# Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Summer 2017

## are all of these fun little characters taking over our newsletter? Find out on page 14.

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## The Beaches of Pennsylvania's **Parks and Forests**

Offering something for everyone!

What comes to mind when you think of the beach? The feeling of sand between your toes, the sound of children splashing in the waves, the smell of an early morning run along the shoreline, or the sight of a beautiful sunrise or sunset over the water?

Luckily, you don't have to drive all the way to the seashore to experience the sensations often associated with spending a day at the beach. In fact, you don't even have to leave Pennsylvania!

Home to more than 50 lakes and beaches, our state parks and forests (many of which might be right in your backyard) offer truly unique settings with pristine landscapes that could easily contend against some of the most popular coastlines.

Whether you're looking for a refreshing dip in the crisp waters of a mountain lake, a fun afternoon building sandcastles with your family, some solitude while exploring a sandy shoreline, or time to connect with friends over a picnic, our state offers an enjoyable experience for beach-lovers and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages.

#### Sun, Sand and ... Surf?

Providing the only "coastal" beaches in Pennsylvania, Presque Isle State Park is a 3,200-acre sandy peninsula that arches into Lake Erie in Erie County creating a picturesque seashore and gathering place for swimming, boating, and fishing.

As close to ocean swimming as can be found in the state, its long sand beaches and small waves make it a very popular summer destination. And although swimming is only permitted when the beach is open and lifeguards are on duty, Presque Isle's eleven beaches each offer a unique experience that goes beyond just swimming.

For example, Beach 11 is the park's most sheltered, and therefore most serene. Tucked in a natural harbor, its shallow continued on page 3





share a laugh at the annual awards banquet.

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## President's Message

Spring is one of my favorite seasons – presenting both beauty, as nature wakes from her slumber, and opportunities for new beginnings. The warming air seems to enliven people, and as I look out my office window, I see folks walking past, including the walking school bus that passes by our office twice a day as the students make their way to and from the elementary school.

Our friends, busy all year, kick it up a notch in spring with Earth Day, Easter, and opening day of trout events. Many of our groups reported record numbers of volunteers joining them for Earth Day – our hats off to all who came out to kick off the spring season and prepare our parks for the busy summer ahead.

At the PPFF office, spring means planning the annual awards banquet and silent auction. Images from the banquet can be found on page 14. This year we also prepared for our first-year participation in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. You'll have to wait until our fall newsletter to hear those results.

Spring also means state budget time – and the budget that passed the State House, House Bill 218, concerns us here at the Foundation. As I write this, we are preparing our comments. Please keep an eye on the News section of our website at www.PaParksAndForests.org to see how you can help us educate our elected officials on the impact that the current house budget vehicle – which proposes a 16 percent budget cut to DCNR – will have on our parks and forests.

Marci Mowery

"Our hats off to all who came out to kick off the spring season and prepare our parks for the busy summer ahead."

Considering DCNR is only one-half of one percent of the entire state

budget, one would think that cuts to it would hardly solve any budget issues. In fact, we might argue that when you cut investment to parks and forests, which actually help to RAISE revenue for the state, you challenge tourism, our second leading industry.

An unforeseen spring change at PPFF is the departure of bookkeeper Lisa Salvatore, who, along with her husband Frank, will be relocating to Maryland. Lisa's service to PPFF over the past nine years cannot be overstated. Her skill and dry humor will be missed by many. *Thank you Lisa!* 

Fortunately for us, Lisa will be around to transition our newest team member, Debbie Whitmoyer, into her position as bookkeeper. *Welcome Debbie!* 

When this newsletter lands in your hands, spring will be giving way to summer, and minds will turn to beaches. I hope that you enjoy reading this issue with a focus on beaches, and that it provides you with some ideas for new places to explore.

Until we meet again, yours in the outdoors, Marci

#### 2016 BY THE NUMBERS

(Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation Chapters Reporting as of 5/1/17)

Special Events Hosted: 140

Number of

Volunteers:

Nearly 2,970

Attendance at Events: Nearly 189,000

Hours Donated by Volunteers: 65,900

Service Projects Conducted: 1,730

Value of Hours\* Donated by Volunteers: \$1,590,826 Money Raised for Park and Forest Projects: \$503,500

Volunteers with PPFF, through Graffiti Busters and Penn's Stewards, donated an additional 719 hours to parks and forests for a value of \$17,356

\*The Bureau of Labor Statistics put a value of \$24.14 on volunteer labor in 2016.

## The Beaches of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests continued from front cover

water is a safe option for little ones to walk in and boasts beautiful views of the Erie skyline.

Beach 6 on the other hand, is a favorite among local teens and 20-somethings, who gather for volleyball and socializing. During the summer, Presque Isle hosts free concerts on Beach 1, so bring a blanket and a picnic basket to relax and enjoy the show. Water skiing and scuba diving are permitted in designated waters of Lake Erie and extensive picnic facilities are available at most of the swimming areas.



The Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Parks had chosen Presque Isle for its "25 Must-See Pennsylvania State Parks" list, citing its status as Pennsylvania's only surf beach, its status as a National Natural Landmark, and its geological and biological diversity and historic significance. Trails throughout the park, including the PA Seaway Trail that follows the shoreline, provide a chance to get some exercise while taking in the sites and perhaps do a little bird watching. The Tom Ridge Environmental Center at the entrance to the park also allows visitors to learn more about the history and ecology of the beaches and lake, while a visit to the lighthouse provides an opportunity to step back in time to the glory of the lighthouse days.

Not too far west of Presque Isle is the more remote Erie Bluffs State Park which provides the visitor a chance to catch a glimpse of the undeveloped Lake Erie shoreline while also taking in the view from 90-foot bluffs. While swimming is not permitted, the beauty of this site is not to be missed.

#### Wild and Natural

Although many lakes and beaches in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests attract visitors because of their swimming and water sports amenities, others are appreciated more for their natural beauty, serene shorelines, and unique wildlife, such as Little Tinicum Island, a green oasis in the midst of Philadelphia.

Located in the Delaware River within William Penn State Forest, Little Tinicum is an example of one of the state forest system's designated wild and natural areas set aside to protect unique biologic, geologic, scenic, and historical features or to showcase outstanding examples of the state's major forest communities.

Surrounded by freshwater tidal wetlands, the Island is one of the few tidal mud flats in Pennsylvania. When the tide is out, it is easy to traverse the island's sandy beach from end to end on the channel side of the island – a.k.a. the "Jersey Side."

Visitors can find several species of birds, animals, and plants not found anywhere else in the state, as well as bald eagles, peregrine falcons and several species of hawks and owls that nest there. Consisting of beach and scrub forest areas, the Island provides a fun little spot to explore or to just sit on some drift wood, which is abundant on the Island, and take in the bustling river, which showcases ships, barges, and pleasure craft.

Not all of our lakes have beaches, but we do have many lakes and ponds in our state parks and forests that offer



It takes many volunteers to steward Little Tinicum Island. Deloitte visits annually on their Impact Day for a day of litter removal and camaraderie.

The Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Parks had chosen Presque Isle for its "25 Must-See Pennsylvania State Parks" list.

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## The Beaches of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests continued from page 3

#### Make a Splash in the Mountains

Did you know that our state parks offer a variety of water options across the state? For example, the Pocono Mountains area offers plenty of outdoor water fun at any one of its many sandy beaches, including the 525-foot beach along the shores of Beltzville Lake in Beltzville State Park, Carbon County.

Located in the southern foothills of the Poconos, the 949-acre lake is fed by Pohopoco Creek, an excellent trout stream. Open from late May until the middle of September, the beach area offers a bathhouse with showers and a concession.

One of the beach's more popular features is a covered bridge located between the picnic areas and the beach. Originally built across Pohopoco Creek in 1841 and first used by horse and buggy traffic, the bridge was relocated to the beach for public use and enjoyment at the suggestion of local residents. (The Friends of Beltzville are currently raising funds to restore the bridge.)

Additional Pocono-area beaches to explore include Sand Spring Lake in Hickory Run State Park, Tobyhanna Lake in Tobyhanna State Park and its neighbor Gouldsboro Lake in Gouldsboro State Park.

Located in a another beautiful mountain setting further south in Cumberland County, the 696-acre Pine Grove Furnace State Park is steeped in natural and historical features. Surrounded by Michaux State Forest. Pine Grove Furnace features 25-acre Laurel Lake and 1.7-acre Fuller Lake, a historic area and the Appalachian Trail.





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## Soak Up Some History

To fully appreciate the sandy shorelines and lakes located in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests, it helps to understand a little bit of the history behind their existence.

#### THE CCC ERA

Many of our lakes and beaches exist today thanks to the hard work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a public work relief program in existence from 1933 to 1942. A large portion of CCC camps were involved with creating our state parks by planting trees and building

roads, picnic areas and campgrounds, and even swimming areas.

One example of a CCC-era camp is Parker Dam State Park in Clearfield County. Tasked with building a swimming beach at the park, a CCC camp repaired the dam, built a bathhouse and supplied lifeguards for a grand opening Fourth of July weekend 1937. Today the park's scenic lake, rustic cabins, quaint campground and unbounded forest still reflect the rugged beauty and character first created by the CCC.



A few of the boys of CCC Camp S-118 at Parker Dam.

#### THE GODDARD ERA

In 1955, Maurice K. Goddard was appointed Secretary of the Department of Parks and Forests. Goddard set the goal of one park within 25 miles of every Pennsylvanian. With the determination of a man on a mission, Goddard established 45 parks and 130,000 acres of land before he retired in 1979. Under his leadership, visitation of state parks went from eight million visitors in 1955 to 24 million visitors by 1961. He also reorganized the Bureau of State Parks into four regions, an organization that still exists.

In addition to Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Harrisburg was among the urban areas that Goddard focused on creating nearby recreational access. In 1961, Gifford Pinchot Park was named a

state park. Today, the 2,338-acre full-service park located in northern York County is still fulfilling Goddard's mission by offering everything from boating and fishing to picnicking and a beach just a short drive away from Harrisburg's urban areas.



## The Beaches of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests

#### **Sunsets and Sightseeing**

Recognized as one of the largest lakes in the Commonwealth, Pymatuning Reservoir in Pymatuning State Park in Crawford County boasts three public beaches: Linesville, Main Beach, and Beach Two. Beautiful vistas of this large body of water can be enjoyed anywhere along the lake. Some of the more unique sights include the dam, the Linesville "spillway," the fish hatchery, and the two causeways across the lake. The spillway is perhaps one of the best known locations because the fish are so plentiful that the "ducks walk on the fishes' backs" to compete for the food fed by visitors.

In between swimming and taking in the sites, save time to catch the sunset, which provides the perfect backdrop for "selfies" or pictures with the entire family. But be sure to wait a few minutes after the complete sunset to capture the afterglow of brilliant oranges and yellows.

Pymatuning is also the only known place in Pennsylvania where bald eagles have nested continuously, even throughout the years of their population decline. Today, park visitors get thrills from spotting them in the park.

#### Refresh, Reflect, Relax

Nestled in the woods near State College in Huntingdon County, Whipple Lake in Whipple Dam State Park is the perfect place to indulge in a refreshing dip, bird watch or just relax.

A small 525-foot sand beach is just the right size for kids to play and build sandcastles. Or they can look for minnows in the shallow water. *continued on page 6* 



## 5 Reasons to Visit PA's Beaches!

#### No. 1 - Something for Everyone

Splashing around in the water is a great way to cool off on a hot day, and Pennsylvania's state parks and forests make it easy by offering numerous lakeside beach areas. While some are more rustic, others have modern facilities. Many beaches are handicap accessible. If swimming isn't your thing, some lakes allow sail boating, water skiing and kayaking. Many also have lakeside trails that provide a great opportunity to explore, or to sit and journal. **Note:** Most of the state park beaches operate under the open swim policy – swim at your own risk.



Access to beaches in state parks and forests is free! Plus, picnic areas make it convenient for visitors to bring food into the park. Many beach areas also offer affordable boat rentals and concession stands, as well.



In addition to the health benefits that come with soaking up vitamin D, visitors to state parks this upcoming summer season will now find 39 of the 54 swimming beaches across Pennsylvania designated as "smoke free." This expansion is directly in line with the state parks' primary mission to provide opportunities for enjoying healthy outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education.

Visit www.dcnr.pa.gov for more information on smoking and other state park regulations.



#### No. 4 - Perfect Weekend Getaway

Many of the state parks that offer beach areas and lakes also offer a range of lodging options. Whether you enjoy sleeping close to nature in a tent, relaxing in style in an RV or renting a pet-friendly cabin, Pennsylvania state parks and forests offer the perfect weekend getaway, with many located within an hour's drive.



Beaches are a great opportunity to disconnect from technology and connect with others. By showing your kids how to make sand sculptures or to look for butterflies, you're helping them make memories and teaching them to explore nature. Make friends with the people around you and try experiencing something new – maybe birdwatching. So, turn off your cell phone and soak up the incredible ambiance of being lakeside at one of Pennsylvania's beautiful beaches!



## The Beaches of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests continued from page 5

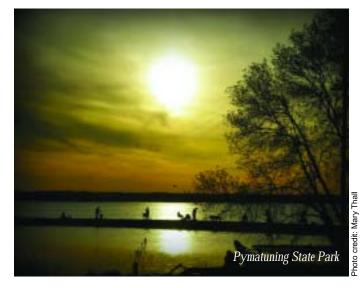
The "Whipple Lake Trail" is a scenic three-mile loop trail around the lake that takes hikers past the stream feeding into the lake and then rises about 100 meters above the lake for some nice bird's-eye views.

The lake even offers a little something for history buffs, too. Featuring a dam and bridge that were built by Civilian Conservation Corps workers, the park's 32-acre day use area was designated the Whipple Dam National Historic District in 1987, which recognizes, protects, and preserves it as a CCC worksite.

Providing the perfect backdrop and acoustics, Whipple Lake also features free concerts throughout the summer that the entire family can enjoy (see Calendar on page 9)... so pack a picnic, grab a blanket, and spend the day disconnecting from technology and connecting with family and friends.

We've touched on but a few of the many favorite state parks and forests beaches. Share your favorite on Instagram or Twitter using #PaParksForestsBeaches or share a story with us on Facebook.







#### Parks with Pools

Need a break from the sand? The following is a list of Pennsylvania state parks with pools, which are usually open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. Lifeguards are on duty when pools are open, but check the park website to be certain.

#### **NORTH**

Bendigo State Park – Free Hyner Run State Park – Free Mount Pisgah State Park Sizerville State Park – Free

#### **SOUTH**

Blue Knob State Park Caledonia State Park Codorus State Park Little Buffalo State Park

#### ГЛСТ

Frances Slocum State Park French Creek State Park Lackawanna State Park Marsh Creek State Park Neshaminy State Park Nockamixon State Park

#### WFST

Ryerson Station State Park – Free

For more information on swimming in Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/recreation/swimming





## Busy Year for Prescribed Burns By: Jeff Woleslagle

When it comes to the use of fire as a management tool, this has been a very active year for the Bureau of Forestry. As of May 1, the bureau had conducted 40 burns for a total of 687 acres across 14 of the state's 20 forest districts.

Prescribed fire, also known as "controlled burning," is an important tool in growing young trees, restoring native plants, controlling invasive species, and reducing wildfire danger.

The goal of a burn varies by habitat. For example, grass burns reduce invasive

woody and undesirable herbaceous plants, as well as reduce the thatch layer, while also promoting warm season grasses. Timber burns reduce competition to existing oak regeneration by other vegetation such as red maple, striped maple, black gum, sweet birch, and witch hazel while minimizing overstory mortality. By reducing competition, the established oak seedlings flourish. These burns also reduce leaf litter and increase the probability that acorns will germinate.

The bureau uses highly-trained firefighters and special equipment to carry out these burns. It currently has 14 certified burn bosses and 51 certified firing bosses. A burn requires an approved plan, which identifies burn boundaries; identifies specific weather and fire behavior parameters; explains reasons for burning an area; and specifies the minimum number of firefighters and equipment needed to safely execute the prescribed burn. Because spring also is the wildfire season, fire managers carefully consider the current and expected



As of May, the Bureau of Forestry has conducted "controlled burning" in 14 of Pennsylvania's 20 forest districts.



weather and notify local fire departments and emergency management officials before conducting any prescribed fire.

What makes an ideal day for a prescribed burn? A perfect day is sunny with little to no cloud cover, temperatures around 65 to 70 degrees and humidity around 30 to 35 percent. A light and steady wind of about 5 mph is most desirable, as well as good vertical mixing height to dissipate smoke. Steady winds are the best as the burn crew can use the wind to help carry the fire. Winds that are constantly changing make it very difficult. The ideal burn day can be different depending on the goals of the burn.

In addition to the burns conducted on state forest and park lands, the bureau carried out burns for the Milton Hershey School and assisted on burns with the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. For more information about the Bureau of Forestry's fire program please visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildlandfire/prescribedfire/index.htm



#### **Buchanan State Forest Adds 156 Forested Acres**

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, which had protected more than 156 forested and scenic acres along the Evitts Mountain ridgeline in Bedford County, transferred the property to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry to become part of the State Forest.

Located at the border of Maryland, the property connects the former Hardwood Trails property to Rocky Gap State Park in Maryland - creating an unbroken corridor of protected land across the two states.

The DCNR provided the funding for the purchase of this property through a grant from the Community Conservation Partnership Program and funding from the Bureau of Forestry. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provided additional funding to support transaction-related expenses.

## DCNR's Bureau of Facility Design and Construction Who We Are and What We Do By: Alfred Uzokwe, P.E., Director BOFDC

The other day, I was at a PennDOT quality assurance conference in Hershey. As soon as I took my seat, the guy next to me introduced himself as an engineer and told me where he worked. I reciprocated and said I was also an engineer with DCNR. With a puzzled look on his face he asked: "What do engineers do in DCNR?"

This was not the first time I got that question, which is one I take pride in answering.

As a matter of fact, DCNR has about 840 bridge structures, 121 dams, and more than 4,000 buildings of different types and designations. We also have 68 wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment facilities, 172 public water supply systems with varying degrees of treatment and distribution, and almost 4,000 miles of road network. These infrastructure types age with time, albeit at different paces. To keep track of their condition, many of them, especially bridges and dams, are constantly inspected for structural and functional condition at pre-established cycles.

Deficiencies detected during inspections are noted in inspection reports and when due, design drawings for remediation of the deficiencies are prepared. Depending on availability of funding, projects are developed and awarded to contractors for construction using developed drawings and specifications. During construction, the

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design and

infrastructure

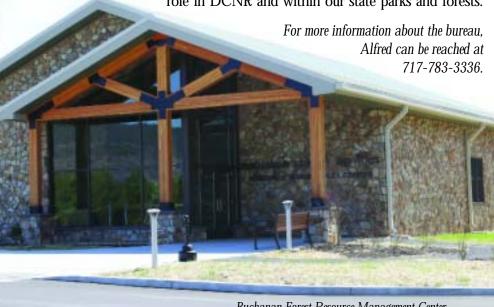
projects are constantly inspected they are executed in accordance plans and specifications. It bears this juncture, that sometimes Parks has needs that necessitate the construction of entirely new like visitor center buildings, camping cottages, comfort stations in state parks or resource management centers and maintenance buildings in the state forests.

In DCNR, the Bureau of Facility Design and Construction (BOFDC), which is the bureau I work in and direct the work of the staff, is responsible for design and construction of the infrastructure described above. The bureau is multidisciplinary in nature and consists of architectural designers, landscape designers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, bridge design engineers, environmental design engineers, dam safety engineers, geologists, surveyors, civil engineers, construction inspectors and administrative staff.

The bureau consists of three divisions: two design divisions and a field (construction) engineering and contract management division. Each division has staff that specializes in various technical and administrative aspects. The design divisions, which house several sections like architectural design, civil engineering, landscape design, bridge design and sanitary engineering, comprise of staff responsible for scope development and project designs. At the outset of each project, they work closely with Parks or Forestry staff to develop a program and project scope that not only meet the needs of DCNR and required function, but do so at the best possible cost. With the developed scope and program, the project is designed from concept to completion with constant input from Parks or Forestry.

The field engineering and contracts management division, which consists of engineering staff in the regions, survey and contract administration staff, are responsible for construction management and inspection, surveys and preparation of bid documents and award of construction contracts.

So, as you can see, engineers play a very important role in DCNR and within our state parks and forests.



Penn's Stewards

Buchanan Forest Resource Management Center

## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS www.PaParksAndForests.org/events

#### **JUNE AUGUST** continued Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain 2017 6/1-10 Photo Gallery Tour at Ricketts Glen State Park 8/6 Laurel Mountain Volunteers: Volunteer Day 8/10 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 6/3 Friends of Keystone: Park Improvement Day 8/11 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Christmas in August at the Campground Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day/ Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Women of the Wilds 6/3 8/12 Friends of Oil Creek: Biathlon **Annual Picnic** 8/12 6/3 Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day Photo Gallery Showcase: Community Arts 8/12 Friends of Keystone: National Trails Day Hike Center of Cambria County 6/3Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain 2017 Friends of Keystone: Park Improvement Day 6/4 8/12 6/7 Friends of Pymatuning Organizational Meeting 8/12 Friends of Goddard: Music at the Marina 6/8 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature Friends of Cowans Gap: Music in the Gap 8/12 6/10 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Iron Run Half Marathon/ 8/17 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature Charcoal Challenge 5K 8/19 Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Music on the Beach at 6/10 Friends of Laurel Hill: Laurel Hill Adventure Race Whipple Dam State Park Friends of Laurel Hill: Bluegrass Festival Friends of Cowans Gap: Music in the Gap 6/10 8/19 Friends of Beltzville: Garden Work Day Friends of Cowans Gap: Art in the Park 8/19 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 8/20 Friends of Laurel Hill: Mountain Laurel 5k 6/16 Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Square Dance 8/20 Friends of Keystone: 3rd Annual Car Show Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Music on the Beach at 8/24 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 6/17 Whipple Dam State Park 8/26 Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Bradford County Youth Field Day 6/17 Friends of Black Moshannon: PA Wilds Child Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 8/31 Friends of Oil Creek: Chicks in the Sticks 6/17 **SEPTEMBER** 6/17 Friends of Cowans Gap: Family Outdoor Expo 9/1 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Camper Appreciation Weekend 6/21Friends of Ridley Creek: Annual Photo Contest Gallery 9/1 Friends of Shawnee: Kids Labor Day Catfish Fishing Derby 6/22 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 9/2Friends of Ohiopyle: Music in the Mountains Friends of Beltzville: Pollinator Day Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 9/26/24 Friends of State Line Barrens: Stewardship Day Friends of Laurel Hill: Bake Sale 9/2Friends of Goddard: Pioneer Frolic 6/24 9/2Friends of Caledonia: Lincoln Highway Jubilee 6/24Friends of Cowans Gap: Art in the Park 9/3 Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain 2017 6/24 Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association: Star Party Public Viewing 9/6 Friends of Beltzville: Kayak Clean-Up 6/24 Friends of Canoe Creek: Dinner and a Movie 9/7 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 6/299/9 Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Patriots in the Park Friends of Prince Gallitzin: July 4th Celebration Weekend 6/30 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 9/14 **JULY** 9/21 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 7/1 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park 9/23 Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Day Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association: Black Forest Star Party 7/1 9/23 Friends of Laurel Hill: CCC Celebration Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 7/1 Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 9/28 7/1Friends of Shawnee: Music in the Park 9/29Friends of Kings Gap: Garden Harvest Dinner 7/1 Friends of Shawnee: Fireworks on the Lake 9/30 National Public Lands Day 7/2 Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain 2017 9/30 Friends of Keystone: Paddle Against Pollution 7/6 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature **OCTOBER** 7/8 Friends of Caledonia: Art and Craft Fair 10/1 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Apple Cider Festival and Crafts Show 7/8 Friends of Cowans Gap: Music in the Gap Friends of Kings Gap: Garden Harvest Day 10/1 7/8-22 Photo Gallery Tour at Caledonia State Park 10/5Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 7/13 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 10/6 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Trunk of Treats at the Campground Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Music on the Beach at 10/7 Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day Whipple Dam State Park

- 10/12 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature
- 10/14 Friends of Black Moshannon: Cranberry Festival
- 10/14 Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Apple Butter Day
- 10/14 Friends of Cowans Gap: Art in the Park
- 10/19 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature
- 10/21 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Furnace Fest 10/21 Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day
- 10/21 Friends of Cowans Gap: Harvest Day Celebration
- 10/21 Friends of Pinchot: Pinchotween
- 10/26 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature
- 10/28 Friends of Kings Gap: Ghoulish Gallop Fun Run
- 10/29 Friends of Canoe Creek: Spooky Stories and Ghostly Lights

#### **AUGUST**

7/15

7/20

7/22

7/22

7/30

Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature 8/3

Disc Golf Tournament

Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Day

Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature

Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature

Friends of Canoe Creek: Dinner and a Movie

Laurel Mountain Volunteers: Volunteer Day

Friends of Canoe Creek: Canoe Creek Classic

- 8/5 Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day
- 8/5 Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day
- Photo Contest Gallery Showcase: Shanks Mare Art & Outdoor Fest 8/5

Friends of Black Moshannon: 32nd Annual Summer Festival

#### 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 Shawnee State Park

Shawnee State Park is 3,983 acres of Pennsylvania's scenic Ridge and Valley Province 10 miles west of the historic town of Bedford along the Lincoln Highway. The Friends of Shawnee State Park (FOS) chapter was started in September 2011. Early on, the group looked for ways to bring new programs to the park for current visitors and to help attract new ones.



Fireworks on Shawnee Lake

In 2013, FOS sponsored the first fireworks display at Shawnee State Park. Several thousand visitors packed the shoreline around Shawnee Lake to watch. Since then, the Fireworks on the Lake celebration has become an annual event for FOS. This July 1 will mark the event's fifth anniversary. More than 10,000 people are expected to pack the parking lots, while 200 small boaters in kayaks, canoes, and paddle boats enjoy the show from the water.

This summer, FOS will sponsor its third annual Art in the Park event, which provides a space in the Shawnee Beach House for local artists to display their paintings, photos, 3-D sculptures, and pencil drawings of outdoor landscapes, flora, and fauna. The beach house is staffed on weekends by FOS volunteers so park visitors can enjoy the display over the course of several weeks. The park naturalist enhances the Art in the Park theme by providing art-based programming on weekends, including a kid's watercolor program, to encourage visitors to create their own nature inspired art. Art in the Park will open at 6:30 p.m. on July 1 in conjunction with the Fireworks on the Lake celebration.

Friends of Shawnee also sponsors a bi-annual Kid's Fishing Derby: Memorial Day Weekend kids 15 and under fish for carp and Labor Day Weekend kids 15 and



Two-year-old Laike shows off the 27-inch carp he caught in Shawnee Lake.

under fish for catfish. All fish entered are weighed and measured to determine the biggest, with the top three anglers receiving trophies.

With the completion of the new campground amphitheater in 2015, FOS has expanded programming to include concerts.

Ribbon cutting at Shawnee's new campground amphitheater



FOS continually looks for ways to expand the programming and attract visitors to the park. On Jan. 1, 2017 it sponsored the First Day Hike, enjoyed by two dozen folks who joined the park manager and

Friends for a walk around the Lakeshore Trail.

To support the efforts of the Friends of Shawnee, visit their website www.friendsofshawnee.com or "Like" them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FriendsOfShawnee.

#### **More Friends In Action:**



"One White Pine," by second grader Kenley Fryer

Friends of Nolde Forest along with the Nolde Forest staff and Art Plus Gallery organized the second annual "Nature of Nolde" Student Art Contest in early September. Over 2,500 students partici-

pated, from which 75 were selected as finalists for the exhibit being featured through 2017 at www.artplusgallerypa.com/2016-nolde-art-contest.html.

#### Friends of Pine **Grove Furnace**

received the DCNR **Group Volunteer** Award in recognition of their work to connect portions of the Mountain Creek



Trail through the placement of a 55-foot fiberglass bridge.



An Earth Day event hosted by Friends of Laurel Hill involved lots of hard work spreading mulch in the amphitheater, tire removal and trash pick-up along local roadways, and removing refuse on the Countryman property.

#### Friends of **Ridley Creek**

welcomed more than 100 quests at its free Earth Day event, with educational



activities, hikes, plantings, and meet-and-greets with park staff. Transition Town Media, Chester Ridley Crum Watershed Association, and the Friends informed quests about their sustainability work throughout the community.



Friends of Pinchot were excited to have Governor Tom Wolf join them for a tree planting event at Gifford Pinchot State Park.



Friends of Prince **Gallitzin** celebrated Earth Day by hosting a tree planting event for all ages.

## YOU Made it Happen

#### **PPFF Receives Award**

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was recently awarded the Spirit of South Mountain Award by the South Mountain Partnership. The award recognizes an individual, project, or organization that has made significant contributions to advancing a positive and sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape.



#### Friends In Training

Representatives from six chapters, including board member Mary Soderberg of the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace, gathered at Shawnee State Park at the beginning of April for a three-part day of training featuring fundraising, a look ahead to state park strategic planning, and Cooking for Crowds (a Penn State Extension volunteer food safety course).



#### Geology Day Dr. Sean Cornell, a field geologist and associate professor at Shippensburg University, explained sedimentary rocks to on lookers during Geology

Day at Hammonds Rocks.



Second Plein Art Day Artists of all ages joined PPFF for its second Plein Air Art Day at Hammonds Rocks.

#### Staff from the Pennsylvania Graffiti Removal Season



Park Complex were joined by volunteers for two days of graffiti removal at the Boulder Field in Hickory Run State Park and at Buttermilk Falls in Lehigh Gorge State Park. Watch our calendar for future opportunities to restore these areas to their natural beauty.

Parks and Forests Foundation

and Hickory Run State

On the Road Again! The winning photos from the 2016 Through the Seasons **Photo Contest** and the winning posters from



the Middle School Stewardship Contest have been on display in the state capitol and Sinnemahoning State Park, and are heading to Ricketts Glen State Park. Visit www.PaParksAndForests.org for a tour location near you!

More Friends Groups PPFF is working with Michaux Forest District, Boyd Big Tree State Park, and Pymatuning State Park to explore the idea of friends groups at each location. Follow our calendar to learn more about the meetings and how you can get involved!

## A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

Jean Stull Cunningham and John C. Oliver III



#### Jean Stull Cunningham (1929-2011)

Jean Stull Cunningham, a highly talented artist, teacher, and naturalist, shared her love for nature throughout her life. Jean attended Edinboro State Teachers College, (Edinboro University), and

received her bachelor's degree in art education in 1949. She continued her education attending Palomar College, Mira Costa College, and completed her graduate study at Penn State University.

As a teacher in the public school system, Jean used her skills in painting and writing to instill in her students an appreciation for the natural world. Having also achieved a career as a professional artist, rendering impressions of the natural world mainly in watercolors, her work has been exhibited in at least nine cities in the United States.

An avid birdwatcher, Jean helped conduct studies on insect migration, and the Pennsylvania Breeding Birds Atlas Project. She had many books published such as: Finding Birds on Presque Isle (1995), Birds of Erie County including Presque Isle (1998), Nature Watch (1995), and various nature columns in Erie County newspapers.

Jean was involved in almost every aspect of Presque Isle State Park. Throughout their life together, Jean and her husband James spent countless hours at Presque Isle banding and tracking migrating birds for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She would often wear an apron, placing the birds in her pockets as she sorted out the bands. She and James also organized the Presque Isle Nature Club in 1956, which was later renamed the Presque Isle Audubon Society and now has 700 members. The Presque Isle Nature Center was dedicated and renamed the Stull Interpretive Center in 1994 in honor of Jean and her late husband, James.

Jean's life was filled with memorable accomplishments to the field of natural sciences. Many organizations recognized this and awarded her symbols of their gratitude. She received the W.E. Clyde Todd Conservation Award from the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (1988), and the Daughters of the American Revolution presented her the National Conservation Medal (1994).

Before her death in 2011 she wrote, "If I have helped the environment, I would imagine it would be through teaching others directly and indirectly. My mother told me that a kernel of corn will grow an ear of corn."

#### John C. Oliver III

John Oliver's life has been dedicated to conserving protecting the natural resources Pennsylvania. John joined the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and served as president and chief



executive officer directing the Conservancy's land management operations for 25 years. During his presidency, over 126,000 acres of land were permanently protected.

Among these efforts was the Clarion River conservation project, which resulted in the acquisition and protection of approximately 14,000 acres of land along the riverfront. This stretch of land, now designated as "wild and scenic" under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, is an important regional recreation resource.

John also worked to acquire 9,400 acres of oil, gas, and mineral rights in the Allegheny National Forest. These resource purchases resulted in the federal designation of the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area within the forest. Furthermore, John worked to acquire 12,760 acres of forestland in Clinton and Centre Counties for the creation of State Game Lands 295.

Appointed by Governor Ridge as the first Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in 1995, John was instrumental in protecting and adding 80,000 acres of land within the state park and forest systems over an eight-year period. John also helped lead the charge for Pennsylvania to become a national leader of sustainable forestry practices with Pennsylvania's forests FSC certified. He empowered recreation in the keystone state by enabling trail and greenway systems in Pennsylvania to flourish and become one of the largest rail-trail systems in the country.

John was involved in the creation of Pennsylvania's Growing Greener Program, which remains the largest single investment in environmental funding in the state. Growing Greener helps communities and conservation organizations to realize numerous successes in open space protection, river conservation, community revitalization, and creating recreational opportunities across the state.

John has tirelessly worked to conserve Pennsylvania's natural beauty and the health of its inhabitants. Recently, a bike trail at Goddard State Park was renamed in his honor.

## Plan Ahead -

Continue the legacy of conservation of our state parks and forests for future generations through a beguest 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.

#### WELCOME and THANKS • WELCOME and THANKS • WELCOME and THANKS

## **WELCOME New Board Member**

#### Bradley L. Mallory

Bradley L. Mallory, retired chief executive officer, government leader, and attorney, will bring a wealth of knowledge and a passion for the outdoors to the PPFF Board. Brad's understanding that we must invest in our state parks and forests through projects, volunteerism, and advocacy to continue to enjoy them

will be an asset to his work on the board. Growing up in northern Pennsylvania, the Mallory family has always enjoyed state parks and forests for hiking, canoeing, and relaxing.



#### Meet Our Intern

Frank Grumbine, who will graduate from Shippensburg University in December 2017, has spent the spring interning at PPFF completing the Storymaps on the Conservation Heritage Project website. Once Frank completes a BA in History, he plans to work with

government agencies to create comprehensive plans to protect both our environmental and historical resources. Best of luck in the future!

## Good-bye Lisa, Hello Debbie



#### Lisa Salvatore

It will be a painful good-bye with Lisa's departure, formally at the end of May (although we're planning to keep her involved on occasion

while Debbie gets her paddles in the water). Thanks to an exciting job transfer for her husband Frank, the Salvatore family is heading south to Frederick, Maryland where decorating a new home and getting everyone settled will fill Lisa's time for a little while. Whatever business or nonprofit is next graced by Lisa's smile and skill will be lucky indeed. Best of luck, Lisa!



#### Debbie Whitmoyer

Filling Lisa's "big" shoes, we welcome Debbie Whitmoyer. Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Debbie came to Pennsylvania as a youngster so those

Hoosier roots have long since been dislodged by the beauty of Penn's Woods. Married to Mark for 14 years, Debbie makes her home in Perry County and loves to spend her time playing with their two dogs, enjoying her home in the woods, and crafting, kayaking, and reading. Welcome to PPFF, Debbie!



**CAPTURE THE SEASON • FIRST PLACE: Crystal Hunt** 

#### There's Still Time! PPFF's Through the Seasons Photo Contest

"Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty." **CATEGORIES:** - John Ruskin

Don't miss your chance to capture this beauty and share it by submitting an entry in PPFF's Through the Seasons Photo Contest! Deadline is Sept. 7, by noon

Visit www.PaParksAndForests.org and click on "Get Involved/Photo Contest"

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



The 2018 **State Parks** and Forests calendar is now available!

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was pleased to assume responsibility for creating the annual state park calendar, and even more pleased to showcase the many wonderful parks.

> The calendars are available on our website for \$9 (including tax), plus shipping and handling. For more information, visit www.PaParksAndForests.org

### State Park Patches

A few short months ago, Caleb Heisey, a Philadelphia area graphic designer, launched a retro-looking patch program featuring Pennsylvania state parks.



The first 15 patches have been produced and are ready for purchase. Priced at \$8 each, \$1 of each patch sold will be donated to PPFF to support our work. Imagine the adventures you can commemorate with a complete set of patches and a full Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests Passport.

Visit www.PAPatchCo.com and get started on your collection today!

## **Celebrating the Best of the Best**



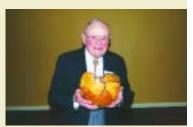
## The 11th Annual **PPFF Awards**



Joseph Ibberson Government Award: Maryann Haladay-Bierly Sponsor AFSCME Council 13's Mary Soderberg; Maryann Haladay-Bierly



Improvement Award: Boy Scout Troop 345 Sponsor The Latino Connection's George Fernandez; Scoutmaster Mark Sobota; Keystone State Park Manager Kris Baker; The Latino Connection's Yvette Alvarado



**Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award:** Paul Felton Sponsor: Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia



**Volunteerism Award:** Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve Sponsor Saul Ewing's Matt Haar and Elizabeth Witmer; Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve's Roland Miller; Saul Ewing's George Asimos



Young Volunteer Award: Katie Gustafson Chapman State Park Manager Tyson Martin; Katie Gustafson; Sponsor: AT&T



**Education Award: Friends of Mount Pisgah** Friends of Mount Pisgah's Maren Callahan; Sponsor Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney's Brian Clark; Friends of Mount Pisgah's Jill Fluck



Stewardship Video Contest Winner: Cameron Frassetta



Certificate of Appreciation: In recognition of unwavering support for the restoration of Hammond's Rocks and for unbridled enthusiasm for reconnecting the public to this regional landmark Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau's Shireen Farr; South Mountain Partnership's Katie Hess



Forest of the Year Award: Weiser State Forest Front row: Sponsor Dominion Energy's Don Houser with forest staff: Mark Shuey; Julia Lambert; Hope Reser; Dave Bierly; Tim Ladner (Weiser State Forester District Forester); Nick Zulli; Back row: Jake Novitsky; Jake Glick; Steve Ziegler; Mark Metzo; Rod Freeman



Park of the Year Award: Shawnee State Park Friends of Shawnee's Krista Maola; Shawnee State Park Manager Dorothy Krupa; Sponsor REI's Caytlin Lusk; Friends of Shawnee's Mary Griffith



President's Award: The Graffiti Busters Andre Weltman; Mary Soderberg; Matt Haar; Tim Blosser; Hannah Cornell; Sean Cornell; Sponsor The H&K Group's Adam Felix and Bryan Yanez

And "Thank You" to our reception sponsor Williams, as well as our table sponsors and silent auction donors.

## PPFF Brand Campaign Kick-Off!

You may notice some new faces around our newsletter! They are a part of our new brand campaign that we are excited to kick off this spring. The campaign whimsically highlights the work that we and our fellow Parks and Forests advocates do behind the scenes to beautify, protect, fund, and most importantly, enjoy the many state parks and forests across the state. You will see the campaign in print and digital ads, social media, and in our communications - like this newsletter. We love the work that we do and this campaign is designed to engage the public with our parks and forests.



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



## GET OUTDOORS PA

OTicks shouldn't keep you from enjoying nature!

Stay informed, prepared and proactive.



Ticks acquire Lyme and other tick-borne diseases (TBDs) from infected animals and pass them along to humans and animals.

#### THE TICK:

#### What You Need to Know



Ticks exist in every Pennsylvania county.



Ticks are typically found in wooded and grassy areas.



Ticks are tiny arachnids (8-legged) that cannot jump or fly.

#### Did You Know?

- · Pennsylvania has led the nation in confirmed Lyme disease cases each year since 2011.
- When detected early, Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics. Left untreated, the disease can spread to the joints, heart and nervous system. Early diagnosis is important in preventing late-stage complications.
- · Deer ticks are active any winter day that the ground is not snow-covered or frozen!

## Tick Lineup: Commonly found ticks in Pa.





This tick, a wellknown carrier of Lyme disease, can feed on humans during any stage of its development. Adults tend to feed on deer.

thus the name.

American



Feeding on most mammals, this tick is the most commonly found tick in Pa. and is a major carrier of

Rocky Mountain

spotted fever.

Groundhog





This tick tends to feed on groundhogs but occasionally is found. on birds small animals or humans. Not likely to carry Lyme disease.





Although this tick is found on various animals, including humans, it is not likely to transmit Lyme disease. It is a carrier of Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Source: Penn State Cooperative Extension

## TICK PREVENTION:

#### Avoid direct contact with ticks.

You acquire ticks only by direct contact. Once a tick attaches onto human/pet skin, it generally climbs upward until it reaches a protected or creased area.

CLOTHING

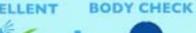
Wear light clothing,

long pants and

shirt, socks and

suitable footwear.

#### REPELLENT



#### Apply insect repellents.\*

Various conventional and botanical-based pesticides have been approved by the EPA and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. including DEET, picaridin, and oil of lemon eucalyptus.



Check for ticks on yourself, kids and pets. Shower immediately.

#### Seek medical attention:

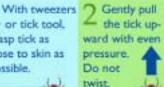
- if unable to remove an attached tick:
- when flu-like symptoms or rash develop between 3-30 days after infection (a bulls-eye rash may appear anywhere on body);



 if you feel very tired or have joint pain (especially with redness and swelling), irregular heartbeats, severe headache or neck pain after possible exposure to ticks.

## TICK REMOVAL: Remove immediately!

or tick tool. grasp tick as close to skin as possible.



Clean hands and bite area with soap and water or antiseptic.

1 Dispose in toilet or wrap in tape and discard.



GetOutdoorsPA.org



Funding provided by the Pa. Department of Health through the



1845 Market Street, Suite 202, Camp Hill, PA 17011 (717) 236-7644 www.PaParksAndForests.org





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# conserve enhance enjoy



Phone: Email:

## Back to Basics Summer Series



Not sure what to look for in a backpack or how to keep from getting bitten by a tick? How much water do you need to drink to keep hydrated on a hot day?

"Like Us" on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaParksAndForestsFoundation or sign up for our weekly "eblast" at www.PaParksAndForests.org/about-us/publications to see posts on our Summer Series that will bring you Back to Basics, featuring simple tips and techniques for getting you into the outdoors and improve your experience!

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!

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

Д	To become a member, fill out the information below and mail this form with your check (made pay
<b>MBERSHIP</b>	→ \$25 Single Membership → I'd like to donate extra money to support the work of PPFF!
S	→ \$35 Family Membership \$
2	Name:
B	Address:
5	

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

