had heard that there was a graffiti problem, and there was. Sixty-five hundred square feet of graffiti covered the 500 million year old rocks. Since that day volunteers have donated over 500 hours to remove the layers of paint that had covered the rocks, and return the area for use by families to enjoy.

Planned in stages, the stewardship began with a cleanup of the area around the rocks, removing litter, broken glass, and illegal fire rings. This was the first step in making it feel safe and family friendly again, and to remove harmful items.

Next came the task of graffiti removal. After testing a variety of methods and products, performing soil tests through a partnership with Shippensburg University's Geography Earth Science Department, a plan of action was created.

Three additional volunteer days found many of the same volunteers who joined us for the litter cleanup rolling up their sleeves to remove graffiti. Some volunteers brought donated supplies with them. Donations came in the form of safety glasses, gloves, and scrub brushes from Airgas, Chambersburg, lunch from Wegmans, Karns, Weis Markets, and Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, snacks from Clif Bar, water and first aid from Mount Holly Springs Volunteer Fire Company and the Yellow Breeches Ambulance Company. Other donations arrived from Ritters True Value Hardware, Sherwin Williams Paint, Home Depot, Service First Restoration, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, and Handworks. Eddie Bauer offered a coupon incentive to join the project

during the August workday, and

Shippensburg University students turned out for two workdays.

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park and Michaux

Cabin Owners

Association, along with

Michaux Forestry

staff were instrumental

in the success

of the

stewardship efforts.

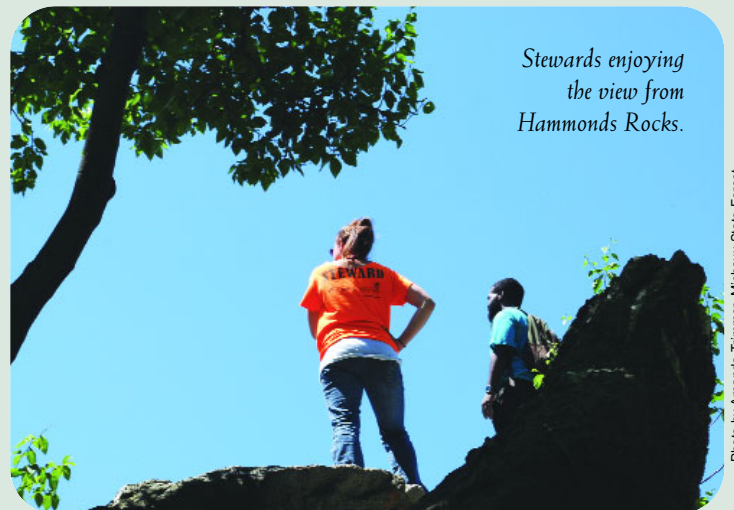
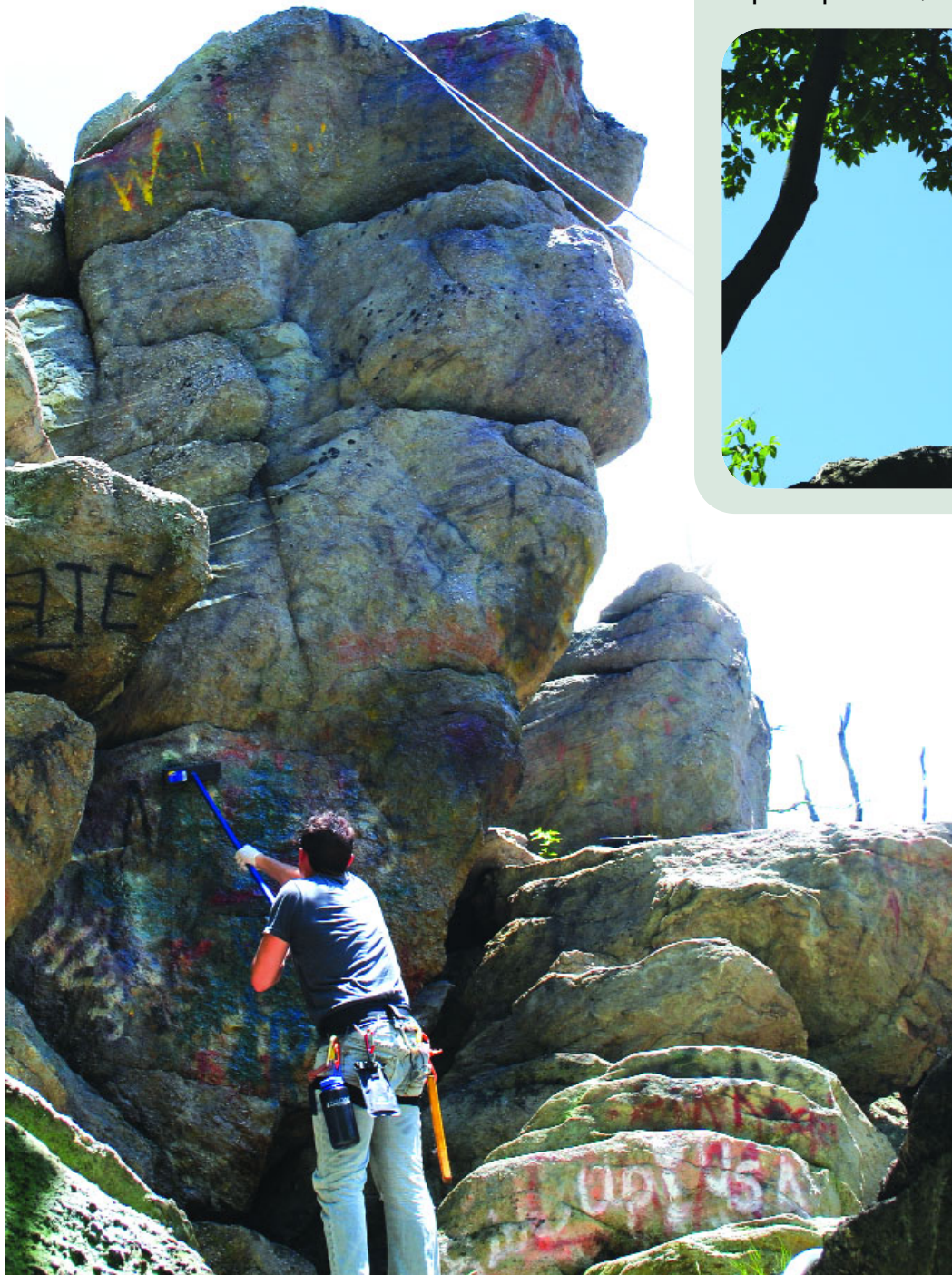


We created a “Wall of Honor” www.paparksandforests.org/initiatives/stewards-of-penns-woods/the-wall-of-honor/

to attract private donation to the graffiti removal project. This endeavor costs money, as the cleaning agents are very expensive and private donations are necessary to make the project a success. While most of the graffiti at Hammonds Rocks has been removed, a few instances of new tagging have occurred. Through careful monitoring of the site, multiple arrests have occurred. Vandalism is a crime and is punishable by law. And the Graffiti Busters are determined to shed light on the harm caused by graffiti and do their part to eradicate it.

Hammonds Rocks is only one of 37 hot spots for graffiti in our state lands. PPFF is working with several state parks and forests to organize stewardship days at other locations, such as Beam and Cove rocks in Forbes State Forest.

A grant through the Alexander Stewart, MD Foundation funded the creation of the infographic found on the next page, explaining the harmful effects graffiti has on health and nature. Help spread the word by sharing the infographic with others. We are realistic enough to know that simply removing graffiti will not stop the problem, outreach is also important.



*Stewards enjoying
the view from
Hammonds Rocks.*

Photo by Amanda Trimmer, Michaux State Forest

Got Art? Got Video? READ ON

Through a grant from the Alexander Stewart MD Foundation, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is hosting a poster contest for middle school students and a video contest for high school and college students focused on stewardship of our state parks and forests.

To learn more about the contest, visit www.XXXX.



IS VANDALISM. SPRAY PAINTING IN NATURAL SETTINGS IS A CRIME AGAINST NATURE AND PEOPLE THAT IS PUNISHABLE BY LAWS AND REGULATIONS.



Spray paint is a hazardous, flammable substance.



Spray painting ruins the beauty of natural rocks that are millions of years old.



In humans, spray paint can burn the skin and eyes, irritate the nose, throat and lungs, and cause dizziness, nausea and fatigue.

Spray paint contributes to smog which can attack lung tissue.



IF you see graffiti being painted, CALL 911.

NATURE ATTRACTS people seeking to remove themselves from human saturation, **VANDALISM DESTROYS** this opportunity.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 10/26 Trail Maintenance Workshop - Keystone State Park
- 10/28 Friends of Parker Dam: Monsters on the Mountain
- 10/29 Friends of Little Buffalo: Halloween Trail
- 10/29 Friends of Kings Gap: Ghoulish Gallop Fun Run
- 10/29 Friends of Parker Dam: Monsters on the Mountain
- 10/30 Friends of Canoe Creek: Spooky Stories & Ghostly Lights

NOVEMBER

- 11/4 Friends of Kings Gap: Jazz in the Mansion
- 11/5 Annual Chapter Retreat - West
- 11/5 Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day
- 11/5 Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day
- 11/12 Annual Chapter Retreat - East

www.paparksandforests.org/events/

DECEMBER

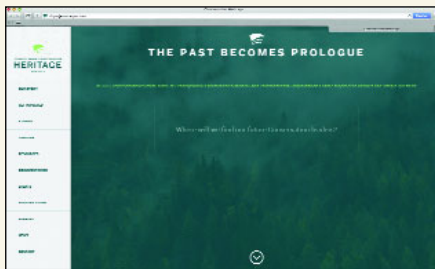
- 12/2 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Coffee House
- 12/3 Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day
- 12/3 Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day
- 12/4 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House
- 12/4 Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Holiday Open House
- 12/11 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House
- 12/17-23 Friends of Little Buffalo: Christmas Trail

JANUARY

- 1/1 Check our website for 1st day hikes
- 1/21 Friends of Black Moshannon: Winter Festival
- 1/28 Friends of Lyman Run: Winter Festival

FEBRUARY

- 2/17-19 Friends of Laurel Hill: Laurel Highlands Winter Weekend



New Website for Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project

The Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project unveiled their new website in October at PaConservationHeritage.org. The website provides a snapshot into the people, places, and events that shaped Pennsylvania, as well as links to documentaries, teacher resources, bibliographies, historical frameworks, historical timelines, oral interviews, and links to related resources.

The Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project seeks to connect Pennsylvanians to their conservation history. As such, the website is dynamic in allowing individuals to nominate people, places and events for inclusion on the website. Individuals may also register to show conservation documentaries at community events or learn about a variety of ways to get engaged in conservation. The website was funded in part through grants from William Penn Foundation and the R. K. Mellon Foundation.

The 2016 Annual Foundation Award Nominations

Every year we have so many truly amazing nominees! This could be the year for your pick! Nominate a park, forest, friends group, or person who you think should be recognized for their good works this year. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation established an awards program to draw well-deserved attention to the outstanding service, programs, and exemplary work being done at state parks and forests. The awards will be presented at the 11th Annual Banquet to be held in May 2017.

TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION or for information about sponsoring an award, please visit our website: <http://bit.ly/2016ppffawardsnomination> or contact Marci Mowery (717) 236-7644, mmowery-ppff@pa.net

**DEADLINE for
Award Nominations is
December 16, 2016**



Memorial or Honorary Gifts You can honor the memory of a special person or joyous occasion while supporting PPFF's work in conservation, recreation, education, and volunteerism in our state parks and forests.

Send gifts to: PPFF, 1845 Market Street, Suite 202, Camp Hill, PA 17011 or download a form at www.PaParksAndForests.org

PPFF FRIENDS GROUPS

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association
Friends of Beltzville
Friends of Big Pocono
Friends of Black Moshannon
Friends of Buchanan
Friends of Caledonia
Friends of Canoe Creek
Friends of Colonel Denning
Friends of Cook Forest
Friends of Cowans Gap
Friends of Delaware/Promised Land
Friends of Goddard
Friends of Greenwood Furnace
Friends of Keystone
Friends of Kings Gap
Friends of Laurel Hill
Friends of Little Buffalo
Friends of Lyman Run
Friends of Milton
Friends of Mont Alto
Friends of Mt. Pisgah
Friends of Nockamixon
Friends of Nolde Forest
Friends of Ohiopyle
Friends of Oil Creek
Friends of Parker Dam
Friends of Pinchot
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace
Friends of Prince Gallitzin
Friends of Ridley Creek
Friends of Ryerson Station
Friends of Shawnee
Friends of Shikellamy
Friends of State Line Serpentine Barrens
Friends of Varden Conservation Area
Friends of Weiser State Forest
Friends of White Clay Creek
Friends of Yellow Creek
Laurel Mountain Volunteers

Your Friends In Action: *Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park*

Photo courtesy of Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park



Volunteers participated in National Public Lands Day to help maintain trails at Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Furnace State Park

When most people think of the Blue Ridge Mountains, they might think of Virginia and North Carolina and maybe the song "Oh, Shenandoah" runs through their minds. But 696-acre Pine Grove Furnace State Park is located at the northern tip of the Blue Ridge, in an area known as South Mountain. History is a major focus here as it is the site of Pine Grove Iron Works dating back to 1764.

The park includes the restored Ironmaster's Mansion, a gristmill, and iron furnace. A self-guided historical trail leads visitors through the what remains of the iron works. Many of the park's summer programs relate to this industrial history, including walking tours of historic areas (often led by friends chair Andre) and inside the Ironmaster's Mansion. And while every day is an opportunity to learn a little about history, there's plenty of fun as well; swimming at Laurel Lake and Fuller Lake, biking, and hiking (especially along the Appalachian Trail – the trail's almost mystical halfway point is in Pine Grove Furnace).

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park formed in 2010 and they creatively manage to weave a deep appreciation for the past in all of their work. They routinely work with the park educational staff to expand public historic offerings such as annual events like the Fall Furnace Fest, the Charcoal Challenge 5k, and the Ironmaster's Challenge half marathon. The Fall Furnace Fest brings over 7,000 visitors to the park. This two-day event includes live music, craft and food vendors, as well as history demonstrations, hay wagon rides, pumpkin carving, and scarecrow making.

Their merchandising efforts include the production of charcoal briquettes using traditional methods and jewelry made from slag, a byproduct of the iron making process and remnant of the park's industrial past.

Many dedicated volunteers show up for Earth Day to get the park ready for the season and National Public Lands Day to help maintain various trails. New members are always welcomed with an end-of-volunteer-day pot luck lunch, provided by the friends group members.

These activities and generous donations have supported several ambitious projects including building two playgrounds, furnace stack repairs, and this year's major project: building a continuous loop trail and bridge connecting the Mountain Creek Trail. This remedies the current options: backtrack, wade the creek, or balance on a fallen tree to continue hiking.

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace enjoy a unique mix of partnerships with neighboring organizations including the Michaux Cabin Owners Association, Appalachian Trail Museum, Central PA Conservancy, and park staff. The friends have been engaged in the stewardship of Hammonds Rocks in the surrounding Michaux State Forest.

To learn more visit: www.pinegrovefriends.org and www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Pine-Grove-Furnace-State-Park



Items sold to support the Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Photo courtesy of Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park

More Friends In Action:

Photo by Friends of Shikellamy State Park



Like beautiful flowers, playgrounds are popping up in state parks through the efforts of friends groups. In addition to this one at Shikellamy State Park, friends placed playgrounds at Oil Creek and Canoe Creek state parks.

Photo by Pine Grove Furnace State Park



Volunteers at Pine Grove Furnace State Park work on improvements to the Mountain Creek Trail, a project of the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Soon a bridge will span the creek, making a loop trail for bikers.

Photo by Gifford Pinchot State Park



Volunteers worked together during a two-day Wetland Restoration Workshop to restore five ephemeral wetlands scattered throughout Gifford Pinchot State Park.

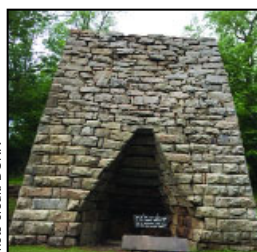
YOU Made it Happen

Photo credit: DCNR



The Civilian Conservation Corps structures add a unique element to our state parks and forests. Picnickers at Kooser State Park now enjoy a conserved fireplace through your support and a grant from the Allegheny Foundation. Makes you want to sit there on a cool evening listening to the crackling of a wood fire, doesn't it?

Photo credit: DCNR



Pennsylvania's history would be incomplete without the telling of the story of the iron industry.

Through your support and a grant from the Allegheny Foundation, visitors to the Forbes State Forest enjoy viewing the newly restored Wharton Iron Furnace. Soon, an interpretive panel will tell the complete tale. Visit the PPFF Facebook page to view a video of the furnace: www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaParksAndForestsFoundation/videos

Laurel Hill State Park has one of the largest collections of Civilian Conservation Corps structures in our state park system. Through a grant from the Allegheny Foundation, PPFF supports the restoration of these structures for future public use.

Photo credit: Marci Mowery



Photo credit: DCNR



Friends, volunteers and staff can be found across the state attending health fairs, senior fairs, and national night out events to spread the word that parks and forests not only offer recreation across the life span, but are good for your health and for the economy.



Photo credit: DCNR



Photo credit: DCNR

One of the most unique camping experiences found in our state parks might be the Adirondack Shelters on the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail. These three-sided shelters offer respite for the weary hikers. Shelters at the Route 653 shelter area recently received some TLC through a grant from REI Pittsburgh to PPFF and from funds from the Friends of Laurel Hill State Park. More than 40 shelters still need to be repaired. Consider investing in preserving this opportunity for your children and their children at: <http://bit.ly/lbhtsheltersfund>

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME *Judy Wicks and George H. Wirt*



Judy Wicks (1947 – present)

Judy Wicks is an entrepreneur, author, speaker, and mentor working to build a more compassionate, environmentally sustainable and locally based economy.

Growing up in western Pennsylvania, Judy developed a deep love of nature and witnessed the role of small businesses in community life. She lived for nearly a year in the remote Alaskan Eskimo village of Chefnak as a VISTA volunteer. Here she had the transformational experience of living in a culture based on sharing and cooperation. During the 1990s she worked in Chiapas, Mexico, to set up a fair trade coffee venture.

In 2001, she founded the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, and co-founded the international Business Alliance for Local Living Economies. BALLE, which now includes some 30,000 local independent businesses in the U.S. and Canada, envisions an economy that provides for the needs of all people while working in harmony with natural systems.

As an entrepreneur Judy is best known for Philadelphia's landmark White Dog Cafe, which she founded in 1983 and managed for 26 years.

Under Judy's leadership, White Dog became a leader in the local food movement, purchasing sustainably grown local produce, and humanely raised meat, poultry and eggs, sustainably harvested fish, and fair trade products. Other practices she implemented at White Dog included paying a living wage, mentoring inner-city students, recycling and composting, solar heated water, eco-friendly soaps and supplies, and purchasing 100% of electricity from renewable sources, the first business in Pennsylvania to do so.

Judy is the recipient of many local and national awards. Her award winning book *Good Morning Beautiful Business: the Unexpected Journey of an Activist Entrepreneur and Local Economy Pioneer* won the 2014 Gold Metal in the category of "Business Leadership" from Nautilus Book Awards.

George H. Wirt (1880-1961)

Wirt was born on November 28, 1880 in McVeytown, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Juniata College in 1891, with the intent of pursuing engineering, but instead joined the field of forestry at the suggestion of his father and Joseph Rothrock. He attended the Biltmore School in North Carolina, which at the time was the only field-oriented forestry school in the United States. In 1901, he returned home and became the state's first professional forester. His role as a forester meant he spent much of his time surveying and protecting the newly acquired forests. He surveyed 33,000 acres in Adams and Franklin counties and investigated timber trespass on state lands.

Rothrock recognized a need for trained foresters in Pennsylvania, and so he and Wirt started the Mont Alto Forestry School. In 1902, Wirt was sent to the abandoned Mont Alto Iron Works to manage 22,000 new acres of state forest, start a seedling nursery, and begin training foresters. Apprentices came to help with the work, and a year later Mont Alto was named the new forestry academy and its first class of 13 students arrived. Wirt served as its first director and was known for being tough and vigilant with high expectations for his students.

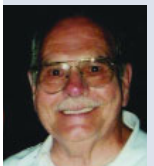
Wirt was adamant about the importance of personal character. He valued hard work, courage, and commitment. He dedicated himself to the study of forest science and wrote numerous articles on all aspects of forestry, from how to fight forest fires to the roles of forestry in everyday life.

Wirt was an avid forest fire fighter, serving as the State's Chief Fire Warden. He wrote legislation that created the Bureau of Forestry and the position of Chief Forest Fire Warden in 1915.

By his retirement in 1946, he had appointed 4,400 forest fire wardens with support from 30,000 crew members. Because of his efforts, the average amount of forest land lost to fires declined from half a million acres, to 25,000 annually.



We Will Miss



Ned M. Lowe

(April 22, 1933 - July 17, 2016)

For over 25 years, campers at Worlds End State Park could call on Ned and his wife, Janet, for assistance. Campground hosts for all those years (and regular campers for 25 more), the Lowes were a beloved fixture there and at the Bloomsburg Fair where Ned's wood-working skills were usually on display. An appropriate tribute to Ned and Janet is being contemplated by the park staff through donations received in their special PPFF fund, accessed through <http://bit.ly/wesplowe>.



Carol Worthington Caplinger

(November 15, 1935 - May 1, 2016)

This spring, the Friends of Kings Gap and many in the Carlisle area felt deeply the loss of long-time board member and native plants guru Carol Caplinger. Carol was a Penn State Master Gardener and worked on restoration and maintenance of the gardens at Kings Gap. The Friends reported that their annual native plant sale was a success but it wasn't the same without Carol. Funds raised through a memorial campaign in her honor resulted in the placement of a stone bench in the garden where people can relax and enjoy the fruits and flowers of Carol's labor.

EITC Tax Credit Program

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is an educational improvement organization under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. As a member of this list we are among the organizations from which businesses can choose to make contributions and be considered for Educational Improvement Tax Credits from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Kids on a field trip to Nolde State Forest for One Bird-Two Habitats, a middle-school environmental education program that teaches how changes in our ecosystems impact migratory birds.

Staying the Course and Reaching Ahead



In 2015, you helped us to set our sights for the next five years through our strategic planning process (funded in part by a NEEF grant). Based on your input, we developed five overarching goals:

- **GOAL 1:** Expand the message on the value of and ways to engage in parks, forests, and recreation to increase participation, inform the public and decision makers, and build relationships with diverse partners.
- **GOAL 2:** Engage the public in meaningful outdoor recreation to improve physical, emotional, and mental health.
- **GOAL 3:** Increase volunteerism in Pennsylvania state parks and forests to 50 friends groups and 1200 PPFF and Friends Chapter volunteers by 2020.
- **GOAL 4:** Invest in transformative projects and events to enhance the state park and forest visitor experience.
- **GOAL 5:** Strengthen the capacity of PPFF and the friends chapters through strategic investment of time, talent, and revenue.

Forest Legacy Trail

A group of forest enthusiasts gathered in August at the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation office to explore the concept of a Forest Legacy Trail. While in the conceptual stage, the goal of the trail is to connect Pennsylvanians to the rich forest and conservation legacy of the state. The initial phase consists of generating a list of locations in the commonwealth that have public access and tell a story about a person, place, or event connected to forest history.

If you have an idea of a location to include in our initial brainstorming process, please email it to Marci at mmowery-ppff@pa.net

Imagine pulling up to your favorite park and seeing it awash in the light of an amusement park. Yes, an amusement park.

Recent legislation introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature would have opened our state parks and forests to the development of offices, golf courses, amusement and water parks, and other types of unspecified development. The bill, with its more than 50 sponsors, made it all the way to the House floor before being defeated.

Summer was a busy time for protecting your state parks and forests. HB 2013, referenced above—at first glance, seemed too harmful to gain any traction—who would support undermining our state parks in this way? But we were wrong—it was moving, and it was moving fast.

Simultaneously, we were watching a bill (HB 2188) that would require four new golf courses to be developed in state parks and a bill (HB 1106) that opened state forests to development.

Calls were made. Positions written. Alerts emailed. And you came through. You were stellar! You and your fellow park and forest enthusiasts across Pennsylvania contacted elected officials and shared concerns about House Bill 2013, and you were heard. **The bill was defeated 123-77.** Thank you for your hard work!

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation monitors legislation that might adversely impact our parks and forests. While we were able to defeat HB 2013 on the House floor, the bill sponsor left the door open for reconsideration of the proposal this session. We continue to monitor this bill—as well as new bills—that could impact the quality of your park and forests experience.

The 'News' section of our website contains our statements on these and other bills on which we have taken a position. If you are interested in being engaged more closely with our advocacy work, sign up as a volunteer and we'll be in touch!

Parks and Forests Through the Seasons Photo Contest

BEST IN SHOW



Kyle Yates, *Cabin in the Woods*, Cook Forest State Park

CRITICS' CHOICE BEST IN SHOW



H. Bumper Bauer, *Raccoon Reflections*, Clear Creek State Park

FRIENDS AND FAMILY FUN



FIRST PLACE: Yolanda Pratt, *ZIP!*, Ohioyle State Park



SECOND PLACE: Laurie Spade, *At Day's End*, Marsh Creek State Park

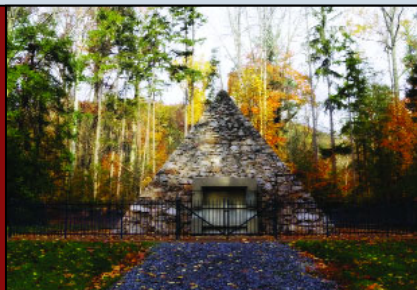


CRITICS' CHOICE: Shawn Wolfe, *The Yough is Going to the Dogs*, Ohioyle State Park

LEARN ABOUT OUR PAST/ HISTORIC LANDMARKS



FIRST PLACE: Brandy Whitenight, *From Destruction Comes Creation*, Kinzua Bridge State Park

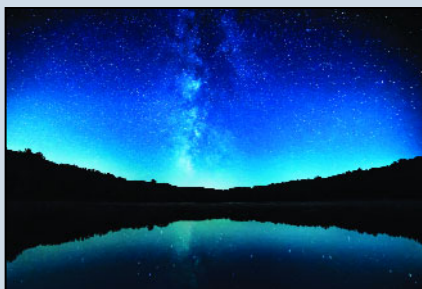


SECOND PLACE: Larry Laird, *Monument to a President*, Buchanan's Birthplace State Park

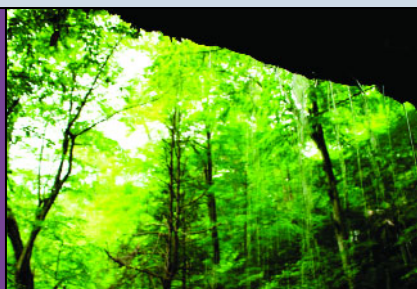


CRITICS' CHOICE: Dot Monahan, *Petroleum Center*, Oil Creek State Park

MY PARKS & FORESTS



FIRST PLACE: Crystal Hunt, *Milky Way Over Pine Grove*, Pine Grove Furnace State Park



SECOND PLACE: William Krouse, II, *Sheltered Behind the Fall*, Ricketts Glen State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Matt Stich, *Canoe Creek and the Milky Way*, Canoe Creek State Park

Welcome New Stewards of Penn's Woods!

Thank you to all of our stewards who have been helping restore Hammonds Rocks! As noted in Stewarding Hammonds Rocks (page 10), through the dedication of many volunteers and forestry staff, the rock looks great!

PPFF welcomes the following stewards who have signed up to regularly visit and maintain sites in our state forests:

- Matthew Miller, *Hammonds Rocks, Michaux State Forest*
- Luke Miney, *Beam Rocks and Deer Valley Lake Overlook, Forbes State Forest*
- Gene Odato, *Juniata River Islands, Tuscarora State Forest*
- Yellow Breeches Education Center, *White Rocks Trail, Michaux State Forest*

These stewards beautify your forests through cleanups, trash hauling, and graffiti removal. Future projects include trail maintenance, retaining wall repair, and new trail construction.

The Stewards of Penn's Woods volunteer program, which began in the spring 2016, connects people to places to assist with beautification at trail heads, boat launches, islands, vistas and other interesting sites. The program can work for anyone—from individuals to businesses—as a way to get involved on their own schedule. Interested in becoming a steward? See our website for locations and projects <http://paparksandforests.org/initiatives/stewards-of-penns-woods/>



Photo credit: Amanda Trimmer

FUR, FEATHERS FINS & SCALES



FIRST PLACE: Phyllis Terchanik, *Bald Eagle*, Prince Gallitzin State Park



SECOND PLACE: Barb Lewis, *Baby Beaver Out for a Morning Swim*, Promised Land State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Dallas Runser, *I'm Better Looking Than That*, Elk State Forest

NATURE'S COLORS



FIRST PLACE: Donna Schneider, *Stars Over Sinnemahoning*, Sinnemahoning State Park

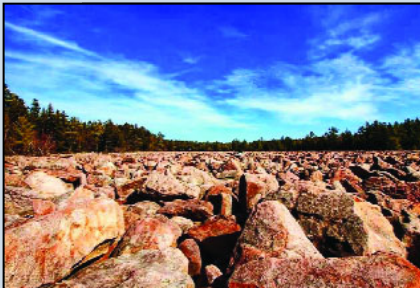


SECOND PLACE: Brian Hare, *No Fishing Just Enjoying*, Nockamixon State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: William King, *Pollination in Full Color*, Moraine State Park

YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS AGES 15-21



FIRST PLACE: Allyson Kusko, *The Boulder Field*, Hickory Run State Park

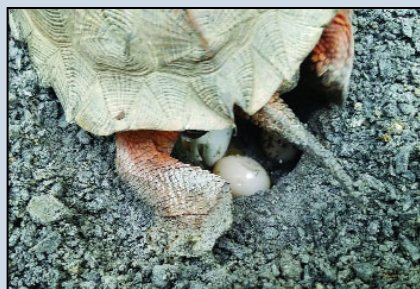


SECOND PLACE: Makayla Whaling, *Bull Elk*, Sinnemahoning State Park

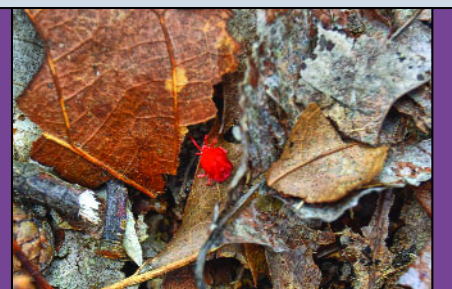


CRITICS' CHOICE: Garrett Talkington, *Under the Bridge*, Kinzua Bridge State Park

YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS AGES 9-14



FIRST PLACE: Lorelei Elliott, *Shelly the Woods Turtle*, Cowans Gap State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Clayton Whitenight, *Big Red Bug*, Lehigh Gorge State Park



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