

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Fall 2017

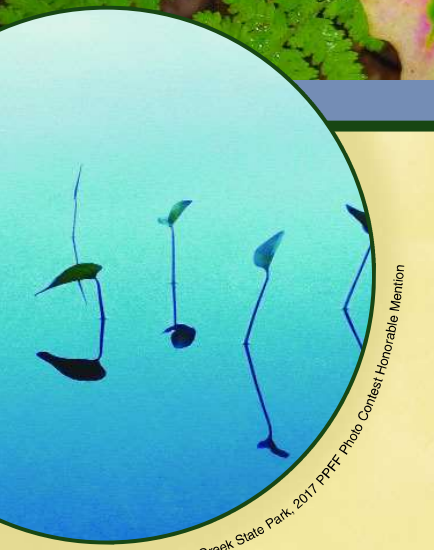


Photo credit: Lilly Zhang, Marsh Creek State Park, 2017 PPFF Photo Contest Honorable Mention

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Take the Scenic Route

Exploring the Back Roads of Pennsylvania's State Parks and Forests

Golden yellows, burnt oranges, and rich reds – nothing signals the beginning of autumn in Pennsylvania more than the sight of billions of leaves changing from green to a dazzling kaleidoscope of colors, magically transforming vistas already breathtakingly beautiful.

Along with the colorful leaves ushering in the fall season, cooler temps beckon us to grab a sweater and hit the road to catch the fall foliage before it's too late. But perhaps Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best with his words of wisdom, "It's the not the destination, it's the journey."

As part of the journey, be open to where the road might lead, try the path less traveled, embrace getting out of the car to read a marker, grab lunch in a small town, or explore a museum.

Plus, the journey doesn't have to end when the last leaf falls off the tree. Any season is a great time to take a leisurely, scenic road trip. In fact, recreational driving is one of the top three outdoor activities enjoyed by Pennsylvanians year round.

The History of Recreational Driving

The popularity of recreational driving began with the introduction of the automobile more than 100 years ago. By the early 1900s cars were becoming a common sight in many cities and towns. With people eager to find new places to go, auto tourism swept the nation, along with the popularity of the "Sunday Drive." Many Americans headed to the countryside, drawn by its scenic beauty and the respite it provided from congested cities.

continued on page 3



Photo credit: Sharon Dobbs



Photo credit: Larry Laird



Photo credit: Tim Garlick, Canoe Creek State Park.
2017 PPFF Photo Contest Honorable Mention

President's Message

Marci Mowery



The open road has always beckoned me, both for its possibilities and its freedom. Be it gravel or paved, I yearn to see what's around the bend and to explore new areas, meet new people.

And I'm not alone. Research for the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan found that scenic driving ranks third in the top 10 ways Pennsylvania residents enjoy spending their time outdoors. Perhaps it's the fact that the journey can be as rewarding as the destination that leads many of our fellow residents to explore the highways, byways, and forest roads of the Commonwealth. Or maybe it's the rich reward of discovering a new picnic spot, a quaint little town, or stopping to catch a glimpse of an elk, bear, or deer.

This issue of Penn's Stewards provides some ideas for exploring Pennsylvania throughout the year, but particularly during our fall leaf-peeping season. We've asked park managers, district foresters, and our readers to offer their favorite drives. We hope they inspire you to not only explore a new area, but to slow down, relax, and let the road be your guide. Enjoy a new restaurant, catch a sunset, or read a historical marker. Don't forget to take your state park and forest passport!

The Bureau of Recreation and Conservation is that arm of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that invests in the things that we like to do in our communities, as well as our state parks and forests. On page 6, you have a chance to meet them, and learn more about how they make Pennsylvania a great place to live, work, and play.

"Research for the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan found that scenic driving ranks third in the top 10 ways Pennsylvania residents enjoy spending their time outdoors."

This summer found me on the road quite a bit, with projects and Friends activities occurring across the state. Perhaps we passed along the way, offering a nod or a smile. You can read about some of the successes that you helped to support in our "You Made it Happen" and "Friends in Action" sections.

Did you know that we created a planned giving section on our website? View the article on page 9 to learn more. Making a planned gift to the Foundation or for a particular park, forest, Friends group, or project, ensures our parks and forests will be here for generations to come.

I would like to end with a note of gratitude for your support during the budget debate. As I write this, the debate is ramping up again. It's motivating to know the passion my fellow outdoor enthusiasts have for our public lands. Let's keep up the good fight!

Yours in the Outdoors,

Marci

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Attention State Employees... Make PPFF Your Charity of Choice!

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is excited to be a part of the State Employees Combined Appeal this year! You can designate PPFF as your charity by choosing #9200-0046.

For more information visit www.PaParksAndForests.org



PENNSYLVANIA
Parks & Forests
FOUNDATION

Take the Scenic Route *continued from front cover*

With this trend came funding and programs for new roads, as well as the idea of creating scenic parkways designed to preserve natural beauty and enhance the driving experience. Thanks to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) (see below), the number of state parks and forests with scenic roads grew by leaps and bounds.

Today, auto tourism continues to be a force in recreational planning within the state parks and forests. According to the Outdoor Industry Association's latest "Outdoor Recreation Economy Report," outdoor recreation, which includes recreational driving, makes a huge impact on the overall U.S. economy, with consumers spending \$887 billion annually on outdoor recreation, which directly supports 7.6 million American jobs and generates \$125 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue. Pennsylvania ranked fifth overall in the nation in terms of the annual economic impact of outdoor recreation.

State Forest Driving

Since the creation of the State Forest Preservation Commission in 1901, the state forest system has expanded to more than 2 million acres of forestland in 48 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Forest roads span thousands of miles offering something for everyone – whether you're looking for peace and solitude, glimpses of wildlife, pieces of history or an adventure.

In Bald Eagle State Forest for example, driving for pleasure is a major outdoor recreational use of the forest, especially for those looking to enjoy the avian opportunities that abound in both the forest and the Bald Eagle State Park. Named for the famous Native American, Chief Bald Eagle, the forest spans across the high, sharp ridges of central Pennsylvania and features miles of pristine mountain streams and numerous tracts of old growth forest. With 340 miles of drivable roads and five designated scenic drives, the forest lends itself to driving adventures. Consider extending your trip by spending a night (or two) at the bird-themed Nature Inn at Bald Eagle, the first of its kind in Pennsylvania state parks.

Or perhaps you hail to the lure of Weiser State Forest, which maintains approximately 27 miles of state forest roads for public driving on the Haldeman, Greenland and Port Clinton tracts. While you're in the area, be sure and check out The Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art in nearby Millersburg, which is named for the well-respected wildlife and outdoors painter and environmental educator Ned Smith (see page 13).

If you like the idea of exploring on your own, but don't want to miss anything, Michaux State Forest is a perfect option thanks to a self-guided

continued on page 4



Photo credit: Jennifer Ingram

Viewing CCC-era Vistas

By John Eastlake



Photo credit: Jim Marshall

From 1933 to 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built many of the trails, roads, and vistas in our state parks and forests. Be sure and stop by state park offices or visitor's centers for a public use map that makes CCC features easier to identify.

Probably, one of the most popular CCC features is the vista at Hyner Run State Park in Clinton County, which offers a location for scenic views – and for watching hang gliders soaring through the air. The CCC boys who built Hyner wouldn't believe their eyes to see someone gliding off their rock wall vista.

Cherry Springs State Park in Potter County, a CCC-built park, has since become popular among astronomers and stargazers for having "some of the darkest night skies on the east coast." Cherry Springs Scenic Drive was established in 1922 and much of the park was built by the CCC during the Great Depression.

The Loyalsock Canyon Vista was developed by the S-95 Worlds End CCC camp and the nearby High Knob Vista was the project of the S-95 Hillsgrove CCC Camp. They were labeled as the Skyline Drive of Pennsylvania. The Cushman Vista along the Cushman Road in southwest Tioga County was developed by the S-90 Cedar Run Camp and affords motorists a spectacular view of the Tioga State Forest.

These are just a few examples of CCC-era vistas to keep an eye out for any time of year.

Take the Scenic Route continued from page 3

automobile trail that takes motorists through a small portion of the 86,000-acre state forest. The 22-mile route, which was built by the Youth Conservation Corps, meanders past two reservoirs, the first wooden fire tower, Dark Hollow Vista, and trail heads to stretch your legs.

you're away from the city, the Laurel Highlands region is a beautiful place to visit at any time of the year. The 68-mile Laurel Highlands Scenic Byway meanders through rolling hillsides and picturesque farmlands to rushing waterfalls and architectural wonders.

Named by National Geographic as "One of America's most scenic drives," U.S. Route 6 in Pennsylvania serves as a necklace of park and forest gems stretching across the state from Milford to Lake Erie's coastline, linking small towns, generations of people and wondrous sights often forgotten.

Scenic Highways and Byways

Have you ever found yourself driving on a highway through Pennsylvania and being awestruck by the beautiful scenery surrounding you? Chances are you were on a scenic byway without even realizing it.

In the early 1990s, Pennsylvania used federal funding to create the Pennsylvania Scenic Byways program. It then underwent a State Scenic Byways study, with four byways created by the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

Today, with 20 such designated roads winding throughout the state, it's only fitting to start by highlighting the Kinzua Scenic Byway in McKean County. A must-see stop along this route is Kinzua Bridge State Park where visitors can "Walk the Tracks across the Sky" to enjoy stunning views of the Kinzua Creek Valley and visit the newly opened visitor center. The viaduct, completed in 1882, was touted as the highest and longest railroad viaduct in the world, until a tornado toppled 11 of the 20 towers in 2003.

Just far enough out of Pittsburgh to make you feel like

Experience a Linear Park

A scenic byway in and of itself, Bucktail State Park is Pennsylvania's only linear driving park. Named in honor of the Bucktails—a famous American Civil War regiment of Woodsmen—the Bucktail State Park Natural Area in Cameron and Clinton counties provides a beautiful 75-mile scenic drive connecting PA 120 from Emporium, through Renovo, to Lock Haven.

This also is the old Sinnemahoning Trail used by American Indians on their way to and from the eastern continental divide between the Susquehanna and Allegheny rivers. Aside from three towns, this remote forested valley (also referred to as Bucktail Canyon) consists of an occasional small village or isolated farm, while meandering along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and Sinnemahoning Creek.

The park, part of the 127-mile Elk Scenic Drive, a picturesque driving tour in the heart of the Pennsylvania Wilds region, includes some of the best places to observe the infamous wild elk herd. In fact, autumn is a particularly good time to hear their bugle call. Worth visiting: the Elk Country Visitor Center and the Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park.



Your Fall Favorites from Facebook!

THANKS FOR POSTING your favorite state park and forest leaf-viewing destinations on our Facebook page.

Let's keep them coming – whether there's a scenic drive or trail we missed or you just want to share, visit us at www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaParksAndForestsFoundation

"Route 30 from Latrobe to Ligonier, then turn off through Rolling Rock and drive through Linn Run to the top of the mountain."

"Route 666 following the Tionesta Creek from Sheffield down into Tionesta, and River Road in beautiful Cook Forest."

"Although it's become much more popular over the years, I still love River Road from Morrisville all the way up through New Hope and 611."



Photo credit: Liz Mickey



Photo credit: George Martin

A worthwhile detour off the Elk Scenic Drive is Wykoff Run Road, which leads explorers to Wykoff Run Natural Area. The scenic road follows Wykoff Run, a well-known trout stream. In fact, several pull-offs allow for streamside viewing and a chance to enjoy the sound of babbling water.

Water Routes

Speaking of scenic streams, exploring Pennsylvania's back roads wouldn't be complete without cruising along one of our state's many refreshing waterways.

Follow America's "North Coast" on the Great Lakes Seaway Trail where recreation and history abound. Although it might be a little too chilly for swimming there's plenty to make it worthwhile, including glorious sunsets, walks along miles of unfettered surf beaches, breathtaking views of Lake Erie and Presque Isle State Park, and historic sites that tell

stories of the War of 1812. Before leaving, check out the interactive Tom Ridge Environmental Center to feel, see, and hear the wonders of the natural world.

Once called the "River of Pine" by the Iroquois Indians, Pine Creek runs from Potter County just southeast of Ulysses and ends at the Susquehanna River near the small town of

Jersey Shore and covers over 80 miles. Offering a more condensed route of the scenic waterway, the 42-mile Pine Creek Valley Scenic Drive runs up the acclaimed Pine Creek Valley, crisscrosses Pine Creek, and pays visits to quiet villages, creek accesses, prized trailheads, and state parks. The infamous Leonard Harrison and Colton Point state parks provide vistas from which to observe Pine Creek.



Presque Isle State Park

Photo credit: Patricia Oldfield

Road Trip Ready! 5 Tips to Make the Most of Your Scenic Drive

1. Don't Forget Your Passport!

Your Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation State Park and Forest Passport, that is!

2. Plan Ahead

With many scenic drives offering so much to see and do along the way, it might be a good idea to plan an extended stay.

3. Stop the Car

A road trip doesn't mean stay in the car – especially with so many overlooks and wildlife viewing areas to explore.

4. Find a Friend!

Across Pennsylvania, there are Friends Groups working hard – check out our Calendar of Events.

5. Can You Hear me Now?

Last but not least, be prepared for emergencies, as many of the remote areas of the state have no cellular reception.

Paths of History

While many of Pennsylvania's waterways are recognized for wildlife habitats, waterfalls and bridges others overflow with history, including the Delaware Scenic River byway, which leads to Washington Crossing Historic Park, the site of General George Washington's historic 1776 crossing of the Delaware River. The park, originally preserved for its historical significance, now includes extensive trails and a nature center along with a museum and open-air theater.

As one of 13 original colonies, Pennsylvania's back roads and byways offer a taste of history around nearly every bend. Keep your eyes peeled for historic markers and small town museums. On PA 872, approximately 18 miles north of Sinnemahoning State Park is the Austin Dam Memorial Site, where the ruins of a broken dam and destroyed buildings are still visible. It's also home to "The New, Oldest Home in Austin," a replica of E.O. Austin's house of the 1800s. With the goal of preserving the town's history, the home is filled with memorabilia from Austin and the surrounding areas.



Austin Dam Memorial Site —
'Then and Now' Photos



Photo credits: www.facebook.com/Austindam

A quick detour off of Route 6 in Galeton leads to The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, another historic gem that collects, preserves and interprets the history of Pennsylvania's forests and lumber industries.

In Cumberland Valley, PA-233 South delivers a scenic ride to the plentiful history at Pine Grove Furnace State Park – from The Iron Furnace built in 1764 to the Appalachian Trail Museum, the only hiking museum in the country to the Old Camp Michaux. Pine Grove Iron Works was entered in the National Register of Historical Places in 1977.

Like geology? Pennsylvania's rocks record hundreds of millions of years of geologic history that tell an astounding story. Keep a copy of "Pennsylvania's Roadside Geology" in the car for impromptu explorations of the rich geologic history of the Commonwealth.

So much to explore, so little time. Bear in mind that many of these scenic drives might also be explored via motor or bicycle, offering days of wonder.

DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Who We Are and What We Do

By: Thomas Ford, Director BRC



"Building connections between people and the outdoors" – that's the role of the DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (BRC), which it accomplishes through community engagement and an investment in recreation and conservation. In doing so, the BRC makes a huge impact not only on the economy, but on the quality of life of all citizens in the Commonwealth.

Recently, the Outdoor Industry Association released its "Outdoor Recreation Economy Report," which demonstrates the impact of this industry. In 2017, Pennsylvania ranked fifth overall in the nation in terms of the annual economic impact of outdoor recreation, generating \$29.1 billion in consumer spending, \$1.9 billion in state and local tax revenue, \$6.6 billion in wages and salaries, and directly sustaining 251,000 Pennsylvania jobs.

Working behind the scenes to make these numbers possible, is BRC's small, yet mighty, team of professionals who provide technical and financial assistance to communities across the Commonwealth to help them realize their visions

for community parks, trails, open space, and rivers. Financial assistance is available through grants from a variety of funding sources, bundled into the Community Conservation Partnerships Program.

Eligible applicants for grant funding include municipalities, municipal agencies/authorities, nonprofit organizations, state heritage areas, pre-qualified land trusts, and for-profit enterprises for some funding sources. Information about the Community Conservation Partnerships Program can be found at www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants.

Next year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, one of several DCNR grant funding sources. The Keystone Fund website provides a wealth of information regarding the impact it has on the Commonwealth, local communities, and citizens – all of which BRC is privileged to have played a role.

To learn more, visit the Keystone Fund website at www.KeystoneFund.org



Photo credit: DCNR—BRC



Photo credit: DCNR—BRC

DID YOU KNOW

- There are 6,000 local parks across Pennsylvania (maps.dcnr.pa.gov/localparks), where a majority of the outdoor recreation takes place!

- Since 1993, the Keystone Fund alone has resulted in an investment of more than \$1 billion in over 4,500 projects, including 300-plus trail projects; conservation of nearly 120,000 acres of open space; and 2,400-plus local/community park projects.

- Pennsylvania has a trail network second to none in the country, and the BRC is committed to closing Pennsylvania's Top 10 Trail Gaps by the end of 2019! www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/storymaps/trailgaps

- The Jim Thorpe Pedestrian Bridge in Carbon County is one of Pennsylvania's Top 10 Trail Gaps. When the bridge is completed this year, it will create a 60-mile continuous trail corridor on the D&L Trail in Eastern Pennsylvania.

- Pennsylvania recently won the State Program Innovation Award from the Environmental Council of the States for our Pennsylvania Brownfields to Playfields Initiative.



Members of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps
St. Mary's group build steps at Kinzua Bridge State Park.



Youth in the Outdoors

Established in 2016, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps offers young people the opportunity to serve on a team completing conservation projects to protect, enhance, and restore Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. Members gain work experience, job training, and environmental education to help them become successful stewards of our natural resources and to develop their job skills.

With support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was able to partner with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to partially support two, 10-person crews of 15 to 18 year olds, one out of St. Mary's and one out of Meadville. The crews supported a variety of projects, which included creating turtle basking platforms, performing trail repair and upgrades, removing invasive species, restoring observation decks, and more. PPFF had the pleasure of spending a day with the corps at Pymatuning State Park, where they assisted us with graffiti removal.

Visit www.dcnr.pa.gov/outdoorcorps to learn more about the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps.

Engaging Health Care Providers in the Promotion of Outdoor Recreation

Did you know that a recent Penn State University study found that more than 70 percent of Pennsylvania residents consider parks, trails, and open space to be a critical part of the health care system? In light of that news, health care providers from across south central Pennsylvania gathered at the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau in Carlisle on August 22 to learn more about the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor recreation and to find ways to encourage their patients to spend time in nature.

The event, "The South Mountain Health Summit – The Benefits of Being Active Outdoors," was organized by the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF), with support from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and in partnership with the Department of Health, the South Mountain Partnership, and the Partnership for Better Health.

"This summit brought together a variety of health care and outdoor recreational professionals to share their ideas and



experiences to get more people outdoors living healthy lifestyles," said Marci Mowery, President of PPFF. "Participants will take what they learned and put it into practice when talking to their patients and colleagues.

It was a great first step in engaging health care providers, with more to come."

Summit participants learned about the benefits of, and need for, more fun outdoor activities from Dr. Chris Sciamanna and Dr. Andy Mowen, professors at Penn State University. They also heard about a new phone app called "Ready, Set, Fit," that was developed by Dr. Katherine Faull at Bucknell University to help people track their outdoor fitness activities while learning about historical and cultural landmarks in the area. The summit concluded with a group discussion on the resources that would help them get their patients outdoors.

Future informational sessions/trainings are being considered for hospitals throughout the region, culminating in a day-long conference sometime in 2019. To learn more or to get involved, please contact bartz@paparksandforests.org.

Funding provided by DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program.

A THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Friends of Greenwood,

Please accept this donation in memory of our mother, Bernice Horon. We hope it will help others enjoy the park. Our family moved to Lewistown in 1960, and we soon discovered Greenwood. Our mom was a Holocaust survivor, and she found the beauty and serenity of Greenwood her haven for the next 55 years. I promised my mother that every summer I would go to Greenwood and have a picnic. My family, including my husband, three of my four children and their spouses, enjoyed a wonderful day there in August.

Thanks,
Heller Kreshtool

10 Reasons Why Reusable Water Bottles are BETTER than Plastic Ones!



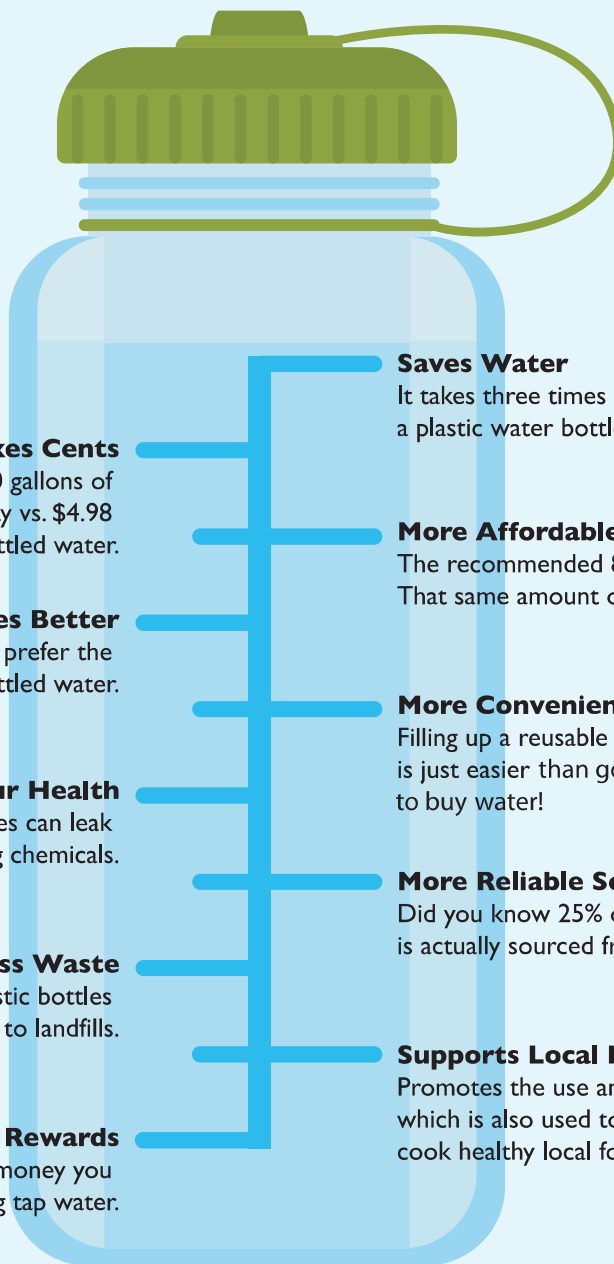
Makes Cents
The average water pitcher filters 240 gallons of water a day for about 19 cents a day vs. \$4.98 a day for the same amount of bottled water.

Tastes Better
In blind taste tests, people prefer the taste of tap water to bottled water.

Better for Your Health
Plastic water bottles can leak endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

Less Waste
Despite recycling efforts, 6 out of 7 plastic bottles consumed in the U.S. are still sent to landfills.

Reap the Rewards
Treat yourself with the money you saved drinking tap water.



Saves Water

It takes three times the water to make a plastic water bottle as it does to fill it!

More Affordable

The recommended 8 glasses of water per year = \$49
That same amount of bottled water = \$1,400

More Convenient

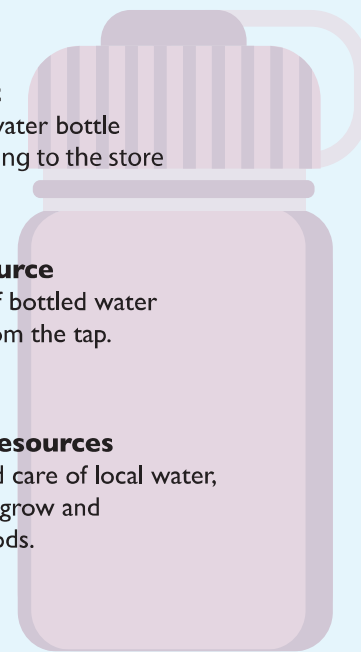
Filling up a reusable water bottle is just easier than going to the store to buy water!

More Reliable Source

Did you know 25% of bottled water is actually sourced from the tap.

Supports Local Resources

Promotes the use and care of local water, which is also used to grow and cook healthy local foods.



Sources: BantheBottle.net; MindBodyGreen.com; HealthyHumanLife.com

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

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.PaParksAndForests.org/events

OCTOBER

- 10/21 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Furnace Fest
- 10/21 Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day
- 10/21 Friends of Cowans Gap: Harvest Day Celebration
- 10/21 Friends of Pinchot: Pinchotween
- 10/20 Friends of State Line Barrens: Stewardship Day
- 10/28 Friends of Kings Gap: Ghoulish Gallop Fun Run
- 10/29 Friends of Canoe Creek: Spooky Stories & Ghostly Lights

NOVEMBER

- 11/3 Friends of Kings Gap: Jazz in the Mansion
- 11/4 Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day
- 11/12 Friends of State Line Barrens: Stewardship Day
- 11/17 Friends of State Line Barrens: Stewardship Day
- 11/18 Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Appreciation Day

DECEMBER

- 12/2 Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day
- 12/3 Friends of State Line Barrens: Stewardship Day
- 12/3 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House
- 12/8 Friends of Kings Gap: Coffee House in the Mansion
- 12/10 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House
- 12/17 Friends of State Line Barrens: Stewardship Day

JANUARY

- 1/17 First Day Hikes

Annual Foundation Award Nominations Deadline DEC. 15!!

Nominate a park, forest, friends group or person for their good works!! *Send nominations to mmowery-pdff@pa.net.* Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet in May 2018.

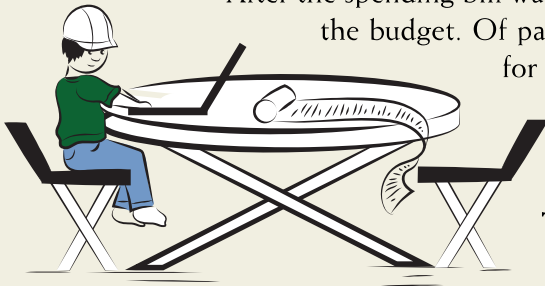
Legislative Roundup

It's been a busy summer, with the ongoing budget debate being our primary legislative priority. Thank you to all who made calls and visits to their elected officials regarding key budget issues. Initially, we focused upon ensuring adequate funding for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as the Department of Environmental Protection (what good is a lake if the water flowing into it is polluted?)

After the spending bill was passed, we turned our focus to the ongoing debate on how to fund the budget. Of particular concern continues to be potential raids of funds earmarked for environmental protection, open space, and outdoor recreation.

As we go to press, these funds are again under attack. We will continue to monitor the budget proposals and speak out against actions that negatively impact our environment, parks, forests, and community recreation.

To keep abreast of timely updates on the budget, please follow us on Facebook or subscribe to our weekly newsletter.



Leave Your Legacy

What do you see when you imagine the future? At the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation we see a world where people of all ages are leading happier and healthier lives through access to parks and forests. And we know the way we plan today is what builds the future of tomorrow. **As a friend of PPFF, you can help us plan better through Planned Giving,** which makes it possible for you to significantly impact the future even if you don't consider yourself rich. And there's more good news — some gifts can be made without any cost to you today! Planned Gifts provide a way for you to:

- **Name PPFF** as a beneficiary under your will or trust.
It can be a specific percentage or a dollar amount.
- **Include PPFF** as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy your family no longer needs.
- **Add PPFF** as the beneficiary of a retirement account
(which could possibly save your loved ones in estate or inheritance taxes!).
- **Donate** a gift of cash or stock now and receive guaranteed income for life.
(Seriously. Income for life. It's called a Charitable Gift Annuity.)



These gifts require only a minimal amount of paperwork, but they make a maximum impact.

Contact us to learn how to build the future you imagine through the plan you make today.

PPFF FRIENDS GROUPS

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association

Friends of Beltzville

Friends of Big Pocono

Friends of Black Moshannon

Friends of Buchanan

Friends of Caledonia

Friends of Canoe Creek

Friends of Colonel Denning

Friends of Cook Forest

Friends of Cowans Gap

Friends of Delaware/Promised Land

Friends of Goddard

Friends of Greenwood Furnace

Friends of Keystone

Friends of Kings Gap

Friends of Laurel Hill

Friends of Little Buffalo

Friends of Lyman Run

Friends of Milton

Friends of Mont Alto

Friends of Mt. Pisgah

Friends of Nockamixon

Friends of Nolde Forest

Friends of Ohiopyle

Friends of Oil Creek

Friends of Parker Dam

Friends of Pinchot

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace

Friends of Prince Gallitzin

Friends of Pymatuning

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 Nockamixon*

State Park



Photo credit: Friends of Nockamixon State Park

*Volunteers helped to clean-up
Nockamixon State Park*

If you visit Nockamixon State Park, you might have a hard time deciding just what direction your recreational pursuits should take. The park's 1,458-acre lake offers great fishing and boating with regular water releases along Tohickon Creek offering the thrill of whitewater. The park is a mountain biking mecca with nine miles of loop single-

track offering the perfect ride for both beginners and advanced cyclists.

Water and trails likewise form the backbone of the efforts of six-year old Friends of Nockamixon. The trails were the group's first focus and remain a high priority for their 100 members' volunteer efforts. Hurricane Sandy in 2012, less than a year after the Friends formed, offered a challenge none of them wanted but taught the Friends valuable lessons about erosion control, installing gabions, cutting brush, installing culverts to divert water from trails, building a replacement bridge, and blazing the trails.

Somewhere along the way, however, water also became an important focus for the Friends' work. For the past four years they have sponsored a Children's Fishing Contest at the park on National Get Outdoors Day in June, with over 90 children dipping a line this year. Raffle prizes donated from Cabela's and Dick's Sporting Goods, trophies for the largest fish in three age categories, and free bait and fishing lures put a lot of smiles on many young faces.

National Public Lands Day is big business for the Friends, when they put hundreds of volunteers to work on projects along the trails and throughout the park's 5,000 acres. (The Friends have installed and maintain bat boxes, bluebird boxes, kestrel boxes, and osprey platforms within the park, and sponsor an annual bat program at the end of August at the park's Environmental Education Center.) They loan kayaks to willing volunteers and hit the water for a lake clean-up along the shore and in the water, with several hundred pounds of trash and recyclables generally collected.

And speaking of kayaks, after successfully raising the \$30,000 needed to build a playground in the park campground in 2016, the Friends' biggest project to date is their three-year effort to raise \$40,000 to install a Board Safe dock and kayak launch in the park. Says Helen Maurella of the Friends (our 2015 Volunteer of the Year award winner for her stellar efforts at helping the Friends to raise over \$62,000 in grants over the years), "Our goal is to make the park more accessible to the disabled community and enable them to enjoy kayaking on the lake. To date \$16,000 has been raised mostly through public donations."

With determination as big as the lake they love, we have no doubt the Friends will achieve their accessibility dream!



Photo credit: Friends of Nockamixon State Park

*Winners of the Children's Fishing Contest
on National Get Outdoors Day*

More Friends In Action:



Friends of Prince Gallitzin

Steven Norris was among the first to use the new WaterWheels adaptive beach chair purchased by the *Friends of Prince Gallitzin*. His wife Jeannie Frontz Norris writes, "It brought such joy back to my husband and our family. He hadn't been able to be in the water with the children in over two years. We have seen the amazing results sharing [our] photos has had as we have been contacted by other disabled people who were thrilled to find out about the chair."



Friends of Little Buffalo

Revenue from firewood sales, donations, and events enabled the *Friends of Little Buffalo* to dedicate a new playground this summer. Children immediately discovered this new asset, inspiring the Friends to make plans to build another one.



Friends of Milton State Park

DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn, shown here with Milton State Park Manager John Clifford and former *Friends of Milton* President Tom Deans, participated in a canon/kayak sojourn from Watsonstown to Milton on June 11, and later toured the south trail system created by the Friends with Paul Yost, Friends of Milton.



Friends of Laurel Hill

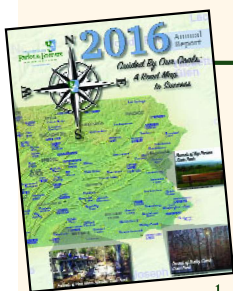
Friends of Laurel Hill dedicated their accessible kayak launch in June. Afterward, someone on the park's Facebook page commented that every park should have one. We agree! The EZ Dock is not just for people with mobility issues. They are great for all paddlers. *Friends of Nockamixon* are working hard to get a similar launch and our fund for accessible recreation (<http://bit.ly/ppffoutdoorsforeveryone>) is a great place to deposit a few dollars toward that "every park should have one" dream. See page 13 for the dedication of the Beltzville State Park dock.



Friends of White Clay

Congratulations to the *Friends of White Clay Creek* who have, thanks to donations and the fine work of stonemason John Stoltzfus, completed Phase 1 of the restoration of the historic stone wall that surrounds the park's Quaker Meeting House.





YOU Made it Happen

PPFF 2016 Annual Report – Look What We've Accomplished Together!

Creating the annual report is a time of celebration – looking back on all of the things we were able to accomplish together to benefit our state parks and forests for today and for decades to come. To download a copy of the annual report, visit www.PaParksAndForests.org.

Celebrity Happy Hour

PPFF hosted a meet and greet happy hour at Café Fresco Harrisburg, complete with celebrity bartenders, including WITF Smart Talk host Scott Lamar, pictured here. The event, which served as a fundraiser, also served as a "friend raiser," with park and forest friends from across the state joining us for the evening.



PPFF's First Highmark Walk

Thank you to everyone who turned out to make our first year of participation in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community a smashing success! We look forward to seeing you next year! .



Volunteers Enjoy Neshaminy Work Day

Thank you to Liberty Travel/Flight Centre for working with PPFF to organize a volunteer work day at Neshaminy State Park. Here participants pose with some of their unusual trash finds for the "Most Unique Find" competition.



Clean Water Rally

PPFF participated in and presented at a rally for clean water, while also calling for investments in our state parks and forests. To view a compilation of the presentations, visit

www.facebook.com/pg/PaGGC/videos/?ref=page_internal

Photo Tour Offers Inspiration

The 2017 photo tour opening reception at the Community Arts Center of Cambria County inspired seasoned and new photographers alike.



Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail Shelters Fund Gets Artistic Boost

This summer, PPFF's campaign to raise the necessary funds to restore the chimneys and fireboxes in the remaining four shelter areas along western Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands

Hiking Trail (see Penn's Stewards, Fall 2016) got a boost from an additional grant from REI and the donation of incentives from three of the trail's enthusiastic supporters. Writer and hiker Dane Cramer designed a trail map T-shirt with a portion of the proceeds from its sales going to the Shelters Fund. And Dale Yohe designed a durable sticker and patch to be given to all donors to the Shelters Fund. Visit Dane at www.featheredprop.com, Dale @dogpacking on Instagram, and the Foundation's Shelter Fund at <http://bit.ly/lbhtsheltersfund> to donate. Donors can also adopt a shelter through PPFF on the shelter fund site.



PPFF Welcomes New Friends Group!

The Friends of Pymatuning officially joined the PPFF Family on Sept. 30.

With an expansive park to steward and big plans on the drawing board, we're excited to see this group develop and thrive.



More Graffiti Removal Success Stories

Support from volunteers enabled three more graffiti removal events to occur this summer. Pymatuning and McConnells Mills state parks and Buzzards Rocks in Michaux State Forest all received a little love, reclaiming them as destinations for individuals and families.



Trail Shelter Is Ready for Visitors

The Route 30 Shelter area of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail is ready to receive visitors after the recent restoration of the shelter chimneys and fireboxes.

Stewards Needed! The Stewards of Penn's Woods is looking for help near you! Delaware State Forest needs stewards to clean up the boat launch areas of Lake Minisink, Lily Pond, Little Mud Pond, Pecks Pond, and White Deer Lake. Cornplanter State Forest is looking to have invasive plants removed from the Tank Hill Tract. If you can help, e-mail atrimmer@paparksandforests.org or visit www.PaParksAndForests.org/stewards-of-penns-woods-project-list to see other available locations.



A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

E. Stanley "Ned" Smith



E. Stanley "Ned" Smith (Oct. 9, 1919 - April 22, 1985)

E. Stanley "Ned" Smith was born in Millersburg, Pa., to parents who fostered his passion for nature from a very young age. As a result, Ned flourished as a successful

wildlife artist before he even graduated from high school. In the span of a 46-year career, he created thousands of beautiful and accurate illustrations of wildlife in publications, magazines, and books, even illustrating the state's first ever duck stamp.

Ned married and began working in a machine shop, but he continued observing nature and honing his artistic abilities in his spare time. In 1939, he sold his very first commercial illustration, the cover art for Pennsylvania Angler magazine, and accepted a full-time illustrator position for Samworth Publishing in South Carolina.

A year later, Ned and his wife Marie returned to Pennsylvania where he took a job as a staff illustrator for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Throughout his career at the Game Commission, he illustrated almost 120 cover paintings for the commission's magazine, the Pennsylvania Game News, and in the 1960s started his own monthly column, titled "Gone for the Day," which was eventually republished in book form and remains a classic for Pennsylvania nature writing.

Ned eventually left the Game Commission to become a full-time freelance artist until he passed away in 1985 from a heart attack. To honor his legacy, Marie advocated for the creation of The Ned Smith Center located in Millersburg, which uses all of Ned's works and various interests to connect nature with art.



"Gone for the Day" Documentary

Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project continues to archive the conservation stories of Pennsylvania with a new documentary featuring the story of Ned Smith. Watch your public television station for air times or visit <http://video.witf.org/video/3003781510> to view online.

PPFF Dedicates ADA Kayak Launch at Beltzville State Park

Have you ever had the pleasure of slipping through the water on a foggy lake, breathing in the fresh air, a smile on your face?

Have you ever silently sat in your kayak, watching the antics of an otter that doesn't seem to know that you exist?

We at the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation believe that all Pennsylvanians deserve the opportunity to experience the wonderment of nature, on both land and water. Yet this is not available to everyone. According to Cornell University's annual Disability Status Report, 7.3 percent of Pennsylvania's population has an ambulatory disability.

From canoeing to kayaking and rafting, paddle sports have become increasingly popular in the disabled community in recent years. Children and adults with disabilities are safely experiencing new freedom, learning new skills, and benefiting from the exercise and fresh air. As a sport, paddling emphasizes the individual's ability, with water acting as the great equalizer.

Pennsylvania also has an aging population, which sometimes means reduced

mobility and balance challenges. Universal design in our parks and forests helps to address the needs of all users, and we are proud to have been able to place an ADA kayak launch at Beltzville State Park in August. As one launch user said, "When people see all of our wheelchairs on the land, they look on the lake and wonder where we are. Once we are on the water, we are all the same."

With your support, and a grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority through the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program, this dock became a reality. We would also like to thank Park Region 4 swing crew and the Beltzville State Park staff for their work on the project, as well as the Carbon County Planning Commission and the Good Shepherd Spinal Cord Support Group for providing letters of support to the project.

If you would like to support additional launch placements, visit <http://bit.ly/ppffoutdoorsforeveryone> to donate.



2017 Parks and Forests Through the Seasons Photo Contest

BEST IN SHOW



Phyllis Terchanik, Gallitzin State Forest

CRITICS' CHOICE BEST IN SHOW

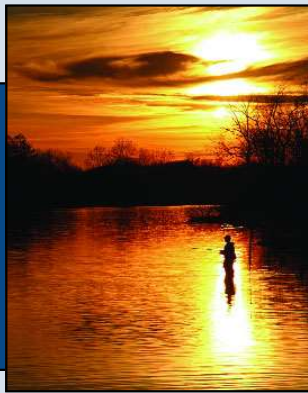


Douglas Clifford, Blue Knob State Park

FUN IN THE OUTDOORS



FIRST PLACE: Liz Mickley, Cowans Gap State Park



SECOND PLACE: Carolyn Anderson, Keystone State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: John Beatty, Ralph Stover State Park

DOGS IN THE OUTDOORS



FIRST PLACE: Kristin Gerhart, Canoe Creek State Park

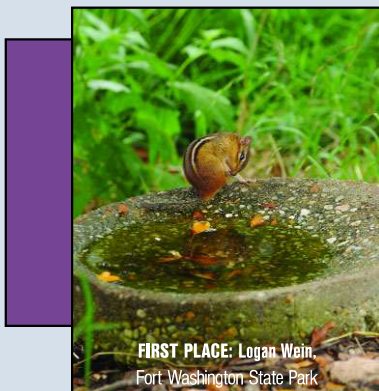


SECOND PLACE: Matt Stich, Canoe Creek State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Dale Yohe, Ohiopyle State Park

A BIT OF WHIMSY



FIRST PLACE: Logan Wein,
Fort Washington State Park



SECOND PLACE: Steven Sybert, Parker Dam State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: David Raymond, Swatara State Park

A 3-minute Survey for 2018

At the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, we take the opinion of our members and donors very seriously. As 2017 comes to a close, we would like your feedback on how we can improve our newsletter so that you, our supporter, are getting the information that you need and want. Please take a minute to review the questions, either here or by typing in the following URL, and provide us with your feedback.

<http://bit.ly/2018newslettersurvey>

What features of the newsletter do you find most interesting or useful?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feature Story | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends in Action/More Friends in Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snapshot in Time | <input type="checkbox"/> You Made it Happen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar of Events | <input type="checkbox"/> President's Message |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infographics | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |



What should we include in the newsletter that we're missing now?

Do you read the newsletter online or do you receive it in the mail?

- ☐ Online
☐ Mailed copy
☐ Both

☐ YES, I would like to receive
Take Five/Fridays with Pam

☐ YES, I would like to receive Explore

Email Address to activate:

Do you subscribe to our electronic publications to stay updated between issues of Penn's Stewards?

- ☐ I get Take Five/Fridays with Pam
☐ I get Explore: Pennsylvania's Outdoors in Your Inbox

What are some topics that you would like to see as future lead or sub-stories?

Please mail survey to: PPFF • 1845 Market Street, Suite 202 • Camp Hill, PA 17011

www.PaParksAndForests.org



FIRST PLACE: Jiang Ming, Cherry Springs State Park



SECOND PLACE: Jennifer Esken, Lackawanna State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Lisa Briand, Ridley Creek State Park

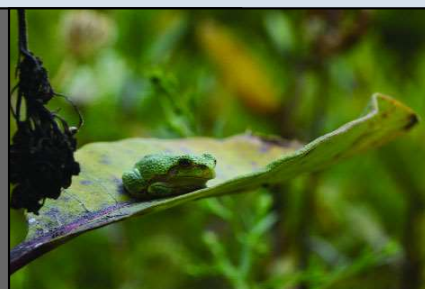
**NATURE'S
COLORS**



FIRST PLACE: Karly Maurer, Ricketts Glen State Park



SECOND PLACE: Rayna Katzman, Fort Washington State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Clayton Whitenight, Archbald Pothole State Park

**YOUNG
PHOTOGRAPHERS
(UNDERAGE 18)**

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THE EXTRAORDINARY GIVE™

NOVEMBER 17, 2017



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part of SECA!**
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#9200-0046.

If your current membership has expired, visit our website today www.PaParksAndForests.org/join/become-a-member 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: _____

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