

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation • Spring 2011



Pennsylvania's state flower, Mountain Laurel, blooms in the wild every spring.

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Economic Value of Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests

Ellen Zeph and
Marci Mowery

More than twenty years of studies in Pennsylvania and throughout the U.S. unequivocally show that parks, greenways, public forests and other protected natural lands can boost property values, improve local economies, attract and support businesses, save energy and water-treatment costs, and safeguard the natural systems on which our economic well-being depends.



Visitors to most state parks and forests provide significant support for small businesses such as this bait, tackle and general camping supply store next to Gifford Pinchot State Park in York County. Hundreds of local grocery stores, boat stores, motels, gas stations and ice cream parlors depend upon state park visitors spending that supports more than 10,000 jobs and adds hundreds of millions of dollars to Pennsylvania's economy.

Parks and Forests Boost Land Values

Study after study shows that people value living next to parks and protected forestlands. In suburban areas where open space is limited, land values adjacent to permanently protected lands are higher, and in some cases up to 35% more. Higher land values, in turn, translate into higher property taxes for the municipality.¹

State Parks and Forests are an Economic Engine for Local and State Economy

A recent study of the economic impact of PA's State Parks was conducted by the Penn State University Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management. Their study concluded that in 2008:

- PA State Parks hosted 33.6 million visitors who directly spent \$738 million on their trips — an average of \$22 per person per visit.
- This spending supported 10,551 jobs contributing \$291.4 million in labor income, resulting in \$464.7 million in value-added effects.
- For every tax-payer dollar invested in State Parks, \$7.62 of income (value added) is returned to Pennsylvania.²

The 2009 data was even more astounding, with a return of investment of \$9.63 for every tax payer dollar invested into a state park. Similarly, a study of New Jersey state parks and forests estimated that visitors spent an average of \$21 per visit,³ and visitors to North Carolina state parks spend an average of \$24 per day.⁴

The 2006 national survey on recreation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that residents and visitors to Pennsylvania spent more than \$5.4 million per year on hunting, fishing and wildlife watching alone — much of which takes place on state forest or state park lands.⁵ This places Pennsylvania 4th in the nation in revenues generated from outdoor recreation.

continued on page 3

President's Message

Marci Mowery



What a busy few months these have been! Since our last newsletter, we have held a friends retreat and a Board Meeting at the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park (if you haven't been there to see it yet, I highly recommend it), hosted a strategic planning retreat, approved that plan, and launched a new year. As part of our plan, we are kicking off our social media—you now can not only find us on Facebook, but we are learning to tweet, will be on YouTube soon, and are partnering with Parks by Nature to create a smart phone application for state parks and forests. Who said that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks?" We're hip! (Although don't double check that with any teens that you know.)

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season. Thank you to those who purchased gifts through our Living Gifts program. This program is still in its infancy, so if you have thoughts on what items you think we could add to help our state parks and forests, just let us know. We are all ears (and social media). I adopted a CCC structure through our Living Gifts program to give to my Aunt Helen. My Grandfather served in the CCC, and Aunt Helen was tickled pink to receive the certificate. She shared with us some great stories of filling the car up with her girl friends to travel to Blain for dances held at the Camp. It was a long drive, but the odds were good! It made me think about the camps, and the social aspect that the influx of young men brought

"Spring is a great time to get outdoors—with many opportunities for recreation and volunteerism."

to a community. Marriages were made, friendships formed, and memories were created.

Speaking of memories, now's a good time to mark your calendar for this year's Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge—September 9 – October 9, 2011. Watch our website for other dates—we have four more Maurice Goddard historic markers to erect, the Goddard Documentary will be airing again soon, and our banquet is May 3rd at the Country Club of Harrisburg. Also, if you find yourself in Harrisburg, be sure to stop by and visit the Wood on Glass exhibit at The State Museum—it's a must-see.

Spring is a great time to get outdoors—with many opportunities for recreation and volunteerism. A sampling of these opportunities can be found in the pages of this issue of Penn's Stewards.

Lastly, a thank you to all of you who clicked to vote to plant trees in Pennsylvania through the Odwalla Tree Program. We logged in over 31,000 votes, which means we'll be planting bunches of trees this spring! Stay tuned for details on the 2011 program.

*Yours in the Outdoors,
Marci*

5th Annual Awards Banquet Celebrates Leadership, Service

This is the fifth year for our park and forest awards banquet! Join us on Tuesday, May 3rd at The Country Club of Harrisburg as we celebrate outstanding service and exemplary work done by both volunteers and staff at our state parks and forests.

Event

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2011

At-A-Glance

Place: The Country Club of Harrisburg

Time: 5:30 cash bar, 6:30 dinner

Program: Cocktail Reception, Dinner, Awards Program

Emcee: Gary Smith

Tickets: \$40 Reservation deadline 4/25/11



Bill Forrey, 2010 Keystone Legacy Award Winner

Show your support – sponsor a table!

Full table (8 seats) \$500 • Half table (4 seats) \$250

Contact: Marci Mowery, mmowery-ppff@pa.net or 717.236.7644
or register on-line at PaParksAndForests.org

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Economic Value *continued from page 1*

State Parks and Forests Boost Local Economies by Attracting Businesses and Residents

People desire to live in communities with outdoor recreation amenities. Workers are making job choices based on quality of life factors, and studies show that people rank parks, recreation, and open space amenities as the most important

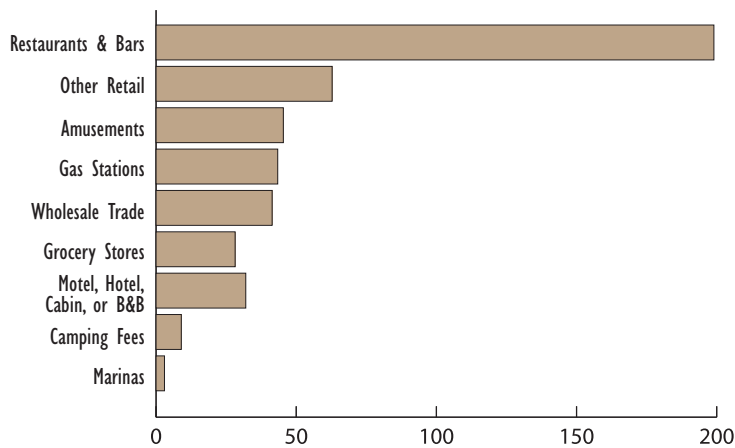
visitors responded that: 95% of them purchased gasoline and oil, 85% purchased food and drinks at local restaurants and bars, 69% purchased other food and beverages, and 45% used local overnight accommodations.⁷

In addition to recreation revenue, the state forests grow some of the world's most valuable hardwood timber.

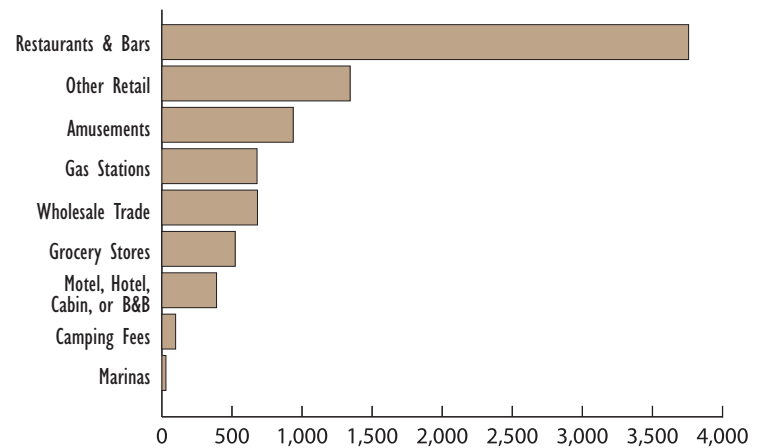
For every tax-payer dollar invested in State Parks, \$9.63 of income (value added) is returned to Pennsylvania.

State parks and forests are key items in most visitor and convention bureau publications as major attractions. According to DK Shifflet and Associates in the 2001 Pennsylvania Year End Report, visiting state and

Annual Sales by State Park Visitors (in \$ millions)



Total Jobs Created Annually by State Park Visitor Spending



quality-of-life factors. Even retirees are showing that available recreation opportunities are a primary factor in their choice of retirement location.⁶

Pennsylvania's state forests generate millions of dollars in revenue to local economies from in and out-of-state visitors. With more than 3,000 miles of trails, outdoor enthusiasts find endless opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling and ATV riding. Many of the best hunting grounds, finest fishing streams and grandest views in the state are found throughout the state forests. Most state forests also have one or more picnic areas equipped with tables, fire rings, and parking.

In a recent study on visitor use of state forests in north-central Pennsylvania,

This helps to support the state's sale of forest products exceeding a state economic impact of \$27 billion, employing more than 100,000 people.

Studies Show Economic Benefits to Tourism

Outdoor recreation is an important part of Pennsylvania's tradition, with 3.947 million wildlife watchers and 1.520 million anglers and hunters. **Tourism is Pennsylvania's second most economically significant industry sector, following agriculture.** In 2006, spending associated with wildlife watching in Pennsylvania amounted to \$1.4 billion in retail sales, over \$2.6 billion for lodging, transportation, equipment and supplies, and generated \$880 million in salaries, wages and business owners' income.⁸

national parks ranked among the top five reasons to travel in Pennsylvania.

In the 1999 Pennsylvania Outdoor Travelers Profile and Activities Analysis, it was found that about one in five of Pennsylvania's leisure tourists travel for the primary purpose of outdoor recreation, and that outdoor recreation was the fastest growing segment of tourism. Direct expenditures for outdoor recreation in 1997 were \$4.03 billion, or 33% of Pennsylvania's leisure travel spending. The study went on to find that outdoor travelers spend about 35% more per trip than the average traveler.

Protecting our state parks and forests benefits us all, by boosting land values, attracting tourists and businesses, and serving as an overall economic engine for local and state economies.

Notes:

Graphs developed with data from The Economic Significance and Impact of Pennsylvania State Parks: An Assessment of Visitor Spending on the State and Regional Economy¹, Penn State University, Dept of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management, 2010.

1, 6. For specific studies, see Conservation: An Investment That Pays: The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space, Trust for Public Land, 2009.

2. The Economic Significance and Impact of Pennsylvania State Parks: An Assessment of Visitor Spending on the State and Regional Economy², Penn State University, Dept of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management, 2010.

3. The Economic Value of New Jersey State Parks and Forests, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 2004 and revised 2006.

4. Economic Contributions of visitors to Selected North Carolina State Parks, North Carolina state University, 2008.

5, 8. 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2007.

7. Recreation on the Tiadaghton and Tioga State Forests: A Survey of User Characteristics, Behaviors, and Attitudes by: Alan R. Graefe, Harry C. Zinn, Elizabeth A. Covelli; Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management The Pennsylvania State University and Donald B. K. English USDA Forest Service; 2008.

Thank You and Farewell

*"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like
wrapping a present and not giving it."*

~ William Arthur Ward

The work of the foundation is guided by a board of directors, on which members serve as volunteers for the duration of their tenure. These volunteers give of their time, talents and financial support, through quarterly meetings, conference calls, and special events.

In 2010, we bid farewell to three board members, and we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for their work. Thank you **Bruce Heggenstaller** (board member and Chair), **Wendy McLean** (Board member, Chair and Vice Chair), and **George Stark** (board member).

We thank Bruce, Wendy and George for helping to shape the future of PPFF and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Meet the PPFF Board

Over the course of the next several issues of Penn's Stewards, we will introduce you to the members of our board of directors.



Senator Mike Brubaker is currently serving his second term representing Lancaster and Chester County residents in the Pennsylvania Senate. He serves as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Vice Chairman of the Senate State Government Committee and is a member of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Appropriations, Game and Fisheries and Local Government.

He helped to create the legislative Hunger Caucus, which focuses on reducing hunger and food insecurity in Pennsylvania communities. Since 2007, he has served on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and was elected to serve as Chairman of the Commission in 2011, and Chairman of Pennsylvania's Delegation to the Commission in 2010 and 2011.

Senator Brubaker is a graduate of Manheim Township High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from West Virginia University. He lives in Lancaster County with his wife, Cindy. They have been married for 28 years and have three adult children.



Laura J. McIntosh, M.D. is a physician from the great Northwestern part of the state, where her practice in sports medicine compliments her personal interest in athletics and the outdoors.

Dr. McIntosh earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania in 1984, an MBA in Nonprofit Management from Columbia University in 1990, and her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1999. She served her residency at Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh and is presently on staff at the Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie.

Originally from Ohio, Dr. McIntosh grew up in a family who spent vacations camping and hiking throughout the country. Currently, when she is not working, Dr. McIntosh tries to be outdoors as much as possible. She can be found on Presque Isle State Park running, participating in nature hikes offered by the Tom Ridge Center and enjoying spectacular sunsets. She has also been spotted in McConnells Mill tramping up and down the hills. She recently achieved a personal dream of trekking in Nepal.



Curator Linda Ries treated PPFF board, donors and staff to a behind the scenes tour of the "Wood on Glass" exhibit currently at The State Museum. The exhibit runs through May. For more information visit: statemuseumpa.org

E-Blast



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and forests, with PPFF and with our
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www.PaParksAndForests.org

In Memoriam

Barbara (Babs) Peterson, Pittsburgh

Rebecca (Becca) Barneby, Philadelphia

Dale Briggs, Palmer Township

Bob Huffman, Somerset

Dale Mielke, Dover, DE

Jennifer Zierer, Carlisle

The environmental community, and we at PPFF personally, lost some dear friends in the past year. Babs, Becca and Bob were champions of the state parks and forests systems and personal friends. While we didn't personally know Dale, Dale and Jennifer, we feel as though we got to know them through the cards and letters accompanying memorial donations in their honor.

In 1997, **Babs** and **Becca** joined Marci, Pam and 20 other women in a cross-Pennsylvania journey called the Women's Expedition for the Environment. Their energy and enthusiasm never flagged as we biked, hiked, paddled and slogged our way across the Commonwealth in celebration of women's contributions to the environmental movement and that joy never wavered in the years that followed.

Bob served DCNR for over 30 years before retiring in 2007 as Park Manager at Laurel Hill State Park; his devotion to the outdoors made his position much more than a job.

The Briggs and Mielke families noted the impact Penn's Woods made in the lives of their Dales; **Jennifer Zierer** was dedicated to the outdoors and "all things Carlisle."

The mountains of Pennsylvania were where **Dale Mielke** spent his summers; the rivers and trails of the state made **Dale Briggs** an avid cyclist and paddler; the forests and wildlife figure prominently in Jennifer's photography.

*We all hold dear the memories
of our loved ones, and in this way,
they are always with us.*

Take time today to make a memory.

So Many Things to See, So Little Time...

What is black and white and read all over?

The soon-to-be-released Passport to Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests!

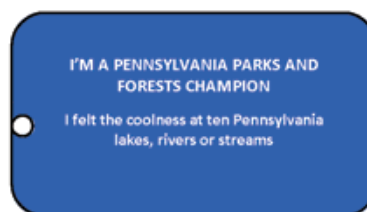


Modeled after the national parks passport, the Pennsylvania Passport is a guide to your state parks and forests. Use it to track your visits, for ideas on new adventures, or to challenge yourself to try a new sport.

The passport is divided into three sections:

- Cultural and Natural history of parks and forests
- Themes
- Listing of parks and forests

The themes are varied, ranging from mountain biking to fishing, from big trees to history. For every theme completed, the user earns a free dog tag token—see the samples below. Collect one or collect them all!



*The passport will be released
around Earth Day 2011.*



REVERSE

*Funding for this project was made possible
by a grant from Chesapeake Energy.*

Snapshot: Friends of Kings Gap

What We're Up To

It's been a busy few years! The FOKG were the primary organizers of the first **Music on the Mountain** bluegrass concert, a very popular event which was attended by over 800 people! The park provided assistance with publicity, equipment, building the stage, etc.



Pat Putz

Music on the Mountain was a popular event with 800 in attendance!

Volunteers also participated in the annual **Mountain Laurel Appreciation Day** and the **December Holiday Open Houses at the Cameron/Masland mansion**.

The second annual **Fall Photo Contest** ran from October 1 to October 31. The Sentinel newspaper in Carlisle was the partner for this contest and hosted it on their website at Cumberlink.com. FOKG received over 50 entries. Look for the winners on their website.

"The Friends of Kings Gap can perform a variety of tasks that are beyond the normal operating parameters of the park and the duties of its staff. These tasks include maintaining a user-friendly website, maintaining the Mansion Garden and organizing special events such as the very successful bluegrass concert in August. Of particular importance, especially in these budget tight times, is the group's ability to conduct fundraising activities and manage grant monies. These funds are used to support park programs and operations. Without this support, the park may not be able to continue to provide programs and services at their current levels."

~Scott R. Hackenburg, Center Manager
Kings Gap Environmental Education Center

The Friends received a 2010 grant for \$6400 for the **Woodland Vernal Pools Project**. Plans are for work to be completed by spring 2011. The goal of the project is to increase access to this under-utilized wetland area at Kings Gap. Plans include stabilizing current parking areas to prevent damage by increased use; the construction of an information kiosk with interpretative signage; and the construction of a sectional deck that would extend into the shallow end of the largest of the three vernal pools allowing easy access during periods of high water. Increasing the access to these pools would allow staff to revise current programs and present new ones for the community and school groups. These programs will focus on the significant seasonal changes in these sensitive areas including amphibian breeding activity; sampling surveys of reptiles, amphibian and macro invertebrate populations; bird habitats, water quality and geology research.



FOKG

Vernal pool in winter.

Formed in May 2008 as a chapter of the PPFF
Currently 69 members

Contact: George Fohs, President, gfohs@pa.net or 717-249-6106

Website: www.FriendsofKingsGap.org/home

Volunteer opportunities: The Friends of Kings Gap (FOKG) have full responsibility for food vending at events like Garden Harvest Day, Music on the Mountain, and the annual plant sale. Other volunteer opportunities include regular trail maintenance, gardening, etc. It is not necessary to be an FOKG member in order to volunteer at the park.

Current Needs: FOKG are looking for people to serve on the following committees: Music, Food, Fundraising, and Membership Committees. Contact George Fohs if you are interested in helping!

To make a donation to support the work of the FOKG or to become a member: visit FOKG's website and join or donate on-line, or mail a check to the park office. Make checks payable to "PPFF" with "FOKG" on the memo line and mail to: Kings Gap Env. Ed Ctr., 500 Kings Gap Rd, Carlisle, PA 17015-9306

Kings Gap Environmental Education Center is one of four centers in the state specifically dedicated to providing environmental education programs for both school and public groups. Located in south central Pennsylvania in Carlisle, Cumberland County, the center consists of 1454 acres of forest on South Mountain. Open to the public year-round, there are sixteen miles of hiking trails that connect with three main areas of the center: Pine Plantation Day Use Area, Pond Day Use Area and Mansion Day Use Area. The 32-room stone mansion on the mountaintop houses the center's office and the William C. Forrey Training Center. An expansive view of the Cumberland Valley can be enjoyed from the mansion's patio area. In addition to teaching school groups, and holding teacher workshops, the center offers a variety of interpretive programs for the public. Visit www.visitPAparks.com/parks/kingsgap.aspx to learn more about the history of Kings Gap and its many programs.



Kings Gap Mansion

Goddard Legacy Project Update

Members of the Goddard Legacy Project presented a program to the Joint Legislative Air and Water Conservation Committee in January. The program introduced the project as well as highlighted the work of Maurice K. Goddard.

In the coming months, a poster and teaching aids will be produced, and the airing of the original documentary, *The Life of Maurice Goddard*, will begin statewide. Check your local public television station for air times.

On April 12th, 7:00 PM, at Pollock Performing Arts Center in Camp Hill, a symposium geared for both teens and adults will take place, **The Silent Leader: Maurice Goddard**. Watch the PPFF website for details.

Four additional historic markers will be placed this spring: at Mont Alto campus of Penn State, Camp Hill Borough, Goddard State Park, and Delaware Canal State Park. Watch the website for details to attend these events.



PPFF President Marci Mowery presented a program on the Goddard Legacy Project to the Joint Conservation Committee in January.

Committee Chairman, Representative Scott Hutchinson, is pictured here (right) with Marci Mowery, Brenda Barrett, DCNR, Ellen Zeph, PPFF and Bill Forrey, PPFF Board.

CCC Reflections — CCC Buddies and Romances

By John Eastlake

When I attended my first CCC reunion, I had drafted a series of questions that I wanted to ask the CCC boys. My daughter, Cyndi went with me and the plan was to talk to as many of them as we could. We never did get to talk to everyone—these guys are talkers!

I thought that finding out where the guys were originally from would be interesting because a lot of the guys ended up traveling long distances to their respective camps. Cyndi talked to **George Pryslak** and I talked to **Leo Ruvolis**. The next day I compared her notes with mine and found out that both George and Leo were from Plymouth, PA, near Wilkes Barre. So, I called George and asked him if he knew Leo and that Leo was at the reunion. George said, "Holy Cow, I haven't seen him since High School." George went on to say that they both graduated together and that their pictures were on the same page of their yearbook. It wasn't until the next year's reunion that they got together. They had both been in the military, raised families and lost contact with one another. That's not the end of the Plymouth connection.

Two years ago, **Joe Brazitis** attended his first Leonard Harrison State Park reunion. George Pryslak is the organizer of this reunion and the greeter. He asked Joe where he was from (Plymouth) and George showed Joe his high school yearbook. Joe said that his wife Anna was in George's class. The photo (above right), shows Anna inserted in with George Pryslak and Leo Ruvolis. Joe brought two albums of his CCC photos. He had traveled with an Army Captain around to the camps on the Captain's inspecting duties. Joe took his camera with him and had pictures of a lot of the camps in Northwestern PA.

There are several romantic stories that I'm familiar with, two of them centered on the great St. Patrick's Day flood of March 17, 1936. The various camps helped people in many of the PA river towns — Renovo, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg, to name a few. The Hillsgrove Camp S-96 went to Williamsport and cleaned basements after the flood.

Rich Churba from the Pittsburgh area met his wife of many years when his crew was cleaning out her family's home. **Walt Cummings** was in



The Plymouth Connection

the Half Way Dam Camp S-67 (now R.B. Winter State Park). He met a young lady from South Williamsport and they had an interesting courtship. Walt was the driver for the Army Captain who liked the spirits and liked to be driven to various pubs. At every opportunity, Walt would take the Captain to some of the pubs in the rural areas around Williamsport. Walt would drop the Captain off and then head for his honey.

George Pryslak met a Blossburg, PA girl at a local dance. Her big brothers told George to be nice to their sister and he was. The Army often took the boys to the local towns for dances and they also brought the girls to the CCC camps for dances in the Rec hall. Walt Ostrowski told me that they were dancing so hard once that they had to put in a new floor at the Elmsport S-125 camp!

You can help preserve the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps by adopting a CCC structure through PPFF's Living Gifts program.

*For more information visit:
PaParksAndForests.org*

Update on Estate Planning/ Charitable Giving

Steven C. Wilds, Esquire

It seems that with the beginning of each new year, there is a significant change with federal estate and income taxation. In 2010, federal estate taxes were repealed, meaning that everyone who died in 2010, regardless of how wealthy they were, did not have to pay any federal estate taxes.

Effective January 1, 2011, changes were made to provide that if an individual's gross estate at death exceeds \$5 million, the excess will be subject to an estate tax as high as 35%. Alternatively, for estates less than \$5 million, there is no federal estate tax due and owing. The \$5 million threshold and 35% tax rate are in place only for a two year period, expiring December 31, 2012. What happens at that point is for anyone to guess.

The annual gift tax exclusion (the amount that you can give to anyone gift tax free each year), will remain at \$13,000.00 in 2011, or \$26,000.00 for married couples. The lifetime gift tax exclusion was also increased from \$1 million to \$5 million as part of the recent changes.

Other significant changes in tax laws that came into effect on January 1, 2011, through the enactment of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 are as follows:

Gains on the sale of capital assets remain subject to the reduced 15% tax rate. Similarly, dividends will continue to be subject to the attractive 15% tax rate.

The 2010 repeal of the "Pease" limitation remains in effect through 2012. The Pease bill had initially reduced the total amount of a higher-income individual's otherwise allowable itemized deductions, starting at \$169,550.00.

The extension of certain tax-free distributions from individual retirement

accounts (IRAs) for charitable purposes and special rules for contributions of capital gains real property for conservation purposes.

What do all these changes mean for you? First, they should serve as a reminder to meet with your estate planning professional to review the current status of your estate planning documents. Second, with most estates not currently being subject to an onerous federal estate tax, it should provide greater opportunity and flexibility for taxpayers to determine how their estates shall be transferred to their designated heirs and charitable organizations upon death. This may include extra incentives for charitable giving to non-profit organizations with whom the donor has a shared interest.

There are several ways to leave a lasting legacy, each of which can be used to support your favorite organizations, including Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. First, you can leave a gift, also called a bequest, to your favorite charity in your will or revocable living trust. You can leave a specific asset, a specific dollar amount, or, more commonly, a percentage of the residue of your estate and you can change your mind any time should circumstances change.

The second alternative allows you to name your favorite non-profit organization as the beneficiary of a percentage of your IRA or other retirement plan assets. If you are age 70 or older, Congress recently passed legislation that once again allows you to make tax free gifts using funds transferred directly from your IRAs to qualified charities. You can transfer any amount in such a manner up to \$100,000.00 through the end of 2011.

There are numerous other ways to facilitate tax efficient gifts and bequests



to your favorite non-profits, including charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, and other such tax preferential mechanisms. In return for establishing a charitable gift annuity, the beneficiary agrees to make fixed annual payments to the donor for life. Assets that remain after the donor's lifetime help support the programs of a favored charity or non-profit. In today's world, where the recent economic downturn and the resulting federal and state cutbacks have severely impaired the ability of non-profit organizations to fully perform their stated missions, recent changes that have the effect of making charitable gift giving easier and more tax efficient are welcome news to non-profits.

If you wish to learn more about charitable giving, please contact your lawyer or estate planner and visit our website PaParksAndForests.org to see the ways to make a gift to PPFF.

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Dominion Foundation Funds Educational Exhibit



A view of the ATV Trailer purchased with Dominion Foundation Funds.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation extends gratitude to the Dominion Foundation for funding the purchase of an ATV trailer to transport an ATV which was involved in a fatal accident in the Tuscarora Forest District, and to print interpretive panels. Graphics and Design of State College graciously offered to design the interpretive panels, which explain how to be safe while riding an ATV. Additional support for mounting the panels came from the Tuscarora Cabin Owners Association. The ATV is used for public education programs, safety fairs, and exhibit.



The interpretive sign on the trailer focuses on the importance of safety for ATV riders.

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's New Phone App

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation is proud to introduce The Official PA State Parks and Forest mobile App program, for Apple & Google Android Devices, and Mobile website to be unveiled late spring 2011. This application was created by the PPFF in partnership with Pennsylvania's Bureaus of State Parks and Forestry, and ParksbyNature Network of New York.

With the rising use of Smartphones throughout the US, we jumped on the opportunity to use this technology to better connect with our patrons and to deliver a multi-faceted visitor experience. Through the ease and convenience of a Smartphone, users can access information about where to swim, where to hike, and where to fish in any of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. Of course, these are just a few of the many activities visitors can enjoy.



Planning on an overnight stay? Check for availability and reserve campsites via your mobile device. Go ahead and use the App to view campground maps in advance to help choose that perfect spot. The application also has the capability to supply trail users GPS location based info, present news in real-time, provide captioning, and it has easy to use features for the disabled. We even made it easy to share the news of all the fun by using the App's social networking feature, which enables park visitors to invite friends and family to join in on any of the outdoor activities that are available in our State.

This Official PA State Parks and Forest mobile program will be launching sometime in spring through the Apple App Store and Android market. Download the App and help support our conservation initiative by eliminating the need for printed material.

Explore the App, stay connected to PPFF and explore Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests like never before. Both the free and upgraded version of the App will support improvements in state parks and Forests.



Due to a printing problem with the Fall 2010 Penn's Stewards, the photographs that accompanied the story *Choosing to Stay Active* did not print well. Please accept our apologies. Here are the pictures from that article.

Top: Phil McGrath at work at French Creek State Park.

Left: Phil with his wife Jane, son Diller (12) and son Tyler (16).

Pets are allowed into all of Pennsylvania's State Parks as long as they are on a leash of 6' or less.



Jeff Jaeger

Lucas Jaeger and his pet german shepherd walking in Caledonia State Park.

Hiking With Your Dog

Looking to escape your hometown haunts for a wilderness hike? Don't forget your pooch! Dogs love to explore our vast natural resources as much as their two-legged counterparts—not to mention, hiking is great exercise for all. But remember, a hiking trail isn't your average walk around the block.

It's best to leave the flexi-leads at home, otherwise, you'll probably spend more time untangling your dog's leash from trees and brush than you will enjoying your walk! State Parks require a leash of 6' or under.

If your pup is the trustworthy sort and you want to give him the opportunity to enjoy some untethered time on your hike, first make sure that dogs are allowed to be off-leash in the area you're exploring. Second, be sure that he responds reliably to your recall command—even the most obedient dog might bolt after some fascinating new critter.

Some people get very nervous around unleashed dogs. As a courtesy, have a leash on standby to clip to your dog when encountering other hikers.

Always make sure that your current contact information, including your cell phone number, is attached to your dog's collar or body harness.

You never know what you may encounter on a hike—so before setting out into the wilderness, check your pet's veterinary records and make sure his vaccinations are up-to-date.

Article adapted from: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/pet-care-tips/hiking-safety-tips.html>



TRAINING TIP: Teach your dog to come to you for treats whenever you pass by other hikers, especially if they also have dogs. Your dog will learn to not interfere with passersby, and at the same time, you're ensuring he associates new people and dogs with good things, like tasty treats from you.

If a poop falls in the woods and no one else sees it, do you get a free pass? **NO!** Please have respect for your surroundings, native wildlife and fellow hikers by scooping up after your dog and toting the baggie back to civilization.

Both of you need to stay hydrated, so bring enough water for two. Don't allow your pup to drink from puddles, ponds, lakes or streams—in other words, “nature's dog bowls”—as they may contain nasty parasites or toxins.

Camping Green

What is “Green” Camping? “Green” camping is sustainable recreation, or recreation with the environment not only in view, but also in mind. Camping seems like a very safe, environmentally sound activity. In many ways, it is. However, certain actions and the use of certain products diminish camping's friendliness to the planet and thus to our park and forest resources. Simple changes in habit and equipment can protect the truly magical experiences camping brings.

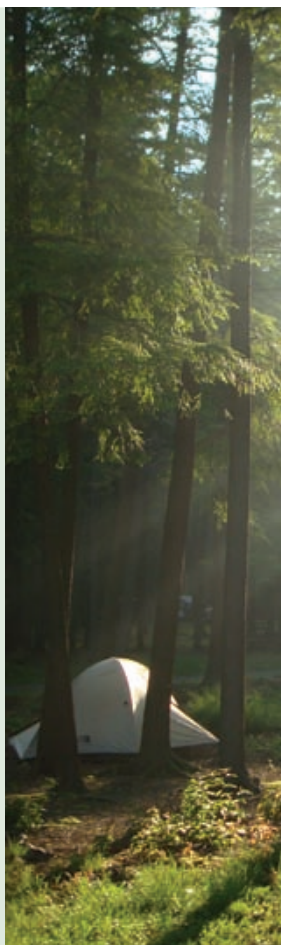
Why a “Green” Campsite? People camp to reconnect with nature, relax and simply get away. They value bird songs, the shade of trees and the brilliance of starlit nights. However, if we are not mindful in our actions, are we sure that there will always be a place to get away to?

This is why Pennsylvania State Parks created the green campsite. State Parks wanted to show our guests that we all have a role in protecting our commonwealth's natural resources. Protecting the environment doesn't end at our homes' threshold, but continues in everything we do, even recreation. Change one or two things about your camping experience and in return, make a positive impact on the campground, the park, and our natural resources.

Adapted from DCNR's *Camping Green* fact sheet, written by Chris Kemmerer. For more information about the green campsite contact: Chris Kemmerer, 771.425.5330 or cbkemmerer@state.pa.us. Visit dcmr.state.pa.us for more information about state parks.

GREEN CAMPING TIPS:

- Bring along hot dog sticks instead of breaking off tree branches. Set your lantern on the table instead of putting a nail in a tree. These actions all help to protect our trees and shaded campsites.
- Use local firewood instead of bringing it with you so unwanted invasive pests don't hitch a ride.
- Keep campfires in their rings or use a cook stove.
- Use re-useable plates instead of paper or Styrofoam.
- Bring along re-useable water bottles. If you use bottled water, make sure to recycle the bottles.
- Avoid dumping soapy water on plants. Soap could kill plant life.
- Use biodegradable camp suds for dishes and your body.
- Recycle aluminum cans rather than burning them.
- Dispose of trash in proper receptacles or take it with you to recycle at home.
- Leave behind any plants, fossils, flowers or other objects that you find.
- Never feed wildlife.
- When not in a campground, pick a campsite that is already established, more than 200 feet from a water source, and keeps off trails and plants as much as possible.



Marci Mowery

To find an up-to-date calendar of events in state parks and forests, visit our website www.PaParksAndForests.org, and DCNR's website www.dcnr.state.pa.us for ideas to explore PA's outdoors. You can choose an activity, explore the Get Outdoors listings, browse the calendar of events, get recreation tips, and make a reservation all in one place!

CALENDAR of Events

APRIL 9: BARKS ALONG THE BOULEVARD Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center

Hike the forest trails with your furry best friend. Nolde staff will provide seasonal points of interest along the hike. One dog per adult hiker, dogs must be on leash. Medium difficulty — 2 miles. Second Saturday of the month; January through May. Meet in Mansion parking area.

Contact the Center office at 610-796-3699 for more information.

1

APRIL 17:

2 PINK FULL MOON WATCH Black Moshannon State Park

Watch the Pink Full Moon rise above the lake. Enjoy snacks and drinks around a campfire and find out why April's full moon is called the Pink Full Moon. Discover what the moon is called during other months. Meet at Boat Launch #2 on West Side Road. Fee: \$3 per person.

Contact the park office at 814-342-5960 or email blackmoshannon@state.pa.us.

3 APRIL 23: EASTER EGG HUNT Keystone State Park

The Friends of Keystone know that no child can resist an Easter Egg Hunt (and neither can their parents!).

Contact Pam McQuistan at 724-668-2566 (kpnature@kb.net) for more information and specifics.

APRIL 26: WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

Visit our website for additional information PaParksAndForests.org

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5

MAY 3: PPFF'S 5TH ANNUAL PARK AND FOREST AWARDS BANQUET Harrisburg, PA

Visit PaParksAndForests.org to register.

MAY 7-8:

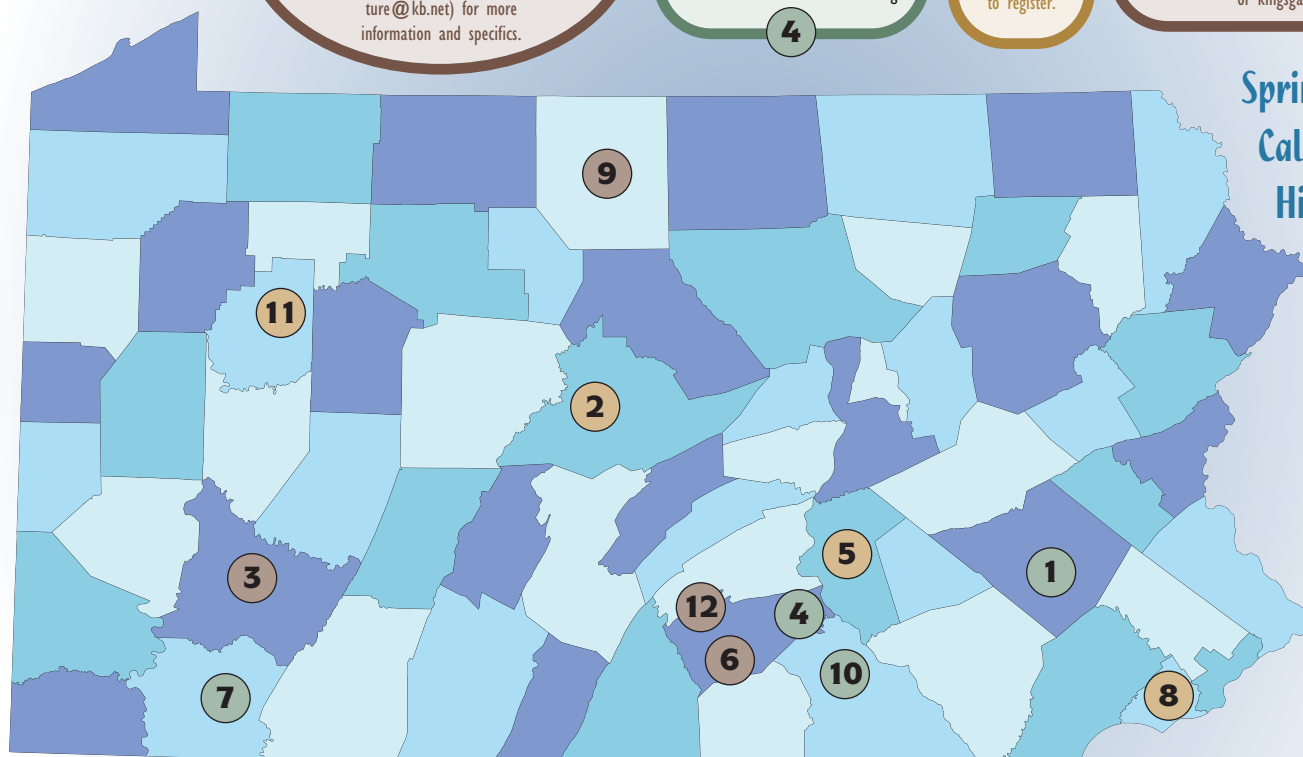
SPRING GARDEN & NATIVE PLANT SALE

Kings Gap Environmental Education Center

Looking for native additions to your landscape or that perfect Mothers' Day gift? There'll be lots of irresistible plant choices to tempt you, from both a local native plant nursery and the Kings Gap garden. On Saturday, the Cumberland County Master Gardeners will also provide answers to your gardening questions. Proceeds benefit the Kings Gap Mansion Garden. Note: The plant sales area will not open before 10:00 am. Plant Sale only continues Sunday, May 8 from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

Contact the Center at 717-486-3799 or kingsgap@state.pa.us.

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Spring 2011 Calendar Highlights



JUNE 18: VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Colonel
Denning
State Park

Plenty of projects available—help the Friends of Colonel Denning keep our park sparkling. Please bring a bag lunch. All skill levels welcome!

Contact Ryan Donovan at 717.776.5272 or coloneldennings@state.pa.us if you plan to attend. (Other work days: April 23 and May 21)

12

7 MAY 14:
MONTHLY TRAIL DAY
Ohiopyle State Park
Meet at the park office for FO0's monthly work day. Bring snacks, lunch and drinks - tools and plenty of projects provided. New volunteers always welcome in this beautiful park.

Contact Barbara Wallace at eeohiopyle@qcol.net or 814-329-0986. (Other work days: April 9 and June 4)

MAY 15: ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE Ridley Creek State Park

The Friends celebrate with their annual open house.

Contact program chair Carol Rubin at crubin2@comcast.net for more information on the fun to be had.

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9 MAY 27-30: DARK SKY PARTY

Cherry Springs State Park
Sponsored by the Astronomical Society of Harrisburg, the Cherry Springs Star Party is an annual event that provides a great opportunity for participants to enjoy programs provided by experts in the field of Astronomy, and to observe the night sky with other astronomers.

Registration to participate in the star party is required by contacting the Astronomical Society at www.cherrysprings.org.

10 JUNE 5: CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRIATHLON

Gifford Pinchot State Park
This challenging event will begin in the Conewago Day Use Area with a .5 mile inverted triangle swim. Competitors will then complete a road bike course of approximately 18 miles. The race then finishes with a 5K trail run.

Contact Erin Velazquez at 717-671-4000 for more information.

11 JUNE 11-12: FRENCH & INDIAN WAR ENCAMPMENT Cook Forest State Park

This spectacular annual event in the Forest will have you wondering just what century you're in! Visit the park from 10:00 until 6:00 both days for blacksmithing, storytelling, powderhorn creation and, of course, cannons and a "tactical engagement" of the various fighting contingents.



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WANTED: Interested Persons Enthusiastic About our State Parks and Forests

The PPFF is looking to fill at least one vacant position on our board of directors.

The function of the board is to: advise, govern, oversee policy and direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation (PPFF) so as to support the organization's mission and needs. The board advises the foundation, develops policies and procedures, assists in fundraising, promotes the organization, and manages the finances.

Directors serve for three-year terms and are expected to attend four meetings per year as well as sit on committees and attend board/donor functions. *For a full position description, contact Marci Mowery at mmowery-ppff@pa.net.*

We also have several committees in which we are looking for non-board members to assist us with their knowledge and expertise. These committees include: fundraising, friends groups, events, marketing/public relations, public policy, corporate giving, membership, and business advisory board. *Interested individuals should contact Marci Mowery at mmowery-ppff@pa.net.*



Join
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- ☐ Friend.....\$20 (student/senior),
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- ☐ Supporter.....\$100-\$249
- ☐ Protector.....\$250-\$499
- ☐ Caretaker.....\$500-\$999
- ☐ Guardian.....\$1000-\$2499
- ☐ Legacy.....\$2500+

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

☐ Employee matching gift? Enclose paper work.

Make checks payable to PPFF and mail along with this form to:

PPFF, 105 North Front St, Suite 305, Harrisburg, PA 17101

www.PaParksAndForests.org

or join
online at

