

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Spring 2017



Enjoying a bridge in
Oil Creek State Park.

Photo credit: Pam Metzger

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The Bridges of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests

*Linking together
our history, natural
resources, and
communities*

There is something inherently captivating about bridges – with strength, grace, and beauty, they span, cross, traverse, arch over, and link together. Beyond their practical purpose, bridges represent much more for many of us – from architectural masterpieces to intrinsic connections between old and new.

Recognized as one of the first settled areas of the United States following the American Revolution, Pennsylvania quickly became a pioneer in transportation innovation, particularly in bridge design. This innovation carried over into our state park and forest system, which began in 1893 with the formation of Valley Forge State Park. As more parks formed and recreation grew in popularity, bridges of all shapes and sizes were built – often by the hands of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) (*see page 6*) – to help people safely access natural areas, such as waterfalls, gorges, creeks, and caves.

Fast forward to present day and it's hard to imagine a world without bridges. Just think of your favorite biking trail, hike, scenic drive or picnic spot – chances are the journey getting there includes crossing over a bridge.

Our state parks and forests offer visitors one of the most interesting collections of bridges of any state – from historic covered bridges to foot bridges to the remnants and landmarks of bridges that once were.

Wooden Landmarks

Early on, bridges were made chiefly of wood, with the timber truss bridge – a.k.a. covered bridge – being among the most recognized design. In the early 1900s, as many as 12,000 covered bridges existed in the United States; that number has since dropped to under 1,500. In Pennsylvania, just over 200 still remain – *the most of any state!*

Visitors to McConnells Mill State Park in Lawrence County can see one of these wooden marvels. Spanning the Slippery Rock Creek, the McConnells Mill Covered Bridge was built in 1874 and is one of only two covered bridges remaining in the county. Particularly significant is its Howe truss design, making it one of only four of its kind statewide. In 1980, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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McConnells Mill Covered Bridge

Photo credit: McConnells Mill State Park

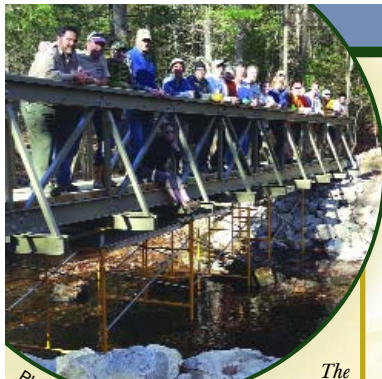


Photo credit: Marci Mowery

The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace and their many helpers recently financed and constructed a bridge connecting two halves of the Mountain Creek Trail, creating a loop trail.

President's Message

Marci Mowery



"I believe our work on the Conservation Heritage Project serves as a bridge between the past and the future."

A new year means a new beginning, and at the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation we are excited by the endless possibilities in the year ahead. While winter is a lovely time in our state parks and forests, I often view it as the bridge between the years, as it offers time for quiet contemplation, a time to assess and a time to set goals. It's what led us to propose this issue on bridges of state parks and forests, as we recognize that a bridge is both a figurative and a literal structure.

If discipline is the bridge between goal and accomplishment (Jim Rohn), then compassion is the bridge between needs and volunteerism. Bridges require time and effort – one doesn't simply place a bridge over a stream – one must first assess the need, review the resources, develop the plan, and then initiate. At PPFF we and our friends groups work to identify the needs in our parks and forests, and then provide the vehicles to engage solutions to address the needs, often in the form of volunteers. As you will see in this issue, our volunteers were hard at work in 2016, literally building bridges, but also building amphitheatres, performing cleanups, and organizing events.

Bridge engineering fascinates me – especially stone arch bridges, where the keystone plays such a pivotal role. Kublai Khan once said, "But which is the stone that supports the bridge?" I think about this as society tinkers with Mother Nature – which adverse impact will be the one that topples the system? We will continue to watch legislation that might knock free that keystone that supports the bridge.

As a former Girl Scout leader, bridging represented the transition between levels, such as from Brownie to Junior Girl Scout. In society, we are experiencing a bridging of sorts as we say goodbye to long time volunteers and welcome and recruit new ones. I was asked yesterday to list what I thought were the five biggest threats to our state forests. One of them I presented for consideration was society disconnecting from nature. Who will be crossing the bridge to ensure that there are voices for the earth as generations age? Who will replace our voices?

I believe our work on the Conservation Heritage Project serves as a bridge between the past and the future. As we like to say at PPFF, "You have to look back to move ahead." By connecting citizens to the stories and leaders of the past, we hope to inspire the leaders of the future.

As you page through this issue of your newsletter, think about the role bridges have played in your life. Perhaps one helped you to overcome fear of heights. Maybe you needed to cross a bridge to a new beginning. Perhaps a bridge signified the start or the end of a long journey or relationship. Or perhaps you enjoy photographing bridges, which we found was common among many of our Facebook followers. However you view bridges, appreciate them for the many roles they play in life.

*Yours in the Outdoors,
Marci*

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Plan Ahead

Continue the legacy of conservation of our state parks and forests for future generations through a bequest or life income gift to PPFF.

Did You Know?

PPFF is able to accept your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donations of stock to support our work and/or projects in state parks and forests.



The Bridges of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests *continued from front cover*

While many covered bridges are still in their original condition, others have been renovated, rebuilt and even moved to preserve their historical significance. Recognized as one of 14 covered bridges still found in Perry County, Clay's Covered Bridge was originally built in 1890. The 82-foot bridge spanned Little Buffalo Creek, but was moved one mile west to its present location in Little Buffalo State Park when Holman Lake was created.

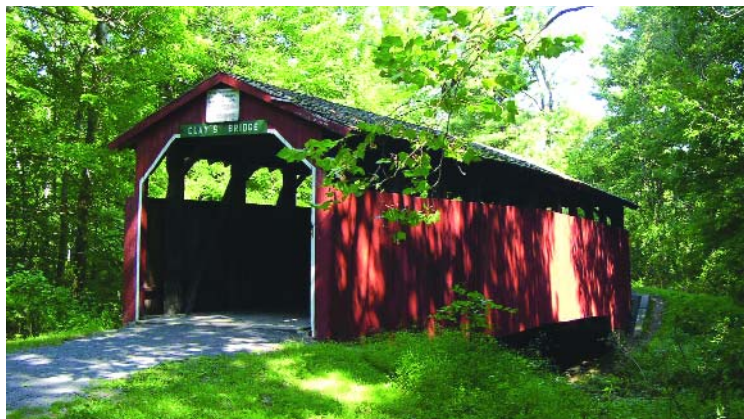


Photo credit: CREDC

Clay's Covered Bridge

In Tyler State Park, the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge was built in 1873, but destroyed by fire in 1991. With the help of local citizens, it was rebuilt in 1997 to the exact specifications of the original, with the exception of a window being added to each side. Constructed with native hemlock and oak, this town truss bridge crossing the Neshaminy Creek is the longest in Bucks County.

Found on Foot

Constructed to keep hikers safe and trails preserved, a majority of bridges within Pennsylvania's parks and forests can only be reached by foot, such as the swinging pedestrian bridge located in Trough Creek State Park in Huntington County. This hidden gem takes hikers across Great Trough Creek and past the breathtaking views of Rainbow Falls. The trail then ascends a flight of CCC-built stone steps overlooking Abbot Run and ends at the geologic wonder, Balanced Rock.

Thanks to the recently unveiled Black Forest Trail Pedestrian Bridge, hikers can now enjoy a vital link to this very popular trail that annually draws thousands to the Lycoming County area of the Pennsylvania Wilds. The 102-foot steel truss bridge replaces former area crossings that were washed out by Slate Run flood waters or dismantled, and offers year-round, safe passage across the Pine Creek tributary.

Another suspension bridge to add to your bucket list can be found in Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County, crossing over Toms Run. As an added bonus, it is located in the heart of the Forest Cathedral, which features some of the tallest and largest eastern white pine in the northeastern United States, with many reaching 150 feet in height. Designated as a registered National Natural Landmark through the National Park Service, the park also features the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center and the Children's Fishing Pond.

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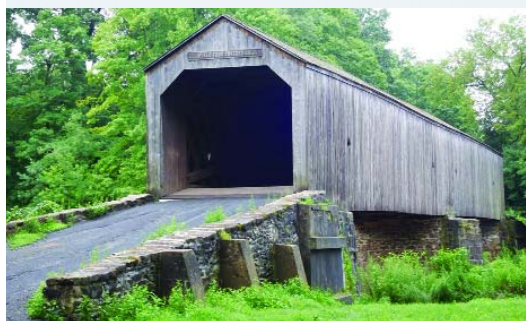


Photo credit: Gloria Benfer

Schofield Ford Covered Bridge



Photo credit: Garrett Talkington

Suspension bridge in Cook Forest State Park

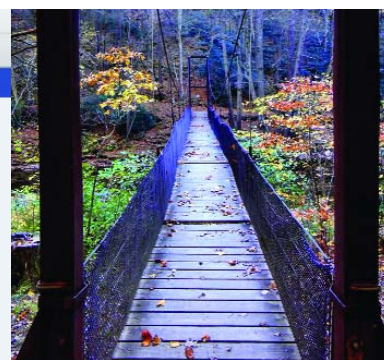


Photo credit: Larry G. Laird

Swinging pedestrian bridge located in Trough Creek State Park



Photo credit: Larry G. Laird

Foot Bridge in Caledonia State Park

The Bridges of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests *continued from page 3*

Connecting Communities

Although the bridges within Pennsylvania's parks and forests vary in size, age, and style, they all have one thing in common – the hikers and bikers, anglers and hunters, dog walkers and fall foliage lovers who use them. This creates a unique and diverse community of supporters.



Photo credit: Bureau of Forestry

Renovations were made to the rustic Poe Paddy trestle bridge and the former railroad tunnel carved into the rock face.



Photo credit: Bureau of Forestry

An example of this could be seen recently during the reconstruction project of the Mid State Trail threading through Bald Eagle State Forest in Centre County and paralleling Penns Creek. Renovations were made to the rustic Poe Paddy trestle bridge crossing the creek, as well as to the former railroad tunnel carved into the rock face to which the trestle leads. Beyond the tunnel the trail delivers a serene woodland experience. The project – including tunnel work, trail widening and reinforcement, and re-decking of the trestle bridge – was completed in October 2015.

Involving many state agencies, commissions, and associations working together to meet the safety needs of the public while preserving and protecting a unique aspect of the environment, the project represented a truly collaborative effort and a model for others to follow.

The CCC Built Bridges, Too! *by John Eastlake*

One of the many structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in our state parks and forests during the mid- to late-1930s, were bridges.

In the early years, the CCC built bridges using an architecture style known as “NPS rustic.” Its purpose was to blend the structures into the surroundings by using natural materials such as timber and stone. As a result, visitors often overlook the beauty and craftsmanship of these bridges.

When the CCC was created in 1933 the groundwork for many bridge projects had already been started by the National Park Service (NPS), and required a lot of time and labor to complete. Thanks to the CCC camps, there were plenty of young men who were available to do the work.

Using the NPS plans, bridge construction was overseen by an engineer or a forester. Each crew had skilled stone masons, carpenters, blacksmiths and woodsmen who lead the CCC crews in building the bridges, which typically consisted of abutments on either side, wing walls, girders, decking and guard rails. Typically the abutments and wing walls were made with stone, often cut on site. Steel was typically used for the girders in the CCC era. The decking was usually wood and the guard rails were either wood or steel. If the span was too great, a cut stone pier in the middle of the stream was necessary for support.

It would be impossible to drive within the state forests or parks without these bridges. The next time you're out for a scenic drive, see if you can pick out a bridge built by the CCC.



A CCC crew at Clear Creek State Park cutting stone.

Photo credit: Clear Creek State Park

The Bridges of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests



Photo credit: David Diffenderfer



Photo credit: Brian M. Hare

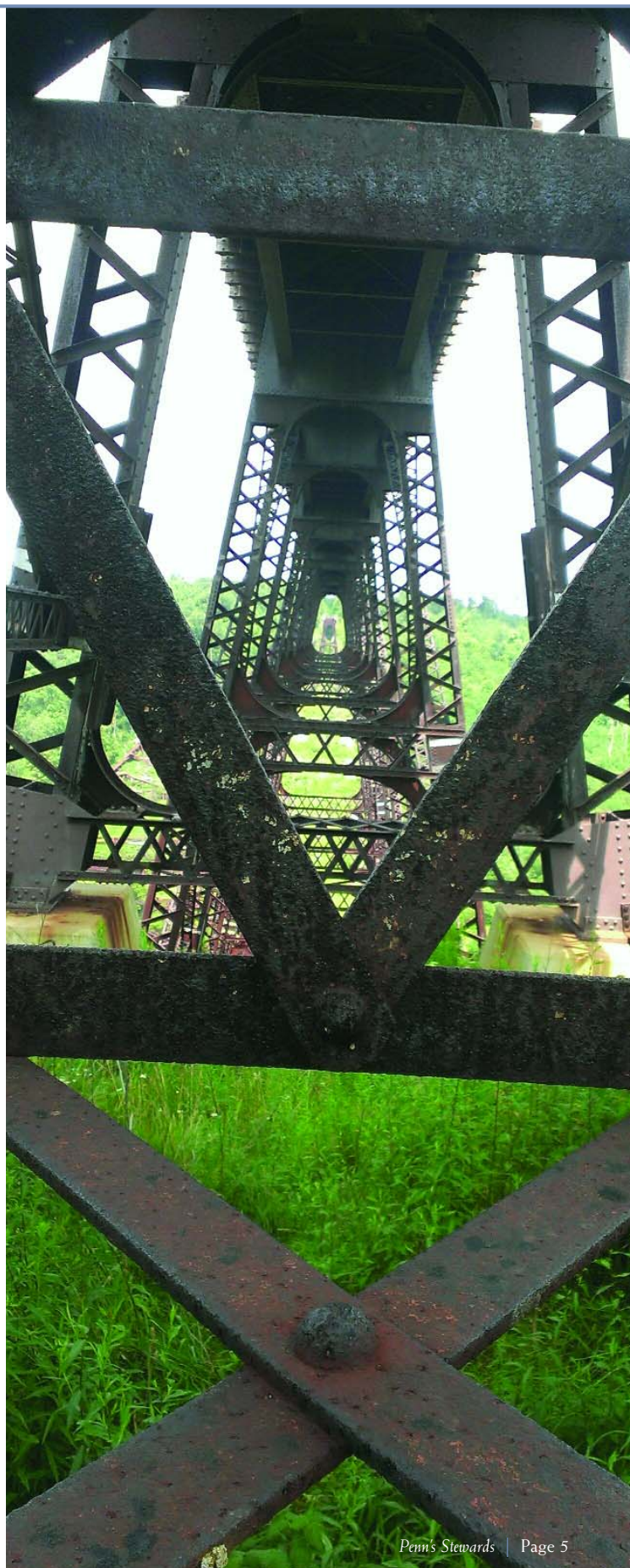
*The
Kinzua
Viaduct*

Reinvented, Recycled, Remembered

While many Pennsylvania bridges have stood the test of time, others have not been as fortunate. Thanks to the dedication of our state parks and forests, however, they will never be forgotten. A great example of this is the The Kinzua Viaduct, a railroad trestle that spanned Kinzua Creek in the Kinzua Bridge State Park in McKean County.

Originally built in 1882, the Kinzua Bridge was billed as the "Eighth Wonder of the World," holding the record as the world's highest and longest railroad bridge at 301 feet tall and 2,053 feet long. Sold to Pennsylvania in 1963, a tornado struck the bridge in 2003, causing it to collapse.

As it turned out, the destruction came with a silver lining, paving the way for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to reinvent the historic bridge. Today, park visitors can once again walk a portion of the Kinzua Bridge. Built on six restored, original towers, a pedestrian walkway leads to a 225-foot-high observation deck that gives a towering view of the Kinzua Creek Valley and the eleven twisted and scattered bridge towers that remain at the bottom. A partial glass floor in the deck reveals a breathtaking glimpse into the bridge's steel structure. *continued on page 6*



The Bridges of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests *continued from page 5*

Although many bridges have been dismantled or destroyed, it's always fun to see how they can be recycled for another purpose. Take the Stony Fork Bridge, for example, which was located across Babb's Creek in Tioga State Forest. The bridge was dismantled by a CCC camp and its guard rails were then used as a safety barrier at a vista in Bradley Wales Park picnic area overlooking Pine Creek in Tioga State Forest.

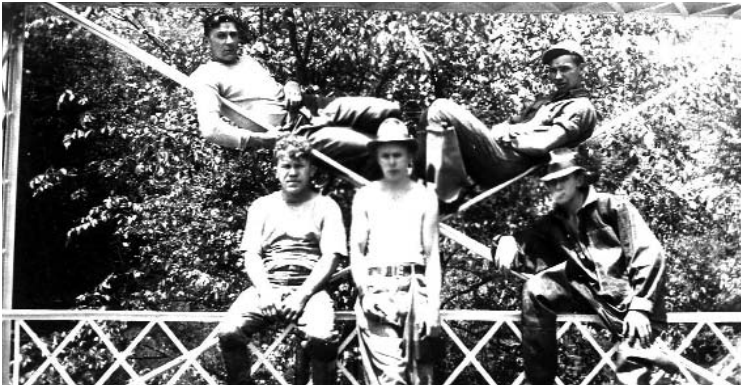


Photo credit: Norma Heatley



Photo credit: John Eastlake

CCC workers posing (top photo) on the Stony Fork Bridge (Ed Heatley, who was involved with starting Leonard Harrison State Park is pictured in the middle).

CCC Ambassador George Pryslak (bottom photo) stands by the bridge's guard rails.

Anyone visiting Loyalsock State Forest has most likely enjoyed the opportunity to drive over its historic iron through truss bridge. Originally built in 1897 at the swimming hole in Worlds End State Park, it was dismantled and reconstructed in the 1920s seven miles upstream on Rock Run Road where it crosses Loyalsock Creek. Due to deterioration, the bridge is currently undergoing remediation work and closed to traffic. Being an historic bridge, there are limitations on what types of repairs can be made in order to ensure its historical integrity. Lycoming Supply and the DCNR Bureau of Facilities Design and Construction are working on some solutions in order to hopefully save this popular landmark.



Photo credit: Molly Kinsey

Loyalsock State Forest's iron through truss bridge

It seems only fitting to end with a pedestrian bridge located in Pennsylvania's first state park. Recently constructed to replace the old Betzwood Bridge, the foot bridge was named Sullivan's Bridge thanks to a bridge naming contest held by the Valley Forge Park Alliance. Chosen from among 252 entries, it is named for General John Sullivan, who was the officer charged by General George Washington with building a bridge across the Schuylkill River between 1777-78. A marker in his honor can be found along the River Trail at the site of his bridge.

Let Us Know! If you have a favorite bridge that wasn't included in this article, please email us a photo and why it's special to newsletter@paparksandforests.org and we will include it on our website at www.PaParksAndForests.org.

ATV Trail Connectivity Study in the Sproul State Forest

A study is being conducted in the Sproul State Forest to review the feasibility of closing a trail gap and determining the best way to connect the Bloody Skillet ATV Trail System with the Whiskey Springs ATV Trail System. It will also look at the safety and sustainability of the two ATV trails and provide suggestions for improvement.

DCNR will offer a series of public and stakeholder meetings to explain and gather local input regarding the connector proposal. The study will be conducted by Larson Design Group. Field work will continue throughout the summer with recommendations to follow in early 2018.

Keep any eye out for more information on the DCNR's website at www.dcnr.state.pa.us



Combating Invasive Species in Pymatuning Reservoir

Determined to combat invasive species in Pymatuning Reservoir, 2016 marked the beginning of an impressive team effort between park staff, invasive species experts and the community. Starting with a lake-wide survey completed in September 2015 with the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers and the University of Florida, a treatment plan was developed to begin wide spread control of hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) in Pymatuning Lake.

If left unchecked, this aggressive invasive species has potential of choking out all of the beneficial native species, blocking shoreline access, clogging boat motors, and potentially impacting waterfowl and eagle populations.

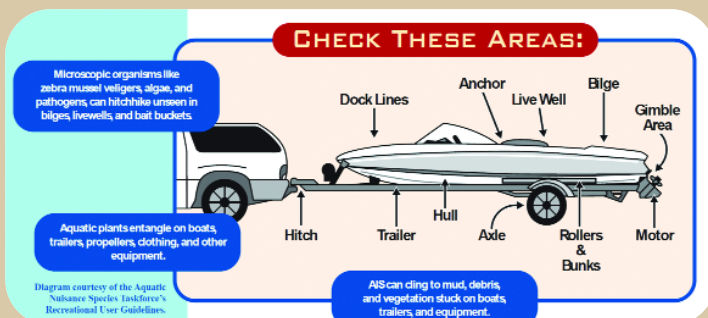
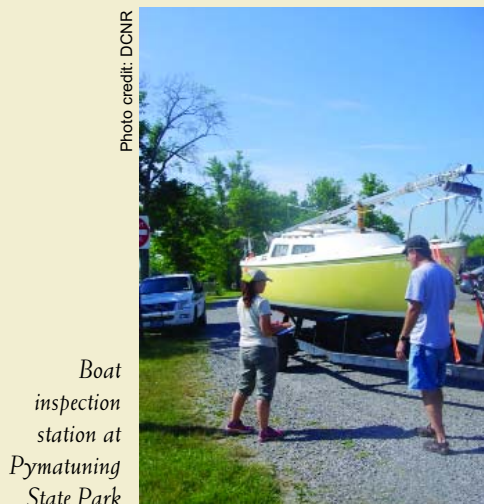
The cost for treatments has been and continues to be a limiting factor in managing aquatic invasive plants, especially in a reservoir the size of Pymatuning. Relying heavily on grant funding, roughly \$48,000 was spent on hydrilla treatments in 2016 and roughly \$150,000 will be spent in 2017. Yet this is not enough.

Here is where the old adage, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” comes in to play. What if we worked together to PREVENT the spread of hydrilla?

Enter the concept of boat check stations, which began in the United States in the 1990s, but appeared only recently in Pennsylvania. Working with the Crawford County Conservation District, park staff created a handbook on boat check stations, and rangers began introducing checks in the summer of 2016 by asking boaters if they'd be willing to participate in a quick survey and boat check. This led to the removal of six different aquatic species from 148 boats, including zebra mussels and fanwort, not currently found in the lake.

Grant funding enabled the creation of boat wash stations at Jamestown Marina, the launch at Espyville, and at the Linesville Marina. Invasive species disposal stations at all launches will enable boaters to safely dispose of invasive hitchhikers as boats travel from lake to lake. To help draw attention and awareness to this important issue, visitors will soon be able to easily identify check station staff.

For more information on the park's efforts contact the park office at 724-932-3142 or visit <https://seagrant.psu.edu/section/fact-sheets-brochures>



Source: Sea Grant

How You Can Help! Please help in the fight against invasive species by taking a few extra steps when boating. Always inspect your boat, trailer, and fishing gear before entering the lake and remove any plant or animals present. When leaving the water, do the same. When possible, wash boating gear with hot water and air dry, to help stop the spread of species such as didymo capable of spreading through a solitary cell. Even if simply moving between one launch to another, take the time to inspect and clean your gear, to prevent the spread of plants from one section of the lake to another. A few extra minutes protects the resource you enjoy.

Brewing Company HELPS RESTORE Rare Vernal Pools in Michaux State Forest

Poorly placed ATV trails in the Michaux State Forest threaten to impact rare vernal pool communities in this heavily used forest. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation recently received a grant from Colorado-based New Belgium Brewing Company that will be used to help offset costs to restore these important pools.

Also called vernal ponds or ephemeral pools, vernal pools are temporary stands of water usually devoid of fish, thus allowing the safe development of natal amphibian and insect species unable to withstand competition or predation by fish.



An established ATV trail goes through this vernal pond in Michaux State Forest.

Unfortunately, due to their ephemeral nature and the lack of understanding of their importance in the wetland ecosystem, vernal pools are disappearing across the nation. However, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, even a small appearance of a vernal pool may provide habitat for numerous rare plants and animals that spend the dry season as seeds, eggs, or cysts, and then grow and reproduce when the ponds are again filled with water.

In addition, birds such as egrets, ducks, and hawks use vernal pools as a seasonal source of food and water. Like all wetlands, vernal pools play a role in water quality by allowing water to seep into the ground, which recharges groundwater aquifers, removes impurities, and reduces runoff into surface water sources.

Established in the late 80s, The Fuzzy Trail is a segment of Michaux State Forest's 40-plus mile ATV trail system that threatens a vernal pond complex in the upper reaches of the Mountain Creek Watershed.

Over the years, ATV use of this portion of the trail system has created significant erosion and sedimentation impacts. Additional illegal trail diversions have breached the banks of the highest elevation vernal pond, creating significant long-term impacts to the micro-site hydrology.



Spring peepers like this one, as well as the marbled and spotted salamanders, breed in vernal ponds.

This rehabilitation project will involve:

- permanently closing this 1,300-foot trail segment to ATV use
- re-establishing, stabilizing, and re-vegetating the topographic contours and hydrologic function of this pond system
- monitoring it for at least five years for indicators of ecological recovery
- providing an equivalent trail segment approximately 600 feet upslope from the rehabbed area through a densely vegetated xeric site on the adjacent ridge.

This grant will enable the reversal of decades of negative impacts to this sensitive site. Following this restoration project, Michaux State Forest staff will be monitoring these ponds closely to ensure re-colonization of the site. Without the additional funds to work with, the stabilization and enhancement of this aquatic habitat would not have been feasible in as short a time frame.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

2017 Through the Seasons PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline September 7, by noon

The annual PPFF Thru the Seasons photo contest is asking for your photos that capture all that is special and the memories that are made in our state parks and forests. The contest offers the chance for professional and amateur photographers to vie for supremacy in a variety of categories. This year we are adding a new category, A Bit of Whimsy, to let your sense of humor rule the day. Also, back by popular demand is the Dogs in the Outdoors category.

2017 CATEGORIES:

- A Bit of Whimsy
- Dogs in the Outdoors
- Fun in the Outdoors
- Nature's Colors
- Young Photographer

Prizes are awarded to three photographs from each category, as well as Best In Show, Critics' Choice and People's Choice. The photographs entered can be featured on PPFF's website, Facebook page, newsletter, and in other communications. The photographs may be showcased in our photo gallery tour which takes place at several locations across the Commonwealth. Visit www.PaParksAndForests.org to learn more.

Tentative 2017 Photo Tour Locations and Dates

February 3 - 25: State Capitol Building (Harrisburg)
April 1 - May 6: Sinnemahoning State Park
May 10: PPFF Annual Awards Banquet,
West Shore Country Club (Camp Hill)
May 13 - June 10: Ricketts Glen State Park
July 8 - 22: Caledonia State Park, Art & Craft Fair
August 5: Shank's Mare Art & Outdoor Fest (Wrightsville)
August 12 - 26: Community Arts Center (Johnstown)
September: Ohiopyle State Park
October: Kinzua State Park

*Additional locations
to be added.*

Have an idea? Give us a call!

To learn more, visit
www.PaParksAndForests.org

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 3/2 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature
- 3/5 Friends of Canoe Creek: Mountain Pie Madness
- 3/8 PPFF Presentation at Columbia AARP
- 3/11 PPFF Chapter Training Day in Camp Hill
- 3/11 Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Sugar on Snow
- 3/12 Friends of Beltzville: Spring Hike

APRIL

- 4/1-5/6 Photo Tour at Sinnemahoning State Park
- 4/3 Friends of Beltzville: Garden Clean-Up
- 4/8 PPFF Chapter Training Day at Shawnee State Park
- 4/9 Friends of Cowans Gap: Annual 5K
- 4/15 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/15 Plein Air Art Hammonds Rock, Michaux State Forest
- 4/22 Friends of Beltzville: Great American Clean Up
- 4/22 Earth Day: Look for Volunteer Opportunities across the State this weekend
- 4/22-29 Dr. J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week (see back page)
- 4/23 Friends of Beltzville: Spring Hike
- 4/29 Stewardship Day at Hickory Run State Park
- 4/29 Friends of Little Buffalo: Spring Volunteer Day

MAY

- 5/9 Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, visit www.PaParksAndForests.org for more information
- 5/6 Friends of Ohiopyle: Youth Fishing Festival
- 5/6 Friends of White Clay Creek: Creek Fest
- 5/10 11th Annual PPFF Awards Banquet (see page 13 for details)
- 5/13-6/10 Photo Tour at Ricketts Glen State Park
- 5/13 Friends of Black Moshannon: Women in the Wilds
- 5/15 Friends of Beltzville: Garden Planting
- 5/20 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community
- 5/21 Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Chief Wetona Challenge
- 5/27 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Red White & Blue Weekend
- 5/27 Friends of Laurel Hill: Bake Sale & Rubber Ducky Race
- 5/31 Friends of Beltzville: Kayak Klean-Up

JUNE

- 6/3 Friends of Ridley Creek: Annual Picnic
- 6/10 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Charcoal Challenge/Iron Run
- 6/10 Friends of Laurel Hill: Adventure Race
- 6/10 Friends of Cowans Gap: Music in the Gap
- 6/12 Friends of Beltzville: Garden Work Day
- 6/16 Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Square Dance
- 6/17 Friends of Black Moshannon: PA Wilds Child
- 6/17 Friends of Cowans Gap: Family Outdoor Expo
- 6/21 Friends of Ridley Creek: Photo Contest Awards Celebration
- 6/24 Friends of Cowans Gap: Art in the Park
- 6/24 Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association: Star Party Public Viewing Night
- 6/24 Friends of Goddard: Pioneer Frolic
- 6/24 Friends of Beltzville: Pollinator Day
- 6/30 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: July 4th Celebration Weekend

www.PaParksAndForests.org/events



Photo credit: Ananda Trimmer, Michaux State Forest

Plein Air Event Set for Spring

Looking to connect art and nature? On Saturday April 15 from 1-3 p.m., the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation will be hosting its second Plein Air Art Day at Hammonds Rocks, Michaux State Forest.

All are invited to bring their easel, paints, and canvas to capture the beauty. *Don't paint?* Feel free to come by and observe the artists or bring a camera and take photographs. Perhaps the beauty will inspire a poem or a journal entry. Let nature be your muse.

PPFF staff will be on hand to talk about the stewardship of Hammonds Rocks. For more information, contact Amanda Trimmer at atrimmer@paparksandforests.org

HIGHMARK.



WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Highmark is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

GET YOUR WALKING SHOES READY!

Now is the time to register to participate with Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community presented by Highmark Harrisburg on May 20 at Harrisburg Area Community College.

The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community is a fundraiser that benefits 48 local nonprofit health and human service agencies, including Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.

Highmark Harrisburg underwrites the cost of the walk so that 100 percent of the money raised by walkers goes directly to support our goal of conserving our state parks and forests for future generations.

Register or donate now at http://bcf.convio.net/site/TR/Harrisburg/HighmarkWalk?pg=entry&fr_id=2149
For more information, call 717-236-7644.

PPFF FRIENDS GROUPS

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association

Friends of Beltzville

Friends of Big Pocono

Friends of Black Moshannon

Friends of Buchanan

Friends of Caledonia

Friends of Canoe Creek

Friends of Colonel Denning

Friends of Cook Forest

Friends of Cowans Gap

Friends of Delaware/Promised Land

Friends of Goddard

Friends of Greenwood Furnace

Friends of Keystone

Friends of Kings Gap

Friends of Laurel Hill

Friends of Little Buffalo

Friends of Lyman Run

Friends of Milton

Friends of Mont Alto

Friends of Mt. Pisgah

Friends of Nockamixon

Friends of Nolde Forest

Friends of Ohiopyle

Friends of Oil Creek

Friends of Parker Dam

Friends of Pinchot

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace

Friends of Prince Gallitzin

Friends of Ridley Creek

Friends of Ryerson Station

Friends of Shawnee

Friends of Shikellamy

Friends of State Line Serpentine Barrens

Friends of Varden Conservation Area

Friends of Weiser State Forest

Friends of White Clay Creek

Friends of Yellow Creek

Laurel Mountain Volunteers

Your Friends In Action: *Friends of Canoe Creek State Park*

Canoe Creek State Park, located in Canoe Creek Valley, is 958 acres featuring a 155-acre lake with a sand beach. The easy and difficult trails run through old fields, mature forests, and historic Blair Limestone Kiln remnants. Canoe Creek State Park, which provides critical habitat for migrating birds and other wildlife, is a designated bird sanctuary.

The Friends of Canoe Creek State Park (FOCCSP) consists of passionate volunteers who care deeply for the Park. Their mission is to promote the Canoe Creek State Park educational and recreational opportunities by connecting the community to the park through programs and events. Formed in October of 2013, the members come from all walks of life, with one common thread – they love Canoe Creek and enjoy sharing the park with others.

Since 2014, the FOCCSP has held five signature events annually. In 2017, these include: Winterfest First Day Hike; Mountain Pie Madness, March 5; Movies at the Amphitheatre, June 24 and July 22; Canoe Creek Disc Golf Classic held in late July/early August; and a Halloween Event, October 29.



Photo credit: Friends of Canoe Creek

Annual Halloween Event attracts lots of families to the park.

These well-attended events highlight outdoor family fun with a theme.

The Friends of Canoe Creek partner with local organizations like Blair County Drug and Alcohol Partnership and Keystone Disc Golf Association, to name a few, to support their events. Also, corporate and personal donations of dollars and time help to enhance the park environment.

In June 2016, the friends completed a new playground for small children. Fundraising for the project started in November 2013 and concluded with the construction of the playground. The construction was done by the FOCCSP with help from Gordon DeLozier Construction and the Hollidaysburg Senior High School Class 2016. The friends presented the playground to the Park Manager at the opening in June 2016.



Photo credit: Friends of Canoe Creek

Partnerships are key to the friends groups, with their most recent being Home Depot. Together they built a 30' by 30' fire ring area, which provided warmth on the annual first day hike this year!

To learn more visit:
www.facebook.com/friendsofcanoe creek



Photo credit: Friends of Canoe Creek

More Friends In Action:



Friends of Prince Gallitzin invested time, money (\$24,000), and energy in completely overhauling the park amphitheater with the restoration of benches, lighting, new concrete flooring, and landscaping. They also improved the drainage around the structure for long-term viability. Kudos to the friends and the park staff for this undertaking!



In celebration of a new year, **Friends of Beltzville State Park** had 83 people come out for their First Day Hike on January 1.

Even better, the friends are out there every Thursday morning all year 'round!

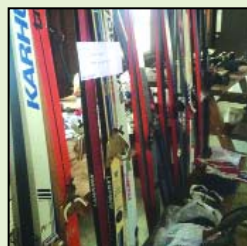


Complete with bagpipe music, **Friends of Mt. Pisgah** hosted their Third Annual Patriots in the Park celebration in September (too late for the Fall issue's press deadline).

Friends of Ohiopyle kicked off another year of monthly trail volunteer days on January 7. In the snow. That's dedication!



Friends of Buchanan have been clearing, blazing, and signing multi-use trails, including this intersection of the Bald Hill Trail and aptly-named Friends Trail.



Friends of Oil Creek hosted their annual ski swap (and kicked off another year of cross-country ski grooming) on the park's lovely trail system. They groom them for hiking, too!

YOU Made it Happen



Opening New Doors

The craftsmanship of the maintenance staff at Laurel Hill State Park shines through in the restoration work of the Civilian Conservation Corps structures at the park. With support from the Allegheny Foundation and your donations, the public will soon be able to experience the camp in new ways.

Photo credit: Marci Mowery



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Being a Voice

Friends group leaders from across the state gathered to share lessons, ideas, and to develop skills to improve fundraising, attract more volunteers, and to be a voice for our state parks and forests.



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Promoting State Parks and Forests

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation exhibited and met with chamber executives to talk about the importance of state parks and forests at the annual Pennsylvania Association of Chamber Executives meeting in State College.



Photo credit: REI

Thank you to REI for your continued support of projects in our state parks and forests, such as interpretive panels in the Forbes State Forest and native plantings at Shawnee State Park.



Photo credit: Amanda Trimmer

Thank you for your support of the ExtraGive! The event attracted both current and new donors!

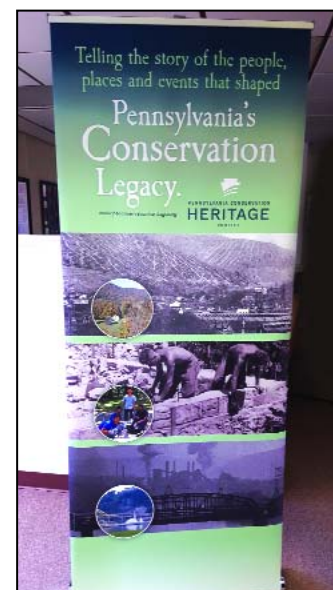


Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Conservation Heritage education and outreach continues to expand with the production of promotional postcards, a banner, and an expanded story section of the website. Check it out at www.paconservationheritage.org.

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME *Basse Beck and Rose Chase*



Basse Beck (1896-1974)

Coal mining and coal-generated electricity were serious undertakings in Pennsylvania in the 1800s and early 1900s. However, with those mines came mine drainage, which turned streams and rivers orange while killing vegetation and wildlife. Power plants built dams on rivers like the Susquehanna, blocking passage for migratory fish like shad.

Basse Beck, from Sunbury, Pennsylvania, was disgusted with what he saw happening from this pollution and infrastructure. As chairman of the North Central Division of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsman's Clubs, he became a tireless advocate for cleaning the streams and preventing future damage.

Basse was the principal owner of radio station WKOK and general manager of the Sunbury Daily Item newspaper. He used his position with the paper to write numerous columns under the header, "Up and Down the River," that highlighted environmental damages to the streams.

He also worked closely with Pennsylvania legislator Franklin Kury, a long-time champion for environmental rights, on bills and outreach efforts. Together they worked to restore spawning runs for migratory fish on the lower Susquehanna River. Kury was a sponsor to the Scenic Rivers Act, which had a strong impact on improving water quality in the watershed.

Kury once wrote about Basse, "I did not realize until later, but Basse Beck was one of the first to challenge the coal and electric power companies on behalf of the environment," in his book, *Clean Politics, Clean Streams: A Legislative Autobiography and Reflections*. Basse had quite the effect on not just Kury, but so many others.

**...he became a tireless advocate
for cleaning the streams and
preventing future damage.**

Rose Chase

The Goat Hill section of the Serpentine Barrens of Chester County, Pennsylvania, is 300 acres of rare ecosystem featuring numerous unique plants and animals. Yet in 1979, the barrens were at risk from a proposed blasting quarry. Local landowner, Rose Chase, led the charge to protect this special and valuable habitat.

Rose brought together other residents and concerned individuals in the agriculturally-rural township to form a citizens group, Concerned Citizens of West Nottingham Township, on May 22, 1979, just as the proposed developer began making offers on lands adjoining the barrens.

The group's first activity: raising more than \$7,000 at a fundraising party at Rose's home. That money was used to hire a lawyer. But Rose and the others did not rest then; they penned letters to elected officials and called or wrote to any non-profit and agency with "nature" in their name.

Through their actions and Rose's leadership, the quarry owner retreated. Rose then reached out to The Nature Conservancy to encourage them to acquire the land and protect it in perpetuity. By the end of 1982, approximately 750 acres were on their way to being added to the state's system of protected wild plant sanctuaries, specifically within the William Penn State Forest District. In 2011, a 1.5-mile long trail at the barrens was named in Rose's honor.

Ever humble Rose refuses to take credit for the success of protecting the serpentine barrens, but it is clear that her energy, charm, and doggedness rallied others to action in support of conservation.



**...she led the charge to protect
the Goat Hill section of the
Serpentine Barrens.**

We Will Miss



Myron Messinger

(Jan. 7, 1943 – Oct. 27, 2016)

This fall the Friends of Milton State Park, and many in the Milton area, lost a close friend. Myron was a founding member of the Friends of Milton. He was a devoted worker and was instrumental in the opening of several miles of trails within Milton State Park. Myron was eager to assist with any project. His lifelong love of nature and his experience of over 37 years as a Forest Warden served the Friends well. Myron was always eager to share his knowledge of trees and nature with others and Pap Myron will be missed by all.



Adda Free

(June 29, 1935 – Dec. 5, 2016)

It is hard to imagine how the annual Pioneer Frolic sponsored by the Friends of Goddard can take place this June when in December they and the entire community lost Adda Free to pulmonary fibrosis. Her sparkle and energy belied her 81 years; her small stature was no impediment to 40 years as a beloved school bus driver. The butterflies at Commodore Perry School, where she helped to create a garden home for them, and the FRoGs at M.K. Goddard State Park will long remember her with fondness.

WELCOME and THANKS • WELCOME and THANKS • WELCOME and THANKS

WELCOME New Board Members

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is pleased to welcome three new board members to our board of directors.



Nancy Ball, retired development officer from Lafayette College, brings significant fundraising and volunteer experience. Nancy is very interested in engaging college students in outdoor recreation and volunteerism. Nancy can be found regularly, at Nockamixon State Park, walking her dog.



Jae Ellison, Director of Outdoor Leadership and Education at Lycoming College, strongly identifies with the mission of Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. His experience in recreational outdoor programming for a variety of populations will be an asset to his work on the board of PPFF. Jae views the natural spaces of Pennsylvania as one of our finest resources.



Senator Guy Reschenthaler serves parts of Allegheny and Washington counties. As an avid runner, hiker, and general outdoorsman, he has a great appreciation for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. Senator Reschenthaler looks forward to using the knowledge he gains while serving on the board of PPFF to be a better advocate for conserving, protecting, and enhancing Pennsylvania's public lands.

The new executive team will be Maria Montero, Chairwoman; Mary Soderberg, Vice Chairwoman; Jim Grace, Treasurer; and Brian Clark, Secretary.

Thank You to Board Members

As we welcome these three new board members, we also say good bye and thank you to Gary Smith and Rob Wonderling, who will be transitioning to our advisory board, and to Jim Fields, who has relocated back to New York State.

We Invite You to Celebrate Your State Parks and Forests at the 11th Annual Awards Banquet Celebrating Leadership and Service



Date: May 10, 2017

Place: West Shore Country Club, Camp Hill

Time: 5:30 cash bar, 6:30 dinner

Program: Cocktail reception, dinner, awards program

Cost: \$50 (registration deadline is April 25, 2017)

Join your friends and fellow conservationists to celebrate the accomplishments of this year's winners:

Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award: Paul Felton

Government Award: Maryann Haladay-Bierly

President's Award: Graffiti Busters of Hammonds Rocks

Forest of the Year: Weiser State Forest

Park of the Year: Shawnee State Park

Volunteer, Education: Friends of Mt. Pisgah State Park

Volunteer, Improvement: Boy Scout Troop 345

Volunteer, Volunteerism: Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve

Young Volunteer: Katie Gustafson

Visit www.PaParksAndForests.org to register

Support our work to remove barriers to participation in outdoor recreation by donating an item to our silent auction, proceeds of which will be used to purchase equipment for state park and forest programming. Contact Beth Artz at bartz@paparksandforests.org.

LOOKING for MORE Stewards of Penn's Woods



Photo credit: DCNR

Last year PPFF launched the **Stewards of Penn's Woods** program for people and businesses interested in stewardship. The program was designed to allow people to get involved with keeping our state forests beautiful, on their own schedule. We have locations all across the state, needing anything from litter pick up to trail maintenance.

Check our website at
www.PaParksAndForests.org
under "Get Involved" for available
locations and project lists.

THE ECONOMICS OF THE OUTDOORS IN PENNSYLVANIA

YOUR MONEY'S HEALTHY OUT THERE



PLENTIFUL ASSETS

5,800 local parks * 11,500 miles of trails
* 27 water trails * 12 heritage areas
* 7 conservation landscapes * 121 state
parks * 2.2 million acres of state forest.

LOCAL PROSPERITY

In 2013, local and regional parks created nearly \$1.6 billion in economic activity and supported 12,480 jobs nationally. The total contribution of State Park visitor spending to the state economy was \$1.145 billion in sales and 12,630 jobs. For every dollar invested in state parks, \$12.41 of value added income is returned to Pennsylvania.



NATURAL BENEFITS

In the Lehigh Valley, open space provides \$355 million in water supply, flood control, pollinations and habitat services.

SAVINGS

10,344 acres of parkland in Philadelphia saves more than \$5.9 million in storm water management costs due to runoff reduction.



HERITAGE HELPS

In 2014, Pennsylvania's 12 heritage areas supported 7.5 million visitor days/nights that purchased \$2 billion worth of goods and supported 25,708 jobs.



PA WILDS

Since 2008, embracing the natural and cultural aspects of the region to attract tourism created 372 jobs and has led to annual visitor spending of \$1.7 billion.



HEALTHY PEOPLE

In the five-county Philadelphia area of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia, protected open space resulted in annual avoided medical costs of \$795 million.



BETTER BIG BUSINESS



Nationally, active recreation employs FIVE times more Americans than Walmart, the world's largest private employer. The yearly sale of gear and trips for outdoor recreation is greater than the annual returns on other industries as well.

TRAILS HAVE IMPACT

The 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage in southwestern Pennsylvania generates more than \$40 million in revenue each year, while the 24-mile Three Rivers Heritage Trail in Pittsburgh attracts more than 822,000 users, contributing \$8.4 million annually to local economies.



OPEN SPACE

Open space increases property values, makes communities more livable (and thus more attractive to businesses and industry), and provides programmable space.

SOURCES

The Economic Impact of Local Parks, National Recreation and Parks Association. (http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/Economic-Impact-Study-Summary.pdf)

The Economic Significance and Impact of Pennsylvania State Parks: An Updated Assessment of 2010 Park Visitor Spending on the State and Local Economy, The Pennsylvania State University. (http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_007019.pdf)

The Economic Value of Protected Open Space in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. (<http://www.dvrpc.org/reports/11033A.pdf>)

Outdoor Recreation: An Economic Engine, River Town Program. (http://pecpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic_Impacts_of_Outdoor_Recreation.pdf)

Return on Environment, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. (http://lvpc.org/pdf/2014/ReturnOnEnvironment_Dec_18_2014.pdf)

The Value of Open Space, Populous. (<https://populous.com/posts/the-value-of-open-space/>)



Memorial or Honorary Gifts You can honor the memory of a special person or joyous occasion while supporting PPFF's work in conservation, recreation, education, and volunteerism in our state parks and forests.

Send gifts to: PPFF, 1845 Market Street, Suite 202, Camp Hill, PA 17011 or download a form at www.PaParksAndForests.org/support/ways-to-give



The Results Are In! Stewardship Poster and Video Contest

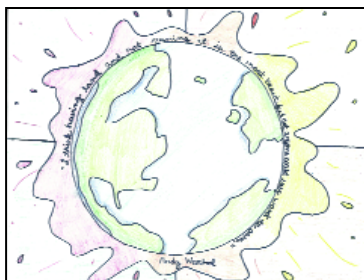
Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation asked students from middle schools across the Commonwealth to create a poster to illustrate an anti-graffiti message. We think they came through with... well, with flying colors! All of the winners can be found on PPFF's website at www.PaParksAndForests.org/news/stewardship-poster-winners Funded by the Alexander Stewart, M.D. Foundation.

1st Place:

Andrea Tumminello,
"Why?"
Warren L. Miller
Elementary School



7th Grade

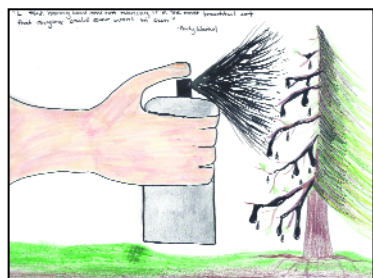


1st Place: Virginia Lohn, "The Art of Nature,"
Burgettstown Middle/High School

8th Grade



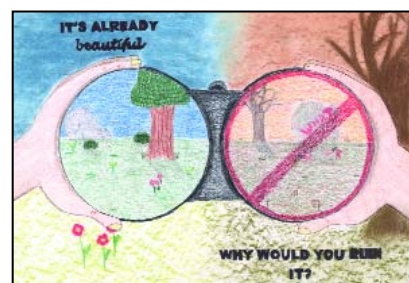
1st Place: Zoe Kenick, "Which World is Better?"
Pennbrook Middle School



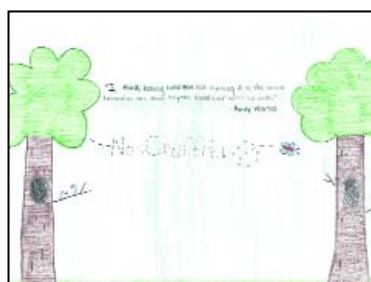
2nd Place: Evelyn Chick, "Spraying Our
World Away," Eagle View Middle School



2nd Place:
Holly Mirales,
"Defeat the
Demons of
Graffiti,"
Unami Middle
School



2nd Place: Lindsay Stone, "The Beauty
and the Ruined," Pennbrook Middle School

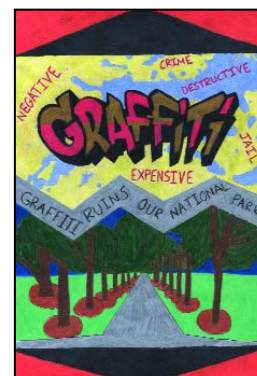


3rd Place: Lexus Green, "No Graffiti,"
Burgettstown Middle/High School

3rd Place:
Anjali Talluru,
"Colorful Dangers,"
Pennbrook
Middle School



Honorable Mention: Ricky Bernola,
"No Graffiti," Burgettstown Middle/High School



Honorable
Mention:
Kyle Stump,
"Two Sides of
One Cause,"
Pennbrook
Middle School

PPFF's Stewardship Campaign challenged high school and college students to create a short video telling an anti-graffiti and pro-stewardship message and the challenge was met. The winning videos can be viewed on PPFF's website at www.PaParksAndForests.org/news/stewardship-video-winners

College

Critics' Choice: Cameron Frassetta, "Hammonds Rocks," Harrisburg Area Community College

Popular Vote: Levi Lundell, "Leave the Right Mark," Allegheny College

High School

Critics' Choice: John Wagner, "Natural Beauty," A.W. Beattie Career Center

Popular Vote: Madison Gift, Irra Montiel, Kayla Chesbier, Kylie Plasterer, "Graffiti at High Rock," Waynesboro High School

conserve enhance enjoy

Photo credit: Frank Delrosario



A Tribute to Our Commonwealth

Dr. J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week – April 22-29

By order of the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1961 the last week of April is Dr. J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week when “the citizens shall be encouraged to consider through suitable activities the broader subject of the conservation of all of the natural resources from which the wealth of the Commonwealth is derived.”

So mark your calendar for April 22-29 and participate in a “suitable activity” in tribute to our Commonwealth – our forests, our rivers and streams, our clean air and abundant wildlife – and the people like Dr. Rothrock who had the foresight and the will to understand what the loss of these resources would mean for us and the people who follow us.

If your current membership has expired, visit our website today **www.PaParksAndForests.org/join/become-a-member** to renew or use our form below. New members, complete the form and become a supporter of your parks and forests!

MEMBERSHIP

To become a member, fill out the information below and mail this form with your check (made payable to PPFF) in an envelope to:

- ☐ \$25 Single Membership ☐ I'd like to donate extra money to support the work of PPFF!
☐ \$35 Family Membership \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PA Parks & Forests Foundation
1845 Market Street, Suite 202
Camp Hill, PA 17011