

# 2009 Musings

While I wouldn't suggest you try this (what were my parents thinking???), my memories from outdoor experiences stayed with me into adulthood, and shaped the person I am today. I am sure that many of you can say the same. The great outdoors builds families and relationships and helps to ease the stress of daily life. We are fortunate in Pennsylvania to have such a rich legacy of natural assets.



Over the course of the past year, I applaud your efforts to conserve these treasures as pressures mount—from gas well drilling, leasing of forest lands, funding and staffing slashes, and assaults on grant programs. You rallied and made your voices heard, "We love our public lands!" While the pressure isn't over, you continue to impress me with your willingness to be a voice for generations yet to come. You give of your time through letter writing, phone calls, and volunteerism. You give of your finances to the Foundation or one of our great chapters, parks or forests.

2009 marked the 10 year anniversary of the signing of the Articles of Incorporation that created the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. Much has happened in the ensuing decade...from tens of thousands of volunteer hours to millions of dollars raised to make our parks and forests even better. Thank you for being a part of a movement to ensure that the next generation remembers our generation as the one that handed them a gift of memories.

Yours in the Outdoors — Marci Mowery, President

# A Look Inside

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"Pennsylvania is blessed with a vast state forest system and rich woodlands that extend to every corner of the commonwealth. The future of these forest resources depends on a citizenry that values their conservation. The PPFF provides a important avenue for citizens to channel their support for our forests and turn this support into on-the-ground conservation—both for today and future generations."

-Dan Devlin, State Forester/Director, DCNR Bureau of Forestry

"The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is an integral partner in the stewardship of our parks and forests, and a significant asset in educating and engaging the many millions of people who visit them each year.

PPFF helps to foster a constituency for conservation and the commonwealth's public lands. PPFF's work is critically important during this time of great challenges to our public lands and our natural environment.

They help to spread the word that each of us has a role to play in protecting the future of our natural resources.

Volunteerism and joining partner organizations like PPFF epitomize some of the ways we can all make a difference."

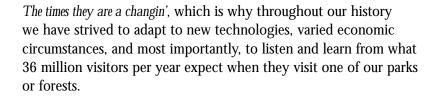
— John Quigley, Secretary, DCNR

## FROM THE CHAIR

A longstanding friendship is rooted in trust, adaptability, and a commitment to excellence through "thick and thin."

For over ten years your Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation has served to support a countless number of "friends" for our commonwealth's state parks and forests. We have done so by building an organization and individual trust. Whether it is through our learning workshops, awards programs, or our fiduciary role in supporting friends of

or our fiduciary role in supporting friends groups, your PPFF is built on a solid foundation of integrity.



As we begin our next decade, we stand committed to serving as an advocate for our parks and forests. We know that there will always be challenges, however, we also know that the bonds of friendship that form around our natural "jewels" will result in delight, wonders, and fond memories for many people for many years to come.

— Rob Wonderling, Chair



This past year will be remembered long for its highs and lows. Our budget was at a low that we have not seen in over a decade, Growing Greener 2 is expiring leaving our infrastructure future in doubt, and we have been in the grips of a hiring freeze for two years. There were two high points, however, that need to be celebrated and overshadow all that we have been through. The first, the Bureau of State Parks received the coveted National Gold Medal from National Recreation and Parks Association and the American Academy on Park and Recreation Administration. We were chosen by our peers as the Best in the Nation. The award speaks volumes to the high quality service we provide our visitors and citizens even while dealing with reduced staff and funding.

The most remarkable high of the year has been how our staff has responded to the tough situation we are in. Reduced budgets, not getting paid on time, not receiving a pay raise for several years for management staffers, concerns about furloughs and park closings, our staff continued to do their jobs at the highest level of efficiency and professionalism. Last year we hosted over 38.6 million visitors. The public knew what was going on and commented on the work ethic our staff has displayed. I believe for most, it is the self satisfaction of doing a job well and the love for the work and the resources, and not so much the recognition; but, sometimes it sure feels good to know that folks notice and appreciate your efforts. I certainly do. Thanks.

-John Norbeck, Director, Bureau of State Parks



Director Norbeck with the Gold Medal Award.

# Ten Years of Progress

The creation of PPFF was one of a series of recommendations made in the "State Parks 2000" report that called for improvements in state park operation, maintenance, education, and funding. The document was an outgrowth of a survey that polled park visitors, professional staff and the general public on their vision of the future for State Parks.

# **Inaugural Board Members**

We are indebted to our inaugural board members who helped launch the organization in 1999.

Linda McKenna Boxx, Chair

Hank Barnette

Elizabeth Gemmill

Paul McHale

Marlene Mosco

Senator Raphael Musto

Senator Timothy Murphy

Tom Norris

Michael Nutter

Marilyn Ware

Mike Watson

#### **Honorary Members**

William Forrey

Joe Ibberson

**Cliff Jones** 

#### **Ex-Officio Members**

Dr. James Grace Roger Fickes



Ten Years of Progress

# **Engaging People**

#### **Pine Creek Rail Trail**

Funds from PPFF's PA Wilds Tag Program—a collector pin series featuring artwork from regional artists—were used to purchase

trail counters for the Pine Creek Rail Trail. While maybe not noticeable to you or me, the counters provide accurate counts of the number of people who utilize the trail. Lycoming County Commission Chair, Rebecca Burke, had this to say in appreciation: "The count data provided to the Pine Creek Rail Trail Advisory Committee has been very helpful to the Committee's overall mission to provide timely information and advice to DCNR regarding important issues associated with the public usage, operation and maintenance of this significant regional trail system."

## **PA Outdoor Recreation Plan**

The Plan is prepared periodically by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide statewide policy direction and to fulfill the DCNR's recreation and preservation mandate. This most recent recreation plan involved a cross section of agencies, non-profits, and leaders, including PPFF. We represented the

recreation benefits of parks and forests, and held an active role in the Outdoor Recreation and Health subcommittee. As an outgrowth of this report, the Foundation will be 1) looking for ways

to engage youth in outdoor recreation and volunteerism; 2) marketing outdoor recreation; and, 3) developing a recognition program for parks and playgrounds.

• Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund - 1st Friends Group 1999

- Articles of Inc. signed 1999
- Pa Rec and Park Soc. provides financial management support – 1999 - 2008

 Organization makes public debut – 2000

1999

 Support from the Mckenna and Mellon Foundations helps launch PPFF – 1999 2000

• Linda McKenna Boxx named as Interim Executive Director - 2000



## **Elk Country Visitor Center**

Last year, DCNR enlisted the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation to help with the completion of the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benzette, PA. PPFF stepped up to shepherd the project through to completion. The 7000-square foot visitor center includes interpretive exhibits, wildlife trails and viewing blinds, and is the largest elk watching and conservation education facility in the Eastern United States. "The goal is to give visitors a wonderful

outdoor experience and share the story of the conservation efforts that have restored many of the natural and wild areas of Pennsylvania," says Marci Mowery, PPFF President.

The Foundation has ramped up their efforts to reach out to youth of all ages—not just to engage them in recreation, but to develop a volunteerism and youth mentoring program.

#### **Recreation for ALL**

Can buying a pin make a difference to visitors of Pennsylvania's parks and forests? It can if it's the purchase of a PA Wilds pin. Launched in 2006, money collected from the sale of PPFF's collector pin series go directly to fund projects in state parks and forests. These donations enabled Cook Forest to build an ADA fishing pier. Cook Forest maintenance staff, along with the generous help of the

Pennsylvania Conservation Corps, worked collectively to build the pier. So when you visit any of the state parks and forests in the PA Wilds, stop in the office and buy one of these pins. You'll feel good knowing that your donation translates into countless hours of outdoor fun for all!



## Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge

Get out and join in the fun!
The challenge was issued, and over 1000

people hit the ground running participating in the 2nd annual GPOC. This month-long event (September 11 - October 11, 2009) kicked off with a walk on the Goddard Trail in Camp Hill. The activities were as varied as the participants. Whether participating in a triathlon at Oil Creek State Park, helping to clear trails in parks on National Public Lands Day (9/26), or biking across Ohiopyle State Park on the Great Allegheny Passage, volunteers, friends and families got outside and covered over 11,000 miles, raising awareness and funds for our beautiful state parks and forests! This year's GPOC will run from September 10 -October 10. With over 30,000 miles of trails in Pennsylvania, there is something for everyone! To register and for more information, visit paparksandforests.org.

• 3 Friends Groups started – 2002 Helped fund organization of Big Savage Tunnel and Land purchase for Delaware State Forest - 2003

2001

Jon Delano hired as
 1st Executive Director –
 2001

2002

 Jack Keith hired as new President of PPFF - 2002 2003

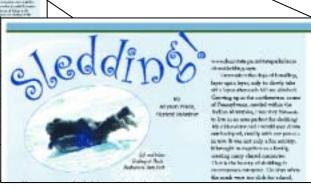
2 Friends Groups started – 2003

# **Building Leaders**

### **Friends Retreat**

Some 20 members of nine different chapters attended the annual Friends Group Retreat at Hidden Valley Resort in Somerset County on April 4, 2009. A late afternoon visit to Laurel Hill State Park and the CCC museum and statue was a highlight.





#### **Future Conservation Leaders**

Fostering the next generation of conservation leaders is an important role that we all can play. The Foundation works closely with both Shippensburg

University and Elizabethtown College in their internship and volunteer programs. In the past, we have had interns, work study students, and community service volunteers from both of these fine institutions. The Foundation also actively participates in career day at Shippensburg University. This symbiotic relationships keeps PPFF fresh with the ideas of our next generation of leaders while helping these future leaders gain experience in a non-profit organization.

## **Goddard Legacy Project Launch**

What do you get when you mix determination, inspiration and dedication? Maurice K. Goddard! In September 2009, the Foundation officially launched the Goddard Legacy Project—a multi-year endeavor to highlight the contributions Maurice Goddard made to water quality protection, park expansion, forest conservation and management, professionalism, and long term funding for recreation. The effort will result in historic markers at selected sites, interpretive panels, a documentary on public television, and a symposium on the life of this visionary leader.



- Bigger Property Purchase - Indenture at Tobyhanna SP - 2004
- Marci Mowery hired as second President of PPFF – 2005
- 48 Accounts Managed 2005
- Tag Program launched 2006
- 1st of 3 Garden Expo's organized in partnership with DCNR – 2006

2004

2005

2006

- 2 Friends Groups started – 2004
- 5 Friends Groups started – 2005
- 3 Friends Groups started 2006

- started 2004
- Annual Report 2009

# **Conservation**

## Waggoner's Gap

In memory of the late Cliff Jones, one of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation's founding members, a donation was made to the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy towards the purchase of 106 acres of undeveloped forestland on the ridge at Waggoner's Gap. This land will eventually become part of the Cliff Jones Field Station at Waggoner's Gap which is owned by Audubon Pennsylvania. One of the premier hawk watching sites in Pennsylvania, it is also a globally important and critical flyway for more than 150 species of birds annually. The purchase of this land will not only protect important bird habitat, it will allow it to remain open and accessible for birdwatchers, hikers, hunters, sightseers, researchers and students.



## **Philadelphia Flower Show**

The Foundation once again partnered with the DCNR to host an education display at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Our focus on native plants and conservation is a theme that runs throughout our work...helping us to create conservation landscapes both at home and on public lands. While economic concerns have altered our participation in future flower shows, we continue to educate about the importance of native plants and work to raise funds for demonstration plantings and invasive plant removal in state parks and forests across the commonwealth.



#### **iConserve**

PPFF has been a partner in DCNR's iConserve program helping citizens across the commonwealth "Take Conservation Personally!" The iConserve program builds volunteerism, conservation awareness, and provides tips and ideas for small actions with big results.

- Annual Awards Program launched – 2007
- Matching Grant Program established – 2007
- Financial Administrative staff position created 2008
- 2 Friends Groups started 2008
- Membership Program Instituted 2008
  - 100 Accounts Managed 2008
- Land acquisition funds donated to Cliff Jones Field Station at Waggoner's Gap - 2009
- 3 Friends Groups started 2009

2007

 2 Friends Groups started – 2007 2008

 Great PA Outdoor Challenge Program launched – 2008 2009

 PPFF partners with DCNR to complete the Elk Country Visitor Center – 2009

# **Building Partnerships**

## **Community Partnerships**

Comcast employees, family members and friends assembled at Trough Creek and Colonel Denning state parks as part of the annual Comcast Cares Day. Comcast partners with organizations like PPFF with more than 60,000 employees volunteering in their communities. For every employee who volunteers, the company makes a financial contribution. Last year, PPFF received a check for \$1640 for both Trough Creek and Colonel Denning to use for park improvements and programs.

We also were invited to partner with **Verizon** who encourages their employees to get out and volunteer in their communities. We posted a listing of our volunteer opportunities on their website connecting Verizon employees with projects in parks and forests across the state.







## Gifts that Give Hope

PPFF was one of twenty-one organizations on hand to give holiday shoppers alternative gift choices, including flowers for native plant gardens in state parks, a PPFF membership in a friend or family member's name, or materials for use in park and forest education programs. A variety of gifts can be purchased from the PPFF at any time as part of our year-round Living Gifts Program. To see a complete selection, visit PaParksAndForests.org.



# Trees for State Parks—Just a Mouse Click Away

For the past two years, Odwalla has been donating trees to state parks as part of their Plant a Tree Program. With just a click of your mouse, you can "vote" for Pennsylvania to be the recipient of the free trees. In April 2010, 45 trees were planted at Nockamixon State Park, 140 at Delaware State Park and 70 at Ft. Washington State Park as part of the 2009 program. At Delaware State Park, more than 100 Boy Scout volunteers helped to plant 75 trees. There is still time to cast your vote for Pennsylvania for 2010 visit www.parkvisitor.com/odwalla.



## **Accounts Managed**

PPFF manages 124 accounts for the state's parks, forests and Friends Groups. Donations to these many accounts fund everything from playground construction to maintenance projects to spectacular events, like the annual French & Indian War Encampment at Cook Forest State Park.



#### **Native Plant Sale**

PPFFs first annual native plant sale was a smashing success, raising awareness about the importance of native plants in conservation, attracting new members to the foundation, and raising funds for native demonstration gardens in state parks and state forests.



# **Matching Grants Program**

Another successful year for our Matching Grants Program!



The Friends of Salt Springs State Park constructed a handicapped accessible trail link at the park. Reports are that it is very popular and appreciated!

The Friends of Shikellamy State Park were able to expand their increasingly popular programs like Sunday Brunches along the Susquehanna River which feature food prepared by local restaurants, and Fall Harvest Festival featuring local produce, music, hayrides and activities for the entire family.



funds raised by the Friends group and

their grant.



Friends of Codorus State Park

Cherry Springs State Park, known for its dark skies and star viewing parties, now has wireless internet access! This allows astronomers to download useful information like the most current weather conditions. In this photo, Dark Sky Team members Pam Karhan and Maxine Harrison use the wireless internet access to operate a telescope at Cherry Springs State Park.





The Laurel Mountain Volunteers are an alliance of ten different local volunteer groups who work to help maintain the large and well-used trail network on Laurel Mountain in Forbes State Forest. With PPFF's matching grant, the group purchased gas-powered trimmers, stain and supplies, food, t-shirts, and a year-end dinner for these dedicated volunteers.

# **Expanding the Voice** for Parks and Forests

Building a Constituency

# **Youth Volunteers in State Parks and Forests**

Volunteers in our parks and forests come from all walks and stages of life. Families bring their children to public lands to recreate at a place they love. The volunteer ethic is strong in Girl/Boy Scouts, 4-H, and church youth groups, all of which instill a sense of community and service-to-others. Schools promote volunteer community service through Honor Society programs, requirements for graduation, and community- based learning, often at a state park/forest.

So how do these volunteers participate? In every way imaginable! Some scour trails and day use areas to remove litter while others plant trees and native flowers. They can be found removing invasive plants. At many parks, youth volunteers assist with various aspects of programming from helpers to apprentice naturalists.



The Foundation is working to expand this cadre of involved youth through an adult-youth mentoring program, fostering not only volunteerism, but recreational skills development. If you are interested in learning more, contact our office today to be placed on a mailing list.

## Spotlight on Laurel Hill State Park Volunteer Joan Ansell

Joan Ansell has dedicated herself to maintaining and beautifying the wildflower and herb gardens surrounding the Laurel Hill State Park Visitor Center. She spends a few days a week, sometimes with her grandson Levi who is also a volunteer, researching new plant sightings throughout the Laurel Hill Complex, weeding and watering the lovely gardens, tending to her compost bin, and keeping a close eye on all the nature that surrounds these areas. For over fifteen years, she's been an active volunteer in the Friends group and is indeed a crucial part of the preservation of beauty surrounding us at Laurel Hill!

# **Seriously Serious about Our State Parks and Forests**

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



#### **Marcellus Shale**

A new pressure has emerged on our state parks and state forests—that of natural gas extraction. While the Foundation recognizes the importance of this resource for energy, we have expressed our concerns regarding leasing of state lands for drilling, adverse environmental impacts, and the need for a severance tax to support conservation, recreation and water quality.



Dick Martin, PA Forest Coalition

## **Lifelong Learning**

We are always reaching out to new audiences and last fall, we presented a program through Penn State York's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Participants took a walk through history exploring the development of our



nationally recognized park and forest system and the heroes who helped build and protect them.

HIPPLE DAM

## We are EVERYWHERE We Want to Be

PPFF got online in a big way in 2009 with a redesigned, easier-to-use website, increased email communications through web-based email marketing software and our very own Facebook page. Facebook did as advertised when we needed to spread the word about potential park closings - individual park supporters got on board with "save our park" pages of their own. And it continues to serve as a fun forum for folks to focus on their favorite park and forest.

Here are a couple of responses people have written on Facebook to the question

"What is your favorite State Park?"

• PPFF Facebook Friend Brenda:

My favorite park is Ricketts Glen. We camp there every year. I love the waterfalls, the trails, canoeing on Lake Jean at dusk to watch the beavers and to see the sunset over the water, campfires and waking up to camp coffee.

•PPFF Facebook Friend Randy:
I love Promised Land and camping out on the point!!!

# **Your Voices Were Heard**

Who knew last June that the Pennsylvania budget would become a battle of epic proportions. At stake, many resources that you worked hard to protect such as the Oil and Gas Fund, the Keystone Fund and a complete operational budget for state parks and forests. You spoke in favor of a sensible

approach to drilling on state forest lands and in support of a severance tax on gas extraction. You wrote, emailed, and called your legislators, and even sent photographs of yourselves at your favorite state parks

and forests holding "Save Our State Park and Forest" signs.

You reminded elected officials that public lands are for the public benefit—a gift to be enjoyed now by all citizens, and to be preserved for future generations.



Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund

www.csspdarkskyfund.org

Friends of Big Pocono State Park

www.friendsofbigpocono.org

Friends of Black Moshannon State Park

Friends of Colonel Denning State Park

Friends of Cook Forest & Clear Creek State Parks

Friends of Delaware/ Promised Land

Friends of Goddard State Park

Friends of Greenwood Furnace State Park

Friends of Hickory Run State Park

Friends of Keystone State Park Friends of Kings Gap www.friendsofkingsgap.org

Friends of Laurel Hill State Park www.friendsoflhso.org

Friends of Linn Run State Park & Forbes State Forest

Friends of Lyman Run State Park

Friends of Milton State Park

Friends of Mt. Pisgah State Park

Friends of Nolde Forest

Friends of Ohiopyle State Park

Friends of Oil Creek State Park www.orgsites.com/pa/focsp/index.htm

Friends of Parker Dam State Park Friends of Pinchot State Park www.friendsofpinchot.org

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace

Friends of Prince Gallitzin
State Park

Friends of Ridley Creek State Park www.friendsofrcsp.org

Friends of Ryerson Station State Park

Friends of Shikellamy State Park www.friendsofshikellamystatepark.org

Friends of State Line Barrens http://statelineserpentinebarrens.or

Friends of Yellow Creek www.foyc.org

For chapter contact information, visit our website, PaParksAndForests.org

# Our 28 Chapters had a phenomenal year!

Collectively these dedicated volunteers:

- Organized 123 special events and programs like Harvest, Homestead, Bluebird and Wild Food Festivals, open houses, pottery shows, Sunday brunches and concerts, themed camp ground weekends and many more!
- Completed 98 service projects including road, trail, garden and sign maintenance, invasive plant removal, habitat restoration, and stream and park cleanups.
- Engaged 1100 volunteers of all ages in activities such as creating an outdoor classroom, planting native trees and shrubs or staffing gift shops.
- Raised over \$123,000 for park and forest programs and improvements.
- Donated 32,921 volunteer hours—the equivalent of \$686,400 in labor to state parks and forests!

Dan Devlin, State Forester/Director. DCNR Bureau of Forestry talks with Keystone Legacy Award winner Joe Healey.

Attendees celebrate the award winners at the banquet.

Greg Schrum, accepts the Government award. Also pictured, Roger Fickes, our event's Emcee (background) and Joe Ibberson, award sponsor (right).

Marci Mowery, President, PPFF, Joe Healey, Keystone Legacy Award winner with Bruce Heggenstaller, Woolrich, Inc, award sponsor.

Larry Nowicki and Leslie Orbin of Columbia Gas of PA, sponsors of the Friend Group Volunteerism Award.









# **Celebration**

Our annual park and forest awards banquet recognizes exemplary work to protect and enhance our state park and forest system. Over 100 of our members and friends gathered at the Country Club of Harrisburg for a reception (sponsored by ActiveOutdoors) and gala dinner to honor the eight award winners.

## **Keystone Legacy Award**

(Sponsored by Woolrich) Joe Healey, Keystone Trails Association Trail Care Crew

#### **Government Award**

(Sponsored by Mr. Joseph Ibberson) Greg Schrum, Retired, Bureau of State Parks

#### President's Award

(Sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Louis J. Appell, Jr.) Judy Schwank, President and CEO, 10,000 Friends

#### Park of the Year

(Sponsored by Dominion) Sinnemahoning State Park

#### Forest of the Year

(Sponsored by Gannett Fleming) William Penn Forest District

## **Friends Group Awards:** VOLUNTEERISM

(Sponsored by Columbia Gas of PA) Friends of Ohiopyle

#### **EDUCATION**

(Sponsored by PA Energy Alliance) Friends of Colonel Denning

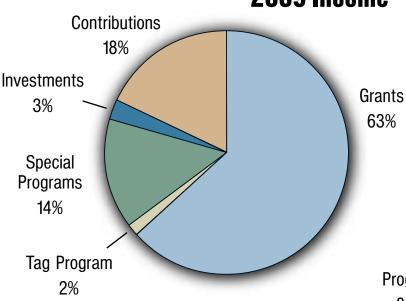
#### **IMPROVEMENT**

(Sponsored by PPL Corporation) Friends of Shikellamy



# **Financial Overview**

# **2009 Income**

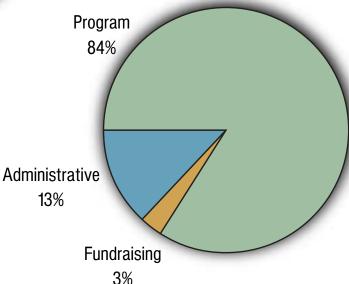


# How does PPFF benefit Pennsylvanians?

PPFF is the guardian for our parks and forests the resources that shape and define the state we call home.

— Brook Lenker, Manager of Outreach & Education, DCNR

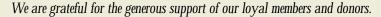
# 2009 Expenses



As of December 31, 2009, our total assets, which include the accounts that we manage, was \$1,555,308.

The allocations above and to the right represent the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's operating budget. The complete audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2009 are available at the PPFF office.

# Our Hats Off to You!



Together, we can continue to grow our grassroots constituency for parks and forests, enhance and expand local recreation opportunities, and strengthen our park and forest system for all to enjoy, now and for future generations.

Thank you!

In 2009, we launched our corporate membership program.
Thanks to the Clemens Family Corporation for being
our inaugural corporate member!





105 North Front Street Suite 305 Harrisburg, PA 17101 (717) 236-7644 www.PaParksAndForests.org

# conserve enhance enjoy

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Cover photograph of Loyalsock State Forest