

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation • Summer 2010



Visitors enjoying the trail at Locust Lake State Park.

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Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 236-7644

www.PaParksAndForests.org

Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge

Get outdoors on behalf of state parks and state forests by participating in the **Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge!** Joining is easy—take part in one of many events across the commonwealth, or create your own.

The **Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge (GPOC)** brings together individuals, businesses, outfitters, organizations and corporations who understand the value of public lands. Between **September 10th** and **October 10th, 2010**, help us to virtually hike, bike, walk, swim, ride, or paddle the approximately 30,000 miles of trails in Pennsylvania.

When you participate, you make the world a better place for our children.

GPOC is a simple, yet powerful way to help create a park and forest system for future generations. GPOC serves as both a means by which we recreate in the outdoors, while showcasing both our support for our park and forests system and the diversity of recreational opportunities available in Pennsylvania. It demonstrates a commitment to health through action and citizen involvement in our public lands. *Show your support today—take part in the Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge.*

Be there. You can make difference!

Your participation is vital to the success of this event. Your activities demonstrate your commitment to our state-owned lands. The funds you raise enable projects to occur that might not otherwise take place.

Every event in which you participate, every time you wear your bandanna, every dollar



you raise not only supports our work in parks and forests, but you show—in the most visible way possible—how vital our park and forest resources are to all.

Benefits of the Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge

- **Builds Community**—Meet like-minded individuals as you participate in GPOC events across the commonwealth. Not participating in event? No problem! Just by doing what you do every day...walking the dog, jogging, strolling through your community park, you demonstrate your commitment to outdoor recreation and personal health.

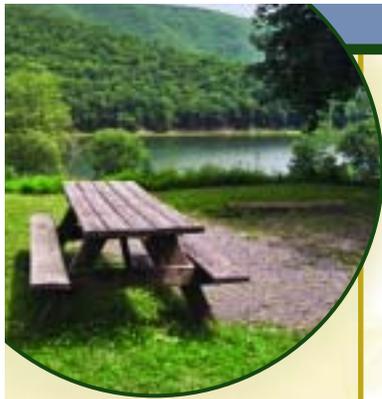
- **Is an Individual Challenge**—Create the challenge that is appropriate for you—try new things, or help introduce other people to the activities that you most love.

- **Is Good for Your Health**—In a recent study of state park users, visitors cited having fun, reducing stress and anxiety, and connecting to the outdoors as key reasons for their state park visit.

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President's Message

Marci Mowery



Kettle Creek State Park

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Wow! Where did the summer go? I hope you had a chance to get out and enjoy our state parks and forests. I'm trying to visit all 117 state parks and 20 forest districts, so my summer has been great! Just this week I visited two new parks...Tuscarora and Locust Lake. We camped at Locust Lake and enjoyed the beach and lake at Tuscarora. These parks are within 6-miles of each other, so it was easy to combine visits to both.

This summer newsletter is going to be brief on news (we know you have been following our Gold Medal Tour on our webpage and Facebook, right?), and big on the Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge. This is the third year of the Challenge, and we hope to make this one the best yet!

This is the third year of the Challenge, and we hope to make this one the best yet!

We have added a canine category because we know you love your dogs (as do we!). In fact, Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are so pet-friendly that we are having a canine photo contest in cooperation with our *Bark in the Park* event scheduled for October 2nd, at Colonel Denning State Park.

Visit our website, call or email us for a copy of the Dogs in the Outdoors Photo Contest rules.

There are many ways in which you can get involved in the Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge. Read on to learn more about what we have been doing this summer and to take the challenge!

Yours in the Outdoors!
Marci

Welcome New Board Members!



Andrew J. Mowen, Ph.D.

Dr. Mowen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management at The Pennsylvania State University. He studies the role of parks in shaping healthy lifestyles and has written a white paper for the United States National Physical Activity Plan as well as a research synthesis on parks, playgrounds and active living for Active Living Research. Dr. Mowen currently serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration and is a member of the Research Advisory Committee for the National Recreation and Park Association. He has a passion for the outdoors and is an avid bicyclist and hunter.



Gary Smith

Gary has joined the board at precisely the right time – to assume the treasurer's duties from long-time board member Bob Griffith. But stepping up to the plate is something Gary does quite well. Recently retired from DCNR, where he served the Bureau of State Parks for 35 years, Gary has been filling a vital role as a volunteer courier for the National Bone Marrow Donor Program for the past 7 years. In retirement Gary's putting his bike expertise to work leading tours for several outfitters and nonprofits across the commonwealth. As a matter of fact, as of this writing he's out leading a trip so we put together a bio for him. Gary, if we messed anything up you can correct it when you return!



Rob Wonderling

new Board Chair
Rob Wonderling is the President and

Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, a 5,000-member business advocacy organization that promotes growth and economic development in the 11-county region of eastern Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the Chamber in August 2009, he served in the Pennsylvania State Senate from 2002 to 2009 where he was Chairman of the Transportation Committee.

Rob received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Allegheny College in 1984 and a Master's degree in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991. He has been serving on the PPF Board of Directors since 2005 and was appointed Chair in July of this year.

Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge

Dogs in the Outdoors Photo Contest

Does your pup love the outdoors as much as you do? Prove it! Snap his or her picture and submit it to the PPFF Dogs in the Outdoors Photo Contest. This is a great way to showcase both your work and our wonderful state parks and forests.

Visitors to our **Great PA Outdoor Challenge Bark in the Park** event at Colonel Denning State Park on October 2nd will be our judges. Each penny donated to a particular photo counts as one vote for a people's choice award.

There will be 3 different categories and 3 placements from each category will be awarded, with the Best of the Best being chosen from the top winner in each category. The Best of the Best will be printed on the cover of our fall newsletter. The top 3 winners in each category will be featured on our website and Facebook pages.

*Join us on October 2nd for our
Bark in the Park event
at Colonel Denning State Park.*

Please visit our website www.PaParksAndForests.org for official guidelines prior to entering the contest.

continued from front cover

- **Is Good for the Economy**—PSU's Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management recently looked at the economic impact of Pennsylvania's state parks and discovered some astonishing facts as of 2008. Pennsylvania's state parks hosted 33.6 million visitors who directly spent \$738 million on their trips — an average of \$22 per person per visit. All that spending meant jobs for our friends and neighbors - 10,551 jobs, in fact. And talk about capital gains - for every tax-payer dollar invested in state parks, \$7.62 of income (value added) is returned to Pennsylvania.

- **Is Good for Your Dog**—This year, we have added a new category—Puppy and Me—to accommodate our four legged friends (of any age) and their humans. Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are canine-friendly, and we are celebrating the beauty of being outdoors with our pups. All proceeds support developing dog friendly areas in state parks and state forests. Track those miles you log on a daily basis and benefit state parks and state forests! Both you and your dog will receive a bandanna!

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Become a PPF Ambassador for Parks and Forests

All participants who raise \$1,000 or more will be listed as Park and Forest Ambassadors. All Ambassadors receive a complimentary invitation to the 2011 PPF awards banquet.

Premiums and Prizes Available to Individuals

All registrants receive the 2010 GPOC bandanna – a wearable checklist of the parks and forests. Visit one, check it off. (That doesn't mean you can't go back and visit again!)

For every \$100 that you raise, your name will be entered into a prize drawing for great gifts from our outfitter friends and sponsors!

- \$125—receive a GPOC t-shirt (*You'll do it—give us your size*)
- \$250—receive a GPOC t-shirt and a PPF hat
- \$500 and \$999—receive a gift basket of PA preferred products, a GPOC shirt and hat!
- \$1000 and \$2,499—receive a gift card for a weekend of camping in a Pennsylvania state park, plus your hat and t-shirt
- \$2500-\$4999—lifetime membership to PPF, gift card for a weekend cabin rental in a state park, hat, t-shirt
- \$5,000+ —lifetime membership to PPF, gift card for a weekend at the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle, hat, t-shirt

Mileage Champions

In addition to our fundraising champions, the person (both adult and youth) who covers the **most miles will receive an engraved plaque**, a state park gift card for a weekend of camping, and a complimentary invitation to the 2011 PPF banquet.

In 2009, high miles in the youth category was 14-year old Savanna Lenker with 43 miles. Our top five adult mileages were: Jerry Walls—230 miles, Stephanie Strub—173.5 miles, Douglas Turner—131 miles, Gail Schlichtkrull—128 miles, Jessica Strand—124.8.

Puppy and Me

For every 25 miles walked, your canine friend of any age will be entered into a prize drawing.



Coins For Conservation at Metro Bank

As part of the GPOC, you can bring your loose change to any Metro Bank and say you would like it to be donated to Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.

Get started today! Here's how—

1) **Register online** at www.active.com/donate/gpoc2010 or by mail using the form on page 7. Online registrants receive a free personal fundraising web page where you can tout your accomplishments and enlist the help of your friends and family in meeting your mileage and/or fundraising goals. You'll receive a welcome letter with ideas on how to make your challenge a success and, of course, your official Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge bandanna.

2) **Set a fundraising goal** and decide where you would like the money to go.

3) **Set a mileage goal.** Raise funds online or use the attached fundraising collection form. Track your miles by downloading the mile tracker from our website, or request an electronic version. Ask friends, family members, coworkers and people with whom you do business to make a contribution. Remind them that every dollar stays right here in Pennsylvania to make our parks and forests even better!

4) **Build a Team!** Gather your friends, coworkers, family and outdoor club members and form a GPOC team! Be creative! Have fun! Build awareness about your favorite park or forest or activity while raising funds to make improvements. Teams must consist of at least three persons. The top fundraising and mileage teams will each receive an engraved plaque. There will also be prizes for the wackiest event and the best team shirts (take lots of pictures!).

Be sure team members collect individual contributions either on line or in person. Make your events fun. Use the month to promote parks and forests, offer health tips, and provide incentives to get outdoors. If your company has a matching gifts program, see if they will match what the team raises!

GPOC Event and Prize Sponsors (to date)

- Wilderness Voyageurs
- Recreation Equipment, Inc. (REI)
- Blue Mountain Outfitters
- Shank's Mare Outfitters
- Whitewater Challengers



9/11/2010

Keystone Trails Association: Susquehanna Super Hike
Otter Creek Campground, 1101 Furnace Road, Airville, PA 17302
\$75/person < 9/3/10 \$90/person on Race Day
Contact: Curt Ashtenfelder, ktahike@verizon.net

Delaware Canal State Park: Delaware River Guided Paddle*
Fish & Boat River Access, PA Route 32/River Road,
Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972
\$15/person
Contact Sarah Berg at (610) 982-0161 or sberg@state.pa.us
for more information.

9/12/2010

Raccoon Creek State Park: WHO Hiking Series
Raccoon Creek State Park, 3000 State Route 18,
Hookstown, PA 15050
Visit the Activities/Events page of the Friends' website: www.friendsofraccoon.com/
for complete directions to the trailhead and other details.

Ralph Stover State Park: Rock Climbing*
Ralph Stover State Park, High Rocks Overlook, Tory Road,
Pipersville, PA 18947
\$10/person or \$30/family (up to five)
Contact Sarah Berg at (610) 982-0161 or sberg@state.pa.us for information.

9/13/2010

**South Mountain Audubon Society:
History of the PA State Parks & Forests**
Adams County Agricultural & Natural Resources Center,
670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325
Contact SMAS Chair Deb Siefken at siefkend@embarqmail.com.

9/15/2010

**Kings Gap Environmental Education Center:
Wednesday Hike for the Work Weary***
Kings Gap Environmental Education Center, 500 Kings Gap Road,
Carlisle, PA 17015
Contact the Park Office at (717) 486-3799 for more information.

9/18 - 9/19/2010

Peddle and Paddle Challenge — Whitewater Challengers
Whitewater Challengers will donate 50% of the registration
fee to PPFF
Contact <http://www.whitewaterchallengers.com/lehigh/lehigh-whitewater.asp>

9/18/2010

Pinchot State Park: Race for Their Lives
Pinchot State Park, 2200 Rosstown Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339
\$25/person < 9/13/10 \$30/person on Race Day
Visit <http://furryfriendsnetwork.com/> for more information.

Appalachian Audubon Society: Fall Native Plant Sale
Meadowood Nursery, 24 Meadowood Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036
Visit the Appalachian Audubon website at <http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/>

Moraine State Park: Evening Kayak Tour*
Moraine State Park, 225 Pleasant Valley Rd., Portersville, PA 16051
To reserve a park kayak call the Moraine office at (724) 368-8811.

Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens: Hike in the Barrens
Goat Hill Plant Sanctuary Parking Lot, Red Pump Road,
Nottingham, PA 19362
Contact Mike Bertram, the2nomads@verizon.net

9/19/2010

**Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center:
Monarch Madness***
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, 835 Jacobsburg
Road, Wind Gap 18091
Contact Rick Wiltraut at (610) 746-2810 rwiltraut@state.pa.us

Ryerson Station State Park: Tails on Trails
Contact Ryerson Station Park Office: 724-428-4254 for information.

**Wilderness Voyageurs — Bike Rentals
on the Great Allegheny Passage**
50% of all rental sales go to PPFF
Contact Eric Martin at eric@wilderness-voyageurs.com for more information.



Do you want to compete
in the Great Pennsylvania
Outdoor Challenge
but need help finding
things to do?

Listed is a *sampling* of outdoor hikes
and activities around the state during
the GPOC. Please use the contacts
listed or visit PaParksAndForests.org
for more details and additional events.

9/22/2010

**Lycoming Audubon Society:
History of the PA State Parks & Forests**
Little League Baseball Complex, Dining/Recreation Hall,
Fairmont Avenue, South Williamsport, PA 17702
Visit the Lycoming Audubon website at <http://www.lycoming.org/audubon>.

9/23/2010

Worlds End State Park: A Walk in the Park with PPFF
Worlds End State Park, Forksville, PA 18616
Contact Pam Metzger at pmetzger-ppff@pa.net for more information.

Mt. Pisgah State Park: A Walk in the Park with PPFF
Mt. Pisgah State Park, Wallace Road, Troy, PA 16947
Contact Pam Metzger at pmetzger-ppff@pa.net for more information.

9/24/2010

Hills Creek State Park: A Walk in the Park with PPFF
Hills Creek State Park, 111 Spillway Road, Wellsboro, PA 16901
Contact Pam Metzger at pmetzger-ppff@pa.net for more information.

9/25/2010

Laurel Hill State Park: National Public Lands Day
Laurel Hill State Park, 1454 Laurel Hill Park Road,
Somerset, PA 15501
REGISTRATION REQUIRED by 9/22/10. Please call (814) 352-8649.

Black Moshannon State Park: Public Lands Day
Black Moshannon State Park, 4216 Beaver Road,
Philipsburg, PA 16866
Pre-registration is required. Contact: Park Office at (814) 342-5960.

Colonel Denning State Park: Volunteer Work Day
Colonel Denning State Park, 1599 Doubling Gap Road,
Newville, PA 17241
Contact: Judi Fasick at (717) 567.2013 or fasick@embarqmail.com.
Additional contact: Ryan Donovan at the park office (717) 776.5272
or rdonovan@state.pa.us.

Yellow Creek State Park: Septemberfest
Yellow Creek State Park, 170 Route 259, Penn Run, PA 15765
Visit www.foyc.org to watch the details develop!

**Ryerson Station State Park: Friends of
Ryerson Park Cleanup**
Contact Ryerson Station Park Office: 724-428-4254 for information.

9/25/2010 *continued*

**Kings Gap Environmental Education Center:
National Public Lands Day**
Kings Gap Environmental Education Center, 500 Kings Gap Rd.,
Carlisle, PA 17015
Participants must be 12 years or older. Pre-registration for the program
is required by Sept. 22 — (717) 486-3799 or kingsgapsp@state.pa.us.

**Promised Land State Park:
National Public Lands Day Clean-Up**
Promised Land State Park, 100 Lower Lake Road,
Greentown, PA 18426
Contact (570) 676-0576 or email PromisedLandEnvEdSP@state.pa.us

Keystone State Park: Rolling Skills Workshop*
Keystone State Park, 1150 Keystone State Park Road,
Derry, PA 15627
\$60/person with equipment; \$45/person with your own equipment
Contact Ekursion (412) 372-7030

French Creek State Park: ADA Accessible Hike
French Creek State Park, 843 Park Road, Elverson, PA 19520
For more information, contact Phil at pmcgrath@state.pa.us.

9/26 - 9/27/2010

Pine Creek Rail Trail: Conflloozies on the Pine Creek
On Sunday, Wellsboro Junction Trailhead; on Monday, Hotel Manor in Slate Run
Contact Pam Metzger at pmetzger-ppff@pa.net for more information.

9/26/2010

Oswald Cycle Works: Sunday Morning Cycling
Oswald Cycle Works, 7 North Main St., Mansfield, PA 16933
Visit www.oswaldcycleworks.com or call (570) 662-3097 for more information.

Wilderness Voyageurs—Guided Middle Yough Trips
This is a family oriented trip, minimum age 5
\$10 a person donated to PPFF
Contact Eric Martin at eric@wilderness-voyageurs.com for more information.

9/27/2010

**Sinnemahoning State Park:
A Walk in the Park with PPFF**
Sinnemahoning State Park, 8288 First Fork Rd., Austin, PA 16720
Contact Marci Mowery at mmowery-ppff@pa.net for more information

10/2/2010

Colonel Denning State Park: Bark in the Park
Colonel Denning State Park, 1599 Doubling Gap Road,
Newville, PA 17241
For more information, contact PPFF President Marci Mowery at
mmowery-ppff@pa.net for more information.

10/5/2010

**Point State Park: A Ride on the
Great Allegheny Passage with PPFF**
Point State Park, 101 Commonwealth Place,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Contact Pam Metzger at pmetzger-ppff@pa.net for more information.

10/7/2010

Delaware Canal State Park: Canal Dog Walk*
Contact the Park Office at (610) 982-0161.

10/10/2010

Pine Grove Furnace State Park: Bicycle Tour
Pine Grove Furnace State Park, 1100 Pine Grove Road,
Gardners, PA 17324
Contact Gavin Smith at (717) 486-7174 or
pinegrovefurnaceceepgrams@state.pa.us.

* Events from Get Outdoors PA, a program of DCNR. Please visit their
website <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/getoutdoorspa/index.html> to view
DCNR's Calendar of Events specifically for GOPA.

Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge Registration Form



I am registering as:

- Individual — \$25
- Family — \$50
- Puppy and Me — \$30
- Student — \$10
- Team — \$25 per member

I am unable to participate, but please accept my contribution of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

T-shirt size: _____ Dog Size (if appropriate): small medium large X-large

Team (if appropriate): _____

I want my registration to go to:

- Work of PPF
- My favorite state park (list) _____
- My favorite state forest (list) _____
- Friends Group (list) _____
- Preservation of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) structures
- Where most needed
- Trails
- Playgrounds
- Environmental education
- Invasive plant control/native plantings
- Being a voice for state parks and state forests
- Other (list) _____

Note: 15% of all funds donated to categories will be retained by PPF for managing the funds and covering operation costs. Active Network retains 6.5% as a usage fee. Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization - contributions to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. The official registration and financial information of the PA Parks and Forests Foundation may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Waiver Form *Everyone participating must sign*

I assume all risk of participation. I, for myself and my child or ward (the Participant) consent to participation in the Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge, including internet-based online activities to benefit the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (the Event).

Participant agrees to the use of his/her name and photographs in broadcasts, newspapers, brochures and web based media.

Participant acknowledges that he/she is physically fit to participate in the GPOC and its associated activities. Participant acknowledges that there is inherent danger in outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, disc golf and accepts these risks.

Participants agree not to sue, to forever release, indemnify and defend PPF, the parks and forests where the events take place, or state or local government, sponsor, or any entity connected with the event and their affiliates, officers, directors, volunteers, and employees (Released Parties). All are held harmless from claims, actions, liabilities of any type, whether it results from any negligent act or failure to act by the Released Parties (including but not limited to damages for personal injury or death), that arises from participation in the Event.

PPFF does not sell, rent or loan any personally identifiable information to anyone not acting on its behalf. If any provision of this Agreement is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall not be enforced.

PARTICIPANTS UNDER AGE 18 CANNOT SIGN THIS FORM; ONLY THEIR PARENT OR GUARDIAN MAY SIGN ON THEIR BEHALF.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

State Park and Forest Enthusiasts

By Ellen Zeph



World's End State Park

The Zitrick's Top Five Parks and Favorite Features

Hickory Run

The boulder field and the one-way road from the group tenting area to the main road because it takes you through wild and beautiful woods and over a stream that is just a delight to drive.

World's End

The extreme ruggedness of the gorge and majesty of Loyalsock Vista.

Ravensburg

The beautiful towering coniferous trees and the trail that leads along the creek.

Parker Dam

You name it, this park has it, plus a great nature center attached to the park office.

Mt. Pisgah

Superior in the autumn, a nice pool and great lake. It's extremely quiet and restful.

The Zitrick's Top Five Ice Cream Shops

Heisler's Cloverleaf Dairy Store

743 Catawissa Road, Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, PA - near Locust Lake and Tamaqua State Parks

Manning Farm Dairy

State Route 4003, Manning Road, one mile from Exit 199 (PA Route 524 west) on I-81, Dalton, Lackawanna County, PA - near Lackawanna State Park

Dreamers on US Rt. 15

Port Trevorton, Snyder County, PA - not far from Shikellamy State Park

Kerber's Dairy Store

1856 Guffy Road, North Huntingdon, Westmoreland County, PA

The Creamery on the campus of Penn State University
University Park, Centre County, PA

How many state parks and forests have you visited? Five, ten? Well meet Rich and Suzie Zitrick. With their two dogs in tow, they have visited all 117 of our state parks, and nearly all the state forests—not only once—but soon to be twice! What got them started? They saw a show on PBS about US Route 6 being one of the country's most scenic drives and were curious. So one day while on that journey, they decided to stop for a picnic at Mt. Pisgah State Park. "We got hooked!" says Rich.

What compelled them to do this? Not that anyone needs an excuse to visit any of our award-winning parks, but I was curious and they agreed to meet me at Pinchot State Park in York County one day in July. They brought a sampling of some of the 30 photo albums and notebooks, which document their travels. As one could imagine, they've amassed quite a photo collection. "We take a picture of ourselves and the dogs at the park entrance sign every time we visit," said Suzie. Rich said the park sign photos evolved in stages. "Once we decided to visit them all, we figured a picture by the sign would be a nice piece of evidence that we were actually there." They also started to do a short write-up after each visit detailing what they did, and what new things they discovered.

I realized that they were wearing matching shirts in almost all the park sign photos they'd sent me and asked about this. "Up through 2003, the 'sign' photos were almost always of Suzie and the dogs, with me taking the picture." In 2004, the purchase of a tripod allowed them all to be in the photo. Rich said he had begun to wear what he calls his "state parking" shirt - a Lands' End blue and white striped shirt. When he started appearing in the sign photos, he was always wearing this same shirt. Rich said, this bothered Suzie. "I couldn't understand her consternation. After all, it's my state park shirt. You can see who won that argument." So he retired the shirt and from then on, they have worn matching shirts. Even the dogs got into the act wearing bandannas that matched the color of the Zitrick's shirts.

Rich's photos are beautiful and a wonderful documentation of all that is so spectacular about our parks and forests. They have taken

many gorgeous scenic and vista shots in a variety of seasons which makes you realize that you don't have to go too far to experience the fact that an amazing amount of "wildness" still exists here in Pennsylvania.

Of course I had to ask if they have a favorite state park. "People often ask that," says Rich. "The stock answer of 'the last one we visited' is not far off the mark. We do have favorites though, depending on the activity in which one wishes to engage."

It's been twelve years since they began their first tour of parks. What began as a picnic stop at Mt. Pisgah State Park has turned into an adventure. They don't know exactly what they will encounter, but know that different scenes and experiences, in different seasons, awaits their discovery. Now before they visit a park or forest, they check the write-up from the last time they were there which includes reminders of things to do on their next visit.

Then armed with a camera, a picnic basket, and the family dog (they are now down to one), they rise with the sun and are off on that day's adventure. They do not mind driving three or four hours each way for their park jaunt. Rich is from Long Island, NY and recalled that his Dad was a "point A to point B" traveler, and did not generally stop along the way. Rich says their first trips to state parks were like that - get there, enjoy the park, come home.

Now, their forays are not so much about the destination, but the journey. They never get upset if they take a wrong turn or get lost, they always discover new things.



Rich and Suzie Zitrick



Rich Zitrack

Suzie stands in the famous boulder field at Hickory Run State Park.

They find exploring the state parks and forests has become a way to explore the state, allowing them to discover treasures along the way, even starting a list of the best ice cream shops! Now, instead of driving by a sign pointing to a potentially interesting destination, their curiosity guides them to these side discoveries.

Sometimes they are amused, as in the case of a drive home from Sizerville State Park when they found themselves in the midst of the Flaming Fall Foliage Festival parade. They had to dovetail into the parade to make the turnoff they needed. People were waving at the dogs and the Zitricks waved back.

They are also becoming familiar to state park staff. Spotting them recently, one of the park managers declared them “state park groupies” – a title that makes them chuckle. They stop and share photos from the past visits with park staff who enjoy seeing the older photos that show the various changes over the years.

It took six years to complete their first tour. Rich estimates they’ve logged between 120,000 and 140,000 miles on their car. They started their “state parking” back in 1998 when they both were still working and their trips were limited to weekends. Now retired, the second tour has taken only four years and will be completed by this fall. Will there be a third? They tell me that they are only 50 parks away from being to every one three times. At their current pace, they figure that would be *just* two years to complete the third tour. There are still things that they have not seen or done. “I guess we won’t stop visiting parks until we have done all the things on our list,” said Rich. They’ve visited some of their favorite parks, like Mt. Pisgah and World’s End for “leaf-peeping” season, at least ten times. I get the feeling that they will keep going back again and again.

While I’ve spent time in a number of our state parks over the years, the Zitricks have inspired me to get back out there and rediscover old favorites and visit new ones. I hope they inspire you to do the same. So, if you see a couple eating a picnic lunch, dressed similarly, with a dog with a matching bandanna, or posing at a park sign for their usual photo, you’ll know it’s the Zitricks out on one of their outings. They’d love to hear about your favorite parks!

Celebration!

We gathered at the Harrisburg Country Club to celebrate the exemplary work being done to protect and enhance our state parks and forests at our 4th annual awards banquet on May 4. The award recipients and attendees were treated to a lovely pre-dinner reception courtesy of Fermata, Inc. Our Emcee, and Board Chair, Rob Wonderling, did a fantastic job recognizing the following award recipients:

Cliff Jones Keystone

Legacy Award – presented to William C. Forrey in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the expansion and improvement of Pennsylvania’s state park system, and his statewide and national leadership supporting and promoting outdoor recreation.

(Award Sponsor – Woolrich, Inc.)



Keystone Legacy Award recipient William Forrey and PPF’s Marci Mowery

Joseph Ibberson Government Award – presented to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Team, DCNR in recognition of their work on the five-year Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan - Pennsylvania Outdoors: The Keystone for Healthy Living. (Award Sponsor – Mr. Joseph Ibberson)

President’s Award – presented to Recreation Equipment, Inc. (REI) in recognition of their outstanding leadership in conservation service work in Pennsylvania state parks and forests, commitment to environmental stewardship practices, and efforts to introduce Pennsylvanians to outdoor recreation.

(Award Sponsor – Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society)

Park of the Year – presented to Nockamixon State Park in recognition of their outstanding work in customer service, education and programming, and their innovative stewardship work to enhance and protect Nockamixon State Park.

(Award Sponsor – Chesapeake Energy)

Forest of the Year – presented to Michaux State Forest in recognition of the innovative and exemplary work accomplished in forest management, community education, and recreation, while balancing a large diversity of visitors and recreational interests. (Award Sponsor – Dominion)

Friends Group Volunteerism Award – presented to Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park in recognition of their hard work, creativity, many special events, and numerous contributions to the enhancement of Prince Gallitzin State Park.

Friends Group Education Award – presented to Friends of Goddard State Park in recognition of their dedication and creativity, outstanding educational support, and innovative programming at M.K. Goddard State Park.

Friends Group Improvement Award – presented to Friends of Ridley Creek State Park in recognition of their outstanding work to combat invasive species, maintain trails and enhance public awareness and stewardship of Ridley Creek State Park. (Award Sponsor - Aqua America)

Please visit www.PaParksAndForests.org to see additional banquet photographs including award winners.

CCC Reflections

By John Eastlake

Camps at Laurel Hill State Park

The pavilion picture shown is one of the 200 structures that the Civilian Conservation Corps built in the late 30's at Laurel Hill State Park. Laurel is Heaven to the CCC fan. The CCC apparently adopted the Adirondack native material architecture which involved utilizing logs and stone in the construction of the various structures. The American chestnut tree began to die around the turn of the century and they were numerous enough to be utilized in the building of the pavilions, the log cabins, and various other log-type structures at the CCC camps. Rocks were always nearby and the CCC stone masons were experts in their use.

There were two CCC camps at Laurel Hill State Park, SP-8 and SP-15. The two camps were only separated by less than half a mile. These may have been the two closest camps in the country. There was a sawmill there which milled the chestnut trees. Chestnut had a beautiful grain and was very rot resistant. The main office at Laurel Hill was built by the CCC boys and is paneled inside with beautiful chestnut lumber.

John Livengood, pictured here, was a CCC boy at the SP-15 camp. John was part of the crew who built the pavilion in this photo. He made a special trip from Somerset to give me a guided tour of his camp. One thing that interested me was the rock water fountain where he is standing. John said that they placed a small rock so that the young kids could get a drink. He also worked at the sawmill. These CCC guys are great! It's always special to be around them, it's always Dueling Banjo time.

Many of the CCC structures throughout our park and forest system are in need of repair. PPF is working to develop an "Adopt a CCC Structure" program which we will have available in time for holiday shopping.



John Livengood helped build this pavilion back in the 1930's.

There are four former CCC boys who volunteer their time at Laurel Hill. They are Shimer Darr, Adolph Semich, Ed Semich and John Livengood. They show kids how to make blue bird houses at the park around the 4th of July. They are also featured in a video on the History of Laurel Hill State Park.

We can't forget the S-99 Kooser camp who developed Kooser State Park. There are numerous CCC structures there also. Ed Semich was a member of this camp. The Laurel Highlands are a special CCC area.



"a park within 25 miles of every Pennsylvanian."



Goddard Legacy Project

As outlined in our Spring 2010 issue of Penn's Stewards, PPF is spearheading the effort to raise money for various programs of **The Goddard Legacy Project** - honoring Maurice "Doc" Goddard's vision and years of service to Pennsylvania.

A documentary is being produced by Harrisburg's public television station WITF and interpretive panels are being installed in 25 parks key to Doc's legacy of "a park within 25 miles of every Pennsylvanian." In September, we will rededicate Wyckoff Run Natural Area as Maurice Goddard Natural Area at Wyckoff Run to honor his work in forestry in Pennsylvania. Our energies are being focused right now on fundraising for placement of historical markers at five locations important in the life of this public servant:

- The Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg
- The trailhead of the Goddard Trail at Willow Park in Camp Hill (his home)
- PSU's campus at Mont Alto
- PSU's main campus in University Park
- M.K. Goddard State Park in Sandy Lake

To participate in this important facet of The Legacy Project, visit our website at www.PaParksandForests.org and click on Doc's picture on the homepage. It'll take you to a downloadable brochure. Or just click "Donate Now" and direct your contribution to the Legacy Project. Thank you!

The Gold Medal on Tour

In a six-week period from the middle of May through the end of June, PPF held press events in 29 parks to show off the national Gold Medal Award presented to the PA State Parks by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association. Appropriately bracketed by the parks named in honor of two giants of the PA conservation movement, Gifford Pinchot and M.K. Goddard, the tour continues this Fall in combination with placement of interpretive panels explaining just how important “Doc” Goddard is to the commonwealth. By the time all is said and done, 36 parks will have been highlighted by PPF.



All the park managers, like Delaware Canal’s Rick Dalton, helped make sure the Tour went off without a hitch.



The schedule wouldn’t permit an event at all 120 state parks— so at 26 parks like White Clay Creek we stopped to express our admiration in other ways.



Staff and Friends of Prince Gallitzin came out to cheer the award. PPF cheers all the park Friends everywhere!



Marci Mowery, Pam Metzger, and “Flat John” enjoy a pontoon boat ride.



Chapman Lake at its namesake state park— if they gave the Gold Medal for beauty, we’d win every year!



Pictured here with the Friends of Pinchot is a key member of the Tour’s entourage, “Flat John”, a cardboard cutout of PA’s magnanimous State Parks Director, John Norbeck. A sense of humor obviously contributes to a well-managed park system!

*By the time all is said and done,
36 parks will have been highlighted by PPF.*

New Perspective

My name is Corey Creek and I am a senior at Shippensburg University. During the last couple of months I have been doing my internship with the PPF. I have spent most of my time working on the State Parks and Forests Passport which is a guide of all the state parks and forests. I have enjoyed working on the passport and contacting the state park and forest staff to get information that could be used. Working on this project, I have learned much and seen how the parks and forests can influence the areas that surround them. Other things that I have worked on during my internship include the upcoming Bark in the Park event and the Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge.

My internship at PPF has been fun while helping me improve my skills. The new skills that I have learned will help me through the rest of my time at Shippensburg and life. I have also enjoyed seeing new places.



Corey Creek and “Flat John” enjoy their hike at Reeds Gap State Park.

Marci Mowery



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We Can Keep 'Growing Greener'



GROWING GREENER, a conservation funding initiative, has transformed Pennsylvania by empowering communities to protect working farms and special places, clean up rivers and streams, create and improve parks and trails, and revitalize cities and towns. After a decade of success, the funding sources that support Growing Greener are nearly gone. To ensure that our communities can continue their work, the commonwealth needs to renew Growing Greener by investing \$200 million annually in vital conservation, restoration and community revitalization projects.

A Legacy of Success: Growing Greener has been hugely successful, directing critical investments to every county in the state. In the past four years alone, Growing Greener has helped people: Protect more than 33,700 acres of Pennsylvania's family farmland; Conserve more than 42,300 acres of threatened open space; Improve public recreation through 234 community park projects; Restore more than 1,600 acres of abandoned mine land. Polls show strong, consistent public support for programs that improve our quality of life, the economy and the environment throughout Pennsylvania. Growing Greener has enjoyed strong, bipartisan support from voters, legislators, and governors for more than a decade.

The Need to Renew Growing Greener: While the success of Growing Greener is undeniable, there is much more left to do to:

- We are losing three times as much forest, wildlife habitat, farmland and other open spaces to development as we are able to conserve.
- Our rivers and streams—and the communities that depend on them—are threatened by flooding and pollution.
- Abandoned mines scar 189,000 acres in 44 counties and are the cause of 5,300 miles of dead streams.
- 58% of the state's population lives in older communities that have an urgent need for investment aimed at improving livability and prosperity: rehabilitating parks, establishing trails, planting trees, renovating waterfronts, and preserving historic places.

Individuals and organizations who wish to sign on to a statement of support can contact the Renew Growing Greener Coalition Director Andrew Heath at aheadh@renewgrowinggreener.org or visit www.renewgrowinggreener.org for more information.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is a member of the Renew Growing Greener Coalition. Source: Renew Growing Greener Fact Sheets

www.renewgrowinggreener.org