

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

Annual Report 2008



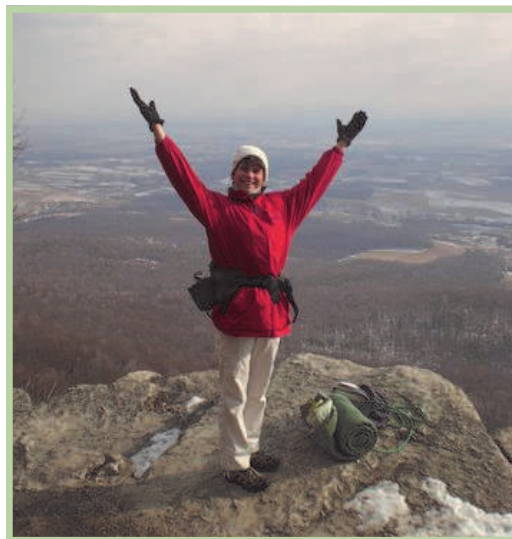
Creating a Legacy of Stewardship for Our Public Lands

2008 Reflections

Lost

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known.
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you,
If you leave it you may come back again, saying Here.
No two trees are the same to Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wren.
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows
Where you are. You must let it find you.

David Wagoner



I keep this poem near my desk to remind me to take time to get outdoors. While we don't always have the time to take a long hike or camp for the weekend, we can absorb nature in little sips by planting a garden, taking in a sunset, or smelling flowers with our grandchild.

We are fortunate in Pennsylvania to have a park within 25 miles of almost every resident and to have 2.2 million acres of forest lands. This affords us ample opportunity to step outside, to breathe in the trees, and to listen for answers to our questions.

We are also fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who work to help make these lands enjoyable places to visit, whether by organizing an event, restoring a trail, or planting trees.

As you read through the 2008 annual report, I encourage you to think about those places you hold near and dear to your heart. Have you visited them lately? Have you shared them with a loved one? Say a silent thank you to the staff and volunteers who tend your sacred place. And by all means, visit. Don't be lost.

Yours in the Outdoors — Marci Mowery, President

Photo (Joe Frassetta): Marci at Flat Rock Overlook -Colonel Denning State Park

A LOOK INSIDE

Reflections	2-3
Education	4-5
Stewardship	6-7
Friends Groups	8-11
Recreation	12-13
Fundraising	14
Financial Overview	15

"Probably at no other time in modern history is it more important to build a constituency for our parks and forests. How active Pennsylvanians are in stewardship will determine the future of our public lands." — John Quigley, Acting Secretary, DCNR

2008 Reflections

As we look back at this past year, everyone has faced difficult and often times stressful economic situations.

Despite these trying experiences, as Pennsylvanians we have again pulled together and pressed forward to make our state a better place, a guiding light in the environmental preservation movement. Preserving our parks and forests for future generations is more important than ever. As an avid sportsman, I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, and biking in the outdoors. I especially appreciate pedaling through the PA Grand Canyon on the Pine Creek Rail Trail. What a great place to spend an afternoon! Nothing compares to suddenly spying a fledgling eagle soaring overhead while the creek meanders on my left, and on my right a mountain waterfall rushes toward Pine Creek.



Several years ago I became a member of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation Board. Since then I have developed a greater respect for those who daily maintain our parks and forests for the rest of us to enjoy. I have seen firsthand the struggles involved in sustaining our beautiful land, and I strongly believe it is of utmost importance that we protect these parks and forests for present and future generations. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all who work and volunteer to maintain our natural resources.

To assure continuity of our parks and forests, we must all do our part. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's new membership program will ensure future growth of the Foundation. Our continuing expansion of new Friends' groups guarantees that we will have willing citizens ready to continue the battle to safeguard our valuable resources. Members of these groups work tirelessly and do an outstanding job. It is people who work quietly behind the scenes who have the greatest impact on success. I truly appreciate all that these people do.

Despite trying times, I look forward to another year as the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation continues to move forward to maintain and preserve our most valuable natural assets.

— Bruce Heggenstaller, Board Chair

As you are keenly aware, Pennsylvania has one of the best park systems in the country and that is not by accident or chance. We have developed a system that is strongly supported by the administration, the legislature, non-governmental organizations, and the general public. PPFF has played an important role in helping us develop support on a number of those fronts. However, I believe the most far reaching aspect of its work is what it does with the public side of things. The work of volunteerism is twofold, it certainly helps us get work done that would not get done otherwise, and just as important, it creates an atmosphere of support and advocacy that can not be accomplished any other way. Working locally in building volunteerism and Friends Groups brings with it a grassroots understanding of what we do and what we are about. In situations where the local communities develop a strong appreciation for conservation they will in-turn influence the entire support structure.

A good park system can do a lot of things given the usual resources, but will never rise to the level of greatness without the support of the community. To me, it is very clear that with the help and guidance of PPFF, our volunteer effort has grown and our advocacy through Friends Groups has paid great dividends when it comes to supporting conservation and State Parks. All of those involved should be very proud of the work thus far, and I am sure recognize the great challenges ahead for conservation and the natural resources. Collectively, we can make a grand difference and PPFF has a very important role in doing so. Thanks. —John Norbeck, Director, Bureau of State Parks

Photos front cover clockwise from top left: (Friends of Colonel Denning) Fall at Colonel Denning State Park; (Marci Mowery) Winter hiking at Black Moshannon State Park, Winter beauty at Black Moshannon State Park, and Canoeing fun on the Allegheny River Trail.

Education

We put out a call to all youth across the commonwealth to become secret agents and solve the mystery of our natural world through our *Mission Green: PA* program. With a 20-page Mission Green booklet in hand (available at state parks and forests or through PPFF) kids are guided through a series of activities, both at home and in our state parks and forests. The activities are designed to foster stewardship and appreciation of our resources. Those who complete the booklet, earn a special certificate and pin. To receive a copy of the booklet, send a SASE envelope to PPFF, 105 N. Front Street, Suite 305, Harrisburg, PA, 17101. Portions of the booklet are also available for download at our website: PaParksAndForests.org.



Volunteer Spotlight on Cherry Springs Park Dark Sky Team Member Pam Karhan



Ever since Pam can remember, she's been fascinated with the beauty of the night sky. Being a resident of Potter County meant that she was privileged to be living beneath some of the darkest night skies in the east. She'd visit Cherry Springs State Park, now recognized as one of the best night-sky viewing areas in the Eastern United States. (Recipient of the Gold Level standard for night sky preservation by the International Dark Sky Association). Pam was viewing the stars at Cherry Springs well before the park became internationally known for its stellar vistas. She remembers visiting when she was in high school, to see an entire sky full of thousands of stars, unpolluted and untouched by city lights.

Fortunately for the park and the Cherry Springs Dark Sky, that love of the dark sky has turned into hundreds of volunteer hours staffing telescopes during the summer season public stargazing programs. Almost every weekend finds Pam up at the Night Sky Public Viewing Area assisting park staff or Thom Bemus of the National Public Observatory. Pam swings her telescope over to Saturn or Jupiter, star clusters and nebulae, all to help the educa-

tional outreach program that introduces thousands of visitors to the mysteries of the Universe. Often several hundred people will arrive for one of the many programs on stars or the moon that the park and Dark Sky Fund offer. The time that Pam donates beyond her regular duties as summer clerk at Lyman Run State Park is one of the reasons the public stargazing programs are so very popular. People love to see the stars and planets through a telescope and knowledgeable volunteers who know the sky are a precious commodity. Pam, a Dark Sky Team member for over 5 years, is an extremely valuable asset to the continuing message of dark sky preservation. Thanks for the great work, Pam! —Maxine Harrison, Cherry

Springs Dark Sky Fund Photo (Maxine Harrison): Maxine and Pam.

“Citizen involvement in our public lands is important because without acknowledging our ownership of the public lands, they will be gone. Anything that is not a priority ceases to have relevance and before you even realize it, it ceases to be.” —Pam Metzger, PPFF

Taking Conservation Personally at the Philadelphia Garden Show and Harrisburg Garden Expo

Young people and adults are alarmingly losing their connection to nature. This was highlighted in Richard Louv's bestselling book *Last Child in the Woods*. Daunting environmental challenges face our state – global warming, invasive species, suburban sprawl and more. It is imperative to get Pennsylvanians outside and engaged in conservation. To help achieve that goal, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) has partnered with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in promoting their new iConserve campaign – reaching out to everyone to encourage them to take conservation personally.

At the iConserve exhibit at the Philadelphia Garden Show, people learned that from the home patio to nearby park lands, there are conservation opportunities for all. The exhibit highlighted some of the ways to be a backyard or backcountry steward by installing a rain barrel, planting native plants, or by using sustainably-harvested, certified lumber. Citizens were also encouraged to volunteer in the great outdoors and explore Pennsylvania's inspiring natural wonders.



The theme of the 2008 Harrisburg Garden Expo was “A Fresh Perspective” and indeed, we presented a new approach to gardening, with our emphasis on using native plants. Garden design was donated by the Lititz-based ELA Group, Inc. In addition to the theme of native plants, the exhibit emphasized the role that individuals can take in conserving our natural resources and was recognized by the Expo planning committee for its unique educational message.

Photos (DCNR and PPFF): Above: The iConserve exhibit at the Philadelphia Garden Show. Left: One of the landscaping ideas from the PPFF native plant exhibit at the Garden Expo.

In March 2008, a totally unexpected snowstorm blew into Philipsburg where PPFF was convening its annual retreat for Friends groups. Despite the weather, 25 hardy souls attended a variety of different workshops. We heard Bureau of State Parks director John Norbeck talk about his vision for the bureau over the coming years and hosted seminars on volunteer recruitment, working with elected officials and iConservePA. A fascinating presentation by Bill Koegler, Director of Development for West Virginia's Oglebay Resort and the Friends of Oglebay, gave all who attended some fresh and fascinating ideas on innovative partnerships and fundraising. Our hosts, the Friends of Black Moshannon, did a marvelous job in preparing this interesting site, and bringing all the day's survivors together at the Black Moshannon State Park cabin complex for a warm potluck dinner.

Photo (MaryAnn Williams): Brook Lenker, DCNR, presented the iConservePA program to the group.



Stewardship

It's tucked away in a quiet corner of the PA Wilds but elk isn't Cherry Springs State Park's claim to fame. What makes Cherry Springs so very special is its dark sky, virtually undisturbed by intrusive artificial light from faraway cities. The sky above Cherry Springs is so dark, in fact, that in June 2008, the International Dark-Sky Association named it only the world's second International Dark Sky Park. Given that the first was Utah's Natural Bridges National Monument, one quickly realizes how honored all Pennsylvanians should be to have this resource so close to us all. PPFF is likewise blessed to include the Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund among our Chapters, and encourages all PPFF members, friends and supporters to pay Cherry Springs a visit one night soon.

Photo: (Cherry Springs State Park) The infamous dark skies at Cherry Springs State Park.



Volunteer Spotlight on Friends of Ridley Creek State Park

Keeping invasive species under control is the goal of the Ridley Creek State Park Invasive Plants Abatement Program. The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park and DCNR launched a science-based invasive plants removal program for the park. Resource Manager Rachel Wagoner of DCNR supervises the eradication of shade tolerant invasive plants such as winged euonymus, Japanese barberry, Oriental bittersweet, Privet and multi-flora-rose. To-date, about 40 acres of mature forest have been treated. On a follow-up visit to the park, renowned botanist Dr. Ann Rhoads, commented that the work she observed "was very worthwhile."

The encroaching invasive vegetation was removed by cutting, mechanical removal (pulling them out) and with herbicide. Approximately 15 volunteers contributed over 150 hours of volunteer for this week-long removal program. DCNR contributed sprayers, expertise and herbicide for the project with The Friends of RCSP providing the volunteer labor and some equipment.

The project was based on the conclusion of a year long study conducted by Dr's Ann Rhoads and Timothy Block of the University of Pennsylvania and Morris Arboretum. This study can be found on The Friends website www.friendsofrcsp.org entitled *The Vegetation of Ridley Creek State Park*. There will be a follow-up visit to the Park by Rachel Wagoner in 2009. At this time, Rachel and the Friends will revisit the original 40 acres and address other invasive plants such as phragmites, Japanese hops, Paulownia and Japanese knotweed found throughout Ridley Creek State Park. —Tim Higgins, Friends of Ridley Creek Photo: (Friends of Ridley Creek) Volunteers receive instructions from DCNR's Rachel Wagoner.



What do you get when you mix football and trees? The Eagles Forest!

On May 2, 2008, DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis and Philadelphia Eagles owner

Christina Lurie cut the ribbon on Eagles Forest, a 6.5-acre site at Neshaminy State Park in Bensalem, Bucks County, to help offset the team's carbon footprint, restore wildlife habitat and enhance public recreation areas. Volunteers and state park staff planted 1,200 trees and shrubs in Eagles Forest, including 58 trees that were purchased by Eagles fans.

Eagles Forest is one example of the team's commitment through its GO GREEN initiative to better the planet through responsible business practices. The GO GREEN program, launched in 2003, incorporates green initiatives, sustainable business practices and educational outreach as core operating principals of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Photo: (Joe Frassetta) Ribbon-cutting at Eagles Forest.



Repeated encroachment by ATV's on sensitive serpentine lands at the Goat Hill Plant Sanctuary in southern Chester County was accelerating erosion and destroying a fragile ecosystem.

The Foundation teamed with the William Penn Forest District to locate a donor of serpentine boulders to help curb the use of ATVs. Penn/Md Materials donated the boulders, which were placed by volunteers from the local Boy Scout Camp and by Stowe Landscaping, of Rising Sun, MD. Serpentine Barrens maintain a tight pH balance, which prevented us from using the more readily available limestone boulders. *Photo: (Dick Martin) KTA* Volunteers braved the elements at Goat Hill Plant Sanctuary to build a trail.



Artificial fish habitat was constructed at four state parks (Bald Eagle, Nockamixon, Pymatuning and Prince Gallitzin)

to replace some of the natural aquatic vegetation cleared from the lakebeds when their dams were installed. And thanks to PPFF, anglers at Bald Eagle State Park now know where the fish are as well. Or at least they know where to start to look! A map of the lake at Bald Eagle State Park (including marinas and other public water access points) and interpretive panels explaining the use of artificial habitats were installed. Maps are for sale on the PPFF website and at Bald Eagle State Park.



While this initiative was a

partnership of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and Odwalla, the real players were the citizens of the commonwealth who logged onto their computer to vote with a click of their mouse to plant a tree in Pennsylvania. While the program was offered in eight states in 2008, Pennsylvania quickly rose to the head of the class with the most votes from our dedicated park and forest fans. We were so successful in our votes that we were able to create a half acre forest on Glendale Lake a Prince Gallitizin State Park, halting erosion, protecting water quality, and creating habitat. Planting took place in 2009, so stay tuned for more details!

Friends Groups

Friends of Big Pocono State Park

John Motz, Chair
(570) 236-1462
trailbuilder@enter.net
friendsofbigpocono.org

Friends of Black Moshannon

Pegg Culp, President
(814) 342-1588

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund

Maxine Harrison, Chair
(814) 435-2518
chipmaxharrison@hughes.net
csspdarkskyfund.org

Friends of Colonel Denning State Park

Sam and Judi Fasick
(717) 567-2013
fasick@embarqmail.com

Friends of Cook Forest and Clear Creek State Park

Robert Grigg, Chair
agrigg@dishmail.net

Friends of Goddard State Park

Becky Piccolin, President
(724) 253-4833
piccolin@verizon.net
orgsites.com/pa/friendsofgoddard/

Friends of Greenwood Furnace

Don Coine, Park Manager
(814) 667-1800
dcoine@state.pa.us

Friends of Hickory Run

Rob and Sally Sayre
(610) 298-2439
Robert.sayre1@gmail.com

Friends of Keystone State Park

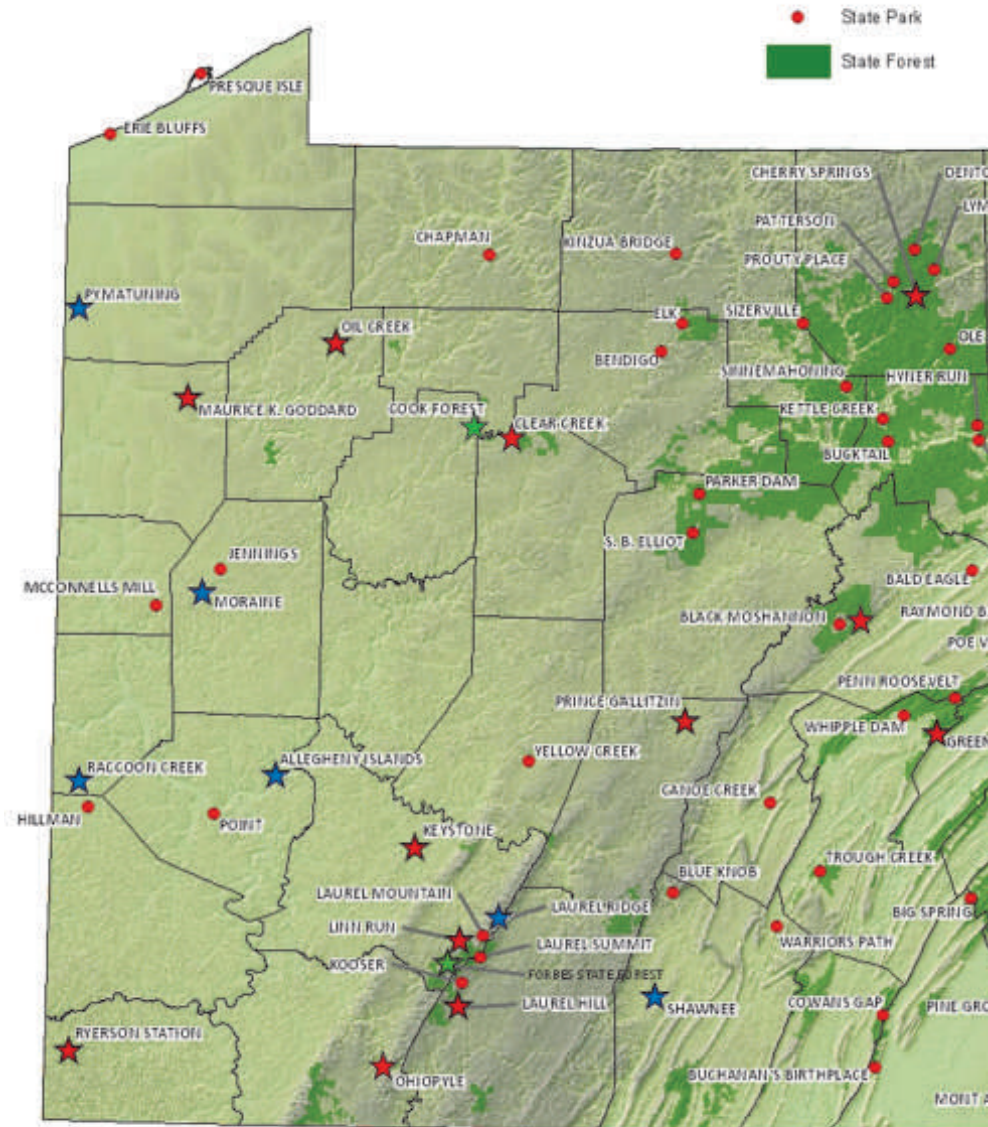
Pam McQuistian, Env. Ed. Specialist
(724) 668-2566
kpnature@nb.net

Friends of Kings Gap

George Fohs, Vice President
(717) 249-6106
gfohs@pa.net
friendsofkings-gap.org.doodlekit.com

Friends of Laurel Hill State Park

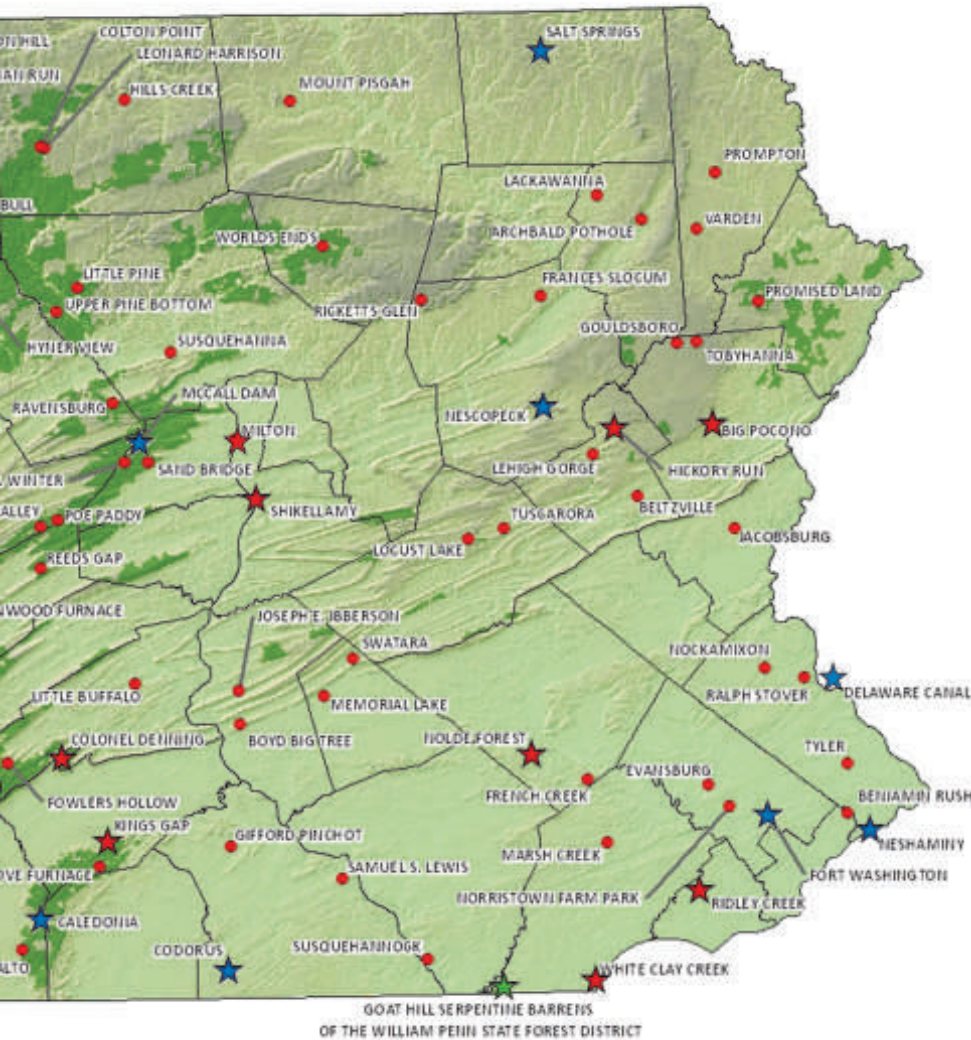
Chris Albright, Volunteer Coordinator
(814) 445-6085
laurelhillvc@state.pa.us (April-Oct.)
friendsoflhsp.org



"Our state forests would not exist as we know them without the people who care for them. Our volunteers embody the sense of stewardship for our public lands as beautiful places to spend time and so much more. They are animal habitat and other vital resources." —Dan Devlin

—Building a Constituency for Our Public Lands

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



Friends of Linn Run & Forbes State Forest

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

Friends of Milton State Park

Tom Deans, President
(570) 742-9684
tomdeans@jlink.net

Friends of Nolde Forest

Jennifer Stinson, Co-chair
(610) 404-2136
jstinson@gmsdk12.pa.us

Friends of Ohiopyle

Stacie Faust, Asst. Park Manager
(724) 329-8598
stfaust@state.pa.us
friendsofhiopyle.info

Friends of Oil Creek State Park

Peg Sims, President
(814) 676-5915
margaretasims@yahoo.com

Friends of Pinchot State Park

James Merlino, Chair
(717) 329-7890
merlino60@comcast.net
friendsofpinchotpark.org

Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park

Steve Beals, Chair
(814) 684-4097
sbeals@pgw.com

Friends of Ridley Creek

Jack Miller, Vice President
(610) 325-3883
jackmiller@boeing.com
friendsofrfcsp.org

Friends of Ryerson Station State Park

Lisa Snider
(724) 852-5278
lsnider@co.greene.pa.us

Friends of Shickellamy State Park

Julia Marano & Rebecca Cox, Co-Chairs
(570) 473-3236; (570) 286-4974
jmmarano@ptd.net
friendsofshickellamystatepark.org

Friends of State Line Barrens

(Includes Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens)
Cindy Whitesel
whitesel@zoominternet.net
statelineserpentinebarrens.org

hout a public that values and
wardship that helps maintain
sources of clean water, plant and
, State Forester, DCNR

22
...The
number of
PPFF
chapters!

Friends Groups

Stewardship of our state parks and forests and excellence in volunteerism were the themes of the 2nd annual Park and Forest awards banquet held on May 6, 2008.

The top honor, the Keystone Legacy Award (sponsored by Woolrich), was presented to Rose Chase, who in 1979, helped to champion the protection of the Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens in Chester County. Other awards recipients included: Jerry Walls (Government Award, sponsored by Mr. Joseph Ibberson); Tioga State Forest (Forest of the Year Award, sponsored by Dominion); Moraine State Park (Park of the Year sponsored by PPL Corporation); Mountaineer Search and Rescue (Friends Group Volunteer Award sponsored by PA Parks and Recreation Society); Friends of the Delaware Canal (Friends Group Improvement Award sponsored by Lentz, Cantor, Massey, Ltd.); and Friends of Laurel Hill State Park (Friends Group Education Award sponsored by Columbia Gas of PA).



Photo (Joe Frassetta): Pictured left to right: Marci Mowery, PPFF President; Rose Chase, Keystone Legacy Award Winner; Bruce Heggenstaller, Woolrich Inc. (Award Sponsor); and Wendy McLean, PPFF Board Chair.

In 2008, the Foundation unveiled its matching grant program for friends and volunteer groups working in state parks and/or forests. The grant program requires a 50% match for the project to be raised from outside sources. While young, the program has already provided funding for an array of projects including:

- ♦ At Colonel Denning State Park the Friends purchased a wood splitter to aid in their sale of firewood. When campers buy local firewood, they not only help to halt the spread of diseases and invasive insect pests, they support projects at that park.
- ♦ The Friends of Goddard purchased a fleet of kayaks for use in educational programs. Not confined to land, students and adults can now explore the lake and become better acquainted with its environment.
- ♦ Mountain Days at Prince Gallitzin State Park draws visitors to both the park and local businesses during this exciting summer event. The Grant program supported entertainment at the 2008 festival.
- ♦ Nothing tells a story better than a picture, and in New Hope, the Friends of the Delaware Canal restored a series of murals depicting canal life. These original pieces of art can be found throughout the town, adding both beauty and an educational message.
- ♦ Cherry Springs State Park likes their dark skies, dark, really dark, and to keep them that way, the volunteers produced a manual to guide citizen's and businesses in their lighting decisions. These manuals can be found in the surrounding community libraries and at the PPFF office.



Volunteers who dedicate themselves to improving our state parks and forests

In 2008, Friends Groups:

- ♦ Organized 50 special events such as Winterfest at Ohiopyle State Park and the annual Pioneer Frolic at M.K. Goddard State Park, all of which attracted over 38,700 visitors.
- ♦ Worked on 56 service projects ranging from invasive species removal, to installation of demonstration gardens and playgrounds, to monthly trail days. The friends often utilize community service groups like the Boy Scouts to help them complete special projects.
- ♦ Engaged 658 volunteers of all ages in activities such as creating a park store at Black Moshannon State Park, planting trees on National Public Lands day at Laurel Hill State Park, and a second annual pottery show at Nolde Environmental Center.
- ♦ Donated 25,295 volunteer hours — the equivalent of \$512,224 in labor to state parks and forests.
- ♦ Raised nearly \$120,000 for park and forest programs and improvements. Friends continued to raise funds in creative ways such as the sale of items at concession stands, firewood and ice sales during the camping season, calendar sales, and writing and obtaining grant funds.



Photos — Top: (Friends of Ohiopyle) Volunteers work to remove invasive species as part of Project WeedWhack which the Friends helped to launch in March 2008 at Ohiopyle State Park.

Bottom: (Friends of Shikellamy) - The Friends of Shikellamy State Park have reached out to the community to develop partnerships with local businesses, musicians and other civic and educational organizations who will work collaboratively with them towards their goals. Sunday Brunch in the Park is an example of this collaboration—local musicians and restaurants participate in this increasingly popular event where attendance has doubled since it began.



"There needs to be a moment in every child's life where the magic of the outdoors creates a connection with natural things that will stay with them through the rest of their lives. All of us who care about our public lands, conservation, and the long term health of our planet have a responsibility to help create that connection. The future of our State Parks and State Forests depends upon it." —Ric Carlson, PPFF Board

Recreation

In 2008, PPFF launched the first annual Great Pennsylvania

Outdoor Challenge. Conceived as the rugged individualist's answer to organized outdoor events, the GPOC offered everyone the opportunity to pick a favorite activity in a favor-



ite place and then recruit friends and family to participate and raise money for a Friends group, a park or forest or PPFF itself. Sponsored by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, and with prizes donated by REI, Commerce Bank and Odwalla, 31 different activities took place during three weeks in September, including kayaking, hiking, biking and volunteer work all across Pennsylvania. The second annual GPOC will be expanded, with do-it-yourself events supplemented



by traditional organized activities in some of our parks and forests. *Photos (Joe Frassetta, Bob Trejo): Right: PPFF President Marci Mowery hiked the rim of the PA Grand Canyon as part of her challenge. Left, BSA Troop 98 hiked part of the Conestoga Trail for their challenge.*

The largest crowd yet (51 biathletes) turned out to compete the Third Annual Oil Creek Summer Biathlon August 9, 2008.

The biathlon course consists of three parts: a 1.2 mile loop, a shooting range of 3.5-inch metal targets 25 meters from the shooting position, and a 70 meter penalty running loop. Each competitor must complete three circuits of the course. First, each must run the loop. Second, the runner stops at the shooting range to lie prone and shoot five shots. For every missed shot in a stage, the competitor must complete one circuit of the penalty loop. The entire course is run three times to complete the race.

The 2008 overall female winner, Stephanie Blackstone of Everett, PA set a new course record, completing the course in 25 minutes, 19 seconds (a 2½ minute improvement over the previous record). Stephanie only missed one shot for one 70-meter penalty loop. The overall winner was Doug Hoover of Williamsburg, PA who missed no shots and completed the course in 23:32. Proceeds of the event benefit the Friends of Oil Creek State Park.



Photo: (Kirby Neubert, Friends of Oil Creek State Park) Mary Mehlburger on the course at the Biathlon.



Visitors to state parks in 2008 received a royal welcome via our new **Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests Visitor Kits.** Produced in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Government Support Group, these handy kits included a map, outdoor recreation suggestions, safety tips, and more. Produced via the generosity of the sponsors (Canon, Odwalla, Travelocity, Geico, and Shutterfly), the kits not only were provided free of charge, the Foundation received a check to be used as part of our matching grant program.

Creating quality outdoor experiences at parks and forests



Most Memorable Moment in a state park or forest:

“My sons and I have camped, hunted and fished in many of our parks and forests and enjoyed a number of memorable moments, but the one that always brings a smile to my face is when my 12 year old son had for weeks practiced his turkey calling and when we sat down in the Tiadaghton State Forest and I told him to try calling, a gobbler called back immediately. The look of pure joy and amazement in his eyes was unforgettable. I’m always appreciative of our public lands for giving me moments like that.”

—Representative Mike Hanna, PPFF Board

Volunteer Spotlight on Friends of Keystone State Park

The Friends of Keystone State Park set out to accomplish a long overdue and much anticipated improvement to Keystone State Park. To purchase and install a playground near the beach area of the park was the goal of this dedicated and determined group. October 20th, 2008 was the momentous date of completion.

Initially, this seemed to be well out of the reach of the park’s tight budget. The Friends of Keystone secured forty-five thousand dollars in grants from Senator Bob Regola and Representative Joe Petrarca for the funds required to bring this exciting addition to Keystone State Park. Once funding was secured, the group diligently recruited volunteers to join forces on to assemble the many facets of the playground, piece by piece. A labor intensive and somewhat tricky endeavor, the task took two days. Volunteers also returned to spread a mulch substrate, the finishing touch. The Friends’ not only secured funding for this playground, they created a following of over one-hundred volunteers who donated their time to build this playground.



It did not take long for the children to discover the park’s most recent recreational attraction! Daily attendance at the playground has averaged forty children per day since October 20th, 2008. On the evening of October 20th, families were already visiting the site and enjoying the fruits of the Friends’ labor. Once again we are reminded that great things can truly be accomplished from a magnificent few. Just ask the kids! —Jim Delesandro, Sr., President, Friends of Keystone State Park Photo: (Friends of Keystone State Park) The finished playground welcomes visitors.

“As a member of the Pennsylvania Senate I have come to appreciate the importance of Pennsylvania’s natural jewels. Our state parks and forests are not only steeped in culture, history and heritage, but are also key to the future of our commonwealth. I have camped in Cooks Forest, thrown bread to the carp in the Pymatuning Spillway and hopped, skipped and jumped my way through the Hickory Run Boulder field....these and many other experiences are etched in my memory and serve to remind me why we must work together to conserve and enhance these vital Pennsylvania assets.” —Senator Rob Wonderling, PPFF Board

Raising Funds

By purchasing a collector pin, you show your support for our state parks and forests! In 2008, the sixth pin in the limited edition series (sponsored by Dominion) was released featuring a beautiful scene at Black Moshannon State Park (pictured, right). The original artwork was contributed by Port Matilda, PA artist Sarah Pollock. Tags are for sale at most state parks and forests and through the PPFF website. All proceeds from your purchase (\$5 suggested donation) goes to support programs and improvements in YOUR state parks and forests!



In a quest to provide more meaningful gift giving opportunities, PPFF launched a Living Gifts

Program— a wonderful way to honor friends, family and colleagues while preserving and enhancing our state parks and forests! Gift choices range from flowers, shrubs and other native plant materials to educational materials or a chance to sponsor a child to attend Adventure Camp. Whatever you choose, it is truly a meaningful gift for today and for future generations! Living Gifts are available year-round and can be purchased by visiting our website – paparksandforests.org.

Photo: (Brook Lenker, DCNR)

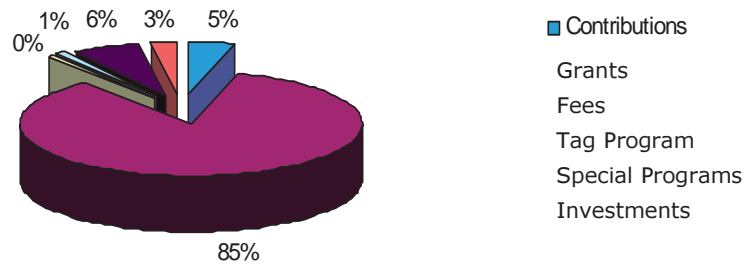
At the same time people were participating in an historic presidential election, they were likewise invited to Elect to Conserve.

In partnership with DCNR's iConserve program, "voters" chose their favorite conservation issue among five nominees: tree planting, open space, water conservation, habitat creation, and outdoor volunteering. Harrisburg's Norm Lacasse represented PPFF—with the planting of trees and the long-term benefits to the earth that suggests emblematic of PPFF's message of stewardship. Although PPFF didn't win the election (or the \$5,000 a victory would have entailed), we did receive 20% of the votes cast and \$1,000 from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources.

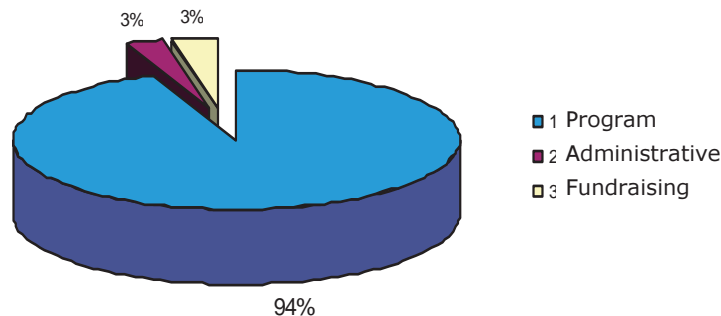


Our Mission: To enhance Pennsylvania's parks and forests, protect Pennsylvania's natural resources, and support conservation and environmental programs.

2008 Income



2008 Expenses



The above allocations represent the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's operating budget. The complete audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2008 are available at the PPFF office.

It is with much sadness that we said goodbye to one of the founding members of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Cliff Jones. Cliff's enthusiasm and drive helped build the organization, as he recruited board members, shaped the vision, hired staff and encouraged interns to come to the foundation.

Cliff will be remembered for many things. He had a long career of public service in Pennsylvania, serving six governors in cabinet positions, as well as holding numerous other positions in business and government. His dedication to conservation issues was embodied by his service to many organizations from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Cliff lived his life to the fullest, and touched many people with his positive attitude and can-do approach. We miss Cliff, but know that he has created a legacy and his memory will live on.

—Marci Mowery



If you could grant one wish for parks and forests, what would it be?

"That every resident would view our parks and forests as our state's contribution to our national treasures in this country. PA has been in the forefront in protecting these treasures (parks, forests and wildlife) for over 100 years and we should always remain a leader in managing our natural resources." —Rawley Cogan, PPFF Board



105 N. Front Street, Suite 305
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-7644
paparksandforests.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Chair

Bruce Heggenstaller
V.P. of Operations, Woolrich, Inc.

Vice Chairman

Wendy McLean
Partner, Lentz, Cantor & Massey, Ltd.

Secretary

Brian J. Clark
Buchanan, Ingersol & Rooney

Treasurer

Robert Griffith
*Executive Director,
PA Recreation and Park Society*

—Directors—

Hank Barnette
Skadden Arps
Richard Carlson
Retired, DCNR
Rawley Cogan
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Peter S. Duncan

Former Secretary, PA DER

William C. Forrey

Arora & Associates, PC

Ken Gaudi

Manager, State Government

Affairs, Dominion

Representative Michael Hanna

*PA House of Representatives,
76th District*

Christopher J. Johnston

Delta Development

*Principal—Planning and Economic
Development*

William Mifflin

*Executive Director, Philadelphia
Hospitality Inc.*

George E. Stark

NiSource Corporation Service

David Spigelmyer

Chesapeake Energy

Rob Wonderling

State Senator, 24th District

—Ex-Officio—

John Quigley

Acting Secretary, DCNR

—Honorary Members—

Linda McKenna Boxx

Joseph Ibberson

John C. Oliver III

—Staff—

President

Marci Mowery
mmowery-ppff@pa.net

Bookkeeper

Lisa Salvatore
lsalvatore-ppff@pa.net

Phone: 717-236-7644