

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

Annual Report 2007



Creating a Legacy of Stewardship for our Public Lands

Our Mission: To enhance Pennsylvania's parks and forests, protect Pennsylvania's natural resources, and support conservation and environmental programs.

A Look Inside

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Chuck Keiper Trail in Sproul State Forest.
Photo: DCNR

2007 Reflections

You, the reader, are a part of the story that we try to retell in the pages before you. Perhaps you are a volunteer, a donor, a leader, an advocate, an outdoor enthusiast, a friend, or all of the above. This story is for you—both as a thank you for your commitment to our state-owned lands and as a celebration of your achievements. We couldn't have done it without you, and we look forward to our continued relationship in the years ahead.

In 2007, more than 35 million people visited our state parks and forests. They attended events, camped, hiked, biked, swam, fished, hunted or partook in upwards of over 40 different forms of outdoor recreation. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation touched these visitors through our friends groups, our educational materials, our programmatic support at parks and forests, and in the projects that we coordinated. While we may not have touched all 35 million, we strive to reach that goal.

As I look back over the course of the year, I am amazed by all that we—the Foundation and the friends groups—have accomplished. From protecting critical funding for outdoor recreation and conservation to the series of events held in parks and forests, we worked tirelessly to enhance our parks and forests. We continue to build upon the legacy of conservation of our forbears by perpetuating a legacy of stewardship for our children.

I hope that you enjoy this year in review as much as we enjoyed preparing it for you. Sit back, relax, and take a journey through 2007 with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.

Yours in the Outdoors,

— Marci Mowery, President



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Education

Demonstrating the value of utilizing native plant species, was the focus of the 65' x 70' educational exhibit entitled *Pennsylvania's Native Elegance* at the 2007 Harrisburg Garden Expo. PPFF, along with other sponsors, helped DCNR construct the exhibit which featured indigenous plants as well as conservation concepts including rain gardens, composters and rain barrels. The items used in the exhibit were made in Pennsylvania and many utilized sustainable materials and practices. Visitors came away with the importance of using native plant species in landscaping techniques as well as many ideas on how to incorporate them into their own backyards. The exhibit won "Best in Education" award for the second year in a row. At the conclusion of the Expo, some \$12,000 worth of native plant materials used in the exhibit were donated to state parks and forests.



Garden vignettes like this one, were spread throughout the exhibit.



Hear ye! Hear ye! *The Penn Stewards Gazette for the Young and the Young at Heart* is available. Published for the 2007 Harrisburg Garden Expo, this was one component of the exhibit that lead us to winning the **Most Educational Award**.

The 8-page paper explores the history of Pennsylvania's park and forest system, compares native and invasive plants, challenges you to test your animal tracking skills, encourages you to engage in outdoor recreation in an earth friendly manner, and celebrates the many people who make our park and forest system great.

Free copies are still available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, 105 North Front St, Suite 305, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Call for classroom quantities: (717) 236-7644.

"Is there anything more rewarding than watching a child gain an appreciation of the outdoors through an experience in the outdoors or at one of our parks and forests? The experiences can develop a life lesson of "giving back" that will enable our forests and parks to remain the valued asset that we have come to appreciate." —Dave Spigelmyer, PPFF Board Member

District Forester Joe Frassetta instructs teachers about island ecology.



Helping to create the next generation of conservation leaders, PPFF, in cooperation with Shippensburg University, offered two graduate level classes on the natural and cultural history of the Susquehanna River and its environments. As part of the course, teachers learned about the history of parks and forests, the natural history of river-owned islands, the importance of land use and open space, and tools for engaging youth in outdoor education and recreation.

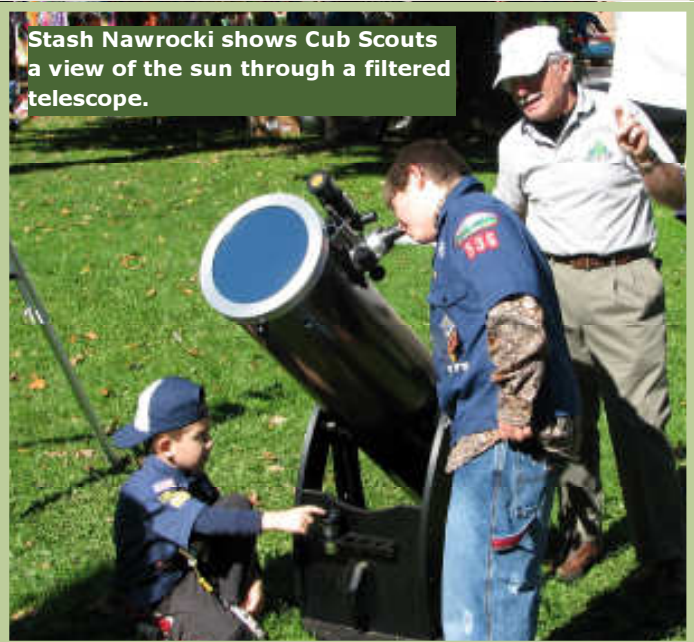
Volunteer Spotlight on Cherry Springs State Park

Talk about having "stars in your eyes"! Stash Nawrocki, a registered nurse who grew up in the Philadelphia area, moved to Potter County with his wife Helene almost 15 years ago. It was here that he rediscovered the night skies of his youth. His fascination with the stars grew as programs began to blossom at Cherry Springs State Park. He bought himself a telescope and gained enough confidence in his knowledge of the night sky to become one of the park's most popular astronomy volunteers.

With a great sense of humor and a brain that absorbs astronomy information like a sponge, Stash guides park visitors across the night sky, infecting them with his own love and enthusiasm for the wonders of the universe. His passion eventually developed into a small business called *Crystal Spheres: Adventures in Stargazing*, where he provides one-on-one astronomy experiences for visitors vacationing in the PA Wilds of Potter County. He also provides the astronomy portion of the park's "Music and Star" programs at the quarter moon of each month in the summer. Stash, a faithful volunteer for the extremely popular National Public Observatory "Stars and Parks" programs, is always ready to lend a hand (or should we say, 'eye in the sky') when special government groups and VIP's come to Cherry Springs to see its world famous view of the Milky Way Galaxy.

Stash's contribution to the Dark Sky Fund and Association Education Outreach Program has made Cherry Springs the premiere astronomy location that it is. Just recently, **Cherry Springs State Park was awarded the International Dark Sky Association's (IDA) Dark Sky Park certification at the Gold Level. Cherry Springs is the second park to receive this distinctive award in the world.** The Educational Outreach programs are a major consideration for achieving Gold Level status, and Stash has assisted in obtaining the park its well-deserved recognition.

Stash Nawrocki shows Cub Scouts a view of the sun through a filtered telescope.



—Maxine Harrison, Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund

Photo: Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund

Stewardship



What does it mean to be a steward of our parks and forests?

"I believe that without these great people, our access to the parks and forests will be limited." —Bruce Heggenstaller, PPFF Board Member

Celebrating the exemplary work to protect and enhance our state park and forest system

was the focus of our first annual awards banquet in April, 2007. PPFF created the awards banquet to recognize the work of staff and volunteers who make our park and forests all that

they can be. The highest honor, the Keystone Legacy Award, honored the significant work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Pennsylvania and across the nation. Other award recipients included: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis (Government Award); Forbes State Forest (Forest of the Year); Pymatuning State Park (Park of the Year); and three friends group awards: Miller Family/Friends of Greenwood State Park (Improvement Award); Friends of Codorus State Park (Volunteerism Award); and Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund (Education Award). *Photo: Joe Frassetta*



Five members of the Civilian Conservation Corps were on hand to receive the Keystone Legacy Award. Pictured left to right, Bruce Heggenstaller, Woolrich Inc. (award sponsor), Robert Overkott, Marci Mowery (PPFF President), Adolph Semich, Edward Semich, Leonard Perucha, Edward Huszar.

Enhancing habitat for a variety of fish species

is the goal of the Lake Habitat Management Project—a cooperative endeavor between the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Wild Resource Conservation Program, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania Bass Federation and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Many of the reservoirs in Pennsylvania were constructed by clearing the beds of trees and brush prior to impoundment. This created a barren and featureless environment for fish and anglers. Artificial habitats address the need for year round cover.

Photo: Pa Fish and Boat Commission



A constructed porcupine crib is ready for placement.



Creating or improving habitat for wildlife is often a project undertaken by friends groups.

Friends of Goddard State Park member and former Park Manager, Don Campbell, (in photo on the left) worked on scoring baffles for a bat condominium that was installed on park property in 2007. Friends

groups often work with outside service groups to help accomplish their

goals. For this project, the group helped an Eagle Scout with the construction of the bat condo.

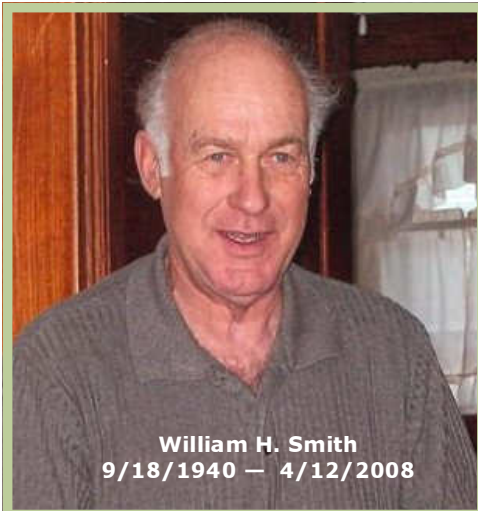
Photo right: Eagle Scout Bo Preston's father, helped with the construction. Far right: The finished bat condo open for business. Photos: Gene Free, Friends of Goddard State Park.



30,000

...The number of volunteer hours donated by PPFF Friends Groups in 2007 to state parks and forests.

Volunteer Spotlight on Friends of Codus State Park



William H. Smith
9/18/1940 — 4/12/2008

Bill was an active volunteer with the Friends of Codus State Park.

He was an avid fisherman, hunter and very interested in the Playground Project at the Park. Unfortunately, we lost Bill to a massive heart attack in April of this year. His family, knowing his passion for the Park, requested that donations be made to the Friends Group for the Playground Project, in place of flowers. The generosity of those that support Bill added over \$1500 to our project.

—Dave Carbaugh, Friends of Codus State Park

"To be a steward of our parks and forests means that the individual has a fundamental understanding of the importance of managing natural resources in a sustainable way, so that future generations have the benefit of healthy support systems." —Pete Duncan, PPFF Board Member

Friends of Black Moshannon State Park

Barry Golding, President
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Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund

Maxine Harrison, Chair
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Friends of Goddard State Park

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Friends of Greenwood Furnace

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Friends of Hickory Run

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www.friendsofhickoryrun.org

Friends of Keystone State Park

Pam McQuistian, Env. Ed Specialist
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Friends of Kings Gap State Park

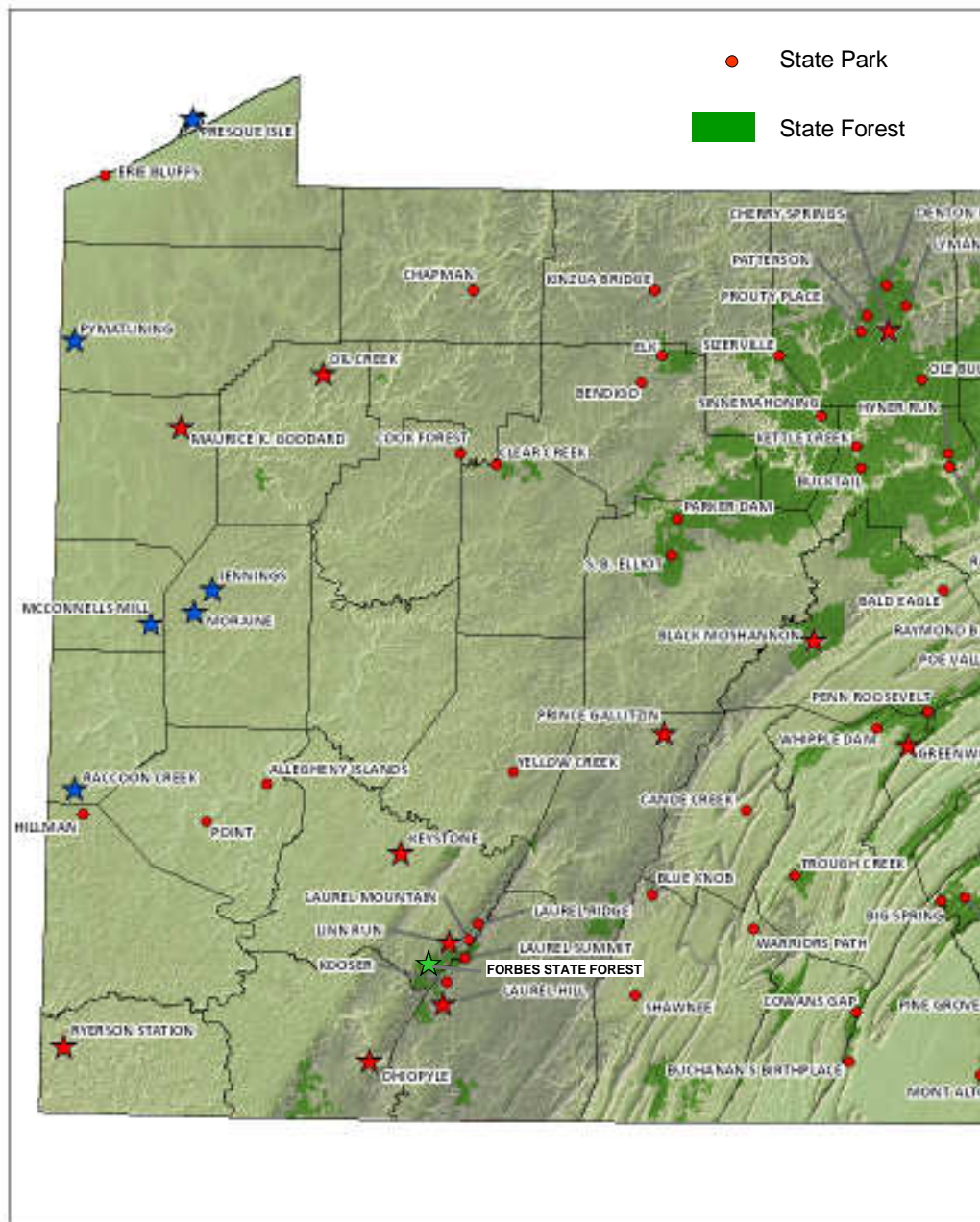
Shirley Sams, Chair
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evilbrowniel@aol.com

Friends of Laurel Hill State Park

Sue Bittner, Volunteer Coordinator
(814) 445-6085
jsbittner721@floodcity.net
www.friendsoflhsp.org

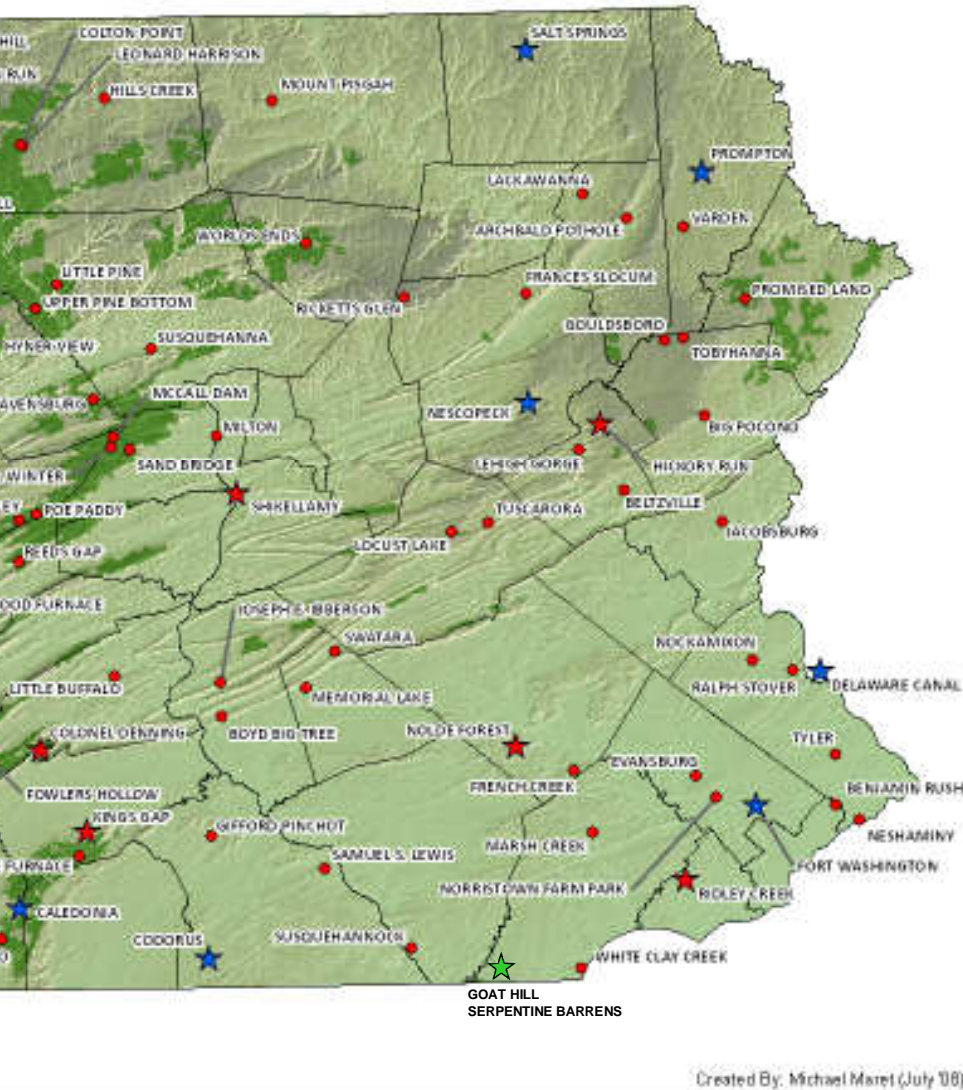
Friends of Linn Run & Forbes State Forest

Doug Finger, Park Manager
(724) 238-6623
dfinger@state.pa.us



At the core of PPFF's mission is the creation of new and support of existing friends groups to build the capacity of volunteers in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. Our 19 chapters across the state contribute thousands of hours of volunteer time each year to help ensure that park and forest visitors have a quality experience.

- ★ State Park w/ PPFF Friends Group
- ★ State Forest w/ PPFF Friends Group
- ★ State Park w/ Independent Friends Group



“Friends groups are the champions of our state parks and forests. Through stewardship and promotional activities, they inspire others to cherish and protect these special places. Their work is invaluable.”

—DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis

Friends of Milton State Park

Tom Deans, President
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Friends of Goddard State Park

Becky Piccolin, President
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Friends of Nolde Forest

Jennifer Stinson, Co-chair
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Friends of Ohiopyle State Park

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Friends of Oil Creek State Park

Peg Sims, President
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Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park

Terri Coccia, Chair
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Friends of Ridley Creek State Park

Tim Higgins, President
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timhiggins2@msn.com
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Friends of Ryerson Station State Park

Lisa Snider, Interim President
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Friends of Shikellamy State Park

Julia Marano & Bob Snyder, Co-Chairs
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jmmarano@ptd.net
www.friendsofshikellamystatepark.org

Friends of State Line Barrens

Amedeo Salamoni
amedeo@hsr-bsa.org

Friends Groups

Friends groups spend a great deal of time helping to organize special events, but **that's not all they do.** They also help with routine maintenance holding numerous park cleanups and regular work days throughout the year to improve trails or remove invasive species.

Every year, volunteers spend hundreds of hours on park improvements including putting in new playground equipment, constructing pavilions, and helping to restore buildings and gardens.

Friends raise money to support these improvements by doing everything from selling firewood and ice to working with local funders to put in new playground equipment. Some friends groups get creative in their fundraising—Friends of Laurel Hill used the proceeds from selling the scrap metal they picked up in park cleanups to help purchase a memorial to the Civilian Conservation Corps (pictured above, right). Others have held photo contests—turning the top photos into calendars which they then sell while promoting the park that they love!

Photo above right: CCC Memorial at Laurel Hill State Park. Below right, Volunteers, along with park staff, helped to construct two long-awaited pavilions at Moraine State Park. Photos: Friends of Laurel Hill, Moraine State Park.



In 2007, Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation Friends Groups:

- ◆ Engaged 481 volunteers who contributed 30,000 hours of volunteer time to projects at state parks and forests.
- ◆ Organized more than 145 service projects and special events which attracted more than 145,000 people.
- ◆ Donated the equivalent of \$500,000 in volunteer “labor” to state parks and forests.
- ◆ Engaged volunteers ranging in age from 12 to 92!
- ◆ Raised over \$191,000 for park and forest programs and improvements.

What does it mean to be a member of a friends group?

“To complete projects where we can see results at the park—either through offering assistance to educational and recreational programs, increasing attendance/tourism, or purchases of tangible items.”

—Becky Piccolin, Friends of Goddard State Park

Passing along lessons about the importance of habitat preservation

is often part of the events organized by friends groups. John Livengood (pictured right) and the Friends of Laurel Hill State Park, help families construct bluebird boxes at the annual Bluebird Festival in July. Five of the original Civilian Conservation Corps Members volunteer with the friends and share the history of the park that they helped to build in the 1930s.

Photo: Friends of Laurel Hill State Park



Weaving in an educational element to special events like the Pioneer Frolic at M.K. Goddard State Park, allows the public to learn about and enjoy the natural aspects of the park while learning something about the history and culture of the area. Held in June, the event includes demonstrations of pioneer life in Sandy Creek Valley (pictured left).

Photo: Friends of Goddard State Park



Volunteer Spotlight on Friends of Goddard State Park



Gene and Ada Free sing at the Pioneer Church Service.

Gene and Ada Free have been working tirelessly for many years for M.K. Goddard State Park. Since the inception of Friends of Goddard State Park, they have joined in working through a more formal organization together. Although they shy away from photo opportunities and formal office, the group could not function without them. They are instrumental in helping put on our annual Pioneer Frolic, and support the park environmental education programs tirelessly. Thank you Gene and Ada!

—Becky Piccolin, Friends of Goddard

Recreation

Getting people outdoors to appreciate the resource they have in their backyards was the goal of the Friends of Shikellamy State Park. In 2007, the group, which had just begun as a chapter, launched a series of Sunday Brunches at the park. Families were invited to come and enjoy local food and music along the banks of the Susquehanna River. Word got out and each successive event brought more people to the park.

Photo: Friends of Shikellamy State Park



Sunday Brunch at the Park.

145

...The number of events and service projects organized by friends groups in 2007.

What shaped your passion for the outdoors?

"I grew up on a family farm in West Virginia and was always engaged in hiking, hunting, fishing and swimming." —Hank Barnette, PPFF Board



The first place winner in the 2007 boat regatta during the Mountain Days festival.

Friends groups helped to

organize special events like *Mountain Days* at Prince Gallitzin State Park. These events can draw thousands of visitors to state parks each year. Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park organized all the activities that took place in the park including a boat regatta.

Photo: Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park

"I joined the Board of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation because I love the outdoors and I want other Pennsylvanians to become more aware of the value of our parks and forests and to more thoroughly enjoy the magnificent resources and experiences that may be gained by visiting these areas of the Commonwealth." —Ken Gaudi, PPFF Board

Providing recreational opportunities

In 2007, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation teamed with parks, forests, the Keystone Trails Association and friends groups to bring four outdoor events to Pennsylvania. We kicked off hiking week with Hike the Hickory at Hickory Run State Park, followed by Oil Creek Outdoors where participants could try their hand at any number of recreational pursuits, including turkey calling, as the young lad to the right demonstrates. July found folks traipsing through the woods at the annual Prowl the Sproul event held at Sproul State Forest. Fall and cooler weather brought Absorb the Forbes, and opportunities for both hiking and listening to environmental music. The Foundation also provided interactive exhibits at a variety of events, including the Great Green America Festival, the Wild Resource Festival, and the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum annual meeting.



Oil Creek Outdoors 2007
Photo: Marci Mowery



Hike the Hickory
Photo: Marci Mowery

138,808

*...The number of
visitors who attended
special events organized
by friends groups
in 2007.*

Through grassroots action,

PPFF and friends groups were among a coalition of conservation organizations who helped to protect critical recreation funding. In 2007, \$40 million was targeted to be removed from the Keystone Conservation Fund which not only supports infrastructure and improvement projects in state parks and forests, it also allots money to local county recreation and open space, libraries and museums.

Raising Funds

Raising awareness of state parks and forests through a **collector pin series** is just one of the ways friends groups work with PPFF to raise funds. PPFF launched the program in Pennsylvania in 2006. Modeled after successful programs underway in Maryland and Ohio, limited edition tags are produced each year. In 2007, four tags were released. All funds raised through the tag program go to support programs and improvements in state parks and forests. Tags are sold by friends groups and at most state parks, forest districts in the PA Wilds as well as through PPFF.



\$291,000

...The total amount of money raised for state parks and forests in 2007.

\$2 million

...The amount of money raised for state park and forest programs and improvements by PPFF and its chapters since its inception in 1999.

The top seven ways that Friends Groups raised funds in 2007:

- ◆ Sales of firewood, ice, items at concession stands and through gift shops, calendars, t-shirts, etc.
- ◆ Grants—local and state
- ◆ Individual contributions
- ◆ Special events
- ◆ Membership dues
- ◆ Educational events
- ◆ Corporate contributions

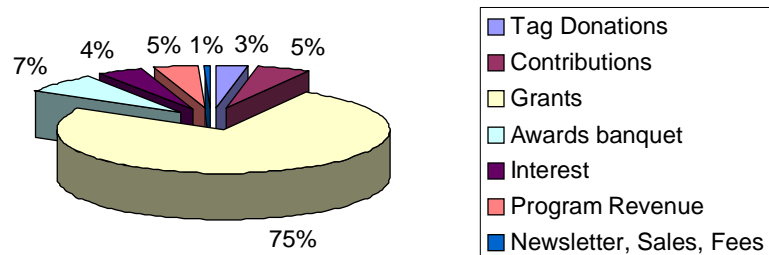


Photo: Friends of Laurel Hill

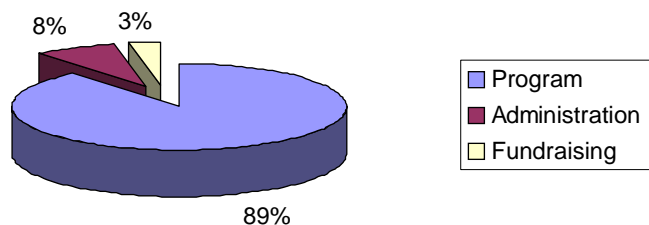
* Does not include the thousands of dollars of in-kind services donated each year.

PPFF Financial Overview

2007 Income



2007 Expenses



The above allocations represent the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's operating budget and do not include the funds raised by friends groups and other account holders. The complete audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007 will be available at the PPFF office after August 18, 2008.

"I joined the PPFF Board when the first group of interested people launched the idea of a Parks and Forests Foundation in 1999. Actually, when I was the PA State Park Director, I tried to interest then-DER Secretary Cliff Jones in creating a Foundation in 1980. The idea was not accepted at that time, so I was more than ready and willing to join forces with Linda Boxx, Cliff Jones, Bob Griffith and John Oliver to generate interest in forming a State Parks and State Forests Foundation. PPFF has become a viable, healthy organization with an important mission of serving the Bureaus of State Parks and State Forests in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources." —Bill Forrey, PPFF Board Member



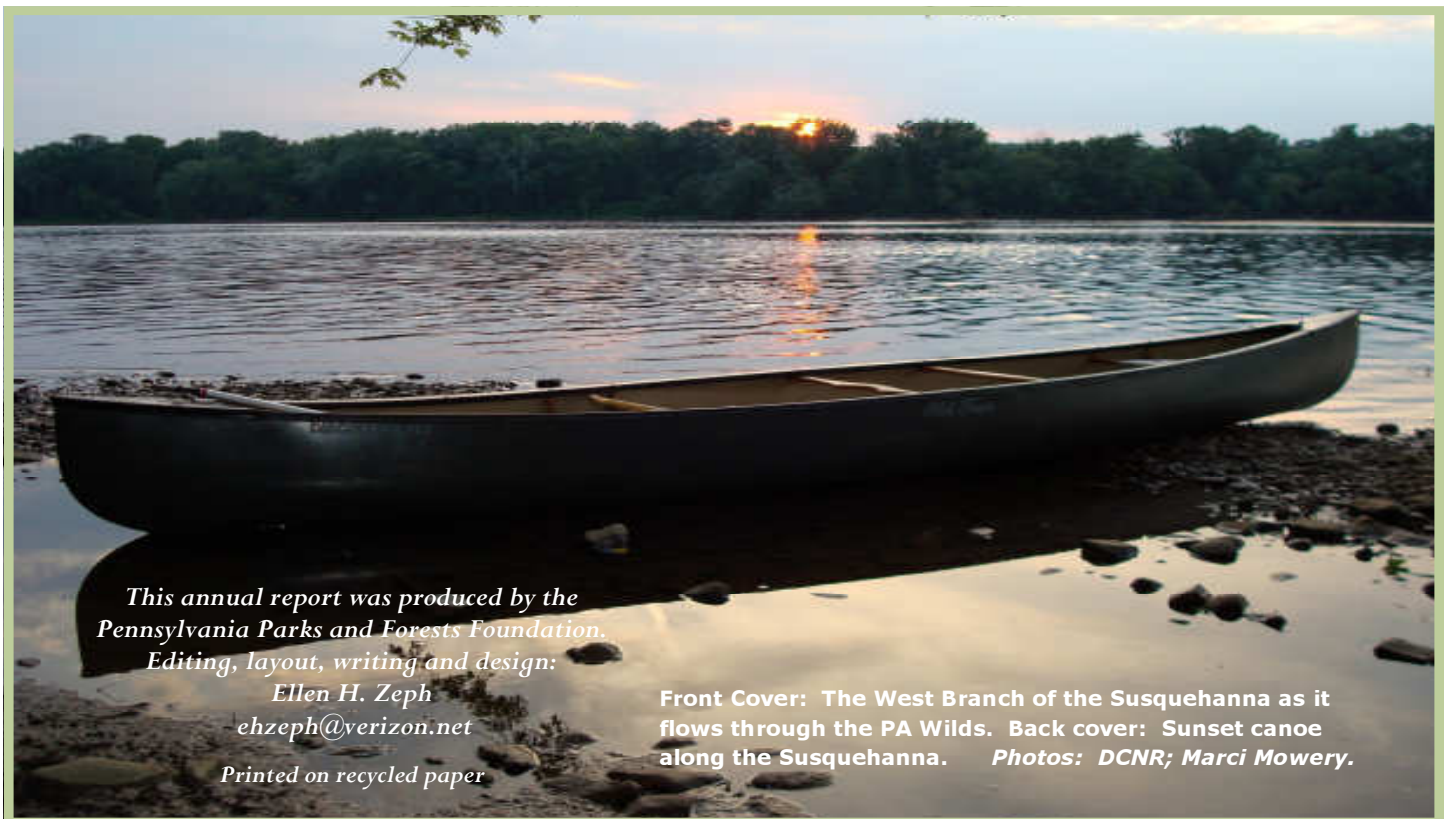
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***Great PA Outdoor Challenge
September 12–30th
Information enclosed!***



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Printed on recycled paper

Front Cover: The West Branch of the Susquehanna as it flows through the PA Wilds. **Back cover:** Sunset canoe along the Susquehanna. *Photos: DCNR; Marci Mowery.*