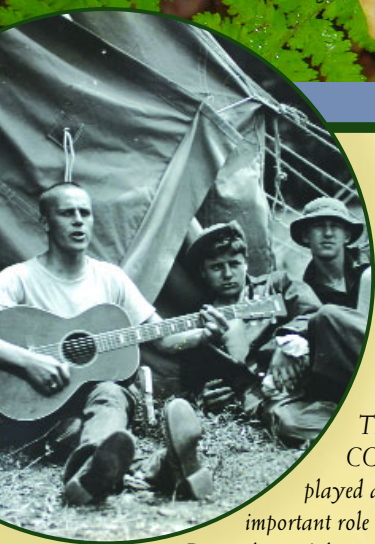


Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Fall 2015



The CCC played an important role in Pennsylvania's history.

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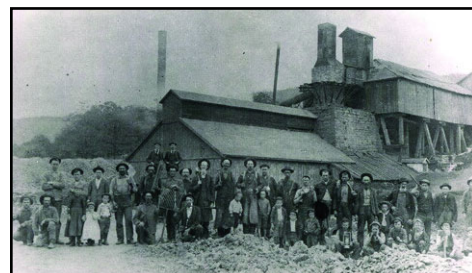
Contact us:

Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation
1845 Market Street, Suite 202,
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 236-7644
www.PaParksAndForests.org

LOOK BACK... to See the Way Forward

John F. Kennedy famously said, "We would like to live as we once lived, but history will not permit it." Applied to our commonwealth's story of settlement, development, economics, and culture, it's easy to see how history calls for mindfulness. Our state's future will always be closely aligned with its natural resources, so to truly consider the big picture, we are focusing on looking back.

William Penn recognized the value of the Pennsylvania forests and natural resources with his 1681 Charter of Rights that granted land rights to settlers and required them to leave one acre of trees for every five acres of land cleared. However, this was largely disregarded. The forest products industry was critical to the commonwealth's growth. For example, early railroads needed 80 million crossties a year for expanding lines. Historians estimate that every iron furnace (there were 145 in 1850) needed between 20,000 and 35,000 acres of forest for production. Similarly, hemlock bark was the primary source of tannin for the leather industry. Pennsylvania, abundant with hemlock, was home to numerous tanneries, sawmills, and pulp mills.



Historic Greenwood Furnace

Behind the loggers came uncontrolled wild fires, soil erosion, and flooding; leaving in its wake unbelievable devastation. The state's north central region became known as "Pennsylvania's Desert."

"We would like to live as we once lived, but history will not permit it."

Let Protection Begin

Spurred by the 1889 flood in Johnstown that took the lives of 2,200 people, and by massive deforestation, Governor James Beaver recognized the need to adopt land use policies. As timber companies abandoned land, they often failed to pay taxes, and formerly forested areas came up for tax sale. The state began to purchase some of these for watershed protection. Around this same time period, citizen groups were organizing to protect, study, and care for forests.

A bill signed in 1893 formed the PA Forestry Commission, tasked with the control of forest fires and to establish a forest reserve system. The system began with the purchase of 7,500 acres in Clinton County to be used to "furnish timber, protect the water supply of Young Woman's Creek, and provide recreation for citizens."

continued pn page 3



The Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park had many giveaways at their annual camper appreciation day.

Board of Directors:

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Retired, Bureau of State Parks

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Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund

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Pa House, 7th District

Maria Montero
Pennsylvania Convention
Center Authority

Barb Sexton
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Amanda Trimmer
Outreach & Public Relations Coordinator

President's Message

Marci Mowery



I don't know about you, but summer seemed to have passed far too quickly. My list of places to visit and things to do barely seemed to shorten—perhaps the fact that I continue to add to it has an effect on the length. With so many stunning images submitted to the photo contest and nominated for the 100 Icons of Summer, it's easy to see why the list continues to grow. From the enthusiasm we received for these programs we know you share our passion for all things outdoors.

Speaking of passion, I am always impressed by the passion our friends groups and volunteers have for enhancing our parks and forests through projects, programs, and events. Just Google any of our groups and you will see how hard working they are! Looking for new ways to get involved? You are in luck! We created a new program, entitled *Stewards of Penn's Woods* designed for individuals, families, businesses, and organizations. Learn more about it on page 5.

"...we know you share our passion for all things outdoors."

We are excited to be invited to be a part of the Extraordinary Give Program at Lancaster County Community Foundations. Help to make this a meaningful day by sharing the information with your family and friends. You don't need to reside in Lancaster County to participate. On this day, November 20th, your donation will be stretched by funds in a stretch pool, making your donation to PPFF go even farther. Look for us on that day as we travel Lancaster County, raising awareness about our state parks and forests.

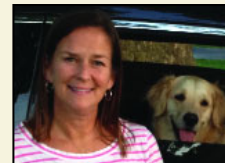
We'll be setting up dates to take the photo contest winners on the road this fall and spring. Have an idea of where we might go? Give me call or drop me a line—I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in the Outdoors,

Marci

Please Welcome!

Please join us in welcoming **Amanda Trimmer** as our new Outreach and PR Coordinator. Amanda is a Denison University graduate with a BA in Mass Media Communications. She has volunteered for many organizations, including the Camp Hill School District, while raising three daughters. Amanda enjoys traveling, reading, and the outdoors.



Welcome to **Danesha Butler**, our newest intern, hailing from Shippensburg University, where she majors in Public Administration with a minor in Geo-Environmental Studies. When not doing hurdles for the track team, Danesha is a member of Tau Kappa and an active member of the annual Delaware Coastal Cleanup. Welcome Danesha!



Living Gifts... Give a Gift for the Future!

"Think green" this holiday and give a Living Gift from the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. Show someone you care about them and our environment by purchasing a gift in their name.

For more information on how to give, go to our website:
http://www.paparksandforests.org/ways_to_give.html



Your support of the PPFF Living Gifts program made the purchase of these 25 trees in the Lick Hollow Picnic Area of Forbes State Forest possible.

It was also at this time that Pennsylvania's first state park was purchased—Valley Forge State Park (which then became Valley Forge National Historical Park in 1976). Joseph Rothrock, the Father of Pennsylvania Forestry, and the first President of Pennsylvania Forestry Association, was appointed the first Commissioner of Forestry in 1895. Rothrock promoted the ideas of conservation, recreation, and health. As commissioner, he led the Commonwealth's efforts to purchase lands for forest reserves, some of which later became state parks. The lands were used to preserve, protect, and propagate forests as well as to protect watersheds. Rothrock applied his knowledge of medicine to establish camps in forest reserves for people with tuberculosis. Mont Alto was the first of these camps.

By 1900, 110,000 acres were acquired for the forest system. Soon the small Division of Forestry was expanded to the cabinet level Department of Forestry. Pennsylvania lacked fire wardens and lost one acre of land in five to the wildfires that plagued the landscape. Rothrock, along with George Wirt, the state's first professional forester, worked to establish a forest academy at Mont Alto (now a part of the Pennsylvania State University). Other steps taken to reduce the devastation of fires were

to enact campfire laws and to follow Oregon's lead in developing public camping areas—or campgrounds. By managing and containing campfires, forest fires were greatly reduced.



First Forestry class at Mont Alto.

A New Department

Gifford Pinchot became the governor of Pennsylvania in 1922 (taking office in 1923). Pinchot was well known as the "Father of Conservation" for his work while in the U.S. Forest Service. Pinchot worked tirelessly to increase the forest holdings of the state. In 1923, the Department of Forestry was renamed the Department of Forests and Waters. The Administrative Code of 1929 formed the Bureau of State Parks, within the Department. Pennsylvania was a leader in public land designations at this time, ranking only behind New York.

The 1930s saw a growing demand for recreation. The Pennsylvania Parks Association formed to promote land acquisition and outdoor recreation. The Association developed the first statewide plan for state parks, which recognized a deficiency in quantity and distribution of land in relation to its populations. The report recommended 10 acres per 1000 residents, an almost 10-fold increase.

Era of the Civilian Conservation Corps

During the Great Depression, Pennsylvania received federal assistance for park and forest restoration and development from the Civilian Conservation Corps. CCC workers, or "Roosevelt's Tree Army" as they were called, accomplished a great deal to preserve and protect public lands. Many involved in recreation and infrastructure projects, as well as reforestation, water quality, and flood control. By 1935 Pennsylvania had 113 active CCC camps, second only to California. The CCC era lasted for nine years, ending with the onset of WWII.



Logging turn of century

**By 1935 Pennsylvania had
113 active CCC camps,
second only to California.**

Outdoor Recreation

The idea that outdoor recreation is a legitimate use of time is fairly recent. During most of the nation's history, moralists tended to frown on those who employed their leisure time for outdoor play, often viewing it somewhere on the continuum from sinful to frivolous.

Not that recreation as such was a priority—early settlers spent their entire day raising food, doing chores, and "maintaining" their lives. This all changed with the Industrial Revolution, which brought with it urbanization and a population explosion. By 1950, more than half of American people lived in urban areas. Today, 75% of American people live in urban areas. Most work indoors, doing jobs that require little to no physical labor. We needed to get outside!

continued on page 4



LOOK BACK...to See the Way Forward *continued from page 3*

Goddard Era

The tenure of Forests and Waters Secretary Maurice K. Goddard (1955-1970, and 1970-1979 as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources), also known as the "Goddard Era of State Parks" brought huge changes to the park system. During the post-WWII period, communities and businesses acquired land for housing, malls, industrial parks, schools, and roads. At the same time, decision makers saw an increased demand for parks and forests for recreation due to shorter work weeks, economic boom, more families with cars, improved roads, paid vacations, and increasing populations. An open space program was an economic opportunity as it identified a potential new source of revenue—tourism. Goddard enacted Pennsylvania's open space program and set the goal of one park within 25 miles of every Pennsylvanian. With the determination of a man on a mission, Goddard established or started 55 parks protecting 130,000 acres of land!

In 1976, because of the vision and hard work of Pennsylvania's leaders in conservation, Pennsylvania won the National Gold Medal for excellence in park and recreation administration. It was awarded again in 2009. Since 1998, Pennsylvania's forests have been certified sustainable.

Today

Over a century after the first properties were purchased for a parks and forest reserve system, Pennsylvania has one of largest systems in the nation, with 120 parks and 2.2 million acres of state forests.

Like all great stories, the history of our park and forest system is a long and winding road, but also like the best stories, you are left with excitement and interest in "the next chapter." Here's the best part of that – you can be part of it.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation strives to create a constituency for natural resource protection by connecting people to the land, through the activities of friends groups, events and opportunities, and through public education. The Conservation Heritage Project seeks to preserve our rich legacy of conservation. The next time you stroll along your favorite trail, paddle a stretch of river, or simply lay on your back and gaze at the stars, remember that we all have a role in continuing the legacy of our conservation minded forbearers, so that Pennsylvania can continue to be a great place to live, work and play.

RESOURCES

RR Thorpe, *The Crown Jewel of Pennsylvania, the State Forest System*, 1997.

William C. Forrey, *History of Pennsylvania's State Parks*, 1984, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

William C. Forrey, *History of Pennsylvania's State Parks*, Vol II, 2015—in production, check back in spring for how to obtain.

Dan Cupper, *Our Priceless Heritage*, Pennsylvania State Parks, 1993, Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission.



Goddard era family camping

Photo by DCNR

Happy 20th **DCNR** – and Thank You!

In July, the **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)** celebrated their 20th anniversary as a cabinet-level agency. DCNR was established on July 1, 1995 after Gov. Tom Ridge split the Department of Environmental Resources into the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and DCNR. The three guiding principles of DCNR's mission—stewardship, partnership, and service—hold true today as the agency continues to protect and enhance our public lands.

DCNR has much to be proud of. Visitors to our state parks and forests generate over \$1 billion in economic activity every year. They have the first independently certified public forest in the nation and the country's longest continuously certified, well-managed forest. They have the highest number of LEED-certified buildings of any other park system in the country and have awarded over \$500 million in grants to improve local communities, with at least one project in every county. DCNR also helps manage gypsy moths and other pests; creates geologic maps; and designs buildings for the parks system.

The list goes on—and it's still just a glimpse into their important work. Join us in congratulating the dedicated staff of DCNR on their accomplishments. For more information, visit their website at www.dcnr.pa.gov.

The 2015 Annual Foundation Award Nominations

Nominate a park, forest, friends group, or person that you think should be recognized for their good works this year.

In 2006, PPFF 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 10th Annual Banquet to be held on May 11, 2016.

TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION or for information about sponsoring an award, please visit our website:

www.paparksandforests.org/downloads/banquet_Awards_Criteria_2015.pdf or contact Marci Mowery (717) 236-7644,

mmowery-ppff@pa.net. **DEADLINE FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS is December 18, 2015**



Interested in getting involved, but time a constraint?

The program is designed for anyone—from individuals to businesses—to get involved in being a steward of our natural resources. In exchange for a year commitment to steward a particular location, trail head, boat launch, or vistas, you will receive a t-shirt, gloves, bags and other necessary items to steward your special area. All stewards will be recognized on our website and in our newsletter.

Visit <http://bit.ly/stewardsofpennswoods> to view the sites that are available and to become a steward today



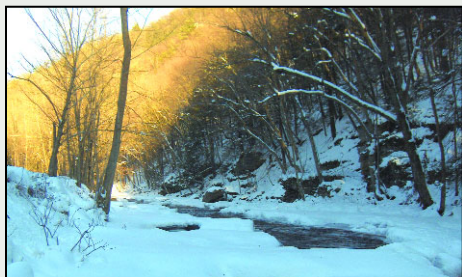
Thank you to Exelon for their support.

DCNR Renames Lackawanna State Forest

Honoring the 150th anniversary of Gifford Pinchot's birth, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources renamed Lackawanna State Forest as the Gifford Pinchot State Forest.

"It is fitting that Lackawanna State Forest District now bears the name of a man who introduced so many innovative forestry practices to a nation when it desperately needed sound conservation guidance," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "Distinguished forest management is synonymous with Pennsylvania, and Gifford Pinchot laid the groundwork for what we now have."

The newly named Gifford Pinchot State Forest District includes Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming, Susquehanna and Wayne counties.

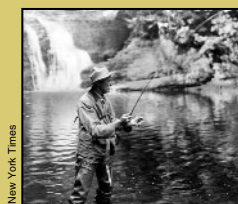


For more on Pinchot's legacy, The Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project in partnership with WITF, recently released a documentary focusing on Gifford Pinchot's contributions to Pennsylvania's conservation movement. To host a showing of the documentary, visit www.PaConservationHeritage.org and register your interest.

PENNSYLVANIA *Conservation Heritage* For Your Viewing Pleasure

The Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project released three mini-documentaries in partnership with WITF. To show these documentaries visit paconservationheritage.org.

For those residing in the WITF viewing area, the documentaries will make their public television debut on **November 12th at 8:30 PM.**



Gifford Pinchot



Ralph Abele



Mira Lloyd Dock

New Exhibits at Weiser Forest District

New exhibits have been installed at the Weiser State Forest, Resource Management Center in Aristes, PA. The exhibits were designed to connect visitors to PA forests and add a welcoming and educational touch to the office. Similar exhibits are planned for new offices in the Buchanan and Gallitzin State Forests.



UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Friends of Kings Gap: Jazz in the Mansion 11/6
Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 11/7
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day 11/7
Friends Group Retreat, Greenwood Furnace State Park 11/7
Friends of the State Line Barrens: Chrome Barrens 11/8
Friends of Oil Creek: Volunteer Work Day 11/8
Airing of Conservation Heritage Documentaries
on WITF, 8:30 PM 11/12
Friends of Colonel Denning: Monthly Volunteer Day 11/14
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Dinner 11/14
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 11/21
Friends of Oil Creek: Volunteer Work Day 11/22

DECEMBER

Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Coffee House 12/4
Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House 12/5
Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 12/5
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day 12/5
The Friends of Oil Creek: Cross Country Ski Clinic 12/6
Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House 12/12
Award nominations due to PPFF 12/18
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 12/19

JANUARY

Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 1/2
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day 1/2
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 1/16

FEBRUARY

Through the Seasons Photo Contest on display at the state capitol
(all month)
Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 2/6
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day 2/6
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 2/20

MARCH

Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 3/5
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day 3/5
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 3/19

The 100 Icons of Summer

If you are not following us on Facebook, perhaps you missed our 100 Icons of Summer, a 100-day celebration of those places, people, and unique features that make our state parks and state forests memorable. You don't need to be a Facebook user to view the images — simply go to www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaParksAndForestsFoundation and search the photos. We hope that you are inspired to search out new places to create memories.

This photo, taken by Samantha Fordick at Shawnee State Park, represents the tranquility we find in our parks and forests.



Pictured at right: the One Bird, Two Habitat program, one of several projects funded through your EITC donation, engages families and children in studying migratory birds.



Photo by DCNR

Tax Credit Program

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation has been included as an educational improvement organization under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. We are among the organizations to which businesses can choose to make contributions and be considered for Educational Improvement Tax Credits from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

State Forest Resource Management Plan Public Meetings to be Held Throughout the State

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry will host a series of public meetings to gather input for the 2015 State Forest Resource Management Plan (SFRMP). Public involvement is a critical component of the process. Initial planning for the 2015 revision was kicked off with a public opinion survey that received over 3,200 responses. The SFRMP is the primary instrument that the Bureau of Forestry uses to plan, coordinate, and communicate its management of the state forest system. The Bureau of Forestry developed its first written, statewide management plan for Pennsylvania's State Forests in 1955. For more information on the SFRMP and for public meeting dates and times: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/ForestryInformation/index.htm

Making Better Trails for YOU

More than 50 state park and forest staff and volunteers joined the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation at three trail maintenance and development workshops. Funded through your contributions and a grant from the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society/Community Conservation Partnership Program Grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, these two-day workshops empowered participants to understand the basics of sustainable trail development and sound maintenance principles. At each workshop, a demonstration project was completed, improving the visitor experience and eliminating erosion damage.



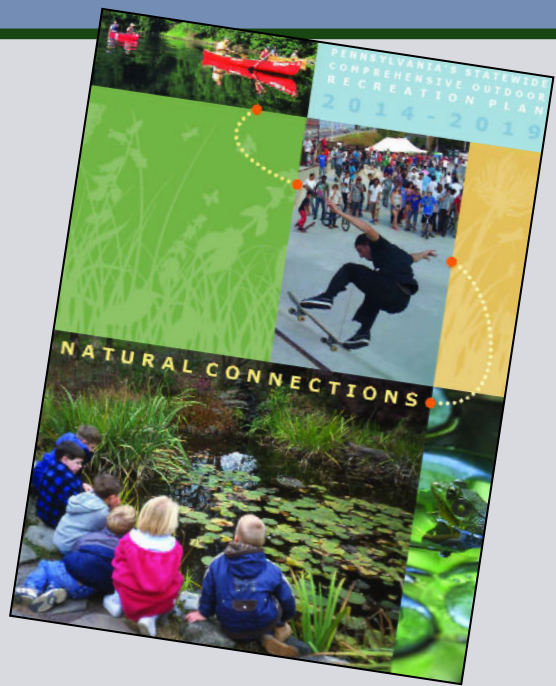
Photo by Marci Mowery

Participants at the Caledonia workshop pose with their completed trail crossing.

Check Out the New Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Plan

Pennsylvania's new **Outdoor Recreation Plan** is a blueprint for how policy-makers and communities will connect citizens to healthy outdoor recreation over the next five years. The 100 page report outlines the current state of recreation services in Pennsylvania. Among the report's findings: maintenance of existing park and recreation areas continues to be a top concern and priority for citizens and providers, and park and recreation services are a central asset in combating societal health care issues like obesity and mental health.

To view the plan or for more information, visit www.paoutdoorrecplan.com. For copies of the plan, contact 717-783-2658.



NATURAL CONNECTIONS

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

Otto Emery Jennings and Caren Glotfelty



Otto Emery Jennings (1877-1964)

Otto Emery Jennings was one of Pennsylvania's most influential naturalists. As a farm boy in Ohio, Jennings learned to read the weather with accuracy that, later in life, his colleagues often found more reliable than the official weather predictions.

In 1904, Jennings joined the staff of Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh as custodian of the botanical collections and began exploring western Pennsylvania, collecting and identifying local plants.

As president of the Academy of Science and Art, he was consulted by doctors on poisonous plants, by columnists on nature items, by housewives on houseplants, by cooks on herbs, by landscapers on ornamentals, and he gave public lectures by the hundreds. Most importantly, he spent nearly every weekend in the field leading Botanical Society trips or taking classes, colleagues, or community leaders to the ecologically significant areas of western Pennsylvania.

The Jennings relic prairie became the first 'reserve' ever established in Pennsylvania to protect a single plant species - the blazing star - and remains the only public and protected prairie in the Commonwealth. Named in his honor, the Jennings Environmental Center is a PA state park featuring a 20-acre prairie ecosystem and home to distinctive prairie plants and the endangered massasauga rattlesnake.

Much of Jennings's accumulated knowledge of the local flora was incorporated in his well loved book, *Wildflowers of Western Pennsylvania and the Upper Ohio Basin*, published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in 1953, with text by Jennings and 200 water-color illustrations by Andrey Avinoff. It was chosen as one of the "Fifty Books of the Year" following its publication.

Caren Glotfelty (1947-present)

After earning a Masters Degree in Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, Glotfelty spent much of her early career working in Pennsylvania and Maryland state government on land use, water quality policy and planning issues.

She became the first Deputy Secretary for Water Management in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. Later she held the Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resources at The Pennsylvania State University.

Glotfelty served as Program Director for the Environment Program at The Heinz Endowments. During her work there, she promoted smart growth, green building, civic design, and sustainable development in southwestern Pennsylvania. She recognized that good development is an essential component of economic prosperity as well as environmental protection. She was a major strategist in the production of the Brookings Institution study, *Back to Prosperity*.

Glotfelty has been honored many times for her career accomplishments. The PA Parks and Forests Foundation recognized Glotfelty for her work to preserve Pennsylvania's natural resources, promote outdoor recreation, and engage citizens on environmental issues and solutions, awarding her our 2014 *Cliff Jones Legacy Award*.

Glotfelty currently serves as executive director of the Allegheny County Parks Foundation continuing her lifelong commitment to protecting the natural environment. A role model and guide, her collaborative approach to problem solving, as well as her experience and training in land and water resource management, has served Pennsylvania well.



Parks and Forests Through the Seasons Photo Contest

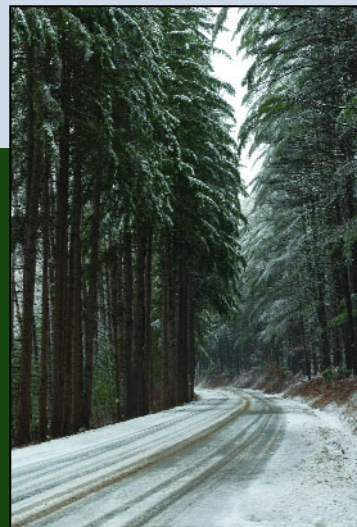
The winners have been chosen!

CRITICS' CHOICE BEST IN SHOW



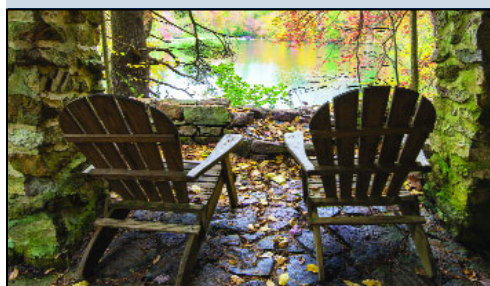
Samuel Fraser, Hickory Run State Park

PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN SHOW



Scott Hafer, Ole Bull State Park

CAPTURE THE SEASON



FIRST PLACE: Crystal Hunt, Pine Grove Furnace State Park



SECOND PLACE: Robin Thompson, Codorus State Park

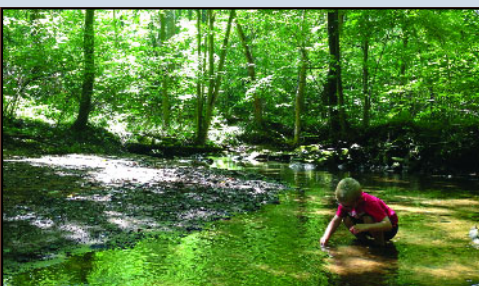
CRITICS' CHOICE: H. Bumper Bauer, Cook Forest State Park



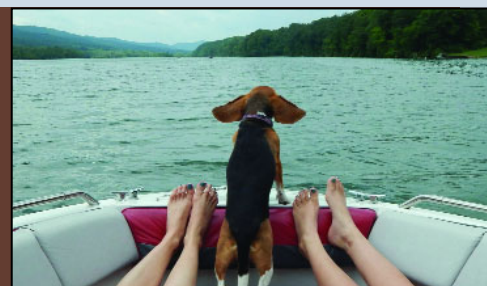
FRIENDS & FAMILY FUN



FIRST PLACE: Phyllis Terchanik, Cook Forest State Park

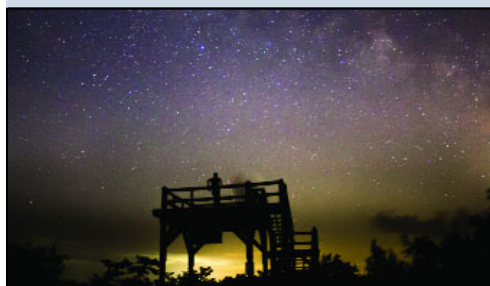


SECOND PLACE: Jennifer Wimer,
Jennings Environmental Education Center



CRITICS' CHOICE: Diane Lynch, Bald Eagle State Park

YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS



FIRST PLACE: Jon Schwartz, Lackawanna State Forest



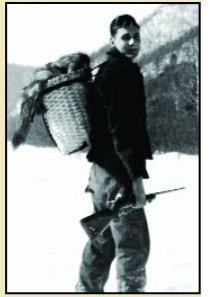
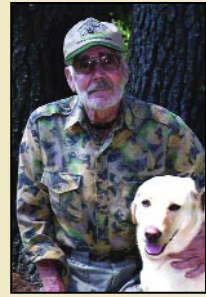
SECOND PLACE: Makayla Whaling,
Sinnemahoning State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Cameron Pritts, Laurel Hill State Park

We Will Miss

We lost a great friend on July 22 with the passing of **Ralph Harrison** after a short illness and a long life. Ralph, who retired from the Bureau of Forestry, continued to be a volunteer and resource on many topics. He wrote books on the Quehanna Wild Area and the Pennsylvania elk herd, and was an historian of Elk County and the Wilds. He was the winner of our 2014 President's Award and we featured him in one of the first issues of our Explore PA bimonthly eZine in October 2012. Yet with all that, his legacy is a longer story. It is left to other volunteers and dedicated individuals to continue to do good work...and to enjoy the outdoors as much as Ralph did!



Sadly in May we lost **Patricia Leinbach**, a Friend of Kings Gap and of PPFF, too. Pat and her husband, Carl, were the winners of our Education Award in 2013 for their marvelous work in bringing novice hikers and paddlers into the park and forest (Michaux) they loved, just one of their volunteer undertakings with which she filled busy and fulfilling hours. She will be missed by many.

Parks and Forests Through the Seasons Photo Contest

BLACK & WHITE

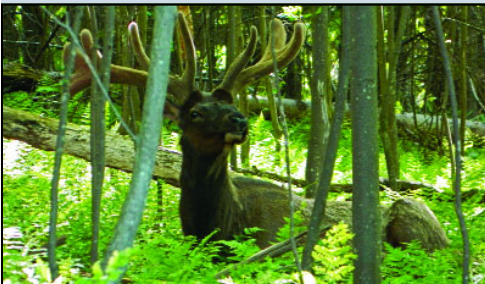
FIRST PLACE:
Xiawei Zhang,
Marsh Creek
State Park



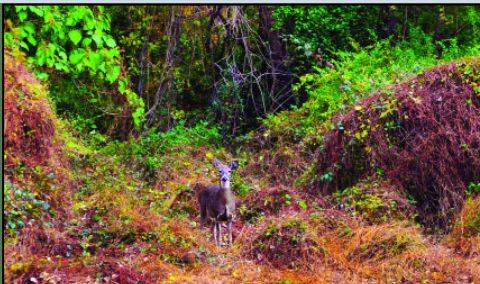
SECOND PLACE: Larry Laird, Caledonia State Park

CRITICS' CHOICE: Matthew Stich, Canoe Creek State Park

NATURE UP CLOSE



FIRST PLACE: Jennifer Ingram, Elk State Forest



SECOND PLACE: Elizabeth Duckworth,
Ridley Creek State Park

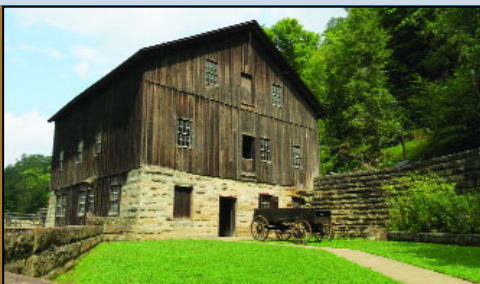


CRITICS' CHOICE: Marcy Beggs, Forbes State Forest

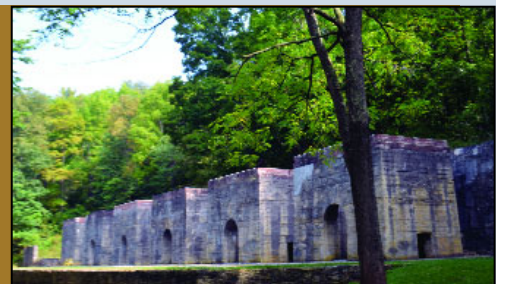
HISTORICAL GEMS



FIRST PLACE: Thomas Caldwell, Ridley Creek State Park



SECOND PLACE: Angela Toth,
McConnells Mill State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Tim Garlick, Canoe Creek State Park

PPFF FRIENDS GROUPS

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association

Friends of Beltzville

Friends of Big Pocono

Friends of Black Moshannon

Friends of Canoe Creek

Friends of Colonel Denning

Friends of Cook Forest

Friends of Cowans Gap

Friends of Delaware State Forest &
Promised Land State Park

Friends of Goddard

Friends of Greenwood Furnace

Friends of Keystone

Friends of Kings Gap

Friends of Laurel Hill

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 Yellow Creek State Park*

By Danesha Butler, *Intern*



Established in 1963, the 2,981-acre Yellow Creek State Park is located in Indiana County along the Kittanning Path. Historically, this was a major east-west Native American trail in western Pennsylvania used by the Delaware and Shawnee Nations and also by early settlers. The park received its name from Yellow Creek and Little Yellow Creek, which feed the 720-acre man-made Yellow Creek Lake, built in 1969.

The park attracts many swimmers, hikers, bikers, picnickers, fishermen, and boaters, featuring five miles of hiking trails and almost 20 miles of mountain bike trails. Camping cottages, yurts, and picnic pavilions are available for rent. Friends of Yellow Creek sponsor a community sailing base. Canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, pontoon boats are available to rent. The park also offers a small marina and a bird observation platform.

Formed in 2010, the Friends of Yellow Creek (FOYC) are a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation and their mission is "... to include visitors in conserving, protecting, and enhancing the natural, educational, and recreation resources of the park." Partnered with other groups, like LHORBA (Laurel Highlands On and Off Road Biking Association), the FOYC volunteers join forces to build and maintain trails. FOYC also worked with students to develop topography and hydrographic maps of the park for hunters, fishermen, and bikers.

Sailing is big at Yellow Creek! The park's sailing base began operating in 1967 until the lease expired in 2005. In 2011, FOYC partnered with the IUP Sailing Club and the DCNR through the *Get Outdoors PA* programs to help renew public interest in sailing. To kick start a renewed interest, the group sponsored the building of puddle duck racers. Presently, FOYC oversees the sailing base within the park. Along with access to the puddle duck racers, the park now offers access to three sailboats.

The Friends host events to attract visitors to the park and are always eager to welcome new volunteers. Friends of Yellow Creek raise funds and receive donations that all go directly to improving the park itself. To get involved or donate, you can visit their website at: www.friendsofyellowcreek.org

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



More Friends In Action:

Photo by Friends of Cowans Gap State Park



Ohhs and abhs could be heard across the gap during Art in the Park sponsored by the Friends of Cowans Gap State Park. Participants were instructed on creating a painting of the natural view of the park. Looks like fun!

Photo by Kirby Neubert, Oil Creek State Park



Women across Pennsylvania expanded their outdoor recreation skills at several women-only events hosted by friends groups at Black Moshannon, Oil Creek, and Mt. Pisgah state parks. While each bears a different name, all strive to empower women to get outdoors.

Photo by Sean Benson



Laughter echoes off the lake from children enjoying the new playground erected through your support of the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. This is the second of three playgrounds they plan to install.

YOU Made it Happen

Photo by Friends of Beltzville State Park



Our Family has Expanded! Welcome to the Friends of Beltzville State Park, the newest member of the PPFF family. The Friends kicked off their chapter with a park clean up and picnic. Follow the Friends on Facebook to learn about how you can get involved.

Opening the Way More than 20 individuals representing multiple organizations joined PPFF to brainstorm the barriers AND SOLUTIONS to participation in outdoor recreation. Funded in part through the Partnership for Better Health, this was the first step in a multi-phased program to address accessibility and equal access issues for enjoying the outdoors. The pilot program focuses on Cumberland and Perry counties.

Photo by Beth Artz



Youth on the Move Central Pennsylvania youth learned the importance of trail care through a multi-week program at Kings Gap Environmental Education Center, in partnership with Rescare, the Friends of Kings Gap, and Penn Trails. The youth were outfitted through your support and the generosity of Bass Pro Shops.

Let's Get Focused PPFF kicked off a multi-month strategic planning process, with funding from the National Environmental Education Foundation. PPFF members were invited to complete a survey to help us define our next five years.

Photo by Marci Mowery



Accessibility Training Your support and a grant from the Partnership for Better Health hosted a two-day accessibility survey training to train volunteers and staff how to access a park for inclusive recreation opportunities.

Here Seth measures the force needed to open a door.

conserve enhance enjoy

If your current membership has expired, visit our website today www.PaParksAndForests.org and click on *Be a Member-Join* to renew or use our form below. New members, complete the form and become a supporter of your parks and forests!

MEMBERSHIP

To become a member, fill out the information below and mail this form with your check (made payable to PPFF) in an envelope to:

- ☐ \$25 Single Membership ☐ I'd like to donate extra money to support the work of PPFF!
☐ \$35 Family Membership \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PA Parks & Forests Foundation
1845 Market Street, Suite 202
Camp Hill, PA 17011



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