

# 2014

## ANNUAL REPORT





In 2014 we focused on an issue of great interest to everyone.

*Is outdoor recreation fun? NO DOUBT!*

*Is it becoming more accessible for everyone? YOU BET!*

*But will it make you HEALTHIER? ABSOLUTELY!*

## THE OUTDOORS: Just for the Health of It

### Mission

PPFF's mission is to promote and support the natural and cultural resources of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests through leadership in recreation, education, conservation, and volunteerism

### Vision

PPFF will build the constituent voice for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests to ensure the long-term sustainability of these public lands for the benefit of present and future generations

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*Front Cover photo by Tom Wildoner. Tom took this spectacular photo of a 100+ year-old eastern hemlock on the Boulder Field Trail in Hickory Run State Park. We thought it brilliantly captured the essence of our theme in 2014. The intricate spiraling network of branches mirrors our own circulatory system...literally our lifeblood...is it any surprise that our health can be improved spending time in among the trees?*

### Thoughts on 2014

2014 was a busy, but gratifying, year. We grew our ranks by two new friends groups, and bid farewell to another, who, like a young adult, left home to become independent. We traveled the state, raising awareness about the value of our public lands which improve the quality of life, serve as economic engines, and are catalysts to better health. We promoted public engagement in our parks and forests. With your support, we tackled transformative projects, such as the completion of the ADA EZ Dock at Point State Park with a boat rack (see image below) for storing kayaks and canoes, and creating ADA trails at Kings Gap State Park.

This annual report is a celebration of all that is good—and all that YOU made possible. We at PPFF love our work and the positive impact it has on the lives of millions. We are proud of our accomplishments and the accomplishments of our friends groups, and proud of you — our donor, member, volunteer, and reader — for your commitment to improving our state parks and forests. Together, we are an unstoppable force for good; a voice for the lands that create millions of memories.

*Yours in the Outdoors,  
Marci*





Returning to DCNR as its new secretary, I am thrilled to be back at the workplace I love, protecting our public lands every day for Pennsylvania's citizens. As the stewards of Penn's Woods, we strive to provide parks that inspire; forests that support jobs and wildlife; and technical know-how that will create a greener Pennsylvania. The three pillars of our agency's mission set in place when we began 20 years ago — Stewardship, Partnership, and Service — still remain the backbone of our work.

As our partner in conservation and recreation, PPFF is a shining example of what a public-private partnership can achieve. One of my goals as secretary is to build upon our external partnerships and to identify, foster, and develop new ones. Without the support of dedicated citizens who care, our work would not be possible.

Together with staff here at DCNR, PPFF and its cadre of volunteers accomplish so much in service of our mission to protect and enhance these wonderful lands entrusted to us. I look forward to another year of exciting work with PPFF. Here's to what's next!

*Cindy Adams Dunn*  
DCNR Secretary

When the founding fathers of our state forest and park system — men like Pinchot, Rothrock and Goddard — envisioned the future, they foresaw healthier living for the Commonwealth's citizens through fresh air, clean streams, verdant forests, and outdoor recreation. Personally, we experience the deep cultural connection to our parks and forests and we know our time spent there is healthful, both mentally and physically.

Today, studies show that communities are more attractive, more valuable, and more economically productive when there is nearby public open space. Citizens know their social lives and their health are bettered by time spent outdoors. So there is every good reason to work hard and give generously to make our parks and forests accessible, inviting, educational, sustainable, and ENJOYED! That is our mission. We are deeply grateful that you have joined us in this great legacy and cause.

*George Asimos*  
Chairman, PPFF Board of Directors



*George and his children join Secretary Dunn at the dedication of the Tri-State Marker of the Mason-Dixon Line.*

*"I love the state parks.  
We are a very active family  
and you can find us out and  
about hiking, running and biking pretty  
much every weekend in one park or another.*

*It's good to get our kids out of their concrete  
jungle and out and about in nature."*

*- Jody Mayer*



# GET OUTDOORS: Just for the Health of It



We chose the 2014 theme, *Get Outdoors: Just for the Health of It*, to emphasize the important role outdoor recreation plays in maintaining health throughout an individual's lifetime. Study after study demonstrates that people who spend time outdoors tend to exercise longer and that spending time outdoors reduces stress and improves self-esteem.

Because we understand and embrace this idea, we make it our goal to encourage people to remain active throughout their lifetime, despite obstacles such as age, health conditions, disabilities, economics, and perceived limitations.



Credit: Brenda Bickel

We kicked off our year with an article focusing on seniors in the outdoors. Here are a few key points from this feature (which are true for everyone and can be downloaded from our website):

- You can make profound changes and improve your health at any age
- Even light exercise — walking, strength training, and working on balance and flexibility — can reduce doctor visits and pharmaceutical use
- Outdoor exercisers are less likely to fall, are hospitalized less often, and recover more quickly from injury and illness
- There are many activities in our parks and forests: bike riding, camping, fishing, hunting, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, and many winter activities like skiing and sledding
- Many local outdoor activity clubs are geared for seniors or other age groups and abilities

## The Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge



In 2014, the GPOC provided tools for incorporating fitness and exercise into daily life, tips for eating well, and making positive changes. We heard great stories from our participants about how the GPOC helped them focus their intentions – whether it was to simply make time for outdoor activities, to kick their health and wellness goals into higher gear, or to visit new places or try a new sport. One of our favorite weeks of the GPOC took place during the first week of August. It was *Wiggle Your Toes Week*. As we said in our weekly eblast, *The Goal Tender*: Standing in the grass at your favorite park and wiggling the heck out of the tips of your metatarsals is the perfect celebration of good health and happiness.

### Other ways in which we encouraged you to remain active:

- Participated in the New Year's Resolution Fair at the Harrisburg Mall, helping you keep your fitness commitments
- Continued our work with accessibility, including hosting the Military and Families Appreciation Day at Gifford Pinchot State Park
- Created accessible trails at Kings Gap State Park



Credit: Lisa Salvatore



*"Thank you for the encouraging piece about the link between arthritis and stress. Last June, I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. Your article encourages me to do all I can to stay active."*

*— Alison Hawthorne*



**We reached out** to educate others on the value of being outdoors, a sampling of which includes the Westmoreland County Sports League (Outdoor Day at Keystone State Park), River Day in Wormleysburg, and National Night Out at several locations across the state.



### **Military and Families Appreciation Day – Returning to the Outdoors**

The event was held in early September at Gifford Pinchot State Park for our military and families. The day was for Pennsylvania's wounded service members, veterans, and their families to enjoy opportunities to try accessible forms of recreation, improve their skills, and join a picnic lunch which was provided by Mission Barbeque. Activities included hand cycling, adaptive kayaking, hiking, campfire cooking, biking, and fishing. The event was made possible in part by support from DCNR, and through the support of local businesses.



*"I love to be in the outdoors. I hope to be a wildlife biologist someday. The state parks and forests have so much to offer to enjoy the outdoors!"*

*— Makayla Whaling*



*This crushed limestone trail is more than just a path in the woods; it's a learning opportunity for children with mobility impairments. Through your support and a grant from the Kline Foundation, upgrades to two trails at Kings Gap State Park will open programming to children of all abilities.*



Credit: Wright



# WE GOT YOU OUTSIDE: Here's What You Saw

*"Pennsylvania state parks . . . give me an opportunity to relax and get back to nature. I know when I'm stressed I can head in several directions to find a state park. I love that they're free for everyone, and open whenever you feel the need to slip out of town for a while."*

— Amber Irwin

**We love this event – and from your response – you do too!** Our annual *Parks and Forests Through the Seasons* photo contest has grown and your stunning entries share nature's beauty from the tiny to panoramic.

**The categories in 2014 were:**

- Appreciation of Beauty
- Kids in the Outdoors
- Outdoor Recreation
- Volunteers in Action
- Dogs in the Outdoors
- Young Photographers

We received more than 450 submissions for the contest. We took your photos on the road with our gallery showcase, traveling across the state, **including a month at the Capitol**, to connect Pennsylvanians to the parks and forests. You can see the photos on our website, Facebook page, and also throughout our annual report and newsletters. Our thanks for your enthusiasm in sharing your point of view!



Photo Credit: Tom McCorkle, Chapman State Park



Photo Credit: Joseph Feirtag, Ricketts Glen State Park



Photo Credit: Gloria Benfer, Shikellamy State Park

Like our young outdoor enthusiast (at left), you can track your visits to our public lands in the **Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests Passport**.

The 135-page passport includes maps, a history of the state's park and forest system, a brief description and most memorable feature of each state park and forest, and additional online resources.

Passports can be purchased at [PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org)



*"My wife and I moved to Pennsylvania in 1965 and since that time have turned to our forests and parks for recreation. Our family has hiked, camped, canoed, fished, hunted, mountain biked, walked our dogs, cross-country skied, and photographed in these parks and forests since. We've also participated in various work projects on trails. We now live on the edge of Forbes State Forest and we are in the forest daily, usually with our dog. We couldn't imagine life without access to these areas."*

*— Stokes Clarke*

Photo Credit: Stokes Clarke, Laurel Hill State Park

# By the Numbers

**In 2014, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation:**

Provided Programs  
or tabled at

**44 events**

**REACHING**

**23,532 people**



RECEIVED

**937 HOURS**

of volunteer  
support

Since 2008, our  
friends groups have

raised **\$1,553,021**

and have donated  
hours valued at

**\$7,251,466**

**Our Chapter Friends groups provided:**



Special Events Hosted: **133**

Number of Service and Other Projects: **206**

Attendance at Events: **96,959**

Hours Donated by Volunteers: **44,018**

Value\* of Hours Donated  
by Volunteers: **\$1,015,495**

\* The Bureau of Labor Statistics puts a value  
of \$23.07/hour on volunteer labor in 2014.



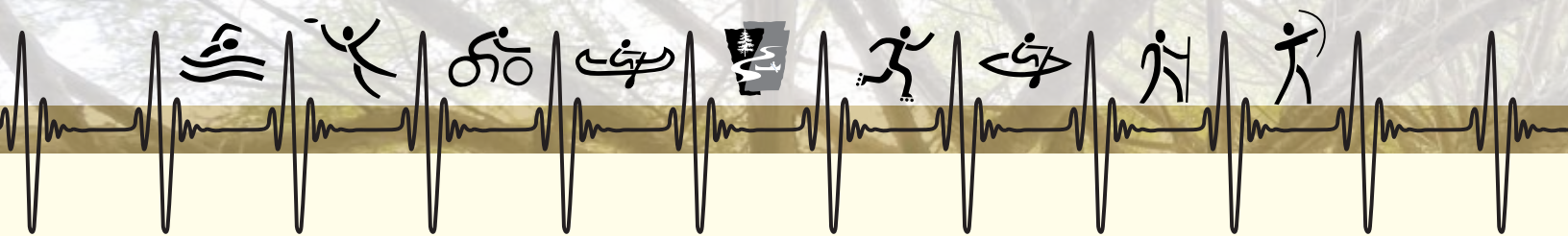
RAISED

**\$390,337** for

Park and Forest  
Projects



# KEEP IN TOUCH! You'll Feel Better



**Communication is a critical tool for engaging our members and friends.** Communication styles continue to evolve, and we continue to evolve with it—from print communication, to in-person meetings, to social media—we have you covered.

**Resources and materials are always readily available**—fact sheets, newsletters, videos, photo galleries, press releases and more are a click away. The Foundation website continues to be a source of information for friends groups, park and forest visitors, our partners in conservation and our interested public.

The weekly *Take Five/Fridays with Pam* and the bi-monthly E-zine *Explore* provide the reader with up-to-date information on what is happening in our parks and forests. From green fitness (volunteer days) to family friendly festivals, we strive to provide users with the information they need to get outside.

We had a great response to our FREE downloadable campfire cookbook: *Happiness Over a Flame*. Filled with easy, delicious campfire recipes, the book shares great ideas for healthy cooking in the trail, camp, or river.



We see social media as a means of meeting our mission. Our posts reflect opportunities to engage in the outdoors, provide educational content to ensure safety when recreating, and provide a voice for our parks and forests. We continue to grow our social media platforms.



Are you following us?





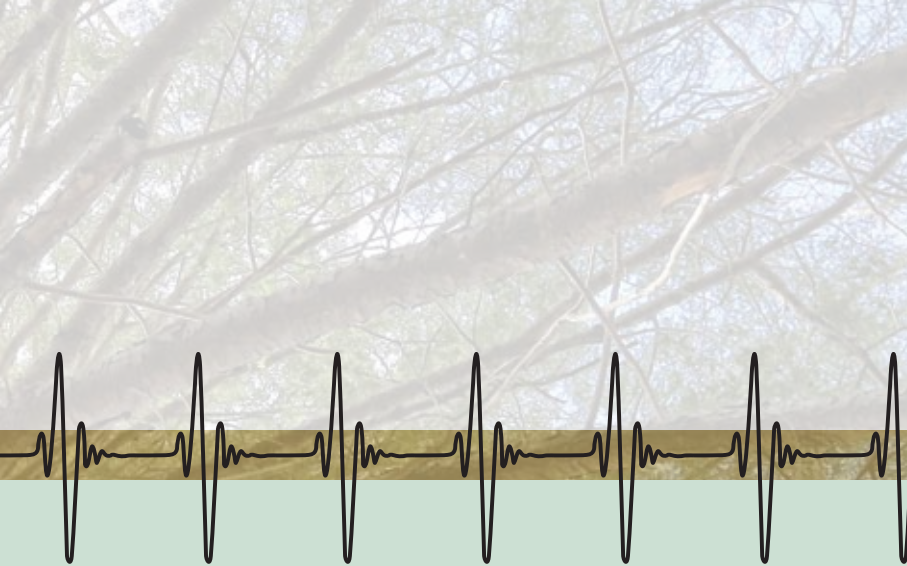


Photo Credit: Kyle Yates, McConnells Mills



With support from the Heinz endowment, we've also launched a new website in partnership with the Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage ([paconservationheritage.org](http://paconservationheritage.org)), where you can discover the rich conservation legacy of Pennsylvania.

Despite all of the technology, we still feel that face-to-face interaction is the best means of communication. In addition to the many programs and events in which we took part in 2014, we decided to let the images you sent us for the photo contest do the talking.



Photo Credit: Ted Massa, First Place, Volunteers in Action, Laurel Ridge State Park



*"The 'Ridge Runners' (the volunteer group for the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail in Laurel Ridge State Park), pictured at left, were replacing several foot bridges at our work day in May. I tried to capture the teamwork required to move the very heavy logs that are used for foot bridges on the trail."*

*— Ted Massa*



# GET OUTDOORS— with Family or Friends



In our summer newsletter, we gave you lots of ideas on where to go and what to do when planning a family or group reunion. With our vast resources and distinctive attractions, Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are the perfect place for group gatherings. Sliding down natural waterfalls or summiting a mountain, the many recreational activities help form multi-generational bonds between family members. There's nothing like a campfire for the retelling of "remember when..." stories!



We hosted our annual celebration of *Days in the Life* of a State Forest and State Park in April and May respectively. These days are meant to celebrate, in photographs, the goings on in our public places on two significant days—the Saturdays closest to the birthday of Joseph Rothrock and the founding of our first Pennsylvania state park, Valley Forge. Park and forest visitors were invited to upload photographs taken on that specific day, for what amounted to a fun, no-cost way to spread the word about our beautiful and exciting outdoor public spaces.

*Fun can be had!*

*Photo Credit:  
Dot Monahan,  
Oilcreek State Park*



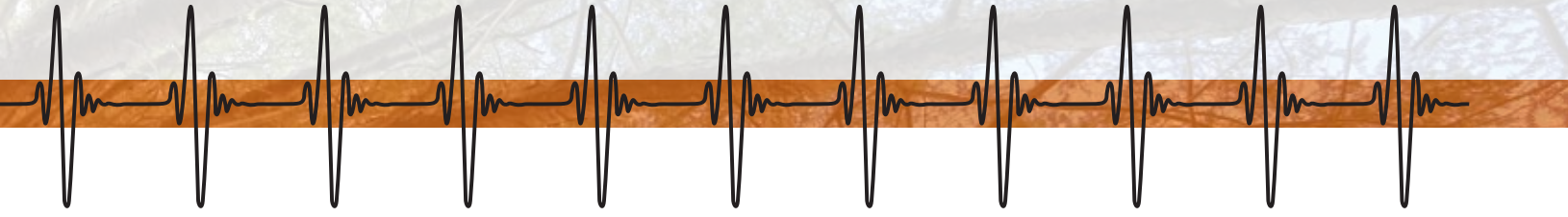
## The Take Five Top Five

In our *Take Five/Fridays With Pam*, the idea is remind you to do just that. Take five minutes away from your desk or chores to look around at the great places that surround you. Take five hours each month and volunteer for a cause that's meaningful to you (and, of course, we hope that involves your parks and forests). Reward yourself and take five days out of the year to go outside and experience nature up close and personal. We also took some of the *Take Five Top Fives* and paired them with some of our favorite photos that you shared with us. The booklet is available to you as a free download in our online store.





Spending time outdoors has been shown to regulate the sleep/wake cycle, help with attention restoration, increase social time, and increase sensory stimulation



Credit: Marci Mowery

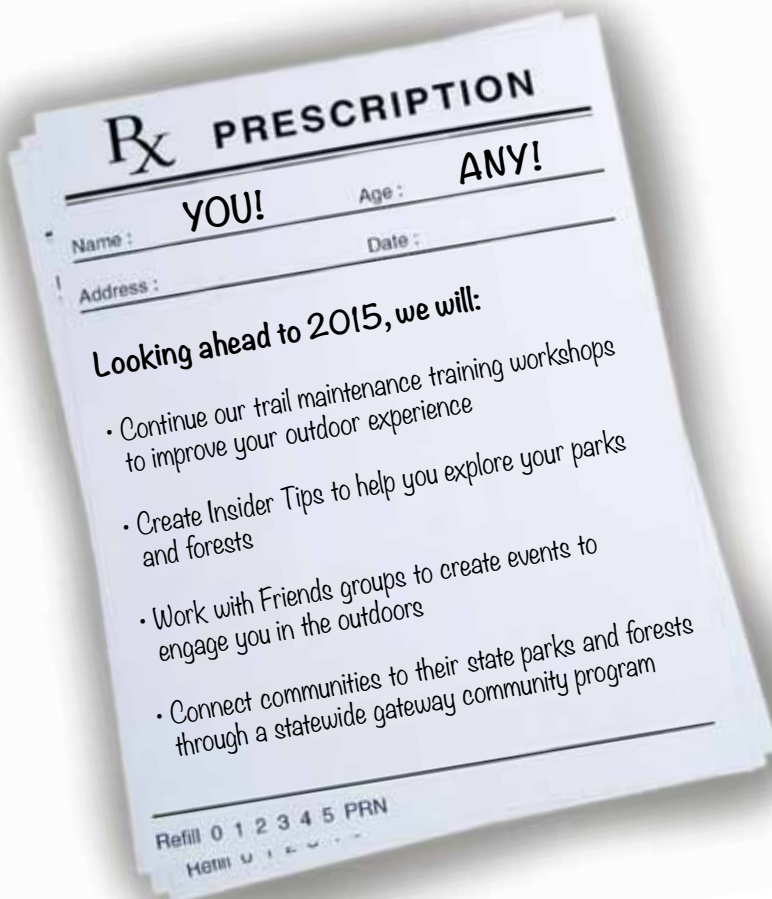


Credit: Marci Mowery

### Concerts and Festivals R Us...ForYOU

You supported a series of concerts at Cowans Gap State Park. In addition to attracting individuals and families to engage in the arts in the outdoors, like these dancing ladies at left, the concerts provided a springboard for starting one of our newest chapters—the Friends of Cowans Gap State Park!

We kick-started a second group in 2014 to assist with annual events at Little Buffalo State Park, such as the holiday light display and the always tasty *Apple Festival* attract hundreds of visitors to the park. At right, apple festival participants learned about the apple butter making process.



Your family will thank you for taking them to a state park or state forest!

Top Photo Credit: Amber Hebenthal, Keystone State Park

Bottom Photo: Friends of Varden Conservation Area enjoy hosting an annual conservation day





# EDUCATION— the Key to a Healthier You



**Core to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's mission is education.** Not only do we strive to educate the park and forest user, we work diligently to educate our volunteers, state park and forests staff, and our elected officials.

## Our Elected Officials

**Capital Day:** We co-hosted Capital Day, an opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss issues and concerns as related to funding our state parks and forests. Legislative meetings were followed by a reception (with the Growing Greener Coalition and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society).

**Let's Float the Key Facts:** In February, we distributed upcycled (and buoyant!) cork key rings to our elected officials to remind them of important or "key facts" about the Keystone Fund. We highlighted points such as investing \$1 in state parks and forests brings \$12 to the state and how public lands are key to quality of life... making Pennsylvania an attractive place to live, work, play.



## Outdoor Programming Services Division

With assistance from PPFF, Chris Kemmerer attended a free training: Ready, Set, Go! through Operation Military Kids. The goal of the training was to show community leaders how they can support kids who have a parent(s) who is deployed. It was a great training overall, providing ideas about how to work with the military and its families. Several strong contacts came from this training and we're looking forward to growing a strong partnership with Operation Military Kids.

## WE SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITY

Some of the places you could find us in 2014, reaching out to educate the public were the Woolrich Youth in the Outdoors Expo, the C.J Martin and Company (guitars) Holiday Open House, Ned Smith Day in Millerstown, and the Civilian Conservation Corps Festival at Promised Land State Park.

## Autism Outdoors

As part of our continuing commitment to ensuring a place and experience in the outdoors for everyone, we facilitated a presentation for DCNR park educators about autism. About 50 people attended two sessions in State College in late April. Members of the Autism Society of Greater Harrisburg provided the presentations.

*"Thank you Marci so much for joining our 'Nonprofit' class last week. As always, you are a favorite and presented great and valuable information for our emerging young professionals."*

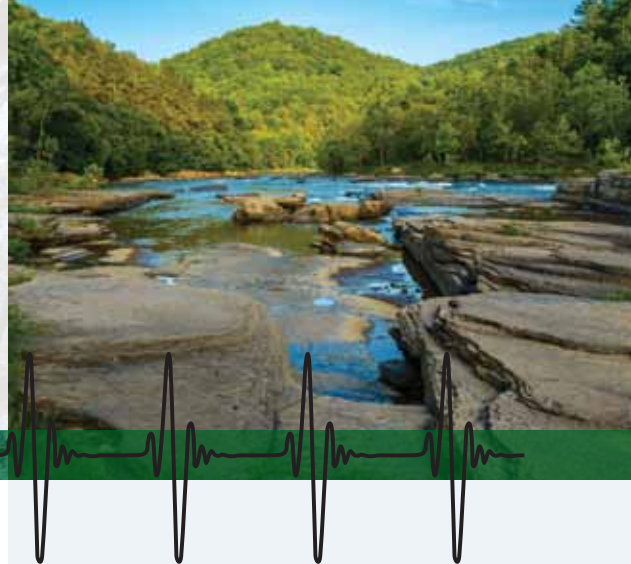
*— Kathleen*



*"Thank you so much for helping fund and make the trail workshop at Greenwood Furnace happen. I think we, as a group, learned some valuable lessons and were able to improve a section of trail near the park core."*

*— Michael Rubano*

Photo Credit:  
Clare Kaczmarek,  
Ohiopyle State Park



### Honoring Our Roots

We continue to shine a spotlight on the Civilian Conservation Corps, the phenomenal conservation program that served as a catalyst to modern conservation efforts and the genesis of many of the Commonwealth's state parks.

Pennsylvania's conservation legacy is rich, but largely unrecorded. As a partner in the Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation assists in capturing and interpreting this rich history, making it accessible to the general public.

### ...and Looking Forward to Our Future

Our commitment to fostering future conservationists includes our ongoing internship program, with relationships at Millersville University, Shippensburg University, and Messiah College. We also lent our expertise at speaking engagements, providing mock interviews, attending career fairs and highlighting the broad spectrum of conservation related careers.

**We are an approved Education Improvement Tax Credit Innovative Education Organization!** Approved businesses can make donations to the foundation to support watershed education and the *One Bird, Two Habitat* program, which engages families and children in studying migratory birds.



We offered trainings to 30 volunteers and DCNR staff focusing on trail maintenance, fund raising, event management, and recruiting volunteers. Look at how the trail class at Greenwood Furnace State Park transformed wet, eroded trails into attractive, durable pathways.



*"We had a great combination of classroom education and getting dirty putting the information to use. I think it stoked everyone for tackling the next project!"*

*— Michael Dinsmore*

**Rx PRESCRIPTION**

Name: **YOU!** Age: **ANY!**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Looking ahead to 2015, we will:**

- Start a youth work corps to partner needs on public lands with the need for summer employment for disadvantaged youth
- Using the photo contest images, host a legislative reception to celebrate the importance of our parks and forests



# MAKING the OUTDOORS Come Alive

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and our friends groups are invested in the long-term vitality of our state parks and forests. Together and separately we tackle projects across the state and engage people in the outdoors.

## SOME OF THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY PPFF AND OUR FRIENDS IN 2014 INCLUDE:

### Caledonia Amphitheater Upgrade



Visitors to Caledonia State Park have easier access to the improved visitor center thanks to your support and a grant from the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor. The improvements allowed for improved access for all abilities, upgraded systems, and better drainage. Check out the new amphitheater!

### Chimney Repairs at a Shelter at Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail

A grant from REI Pittsburgh, combined with support from the Friends of Laurel Hill, repointed the chimneys and chimney boxes at the RT 271 Adirondack shelter complex on the Laurel Highland Hiking Trails.



### New Trees at Forbes State Forest

YOU helped to purchase 25 trees for planting in the Lick Hollow Picnic Area of Forbes State Forest. Nine different species of native trees were planted, providing an opportunity to showcase that homeowners can do at home.

### Warming Hut Repairs at Forbes State Forest



A grant from REI Bedford and volunteer labor completed renovations to the Shafer Run Warming Hut, which lies in the heart of the Northwoods Trail System in the Forbes State Forest. This hut is a popular stopover point for users of the trail system (skiers, hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians) as well as hikers on the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail.



### Bioblitz at Lackawanna State Park



PPFF and Lackawanna State Park received a grant to sponsor a bio-blitz. Managers and naturalists at Lackawanna State Park have a better understanding of the natural world at this special place after a 24-hour bio-blitz, supported by your donations and the Overlook Estate Foundation. Donald Miller (l) and Len Janus (r) identify wetland plant species. Photo Credit: Angela Lambert

### Repairs to Furnace at Pine Grove

In partnership with the Foundation, the Friends of Pine Grove was awarded a \$2400 mini-grant from the South Mountain Partnership to cover half the cost of the repairs to the historic iron furnace in the center of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Financing the balance of costs, the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace made the restoration a reality.





*Pine Grove Furnace Earth Day*



*Cherry Springs astronomers  
building light blocking fences*



*Kings Gap Music on the Mountain*

PPFF's Friends Groups are the best poster 'kids' for enjoying the *Outdoors for the Health of It*. Because they know that loving nature is a two-way street, these dedicated volunteers make our parks and forests better to use and visit. We now have 38 chapters. A sampling of goings on from 2014:

- Music rang out through the efforts of the Friends of Colonel Denning, Goddard, Kings Gap, Laurel Hill, Ohiopyle and Shikellamy
- Friends of Weiser and Friends of Mount Pisgah love a square dance
- Women-centric adventure days were hosted by the Friends of Black Moshannon, Mount Pisgah and Oil Creek
- Kids had their own adventure days at Black Moshannon, Keystone, Lyman Run, Ohiopyle and Ryerson Station
- The Friends of Nolde Forest established a Children's Nature Area in memory of the late Deena Andrus
- The Friends of Prince Gallitzin dedicated their second playground
- The Friends of Big Pocono, Greenwood Furnace and Pine Grove Furnace paid tribute to history and heritage with restoration of the historic cabin, a charcoal wagon and furnace stack, respectively
- Friends of Yellow Creek State Park like to talk sailing. In 2014, they reopened the sailing base at the park, offered sailing lessons, and featured sailing at their annual Septemberfest.
- Trails were updated and expanded by the Friends of Laurel Hill, Milton, Nockamixon, Pinchot, Ridley Creek, State Line Serpentine Barrens, Varden, Weiser and White Clay Creek
- Huge crowds came out for Fireworks on the Lake (Friends of Shawnee), Haunted Hayrides (Parker Dam), and Pioneer Frolic (Goddard)
- The Friends of Canoe Creek introduced their neighbors to disc golf
- The Friends of Little Buffalo lit up their Christmas Trail

## **PPFF Friends Groups**

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association  
 Friends of Big Pocono  
 Friends of Black Moshannon  
 Friends of Canoe Creek  
 Friends of Colonel Denning  
 Friends of Cook Forest & Clear Creek  
 Friends of Delaware State Forest & Promised Land State Park  
 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 Ridley Creek  
 Friends of Ryerson Station  
 Friends of Shawnee  
 Friends of Shikellamy  
 Friends of State Line Serpentine Barrens  
 Friends of Swatara State Park  
 Friends of Varden Conservation Area  
 Friends of Weiser  
 Friends of White Clay Creek  
 Friends of Yellow Creek  
 Laurel Mountain Volunteers



*Oil Creek ski waxing clinic*



*New lifeguard chair at Ryerson*



*Parker Dam Woodsy Owl  
Clean-up Day*



# RECOGNIZING Those Helping You

The winners at our 8th Annual Awards Banquet were truly exceptional and it was our honor to recognize their work. While the long list of their accomplishments and contributions filled our program, we'll suffice it to mention one or two highlights that best illustrate why they were chosen.

- Caren Glotfelty was awarded top honor, the **Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award**. The award recognizes an outstanding contribution to the protection of or enhancement to our parks and forests system. Caren's career-spanning dedication to environmental stewardship certainly meets these criteria and then some. Her work has focused on clean air and water, promoting smart growth, green building initiatives, and sustainable development.
- The **Joseph Ibberson Government Award** went to Bushkill Township, Northampton County. This award is targeted towards government stewardship, so 2014's winner was an easy choice. As their population increased, Bushkill Township implemented planning and policies to protect important natural areas and water resources in the surrounding 1,100 acres of DCNR state-owned land. Examples of their work include forming an Environmental Advisory Council, preserving open space and watershed protection, and creating a plan for a 15-mile trail.



PPFF's **President's Award** went to **Ralph Harrison**. A life-long champion for conservationism, Ralph is a retired forester, an author, and photographer with a tenacious interest in Pennsylvania's elk herd and the PA Wilds region. Ralph has said that his efforts are meant to demonstrate that the Bureau of Forestry's work is about more than just trees – it is about conservationism of the entire resource – land, animals, water, and history. We agree, Ralph. *(Sadly, as we were preparing this annual report, Ralph passed away. He will be missed.)*

- Prince Gallitzin State Park's staff was awarded our **Park of the Year Award** for their shining example of teamwork and energetic commitment to our state parks' mission. From building a new marina, to creating a new camping cottage complex, promoting environmental education programming, and leading the way with eco-friendly energy and water management practices, Prince Gallitzin is a true model of visionary management and passion for our public lands.
- Our **Forest of the Year Award** was presented to Gallitzin State Forest. While working to improve habitat and forest conditions, staff focused on improving public access and effectively using volunteers to enhance recreational programming. Their work in fire management, wildlife habitat improvement, land acquisition and reclamation, silviculture and timber management, and reduction of invasive species are all relevant examples of their commitment to innovation.







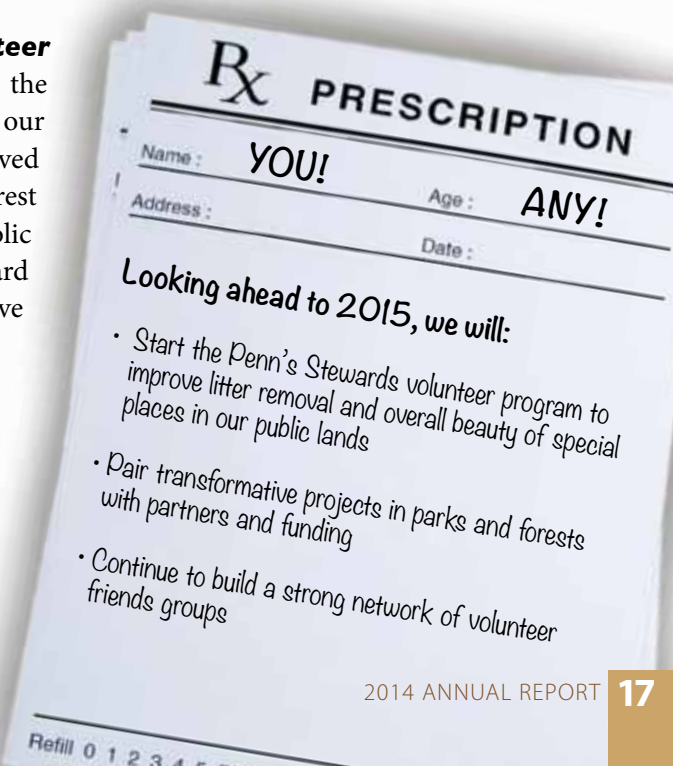
■ The **Friends of Pinchot Park** were recipients of our 2014 **Volunteerism Award**. A few notable events and projects from their busy year included replacing benches and picnic tables, creating turtle basking stations, fish habitat structures, trail maintenance, and installation of two playgrounds. They raised more than \$19,000 through events and fundraisers to support their projects. This hardworking group takes on whatever needs to be done and their enthusiasm and passion for Gifford Pinchot State Park would make the park's namesake proud.

■ The **Education Award** was presented to **Promised Land State Park's Nature Arts and Crafts Program Volunteers**. For more than 30 years, children have learned about the park and the natural world through crafting at their regular event. Together, this dedicated group of 15 volunteers donated over 3,100 hours of volunteer time in a single year. Through crafting, the volunteers not only teach children how to draw, paint, and sculpt, but also how to reduce, reuse and recycle.



■ Two special people – **Kathy and Gary Diegan** were recipients of 2014's **Improvement Award**. In 2007, Pymatuning Spillway ("where ducks walk on the fishes' backs") received a \$2.7 million improvement grant, which included new landscaping, but the economic downturn reduced the investment to annual maintenance, and by 2009, the landscape beds were in serious need of attention. Kathy and Gary contributed a combined average of 20 hours a week from April through October for four years and turned the spillway into a place of beauty.

■ And last, but certainly far from least was 2014's **Young Volunteer Award**, presented to **Eleanor "Ellie" Davis**. Ellie exemplifies the characteristics, drive, and enthusiasm that represent the best of our next leaders in conservation. While still in high school she served as president of her environmental club raising funds for rainforest protection, worked to eradicate invasive species in a nearby public park, and served on the planning committee for two Goddard Legacy Symposiums. She worked as an intern for two consecutive summers and served as a volunteer.





# With Grateful APPRECIATION, for Our Generous Donors, Supporters, and Volunteers



**While we recognize that you measure your health and fitness your own way, we DO know that you will feel better and be healthier if you spend time outdoors.**

We thank you for encouraging our work to engage people in healthy outdoor recreation and volunteerism. With your support, we were able to accomplish the many and diverse projects and programs outlined in this annual report. While we may not list names in the annual report, we aim to illustrate the fruits of your intentions and show how your contribution - whether it's money, time, services, products, or your loyal membership - make Pennsylvania's parks and forests wonderful places to be.

**Our volunteers are the best**—they understand the important role that state parks and forests play in our daily lives, and give of themselves to make improvements and create opportunities that benefit everyone—even those who don't visit! By filling campgrounds during off-peak times, they attract visitors who help to support local economies. By hosting events, they support the arts. Their trail work and conservation efforts improve water and air quality. We applaud them—YOU—for all that you do.



*PPFF Staff: (from l-r) Lisa Salvatore, Marci Mowery, Pam Metzger, Erika Mongeau (intern), Beth Artz*

**We would like to recognize the following private foundations, government grants, and corporate supporters.**

## **BUSINESS/CORPORATE DONORS**

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Jamestown Advanced Products	Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Karns	Penn Cumberland Garden Club
Giant	Mushroom Festival
Wegman's	Pa Association of Environmental Professionals
George Ely Associates	<i>And our amazing silent auction donors</i>

## **FOUNDATIONS**

Heinz Endowments  
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The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds  
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## **GOVERNMENT**

Department of Community and Economic Development  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

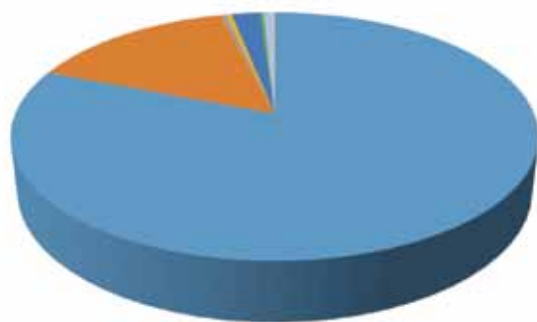




THANK YOU  
to REI for their  
generous donation

## 2014 FINANCIALS

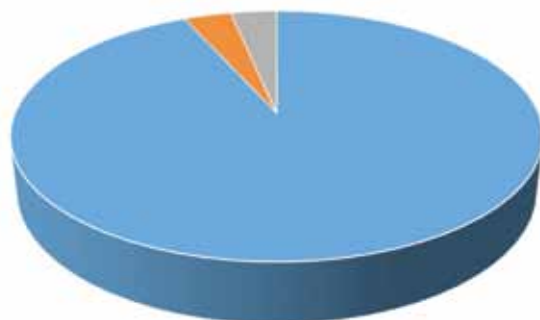
- Contributions
- Grants
- Friends Groups
- Passport Sales
- Project Administration
- Other
- Programs
- Investments
- Net Realized Gain



### Support and Revenue 2014 for PPFF, Friends Groups, and Park/Forest Projects

- Contributions (restricted and unrestricted) ..... \$719,539
- Grant Income (Project restricted)..... \$134,515
- Friends Group Fees..... \$3,393
- Passport Sales ..... \$3,656
- Project Administration ..... \$18,245
- Other Revenue (sales, etc) ..... \$2,449
- Programs..... \$6,093
- Investment Income ..... \$1,252
- Net Realized Gain on Stock..... \$36
- **Total** ..... **\$889,178**

- Program Services
- Fundraising
- General and Administration



### EXPENSES

- Program Services ..... \$909,877
  - Friends Groups
  - Park and Forest Wish List
  - Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge
  - Outreach/Education/Events
  - Constituent Programs
  - Conservation Heritage Project
  - Accessibility
- Fundraising..... \$33,289
- General and Administration ..... \$32,584
- **Total Expenses** ..... **\$975,750**

The complete audited financial statement for the year ending December 31st, 2014 is available by contacting Marci Mowery at [mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net).

Funding for the annual report made possible through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation and Partnerships Program.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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John C. Oliver III

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Darla Cravotta

### **STAFF:**

Marci Mowery  
*President*

Lisa Salvatore  
*Bookkeeper*

Pam Metzger  
*Membership/Volunteer Coordinator*

Beth Artz  
*Office Assistant*



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