

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Spring 2018



Our parks and forests provide fun for all generations.

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A Legacy You Can Take Pride in Continuing 125 Years of Preserving, Creating, and Investing in Pennsylvania's State Parks and Forests

Imagine Pennsylvania depleted of trees and wildlife. No hiking trails or bike paths. And polluted water and eroded shorelines. It's certainly not a pretty picture or one we want to think about, but by the end of the 19th century's industrial heyday, that was the direction the Commonwealth was headed.

Thankfully, our forefathers and mothers recognized the need to preserve land and invest in our parks and forests. As a result, we are fortunate to enjoy breathtaking landscapes, unsurpassed natural resources, and award-winning parks and forests.

It's a legacy to be proud of continuing and one that was inspired by William Penn more than 300 years ago. The founder of Pennsylvania and a forward thinker, Penn understood the value that our forests provided and his obligation to protect them. His early dedication to conservation paved the way for future leaders to invest in the betterment of the Commonwealth.

Today, Pennsylvania boasts 121 state parks encompassing nearly 300,000 acres and a nationally-recognized state forest system with 2.2 million-acres within 49 of the state's 67 counties.

With the legacy of the state's parks and forests now in our hands, it is up to us to sustain the level of investments and resource protection begun by past leaders and citizens, continuing a tradition that is so important to our heritage.

continued on page 3



Photo credit: Chris Brewer

*"I expect to pass through this world but once.
Any good therefore that I can do...let me do it now.
Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."*

— William Penn



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Shippensburg University Stewardship Day at Buzzards Rocks – we all play a role in caring for our public lands.

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President's Message

Marci Mowery



Happy New Year!

While I am not one to make resolutions, I am one to set goals, and I kicked 2018 off by setting a goal to spend more time outdoors enjoying the things that bring meaning to me – hiking, biking and paddling with family and friends, and quiet contemplation.

While we at PPFF are outdoor enthusiasts like you, the daily tasks of life sometimes pull us away from spending as much time outdoors as we would like. Our favorite days are those days when we get to roll up our sleeves working shoulder to shoulder on a project with others who share our passion for our parks and forests.

To help you reach your goals of spending more time outdoors, we will be hosting some events to celebrate the 125th anniversary of our first state park and the enabling legislation that created the forestry commission that became our state forest system. Keep an eye on our website for details.

We will also be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, which invests in community and state parks and forests, libraries, historic preservation, and higher education. Learn more about the Keystone Fund on page 14.

Government and volunteer leadership founded our park and forest system, and it is this same spirit of commitment that continues to empower our great system. Join us on May 9 as we recognize this year's annual award recipients, those volunteers, elected and appointed officials, and businesses who are committed to ensuring our parks and forests remain viable for another 125 years!

"Government and volunteer leadership founded our park and forest system, and it is this same spirit of commitment that continues to empower our great system."

We see this passion for our parks and forests daily through your enthusiasm and support, the work of the volunteers and Friends groups, and the commitment of park and forest staff. In 2018, we will be releasing an infrastructure report outlining the need for sustained investment in our parks and forests. We hope we can count on you to lend your voice as we head into the state budget debate. As always, our website and weekly eblasts provide opportunities to learn more about engaging in our parks and forests through PPFF.

And lest we forget that there are many bureaus that comprise the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, may we introduce you to the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey on page 14.

In late fall 2017, I was appointed to the Governors Invasive Species Council. To this end, on page 7, we introduce you to some of the "pests" of 2018. We all have a role in preventing the spread of invasive plants and insects.

As always, I want to express my gratitude for the successes you enabled in 2017 – from the placement of the ADA Dock at Beltzville to the restoration of Buzzards Rocks, to the beginning steps to launching two new Friends groups (Worlds End State Park and Rothrock State Forest), YOU made a difference. Thank you!

Yours in the Outdoors,
Marci

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.

A Legacy You Can Take Pride in Continuing continued from front cover

Pennsylvania Then and Now

To continue the legacy of conserving our state parks and forests, it's important to remember where we started. As we've often said, looking back serves as a reminder to never take our natural resources for granted while inspiring us to plan for the future.

In the dawn of the 20th century, when the country was desperate for more of everything to fuel expansion, Pennsylvanians cut, mined, quarried, hunted, fished, and harvested, leaving in their wake unbelievable devastation. Polluted air and waterways, denuded forests, impoverished soils, extinct and disappearing plant and animal life motivated citizens to embrace an interest in conservation that they believed would restore the state's environmental health.

It wasn't always easy, but through decades of hard work, environmental stewardship and quality management, Pennsylvania is a shining example of how valuable protected land can be. In fact, many now view our state parks and forests as essential features for healthy ecosystems and critical wildlife habitats, the protection of water resources, outdoor education and recreation, personal well-being, and overall health.



Early 20th century coal mining



Promised Land State Park

Photo credit: DCMR

"My great grandfather was the first park ranger at Promised Land State Park and it has been an important asset to our family and the public to enjoy."

– Nancy Carter, Pike County

The Evolution of Land Protection and Infrastructure

As a reaction to the devastating losses experienced through the industrialization of the state, citizens began organizing – a movement that bore fruit in the creation of commissions, the push for restoration, and the slow recovery of not just our forests, but the species that depend on them.

A bill signed in 1893 formed the PA Forestry Commission, tasked with the control of forest fires and to establish a forest reserve system. The system began with the purchase of 7,500 acres in Clinton County to be used to "furnish timber, protect the water supply of Young Woman's Creek, and provide recreation for citizens."

Our first state park, Valley Forge, also established in 1893, recognized the importance of putting aside places of cultural and natural significance for the benefit of all; a recognition that we truly do live in a commonwealth. The founding mothers and fathers also acknowledged the health qualities of protecting these assets, not just clean water from reduced erosion, but access to fresh air and open spaces. Joseph Rothrock, our first Forestry Commissioner, actually practiced medicine and spent much of his life outdoors because of its healing properties.

Over the past 125 years, visionary leaders recognized the need to make investments to develop our system, from early acquisition of lands through tax sales (thus reducing the burden on local and county governments) to investments of infrastructure, leadership, and indeed the public, recognized and supported these investments.

continued on page 4



Leaders like Mira Lloyd Dock championed for the acquisition and reforestation of Pennsylvania.

Photo credit: Mont Alto Archives

Valley Forge served as the site of three Boy Scout National Jamborees in 1950, 1957, and 1964.



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Photo credit: National Park Service

A Legacy You Can Take Pride in Continuing continued from page 3

Community organizations grew out of need, and assisted in the advancement of a system that became a fabric in the identity of the state and its residents. Indeed, our name says it all: Penn's Woods, Pennsylvania.

How Funding is Changing Lives

From the creation of the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, to Projects 70 and 500, to Growing Greener I and II and the Keystone Fund, investments made a difference in the quality and experience that our parks and forests provided and continue to provide, while also protecting the natural assets we enjoy.

Today, every dollar invested in our state parks and forests brings multiple benefits to the communities that surround them. In a 2012 study, for instance, the return on taxpayer investment in our state parks alone was estimated at nearly \$12.41 for every \$1 invested. With more than 41 million visitors to our state parks in 2016, that accounts for considerable economic stimulation and jobs created and/or retained.

Another study done in 2015, this time for the VisitPA.com website, found that \$6.9 billion in tourism industry sales in Pennsylvania were associated with recreation, making it the third most profitable industry in relation to tourism.

But the value of state parks and forests goes beyond economics. Several Pennsylvania State Park Visitor studies by Penn State University found that Pennsylvanians who visit state parks each year do so to have fun, reduce stress and anxiety, and connect to the outdoors. Not to mention the fact that it also helps them achieve healthy lifestyles.

In terms of environmental services, our state forests and parks provide numerous benefits to us via water treatment, air purification, groundwater recharge, erosion reduction, and capturing atmospheric carbon. Who doesn't like clean water?

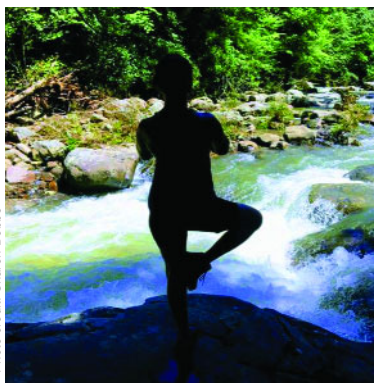


Photo credit: Sharon Dobbs



Photo credit: Friends of Kings Gap



Photo credit: Tom McCorkle

Our state forests and parks include thousands of miles of flowing water.

Follow the Funding

Over the years, governors and the legislature have designated different funds for conservation and recreation purposes. The following is a synopsis of the historic and current funding mechanisms used for state park and forest operations and maintenance projects.

1955 – Act 256 (The Oil and Gas Lease Fund) used money from oil and gas leases on state lands for a broad range of conservation infrastructure, including land acquisition.

1964 – Project 70 authorized \$70 million for the acquisition of lands for recreation, conservation, and historical purposes. The last Project 70 funds were invested in state parks in the late 1970s.

1968 – Project 500 (The Land and Water Conservation and Reclamation Act) packaged state park needs, along with money for abandoned mine land cleanup and sewage treatment plant construction, into another bond issue worth \$500 million. Project 500 funds were fully invested by 1980.

1981 – Act 51 enabled fees collected in state parks to be spent for park operation and maintenance, rather than deposited into the General Fund.

1993 – Key 93 (The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Act, a.k.a the Keystone Fund) earmarks a portion of the realty transfer tax for state parks, historic sites, libraries, zoos, and higher education facilities.

1999 – The Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener I) was created to invest in watershed restoration, parks and recreation, open space preservation, abandoned mines and wells reclamation, and sewer and drinking water system upgrades.

2005 – Growing Greener II was passed to allocate funds for state park and forest improvements and open space conservation.

A Legacy You Can Take Pride in Continuing

Ensuring Another 125 Years

It's obvious that our state parks and forests are well loved and much appreciated, having provided generations of Pennsylvanians with some of their fondest memories. But with that use comes significant wear and tear to the built and natural infrastructure, requiring frequent maintenance and upgrades to keep up with the demand and ensure that our state parks and forests remain well regarded in the public eye.

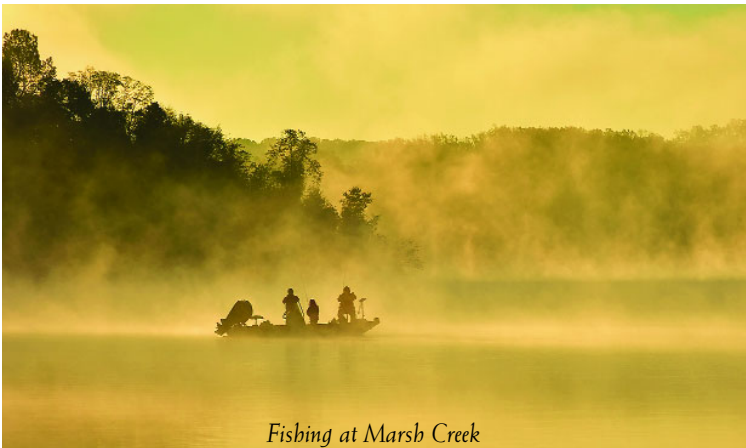
With the significant amount of buildings, roads, bridges, dams, and other structures within our state parks and state forests, routine maintenance is a daily task. Water and sewer lines, as well as treatment facilities, need to be upgraded to meet new regulations, roofs worn by time need to be repaired or replaced, roads need to be resurfaced, campsites need to be mowed, and fences need to be mended or removed. Much like a home to-do list, the removal of one project from the maintenance list at a state park or forest makes way for another project, and another, and another.

Like our foremothers and fathers, we all play a role in ensuring we present our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren with the same opportunities we had for enjoying the outdoors. **To hand them anything less would rob them of their legacy, and remove their rights under our state constitution.**

How do you want to be involved? Does volunteerism interest you? Are you interested in advocacy? Is there a project that you would like to support financially? A trail you want to hike? A skill you have to share? **There is a role for everyone in continuing the legacy of conservation that IS our state parks and forests.**

"It never ceases to amaze me what a beautiful, bountiful state we have and our parks are AMAZING. Each one is so special – all free to visit, awesome trails to hike, lakes to paddle, history to learn. I love our parks and forests!"

– Janet Ball, Allegheny County



Fishing at Marsh Creek

How Do I Love Thee, Let Me Count Thy Ways Celebrating 125 Years



Photo credit: Vickie Duncan, Cook Forest

Throughout 2018 opportunities exist to engage in the 125th anniversary of our parks and forests.

While we are still building our activity list, we welcome your input. Email your ideas to 125anniversary@paparksandforests.org and share with us your thoughts.

Keep your eye on our website and calendar for ways to get involved.

Celebrating More Milestones!

25th anniversary of the Keystone Fund (more on page 14), a critical funding source for Pennsylvania recreation and conservation projects, libraries, and historical preservation initiatives. Celebratory events are being planned – keep an eye on our calendar for activities near you.

150th anniversary of the death of James Buchanan, the only president from our fine state. Visit his home, Wheatland, in Lancaster; have a picnic and visit the monument to him at Buchanans Birthplace State Park, or enjoy a hike on one of many miles of trails in Buchanan State Forest.

200th anniversary of the National Road. What's that, you ask? Visit <http://nationalroadpa.org/about-the-national-road> to learn more about the National Road in Pennsylvania.

Protecting Water Access and Quality Promotes Nature-based Tourism



- 180 ramps for boating
- 56 beaches for swimming
- 50 fishing piers
- 137 courtesy docks
- 10 marinas featuring 3,912 slips



- 18 swimming pools, 5 wading pools, 5 water playgrounds
- 126 drinking water treatment systems in state parks
- A combined 7,100 miles of stream of which 611 miles are impaired
- 70 wastewater treatment plants in state parks and forests

Preserving Pennsylvania's Rich Legacy

- 5,000+ identified culturally or historically significant sites on state forest lands and 500 structures on the historical register within state parks

Keeping Trails Open Attracts Visitors and Improves Human Health

- 1,470 miles of trails in state parks
- 964 miles of hiking-only trails in state forests
- 4,088 miles of shared use (non-motorized) trails in state forests*
- 1,517 miles of motorized (snowmobile and ATV) trails in state forests**



*excludes hiking only trails

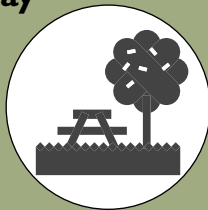
**these are also shared with non-motorized as well

From swimming and boating to hiking and camping, Pennsylvanians love using their state parks and forests, a passion that supports local economies and improves the quality of life that makes Pennsylvania a great place to live, work and play. But with use comes significant wear and tear to the built and natural infrastructure, requiring frequent maintenance and upgrades. How do we ensure the same quality experience for future generations?

The Importance of Investing In PA State Parks and Forests Infrastructure

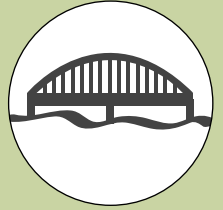
Supporting Local Economies by Providing Places to Eat, Stay and Play

- 6,537 camp sites in state parks
- 30,000+ picnic tables
- 27 picnic areas in state forests
- 4 ski areas
- 2 equestrian stables
- 280 cabins, 69 cottages, 2 inns
- 4,400 leased camp sites managed by DCNR
- 2 public shooting ranges
- 2 golf courses
- 2 model airplane airports
- 42 amphitheaters



Protecting Access and Human Safety

- Combined 864 vehicular bridges and hundreds of additional pedestrian bridges
- Combined 3,000 miles of public-use roads (plus thousands of miles of gated roads for patrolling and access for maintenance and natural resource management)
- 131 dams, including 47 high hazard dams in state parks and forests
- A combined 4,800 buildings, such as visitor centers, offices, maintenance and storage buildings, education buildings, pavilions, cabins, bath houses, and modern and rustic bathrooms
- 50 fire towers in state forests



Meet Invasive Tree Pests of PA State Parks and Forests

Invasive species (those that are not native to an ecosystem) can have devastating impacts on the long-term health and sustainability of our state parks and forests. The following are invasive insects that are especially harmful to trees. For more information and what to do if you identify one, visit www.agriculture.pa.gov, www.extension.psu.edu or www.dcnr.pa.gov.

The Spotted Lanternfly



- Has the potential to greatly impact the grape, fruit tree and lumber industries.
- Adults are approximately 1 inch long and a 1/2 inch wide. The forewing is grey with black spots. The hind wings have contrasting patches of red and black with a white band.
- Affected trees will develop weeping wounds that attract other insects to feed.
- In late fall, adults will lay egg masses on host trees and nearby smooth surfaces like stone, outdoor furniture, vehicles, and structures.



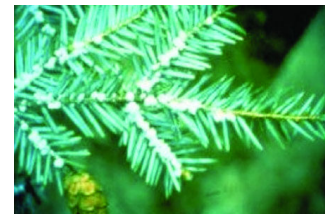
Southern Pine Beetle

- A bark beetle that infests pine trees.
- The beetle is red-brown to black in color about the size of a grain of rice.
- Infestation signs include white pitch tubes, S-shaped tunnels beneath the bark, sawdust at the base of the tree, and many small emergence holes in the bark.
- The adult beetle enters the tree through crevices in the bark and then creates S-shaped tunnels just beneath the bark. This disrupts the flow of nutrients, killing the tree in typically two to four months.



The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

- Decimated Pennsylvania's State Tree, the Eastern Hemlock.
- Adults are soft-bodied and almost too small to see with the naked eye and feed at the bases of hemlock needles.
- The feeding interferes with the tree's use of nutrients, and in the case of hemlock, causes needle drop, branch dieback, and tree mortality.
- The egg sacs of these insects look like the tips of cotton swabs clinging to the undersides of the hemlock twigs.



The Emerald Ash Borer

- Specific to ash trees.
- Adults are wood-boring beetles that are bright metallic green, about a 1/2 inch long.
- The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients.
- Adults leave a D-shaped exit hole in the bark when they emerge in spring. Heavy woodpecker activity on an ash tree could be a sign of infestation.
- With a 100 percent mortality of untreated ash trees, this invasive is responsible for the death of millions of ash trees.



To learn how to prevent the spread of invasive species, go to: www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/InvasivePlants/ReduceInvasiveHitchHikers/Pages/default.aspx



Protecting Aquatic Organism Passage

Stream habitat is abundant across Pennsylvania's 2.2 million acres of state forest land. Most critical to a stream habitat is aquatic organism passage (AOP), or the ability for fish and other aquatic creatures to move up or downstream under roads. To ensure the protection of AOP, the Bureau of Forestry assesses existing crossings, replaces inadequate structures, and installs new structures.

Common culvert problems that could negatively impact stream habitat include blockages, size, and

improper embedding. When stream crossings are installed to accommodate AOP it reduces maintenance and associated costs due to lower risks of clogging and washing out.

The Bureau has also adopted the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) protocol for assessing stream crossings for AOP.

Source: Nate Reagle, Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist/Marcellus Infrastructure Monitoring, DCNR, Bureau of Forestry; nreagle@pa.gov

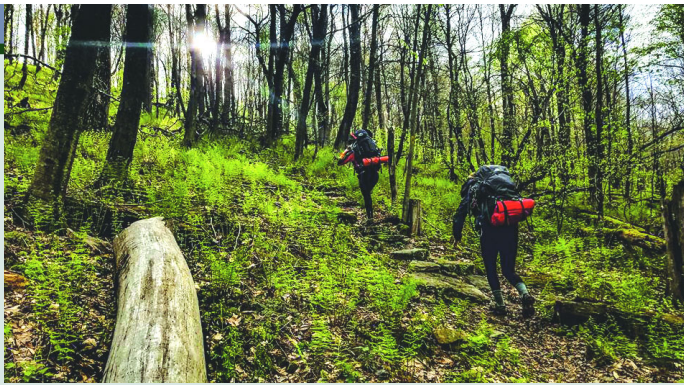


Photo credit: Tyler Chilcott

Enjoying the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail.

Laurel Highlands Hiking Update

Pay a quick visit to the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail Group's Facebook page and you'll immediately see all the love shared for this Pennsylvania treasure – each post showcasing the generosity of spirit that is the hallmark of outdoor enthusiasts.

Nothing demonstrates that generosity of spirit more than the donations that poured in to support the restoration of the chimneys and fireboxes in the LHHT's eight shelter areas. Thanks to this support, the baseline goal of our fundraising campaign to match REI's grant has been met.

Extending the impact of the restoration, the runners of the Laurel Highlands Ultra donated \$14,000 which will enable park staff to install flagstone between the chimneys and lean-tos at each shelter to eliminate muddy patches at the shelter entrances. At each shelter area, firewood protection sheds will be constructed beginning with a prototype at the 653 area and the tenting areas will be improved.

On June 2 (National Trails Day), a "grand reopening" of the restored shelters will be combined with a National Trails Day opportunity to help with one of the tenting area upgrade projects. Watch for more details to come on PPFF's calendar of events.



A restored chimney at one of LHHT's shelters

Remembering the "Father of Pennsylvania Forestry" Dr. J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week – April 21-28

Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock viewed preservation of forests as integral to our well-being and survival. It is to him that we owe gratitude for the tree-covered hills and mountains of Pennsylvania.

In recognition of his accomplishments the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1961 proclaimed the last week of April as 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."



Photo credit: David Raymond

Mark your calendar for April 21-28 and
pay tribute Dr. J.T. Rothrock by getting
outdoors and enjoying the land that
he devoted his life to preserving.

**PROTECTING
the PLANET**

PPFF is proud to be a nonprofit partner of 1% for the Planet, a global network of businesses, nonprofits, and individuals working together to protect the planet. If you own a business, consider joining 1% for the Planet, naming PPFF as your beneficiary. Everyone wins!

For more information please visit www.onepercentfortheplanet.org



UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Finding Park and Forest Events Just Got Easier!

Pay a visit to the PPFF website and you'll see that our calendar of events has changed. We're now using the same calendar platform (Localist) as DCNR, which turns a workhorse like a calendar into a dynamic – dare we say it, social – thoroughbred. Visit the calendar, find the events, click that you're "interested" and you'll receive notice of more events just like it. You'll keep track of what your favorite Friends chapter is up to, and you'll find fun new places to go and things to try. It will even allow you to sign up to volunteer.

www.PaParksAndForests.org/events

MARCH

- 3/1 Friends of Beltzville: Walking in Nature (every Thursday)
- 3/4 Friends of Canoe Creek: Mountain Pie Madness
- 3/10 Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Sugar on Snow
- 3/16 Third in the 'Burg (Harrisburg), State Museum with PPFF and the Conservation Heritage Project
- 3/31 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL

- 4/8 Friends of Cowans Gap: 4th Annual 5K Run/Walk
- 4/21 Earth Day – Volunteer Opportunities Statewide
- 4/21 Rothrock Week Begins – #RothrockWeek

MAY

- 5/5 Friends of White Clay Creek: Annual Creek Festival
- 5/9 PPFF Annual Awards Banquet
- 5/18 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Woodsy Owl Weekend
- 5/19 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community
- 5/28 Friends of Laurel Hill: Memorial Day Bake Sale
- 5/30 125th anniversary of the acquisition of the first Pennsylvania state park

JUNE

- 6/2 National Trails Day – Celebrate Your Favorite Trail
- 6/2 Rededication of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail with PPFF, REI, DCNR and others!
- 6/2 Friends of Ridley Creek: Annual Volunteer Picnic
- 6/2 Stewardship Day on the Laurel Highland Hiking Trail
- 6/9 Get Outdoors Day – How Do You Spend Your Outdoor Time?
- 6/9 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Iron Run Half Marathon/Charcoal Challenge
- 6/16 Friends of Laurel Hill: Adventure Race
- 6/16 Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Summer Solstice Square Dance
- 6/16 Friends of Black Moshannon: PA Wilds Child
- 6/28 Friends of Goddard: Pioneer Frolic
- 6/30 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Independence Day Weekend at Crooked Run



HIGHMARK

WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

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



Walk for a Great Cause

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 19 at Harrisburg Area Community College.

The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community is a fundraiser that benefits 53 local non-profit health and human service agencies, including PPFF.

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 now at <http://bcf.convio.net/ppff> to join the 5K or One-Mile Fun Walk and raise funds to support your state parks and forests. Want to support a particular project, park, or forest? Just let us know and we will be happy to allocate the funds you raise to that which is most important to you!

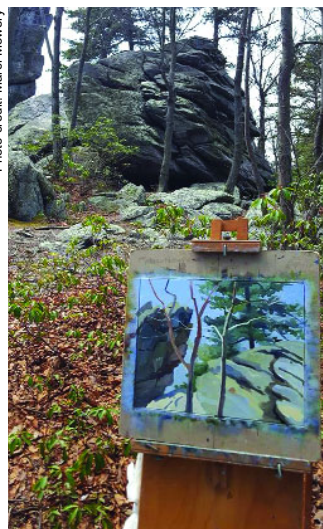
For more information, call 717-236-7644.



The Treem Team ready to walk.

Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Photo credit: Marci Mowery



Let Nature Be Your Muse

Do you love art?

Do you love the outdoors?

Then a Plein Air Day at Hammonds Rocks, Michaux State Forest is for you! We are looking for a class, individuals, or groups who want to be a part of a Plein Air Day this year.

For more information, contact Amanda Trimmer at atrimmer@paparksandforests.org

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



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 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 Pymatuning

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

Lackawana State Park Trail/Care Crew

Laurel Mountain Volunteers

Your Friends In Action: *Friends of Cowans Gap State Park*

Cowans Gap State Park, in Franklin and Fulton counties, is perched on a mountain top and surrounded by Buchanan State Forest. The park is steeped in history and a place that offers a variety of recreational opportunities.

In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built roads, trails, the lake, picnic shelters, and cabins – some of which are still being enjoyed by the nearly half a million visitors to the park each year. In 2014, the Friends of Cowans Gap was formed to assist the state park in meeting visitor needs. Their goals were to organize annual events, fundraise for playground and educational equipment, make trail improvements, and build a campground amphitheater. And they have definitely been busy over the past four years!

Every spring the Friends of Cowans Gap host a 5K run/walk. Over 250 runners and walkers come out for a fun lap around the park. The trophies that are given to the winners are made from recycled park resources.

Summers are for the arts! Several "Art in the Park" events are held annually where visitors paint landscapes of the park. Local artist Nancy Mendes donates her time and expertise to help participants create their

own masterpieces. The Friends of Cowans Gap also organizes free "Music in the Park" events for park visitors. The bluegrass and country concerts are very popular.

The biggest event held by the Friends of Cowans Gap is the Harvest Day Celebration, where over 1,400 people come to enjoy the day at the park. The event features everything from pumpkin carving and music to delicious foods such as fresh pressed apple cider, hot chocolate, and S'mores. There are also many nature displays and craft vendors, and the day ends with a campsite and cabin decorating contest.

The Friends of Cowans Gap holds several volunteer days throughout the year to help with trail and park maintenance. New volunteers are always invited to participate.

Successful fundraising has enabled the Friends to purchase a golf cart for park staff and volunteers to use for programming and projects, and to purchase storage sheds for housing equipment, a concrete pad to store winter road cinders, a vacuum system to facilitate clean air in the woodshop, and depth marker buoys for the swimming area.

The group meets the first Thursday of each month. Check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/friendsofcowansgap for details about upcoming events and opportunities to help enhance the recreational and education opportunities of Cowans Gap State Park.



Runners and walkers participated in Cowans Gap's 5K run/walk.



The biggest event held by the Friends of Cowans Gap is the Harvest Day Celebration.



More Friends In Action:



The arts are becoming a more and more important part of our Friends' efforts. Beautiful settings encourage creativity and Pennsylvania's state parks and forests ARE beautiful settings. Last fall, the **Friends of Beltzville**, **Friends of Shawnee** and **Friends of White Clay Creek** hosted professional artists and artisans; this spring, the **Friends of Nolde Forest** joined with Art Plus Gallery to host a school-based art contest for the third year.

At Ohiopyle State Park, National Public Lands Day meant giving a little love to the Borough of Ohiopyle. If you've visited this large Pennsylvania state park you know one of the state's smallest towns is smack dab in the middle of the park. **Friends of Ohiopyle** make beautification of the town's sidewalks and streetscapes part of their mission.



The annual Cider Fest hosted by **Friends of Prince Gallitzin** gets a little bigger and the cider a little sweeter every year.



Apples also added to the atmosphere at the **Friends of Ryerson Station's** 7th Annual Outdoor Heritage Festival with Kayla and Zack Patton of Graysville pressing the cider on the spot.



The **Friends of Kings Gap** put their own spin on the increasingly popular "color runs" with their annual Ghoulish Gallop one-mile fun run for kids.

YOU Made it Happen



New Friends Groups Forming!

Parks and forests need best friends, and with your support, two new Friends groups are in the process of forming...one at Rothrock State Forest and the other at Worlds End State Park. Keep an eye on the PPFF Facebook page and calendar of events for organizational meetings.



Try Cross Country Skiing for Free!

Did you hear the sound of cross country skis swishing on the freshly fallen snow this winter? With your support and proceeds from our annual silent auction, ski equipment was purchased for Susquehannock State Forest for use in school programming and to introduce visitors to the sport of cross country skiing.



Love Maps?

PPFF is now carrying Purple Lizard Maps. Three dollars of every map purchase will be used to support trail work in the associated forest. Great maps AND great trails! Doesn't get much better than that! Visit our store for these maps and many other tools to help you explore our state parks and forests.



New Kayak Fleet Offers Youth Hands-on Learning

As snow melts and temperature warms, youth in Elk County can take to the water through the newly acquired kayak fleet for Bendigo and Elk state parks. Through your support and the Stackpole-Hall Foundation, hands on learning via kayak and learning life-long healthy outdoor skills are now possible.



The swing crew at Park Region Four has been busy installing a playground acquired by the **Friends of Nockamixon** through a grant from the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program.



Forty-five people joined the **Friends of Pine Grove Furnace** for their First Day Hike of 2018. In spite of bitterly cold temperatures across the state, many hikes went ahead on schedule including ones organized by the **Friends of Canoe Creek**, **Friends of Keystone**, **Friends of Kings Gap**, and **Friends of Shawnee**.

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME



James Henry (1809-1895)

James Henry was the first born in the fourth generation of the famous Pennsylvania rifle-making family. In 1821, at the age of 12, James and his parents relocated to the Henry homestead, Boulton Plantation, on Bushkill Creek in Northampton County where he lived the remainder of his life.

A life spent in this setting, as well as time spent in Europe studying forestry principles sowed in him a passion for conservation and forestry. He lobbied for the establishment of schools of forestry in all the state colleges and universities in Pennsylvania.

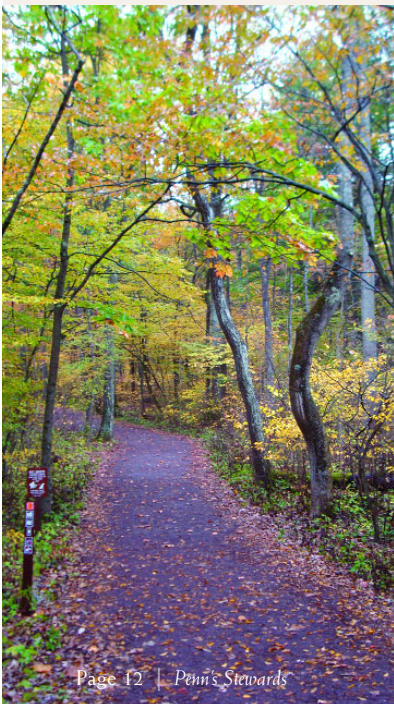
James saw the desperate need to reforest the state's mountainsides and waterways, which had been utterly denuded in the lumbering heyday of the 19th century. In 1883, James engaged in correspondence with Northampton County's Senator Jeremiah Hess regarding the degraded state of Pennsylvania forests and water resources.

Senator Hess suggested that James draft a bill, which the senator would sponsor in Harrisburg, for the establishment of a state nursery for the purposes of affording free distribution of trees among Pennsylvanians for planting along the state's watercourses and springs.

James Henry wrote several versions before completing a final draft of proposed legislation for Senator Hess to sponsor in the state assembly. Unfortunately, it failed to pass final consideration of the state House by a vote of 90 to 58.

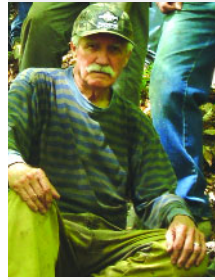
It wasn't until later that the Pennsylvania state legislature would authorize the Forestry Commission and Forest Reserve System to rehabilitate the state's forest and water resources through the creation of a forest nursery system, as was James Henry's vision.

The Jacobsburg National Historic District, which encompasses the eastern side of Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, focuses on preserving the history of the Henry Family.



We Will Miss

Bob Waring



One of the founding members of the Ridge Runners volunteer group along the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, Bob was also the group's unofficial photographer snapping photos of the volunteers at work when he wasn't hauling rocks and dirt and stumps - activities he performed with gusto and grit through his 79th year.

Douglas Ayers



Veterinarian Doug Ayers lived the conservation life to the bottom of his work boots, taking his Hillside Farms into a land conservancy and paying his commitment to Pennsylvania's environment forward through creation of an educational and volunteer facility there. The North Branch Land Trust and indeed all of us lost a champion with his passing in September.

Ray Walker



As we were putting the finishing touches to this issue of Penn's Stewards we received belated word of the passing of Ray Walker of Bigler last June at the age of 105. Mr. Walker was a long-time PPFF supporter and we had the pleasure of spending some time with him back in 2013 when we hosted a visit to the Pennsylvania elk herd. Ray was an absolute delight; an opinion you will share if you read this article from the 2014 Onward State (PSU) student blog. Ray Walker '35: Penn State's Oldest Living Alumnus. (<http://onwardstate.com/2014/12/11/ray-walker-35-penn-states-oldest-living-alumnus/>)

Transportation Program to State Parks and Forests

Lack of transportation provides one of the largest barriers to enjoying our state parks and forests for many across the state. Your generous support of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation in 2017 enabled us to receive a \$6,500 incentive grant from the Foundation for Enhancing Communities to launch a transportation scholarship program for schools, community programs and senior centers. Keep an eye on our website as we unveil the program criteria. If you would like to support the bus scholarship program, visit <http://bit.ly/PPFFBusScholarships>



“WE LOVE WHAT WE DO” Meet the PPFF Staff



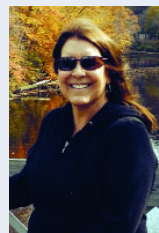
**Marci Mowery,
President**

A former high school educator, Marci entered the conservation arena 25 years ago, and has served as the President of the Foundation since 2005. Her passion is to connect people to the outdoors. When not working, Marci enjoys traveling, hiking, biking, paddling, reading, cooking, wine tasting, and spending time with her family and friends.



**Pam Metzger,
Membership Volunteer
Coordinator**

Pam came to the nonprofit world in a roundabout way, having worked for 25 years in the legal field. Now she's happy with the freedom of a "no pantyhose job." Getting out to the parks and forests, working with the Friends groups, and writing her weekly "Take Five/Fridays with Pam" eblast are the best parts of her day. Pam enjoys biking, travel and planning to travel, and good books.



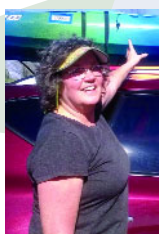
**Beth Artz,
Office Assistant**

Beth graduated from York College with a degree in Psychology and worked as a Project Manager before leaving work to raise her son. She joined PPFF in early 2015. Beth loves reading, biking, hiking, and spending time with her family. One of her favorite vacations is the annual family biking trip to Tiadaghton State Forest.



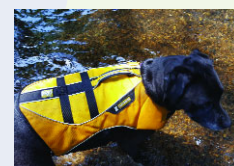
**Amanda Trimmer,
Outreach & Public
Relations Coordinator**

Amanda brings to PPFF a background in Advertising, years of volunteer experience and a love of the outdoors. Amanda holds a BA degree in Mass Media Communications from Denison University. As a new "empty nester," Amanda is enjoying more time to travel, hike, and read.



**Debbie Whitmoyer,
Bookkeeper**

Debbie was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana but came to Pennsylvania as a youngster so those Hoosier roots have long since been dislodged by the beauty of Penn's Woods. When not crunching numbers at PPFF, Debbie loves to spend her time playing with her dog, enjoying her lovely home in the woods, and crafting, kayaking, and reading.



**Izzy,
The Office Dog**

Izzy greets visitors and reminds us not to take life too seriously. She is an avid hiker and swimmer, and enjoys long walks and tummy rubs. She has visited many state parks and forests with her humans. Her goal is to raise enough funds to put in a doggie fountain at Boyd Big Tree State Park. If you want to support her efforts, you can make a donation at <http://bit.ly/boydbigtreefidoandme>

Farewell to Board Member Barb Sexton

The beginning of a new year always brings changes to PPFF and our chapter Friends groups. Chapter leaders join the fold, board members move on to the next challenge. It is with a certain amount of sadness that we bid farewell to Barb Sexton at the end of 2017. Barb served our PPFF board for three years, bringing energy and years of water quality experience to board discussions and PPFF events. Thank you Barb!

Penn's Woods Need Your Help!



Contact atrimmer@papakandsforests.org to become a Steward of Penn's Woods for Gallitzin State Forest or a forest near you. For a list of locations and projects visit www.PaParksAndForests.org/initiatives/stewards-of-penns-woods

Gallitzin State Forest is two areas of state forest land covering 24,000 acres in Bedford, Cambria, Indiana, and Somerset counties. Over 51 miles of scenic trails provide views of several waterfalls, large boulders, rock ledges, and incredible views of the Conemaugh River Gap. Stewards are needed for weed whacking, some painting, and to monitor activity in several locations.

DCNR's Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey

Who We Are and What We Do



Pennsylvania's rich natural history, abundant mineral resources, and varied landscape, makes one of the most unique characteristics of the Keystone State its geology.

Dedicated to helping Pennsylvanians learn more about geology is the DCNR's Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey – also known as the Pennsylvania Geological Survey – which has been documenting our state's geology since 1836!

Always with an eye toward meeting the ever-changing needs of the times, the Bureau's mission is "to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania by collecting, preserving, and disseminating impartial information on the Commonwealth's geology, geologic resources, and topography in order to contribute to the understanding, wise use, and conservation of its land and included resources."

All of their findings are published in reports, many of which are free and available to download from their web site.

According to the Bureau's Director and State Geologist Dr. Gale C. Blackmer, the geology information the Bureau provides can be used for many purposes, such as:

- To locate and develop economic resources
- To minimize environmental impacts of development
- To understand, avoid, and cope with geologic hazards such as landslides and sinkholes
- To improve land use planning and decision making
- To understand and protect sources of groundwater
- To draw visitors to unique geologic features and help educate them

Speaking of education, the Bureau is committed to providing educators with tools and resources to make geology both interesting and exciting to students. For example, the Bureau has published booklets in its educational series (ES) and as an environmental geology report (EG) that explain topics related to Pennsylvania geology, ranging from common fossils and rocks and minerals to sinkholes and earthquakes in Pennsylvania.



Oneida Falls is accessible via the Falls Trail at Ricketts Glen State Park near Benton.

These resources also come in handy when visiting Pennsylvania state parks and forests with outstanding geologic features, such as Oneida Falls in Ricketts Glen State Park (pictured above), The Pennsylvania Grand Canyon in Tioga State Forest, and the boulder field in Hickory Run.

Other free reports published by the Bureau include lake depth maps (useful for boaters and anglers), as well as databases on water wells and springs, sinkholes and oil and gas wells, which are especially useful to landowners. *For more information visit, www.dcnr.pa.gov/Geology or call the Bureau's main office at 717-702-2017.*



The Keystone Fund helps communities help themselves. Since 1993, it has invested \$1.02 billion in recreation, parks, conservation, libraries, historical preservation, and education.

KEYSTONE FUND SUCCESS STORIES:

- 300-plus trail projects
- Conservation of approximately 117,400 acres of green space
- 2,400-plus community park development projects
- Hundreds of state park and forest improvements
- 570 historic preservation projects in 65 counties
- 212 library projects

KEYSTONE FUND ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

- A 2012 report by Trust for Public Land found that every \$1 invested in land conservation through the Keystone Fund returned \$7 in natural goods and services to the Pennsylvania economy.
- A 2009 report determined that the Great Allegheny Passage trail generates over \$40 million in annual direct spending and another \$7.5 million in wages for communities along the trail.
- A 2009 report by Trust for Public Land Philadelphia concluded that community parks generate \$40.3 million in expenditures from out-of-town visitors and \$688 million in increased value for properties around the parks.
- According to a 2012 report from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, visitors to state parks spent \$859 million on their trips.

* Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources administered Keystone project figures may include other funding streams that fall under the Department's Community Conservation Partnerships Program.



2018 Through the Seasons Photo Contest

2018 Categories:

- Fun in the Outdoors
- Beauty All Around
- Dogs in the Outdoors
- The Built Environment (Buildings, bridges, towers, you name it!)
- Young Photographers (ages 12-17)

The annual PPFF Through the Seasons photo contest is a great time to show off your photography skills – amateur or professional! Send in your photos, taken in a Pennsylvania state park or forest by Sept. 5, 2018.

Visit www.PaParksAndForests.org for contest rules.

Prizes are awarded to three photographs from each category, as well as Best In Show, Critics' Choice and People's Choice.

Check out past contest winners when the photo tour is displayed near you!

Feb. 2-27: State Capitol, Harrisburg

April: Shawnee State Park, with public reception

May 9: PPFF Banquet, Susquehanna Club, New Cumberland

May 30-June 28: Columbia Crossing River Trails Center, Columbia, proposed public reception

September: Parker Dam State Park, with public reception

Check the PPFF calendar for reception dates and other planned photo tour locations, including Canoe Creek, Lackawanna, and Pymatuning state parks!

New App Combines Fitness with History and Culture!

Bucknell University created a new health and wellness app, Ready, Set, Fit (RSF). In addition to helping people meet daily fitness goals, RSF introduces them to nearby historical and cultural landmarks. So far, the app contains 12 paths/trails in Milton, Lewisburg, and Danville. As walkers pass landmarks on the path, the app provides multimedia content about that stop. The Friends of Milton, Shikellamy and Bald Eagle worked with Bucknell to provide information for the app. Bucknell is continuing to work with DCNR to add more state park and forest trails and pathways. The app is available on both Android and IOS platforms. Learn more at: <https://readysetfitapp.org>



From left, Chase Kravetz '20, Caroline Whitman '18, Nicholas Passantino '21 and Jacob Mendelowitz '18 have lent their time and expertise to developing the Ready, Set, Fit app.

Save the Date!

12th Annual PPFF Awards Banquet

DATE: May 9, 2018

NEW LOCATION:

The Susquehanna Club at the DLA Defense Distribution Center, New Cumberland

TIME: 5:30 p.m. cash bar, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Program: Cash bar, dinner buffet and dessert selections followed by awards program

Cost: \$50 (registration deadline is April 27, 2018)

To register visit: <http://bit.ly/ppff2018banquetregistration>

NEW Location!

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

Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award: Secretary Cynthia Adams Dunn, DCNR

President's Award: PA Wilds Conservation Landscape Program and the PA Wilds Center

Government Award: Representative Kate Harper

Forest of the Year: Rothrock State Forest

Park of the Year: Cook Forest State Park

Volunteer, Improvement: Gifford Pinchot Disc Golf Club

Volunteer, Education: Marilyn and Tom Fye, Parker Dam and Clear Creek state parks

Volunteer, Volunteerism: The Over-the Hill Gang at Oil Creek State Park

Young Volunteer Award: Sarah Reeping, Laurel Hill State Park complex

Table sponsors, award sponsors, silent auction donations and paid well wishes are all welcome. To learn more, contact Beth Artz at bartz@paparksandforests.org



State Museum Exhibits Preparator Jonathan Schreffler and taxidermist George Dante remove the Eastern Cougar from its diorama.

Mammals on the Move!

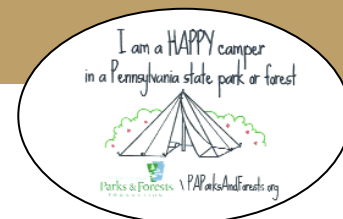
For nearly three years, The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg has been undergoing a major project to conserve and restore its very popular Pennsylvania wildlife dioramas in Mammal Hall. Working with Philadelphia's Conservation Center for the Conservation of Art and Historic Artifacts and a team of experts who had restored dioramas at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, State Museum staff will soon unveil the 13 refreshed dioramas with all new lighting and new interpretive signage. Watch for more details of a grand opening later in 2018 – the 50th anniversary of the completion of Mammal Hall.

conserve enhance enjoy

Fun with Numbers

In 2018, we'll celebrate the 125th anniversary of the formation of Pennsylvania's first state park AND the law that started the progress to the creation of the state forest system. Help us celebrate by helping to grow our membership and add to the chorus of supporters who say, "I commit to the conservation of our state parks and forests."

Our goal is to increase our membership by 125 park and forest enthusiasts. Your support empowers projects and programs across the state, ensuring a place and an experience for everyone in the outdoors for generations to come.



We'll be featuring membership incentives throughout the year, kicking off our first with this newsletter. Join with the membership form below or online at:

<http://bit.ly/125years125voices>

by March 25 and we'll give you a Happy Camper sticker so you can share with the world your pride in our state parks and forests!

If your current membership has expired, visit our website today <http://bit.ly/125years125voices> 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:

- ☐ \$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
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Camp Hill, PA 17011