

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Summer 2018



Conserving the Legacy:

The Future is In Our Hands

In 2018, Pennsylvania's state parks and forests celebrate their 125th anniversary. Keeping in mind that these parks and forests were founded and developed through visionary leadership for the long-term investment in Pennsylvania's natural resources and its citizenry, state elected officials and government administrators again have an extraordinary opportunity to provide needed and overdue resources to address the more than \$1 billion in state park and forest infrastructure needs, which range from bridges to wastewater treatment facilities, from dams to invasive plant removal, and from roads to trails.

In July, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation will release "*The Legacy of Pennsylvania's State Parks and Forests: The Future Is In Our Hands*," a report funded through a grant from Richard King Mellon Foundation and donor support that examines the story behind the creation of Pennsylvania's award-winning state park and forest system, and explores the needs that must be addressed to assure that what we pass on to our children and grandchildren is a legacy in which we can all be proud.

What follows, is a summary of the report. Visit our website for the full report in July at www.PaParksAndForests.org/Initiatives/Infrastructurestudy. *continued on page 3*



Photo credit: DCNR

IN THIS ISSUE

- PG: 1 Conserving the Legacy:
The Future is in Our Hands
- PG: 2 President's Message
- PG: 3-5 Conserving the Legacy *continued*
- PG: 6 Stand-up Paddleboarding
Introducing Wilderness Wheels
- PG: 7 Exploring the Night Sky
- PG: 8 DCNR's William Penn
Forest District
- PG: 9 Calendar of Events
- PG: 10 PPFF Friends Groups
Your Friends in Action
- PG: 11 More Friends in Action
2017 PPFF Chapters at Work
- PG: 12 YOU Made it Happen
- PG: 13 Meet The Executive Team
We Wish You Well/We Will Miss
- PG: 14 Create a Legacy Through
Planned Giving Infographic
- PG: 15 PPFF Membership Form
Share Your Favorite Activity
PPFF Banquet
- PG: 16 Photo Contest

CONTACT US:

Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

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



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Volunteers worked hard at park and forest Earth Day events.

President's Message

Marci Mowery



I venture a wary "Happy Spring."

Wary since we have had several false starts on spring at the time that I am writing this. Spring is my favorite season ... watching the trees and flowers slowly waken after a long winter rest. I theorized once that perhaps we favor the season in which we were born, but others have proven that theory incorrect. *What is your favorite season?*

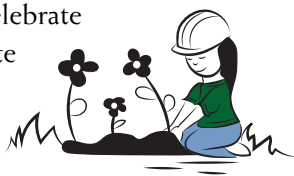
Spring, to me, is a time of new beginnings. A time of hope and optimism. A time to start looking ahead.

Winter was challenging as we watched environmental rollbacks and loss of public lands at the federal level, and proposed weakening of environmental protection at the state level, as well. Yet, with spring, comes hope. Your voices continue to be heard at the state level as you speak out in favor of clean water and air, protection of our public lands, and sound environmental policy. Thank you for being a voice!

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation news page on our website is where we post information on issues that impact our state parks and forests. You can also learn about them through our weekly *Take Five* email. Not receiving it? Register online today.

In April, we partnered with our friends at the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society to host a legislative breakfast in celebration of our public lands and to share our thoughts on good public policy relating to these lands. We introduced that the Foundation will soon be releasing our infrastructure report – a year in the writing – and the need to invest in our state lands for future generations. We also celebrated with the legislators the 125th anniversary of our state parks and forests and the 25th anniversary of the Keystone Fund, and the visionary leadership that foresaw the need to invest in open space, parks, and forests.

Volunteers came out by the hundreds across the state to celebrate Earth Day in our state parks and forests, planting trees,



"Spring, to me, is a time of new beginnings. A time of hope and optimism. A time to start looking ahead."

removing litter, and preparing our parks and forests for the busy summer season. Thank you!

Looking to explore new public lands? Read about opportunities in the William Penn Forest District (page 8). Or use the activities found on our 125th anniversary website page (www.PaParksAndForests.org/Get-involved/125-Years-ParksAndForests) as your excuse to spend more time outdoors ... we will!

As always, thank you for all you make possible through your support, your membership, and your volunteerism. You are the future of our parks and forests, and together, we can ensure more generations have the same access to quality public lands that we enjoyed.

*Yours in the outdoors,
Marci*

Board of Directors:

Chairwoman

Maria Montero
Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority

Vice Chairwoman

Mary Soderberg
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Treasurer

Dr. James Grace
Retired, DCNR

Secretary

Brian J. Clark
Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney

Directors

George Asimos
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lebr LLP

Nancy Ball
Retired, Lafayette College

George Fernandez
Latino Connection

Gus Frederick
FEMA

Maxine Harrison
Friends of Lyman Run/
Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund

Rep. Mark Longietti
PA House of Representatives

Bradley L. Mallory
Retired, PennDOT, Michael Baker Jr. Inc.

Christine (Tina) Molski
REI

Advisory Board

William C. Forrey
Rob Wonderling
Gary Smith

Staff:

Marci Mowery, President

Debbie Whitmoyer, Bookkeeper

Pam Metzger, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator

Amanda Trimmer, Outreach & Public Relations Coordinator

Beth Artz, Office Assistant

Fun with Numbers 125th Anniversary Membership Offer



Does YOUR Zip Code contain a 1, a 2, AND a 5 (in any order)?

Join PPFF (or renew a membership) before 8/31 and we'll enter your name in a drawing for a \$25 state park gift card.

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

Conserving the Legacy *continued from front cover*

Popularity Is Not Inexpensive

Research demonstrates time and again that our public lands are well loved and much appreciated by Pennsylvania residents, providing generations with fond memories, improved health, and opportunities for relaxation. However, with that use comes significant wear and tear to the built and natural infrastructure, requiring maintenance and upgrades to keep our state parks and forests safe and attractive. Changing regulatory requirements for public safety also create a need for infrastructure investments.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is one of the top state agencies in terms of the amount of infrastructure it manages. Maintaining and repairing that infrastructure requires resources – staff, funding, and materials – that have fallen increasingly short over the past decade.

Unfortunately, the money required for regular infrastructure maintenance, upgrades, and improvements has not kept pace with the need. In fact, money acquired from overnight stays in state parks had been invested back into maintenance needs in the past, but is now used to cover basic operations due to budget shortfalls. Because of this lack of investment, we are losing the ability to maintain and enhance our 125-year legacy as a world-class state park and forest system.

Maintaining natural infrastructure is an integral part of what DCNR does and from which all Pennsylvanians benefit.

Infrastructure Requires Routine Rehabilitation and Upgrades

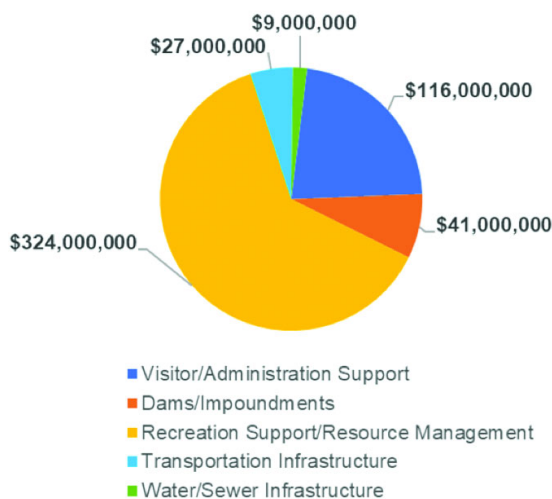
Pennsylvania's state park and forest infrastructure repairs and maintenance needs are funded through multiple funding sources including allocations from the General Fund, the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, the Key 93 Fund, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, and, when available, park user fees. However, these funding streams have been insufficient, resulting in an accumulation of projects that are deferred, which often results in greater costs down the road.

Philanthropic donations, volunteer assistance, and other sources help supplement General Fund allocations, but ultimately the condition of our state parks and forests depends on the Pennsylvania General Assembly to recognize and abide by their civic duty to provide and maintain public open space in a manner that ensures human safety and provides for future generations. *continued on page 4*

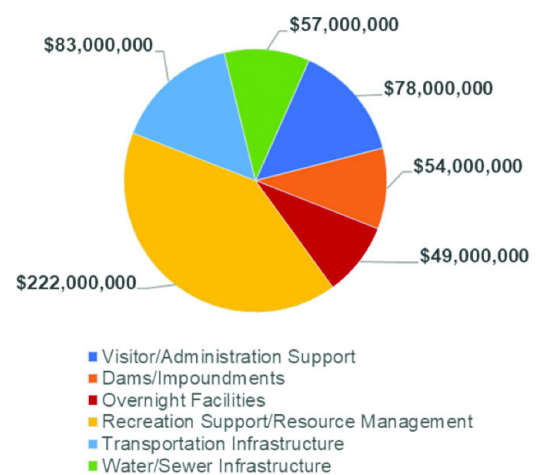
Let the Numbers Do the Talking

Needs in our parks and forests fall in to six categories, total funding of which are depicted below.

State Forests Maintenance Needs



State Parks Maintenance Needs



Conserving the Legacy *continued from page 3*

DCNR's budget is just one half of one percent of the annual Pennsylvania state budget. In recent years, General Fund allocations to DCNR have been reduced and the balance supplanted with funds from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund and revenue generated from overnight stays and other user fees. Lack of predictable funding hinders long-term planning and forces reallocation of funds away from maintenance and innovation into general operations.

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.

Infrastructure Involves More Than Built Structures

Typically, infrastructure refers to buildings and roads, but state parks and forests include natural infrastructure as well. This includes cutting trees, controlling invasive species, collecting seeds, and planting seedlings, among other tasks. Maintaining natural infrastructure is an integral part of what DCNR does and from which all Pennsylvanians benefit.

Long-Term Investments Promote Quality Communities & Job Creation

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.ⁱ With more than 41 million visitors to our state parks in 2016, that accounts for considerable economic stimulation and jobs created and/or retained.

Our state park and forest resources also provide benefits through the environmental functions that they perform such as water filtration, air quality improvement, and flood control. They improve quality of life and housing values, and provide opportunities for recreation-based employment. In fact, Pennsylvania ranks fifth in the nation for outdoor recreation spending!^{xi}

Pennsylvanians want outdoor recreation opportunities at state parks and forests that are safe, clean, and well-maintained.

What Pennsylvanians Want

Through various surveys and polls, the same comments are made year to year: Pennsylvanians want outdoor recreation opportunities at state parks and forests that are safe, clean, and well-maintained. For instance, the most recent State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) states that maintenance of existing park and recreation areas continues to be the top concern and priority for both citizens and recreation providers. Well-maintained trails and clean restrooms are especially important to visitors.ⁱⁱ

SCORP and census data supports the fact that the face of Pennsylvania is changing, with residents becoming older and



Installing an interpretive sign.



Preparing trenches for new hookups.

Conserving the Legacy

more diverse. With these changes, come new recreational needs and adaptations in order to remain relevant and accommodating.

The 2014-2019 SCORP priorities recognize the important role Pennsylvanians assign to outdoor recreation – that role being improving human health. The SCORP plan was developed after extensive input from Pennsylvania residents, who consistently support investment in state park and forest maintenance.

Working Together to Find a Solution

“The Legacy of Pennsylvania’s State Parks and Forests: The Future Is In Our Hands” presents an opportunity to provide major investments to our state parks and forests. These commitments also invest in our local economies and the economic engine that is outdoor recreation. It creates a quality of life that makes Pennsylvania a great place to live, work, and play, keeping us competitive on the national front for job creation, employee retention, and attracting new businesses.

Pennsylvania stands at a critical juncture between handing our children a legacy of state parks and forests in which we can all be proud and strapping them with a burden from which they will struggle to recover. An opportunity exists to look for a solution to address the most pressing infrastructure repair needs in the treasures that are Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests.

While volunteers and private philanthropy are making a difference, the needs of our state parks and forests require an investment by the state through adequate operational funding for DCNR, for adequate staffing for state parks and forests, and for dedicated infrastructure funding.

Sources:

[i] Penn State University. *The Economic Significance and Impact of Pennsylvania State Parks: An Updated Assessment of 2010 Park Visitor Spending on the State and Local Economy*, 2012. http://conservationtools.org/library_items/726-The-Economic-Significance-and-Impact-of-Pennsylvania-State-Parks-An-Assessment-of-Visitor-Spending-on-the-State-and-Regional-Economy. (Accessed on 7/13/2017)

[ii] Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. *Pennsylvania’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: 2014-2019*. <http://www.paoutdoorrecreplan.com>. (Accessed on 7/13/2017)



Become a Keystone Fund Ambassador

2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the Keystone Fund. Since its inception in 1993, the Keystone Fund has improved communities across Pennsylvania by providing grants for parks, trails, open space, libraries, and historic preservation. Throughout the year, a team of state agencies and organizations, including the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, is leading a campaign to celebrate the Keystone Fund’s 25 years of success and emphasize the value of this funding source so it can continue to make vital improvements in our communities and in our state parks and forests.

There is no better way to convey the importance of the Keystone Fund than through personal stories from people like you who have been involved firsthand in the implementation or planning of a local project.

We would like to invite you to become a Keystone Fund Ambassador. Ambassadors will engage locally to promote the Keystone Fund, meeting with legislators, legislative staff, and other community leaders to champion the benefits and achievements of the Keystone Fund while working to safeguard its funding for years to come.

Email Nicole at info@conserveland.org to learn more.

Celebrate 125 Years



We asked our Friends groups how we might all come together to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests and they provided a long list of fun ideas! You, too, can get involved by visiting our webpage and finding something that’s right for you!

Need an activity for the children while driving – got you covered!

Looking to be more vocal with your elected officials about the importance of parks and forests – so many ways to get involved!

Want to stump your friends with your vast knowledge about parks and forests – DONE!

Looking to be more active in the outdoors? We have ideas for you! Prizes, too!

**Learn how you can get involved by visiting our website at
www.PaParksAndForests.org/Get-Involved/125-Years-ParksAndForests**

Find Out What's SUP in PA's State Parks and Forests

Originating from Hawaii, stand-up paddleboarding has made its way to the lakes and waterways of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests!

More casually referred to as SUP, stand-up paddleboarding combines elements of surfing and rowing and has become quite popular for the variety of experiences it provides – whether for fun, exercise, or relaxation.

For example, stand-up paddleboarding can strengthen your balance and give you a full-body workout while at the same time providing a unique perspective of your natural surroundings. A paddleboard can also serve as a platform to put your yoga or Pilate moves to the test while enjoying the serenity and calming waters of our state parks and forests.

Stand-up paddleboarding on French Creek.



Photo credit: Amanda Trimmer

Try It Before You Buy It!

While paddleboarding requires relatively minimal gear – a board, paddle, personal flotation device (PFD) and leash – you may prefer not to invest in the sport until you've tried it. This is where our state parks can help! The following now offer paddleboard rentals at their concessions:

Bald Eagle Canoe Creek French Creek Marsh Creek
Nockamixon Whipple Dam Yellow Creek

If interested, first visit the park's webpage to determine the rental process, which could require online, phone, or in-person communication. While not all state parks with lakes offer paddleboard rentals, in many cases you can bring and use your own equipment. Contact the state park office you plan to visit to find out if and where you are permitted to paddleboard.

Rules of the Water

The United States Coast Guard has classified paddleboards as "vessels" so users must follow federal and state boating safety regulations. A USCG-approved wearable life jacket is required for each person on board; children 12 years of age and younger onboard SUPs on Commonwealth waters must wear a life jacket.

If launching or retrieving in a state park or forest, be sure you have all required registration and launch permits.

Introducing Wilderness Wheels

What is one of the greatest barriers for both young and old to participate in outdoor recreation? *Lack of transportation.*

Thanks to Wilderness Wheels, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF), through a generous grant from the Foundation for Enhancing Communities, will kick off a new donor-funded transportation scholarship program. Eligible groups of youth and seniors can now apply for funding to overcome the hurdle of accessing transportation to our state parks and forests. Eligible groups include students in grades K-12 at Title I schools; youth participating in a community enrichment program such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the local Y, etc.; and seniors attending programs at their local senior centers.

Grantees are able to use the Pennsylvania state parks and forests for experiential learning, leadership development, team building, career exploration, or recreation skills development. Through this exciting new scholarship program, PPFF offers a new



*Harrisburg
Inner City
Outings*

way to access the outdoors, creating lifelong healthy living skills and developing outdoor leadership.

The scholarship program covers the cost of transportation to/from a single location (school, community center, etc.) to the park/forest. The park/forest visit must be a part of a larger educational initiative and requires that park/forest staff be involved at the destination location.

Our parks and forests offer an opportunity to explore nature, provide hands-on environmental learning opportunities, develop leadership skills, connect youth and seniors to our rich cultural legacy, and develop recreational skills that can make them healthier.

Visit <http://bit.ly/PPFFBusScholarships> to apply for a grant or to support the scholarship program with a donation.

NOTE: Initial funding is limited to the greater Harrisburg area — as additional funds are received, the program will expand.

Exploring the Night Sky



Photo credit: Jiang Ming

If you have a favorite Pennsylvania state park or forest then chances are you know every trail and scenic vista it has to offer, but did you know there's even more to discover once the sun sets, making way for a star-laced sky? All you have to do is look up!

Thanks to Pennsylvania's land protection efforts, there's no better location for spotting different constellations, checking out a meteor shower, looking for a far-off planet, or trying to catch a glimpse of the Milky Way than at one of our state parks or forests.

Did you know Cherry Springs State Park is considered one of the best locations in the world for stargazing? Recognized as a Dark Sky Certified Park, it is located in the heart of the Susquehannock State Forest in Potter County atop a plateau 2,300 feet above sea level where there are no mountainous peaks to block views of the sky, and light pollution levels are the lowest you can find anywhere on the East Coast.

If stargazing has never made it on to your outdoor to-do list, there's no better time than this summer to check it out. Whether you're a newbie to stargazing or a veteran, here are just a few tips for getting the most out of exploring the night sky.

Attend a Star Party

Many state parks and forests host night sky programs, providing a way to learn about the night sky. Ranging from telescope astronomy to full moon walks, many of these programs include a public viewing event with high-powered telescopes and astronomy talks from experts. See the sidebar for some night sky events taking place in our state parks and forests, or turn to our calendar of events on page 9, or visit www.events.dcnr.pa.gov and search for stargazing.

Make a Night Out of It

Stargazing and camping have always gone hand-in-hand. In fact, part of the romance of camping is being able to sleep under the stars. And since many of the campgrounds located in our state parks and forests are found further away from light pollution, you're almost always guaranteed a dark sky to look up at. If you plan to attend an astronomy event hosted by a state park or forest, consider reserving your lodging or campsite in advance.

NIGHT SKY EVENTS

Night Sky Tour June 9 / 9:30pm / Cherry Springs State Park

Night Sky Tour: Star Gazing Series June 11 / 7:30pm / Beltzville State Park

Amateur Astronomy June 15 / 8:45pm / Mount Pisgah State Park, Astronomy Shack

Star Party June 23 / 8pm / Marsh Creek State Park

Star Party July 7 / 8:30pm / Moraine State Park

Full Moon & Planet Watch June 29 / 9:30pm / Cherry Springs State Park

Perseid Meteor Shower & Star Watch Aug. 12 / 8pm / Nockamixon State Park, Tohickon Boat Access Area

Stargazing Aug. 12 / 9pm / Ohiopyle State Park, Kentuck Campground Amphitheater

Aurigids Meteor Shower Paddle Aug. 31 / 8pm / Black Moshannon State Park

Keep it Simple

There are many high-tech tools to help navigate the skies, but all you really need is a pair of binoculars. Or better yet just try the naked eye. This is how our ancestors saw the sky, and over thousands of years, it's barely changed.

If you bring a flashlight, cover the lens with red cellophane or a red filter. This will give you enough light to walk around safely in the dark, while minimizing the impact of using a regular flashlight, which can cause you to lose your dark-adjusted vision for several minutes.

Enjoy the View

To better familiarize yourself with constellations and planets, you can download the latest monthly "The Evening Sky Map." Get familiar with a few of them and where they will be in the sky before you go stargazing, so that you can avoid using a flashlight as much as possible.

But don't get too caught up in trying to identify things. Spend more of your time just watching the sky and enjoying the view. If you watch for a while, you'll see plenty of shooting stars, and maybe a few satellites!

DCNR's William Penn Forest District

Filled with everything from rare plants and birds to an island and trails!

Story and photography by: Joe Frassetta,
District Forester, William Penn Forest District

Home to over 45 percent of the population of the Commonwealth, William Penn Forest District is slowly becoming the mouse that roared. Serving nine counties from the farmlands of Lancaster to the water way of the Lehigh Gap, the district works with populations as diverse as our landscape.

Even though the district is home to the very first state park acquisition, Valley Forge Historic Park (ceremonially given to National Park Service in 1976), it offers up the smallest footprint of state owned forest land. This often leads to local residents thinking they need to travel long distances to access what forests offer – such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and birdwatching. Not so!

Unbeknownst to many, the William Penn Forest District manages two unique land holdings acquired in the '80s. First, Goat Hill Wild Plant Sanctuary, located on the Mason-Dixon Line in Chester County, is an Audubon Important Bird Area and supports some world-rare plants and lepidopterans. This unique environment fascinates young and old alike.



*Goat Hill Wild Plant
Sanctuary*

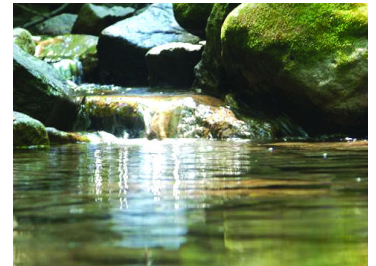
Second is Little Tinicum Island (LTI) located south of the Philly airport in the Delaware River. Viewed by more people than any other forest land for it can be seen by every southbound departing and incoming flight, it is probably one of the least accessed pieces of forest property.



Little Tinicum Island



Strong tidal influences of the Delaware River present challenges to reaching LTI – it takes a bit of skill and a sturdy watercraft – which means that few of the folks who have seen the island from the air have actually set foot on it.



Johnson Tract

But things are changing. Through a diverse partnership, the land holdings in the William Penn Forest District have nearly doubled in recent years. The federal Highlands Conservation Act and local partnerships with land conservancies have been instrumental to this expansion. One special piece of land located southeast of Reading, the Gibraltar Tract, treats the visitor to some spectacular 360-degree views and has been called a hiker's paradise.

In Wernersville, the 482-acre Wertz Tract was made possible through a partnership with the Wernersville State Hospital. Here plans exist to replace ash trees felled by the emerald ash borer with hybrid chestnut trees. A future interpretive trail will provide a fun learning opportunity for history buffs.

Also, in Berks County's Robeson Township is the 80-acre Buck Hollow Tract, which afforded the forest district an opportunity to reroute the well-known Horseshoe Trail off of the road and into the woods. Two contiguous tracts currently under discussion will enhance the visitor experience.

The forest district pairs every new acquisition with a public listening session to encourage users to share with them ideas and information so that they can best understand needs. Currently in the works is a translation of the user map for the district into Spanish and plans for accessible trails.

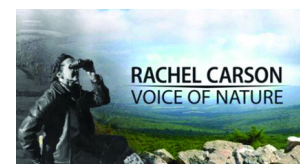
The future of this once small district looms large and it is time to roar.

Learn About Rachel Carson's Connection to Pennsylvania

Much has been written and said about author and biologist Rachel Carson. A new WITF Conservation Heritage documentary (www.paconservationheritage.org/documentaries) focuses on her connection to Pennsylvania and the impact her work has had on Pennsylvania's environmental and conservation policy.

Inspired by a supportive mother, her natural surroundings, and the Allegheny River, it was her formative years in Springdale, PA that would shape her environmental ethic.

A fitting tribute to an amazing woman!



PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVATION
HERITAGE
PROJECT

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.PaParksAndForests.org/events

JUNE

- 6/1-26 Photo Gallery Showcase at Columbia Crossing River Trails Center
- 6/1 Friends of Beltzville: Kayak Shoreline Clean-Up
- 6/2 Friends of Cook Forest: Feed the Butterflies – Butterfly Bush and Milkweed Planting
- 6/2 Friends of Ohiopyle: National Trails Day
- 6/2 Rededication of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail
- 6/2 National Trails Day Volunteer Day
- 6/2 Friends of Ridley Creek: Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
- 6/3 Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain
- 6/3 Friends of Shikellamy: Brunch at the Marina
- 6/3 Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain
- 6/9 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Iron Run Half Marathon/Charcoal Challenge 5k
- 6/9 Friends of Cowans Gap: Music in the Park
- 6/14 Friends of Shikellamy: Music and Wine Tasting at the Shikellamy Overlook
- 6/16 Friends of Cook Forest: Forest Fest with the Friends of Cook Forest
- 6/16 Friends of Laurel Hill: Laurel Hill Adventure Race
- 6/16 Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association: Public Viewing Night at Cherry Springs Dark Sky Party
- 6/16 Friends of Cook Forest: Walk Among Giants
- 6/16 Friends of Oil Creek: Chicks in the Sticks
- 6/16 Friends of Black Moshannon: PA Wilds Child
- 6/16 Friends of Nockamixon: Kids' Fishing Tournament
- 6/16 Friends of Buchanan State Forest: Camping with Friends (of Buchanan)
- 6/16 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Summer Solstice Square Dance
- 6/17 Friends of Lyman Run: Father's Day Breakfast Kayak Tour of Lyman Lake
- 6/23 Friends of Goddard: Pioneer Frolic
- 6/23 Friends of Ohiopyle: Veterans' Middle Yough Trip
- 6/23 Friends of Cowans Gap: Art in the Park
- 6/23 Friends of Goddard: Pioneer Frolic
- 6/23 Friends of Cowans Gap: Art in the Park
- 6/27 Photo Contest Gallery Showcase at Pymatuning (through 8/1)
- 6/27 Friends of Ridley Creek: Photo Contest Reception
- 6/30 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Independence Day in Crooked Run Campground
- 6/30 Friends of Shawnee: Fireworks on the Lake



JULY

- 7/1 Friends of Cowans Gap: Art in the Park
- 7/7 Friends of Lyman Run: Lyman Run Kayak Tour
- 7/21 Friends of Lyman Run: Dutch Oven Cooking Class
- 7/21 Friends of Black Moshannon: Summer Festival

AUGUST

- 8/3-28 Photo Contest Gallery Showcase at Canoe Creek
- 8/4 Friends of Lyman Run: Lyman Run Kayak Tour
- 8/5 Friends of Oil Creek: Drake Well Marathon and Half Marathon
- 8/10 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Christmas in August
- 8/11 Friends of Shikellamy: Music at the Marina
- 8/11 Friends of Oil Creek: Summer Biathlon
- 8/11 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Women in the Wilds
- 8/11 Friends of Goddard: Music at the Marina
- 8/18 Friends of Laurel Hill: Laurel Hill Bluegrass Festival
- 8/18 Friends of Ohiopyle: Veterans' Lower Yough Trip
- 8/19 Friends of Keystone: Annual Summer Car Show
- 8/19 Friends of Laurel Hill: Mountain Laurel 5k
- 8/25 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Bradford County Youth Field Day
- 8/29 Photo Contest Gallery Showcase at Parker Dam (through 9/29) and reception
- 8/31 Friends of Shawnee: Kid's Catfish Fishing Derby

SEPTEMBER

- 9/1 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Camper Appreciation Day
- 9/1 Friends of Ohiopyle: Music in the Mountains
- 9/1 Friends of Lyman Run: Lyman Run Kayak Tour
- 9/3 Friends of Laurel Hill: Labor Day Bake Sale
- 9/8 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Patriots in the Park
- 9/15 Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association: Public Viewing Night at Black Forest Star Party
- 9/19 Friends of Beltzville: Garden Clean-Up
- 9/22 Friends of Cowans Gap: Art in the Park
- 9/23 Friends of Mount Pisgah: 3-D Archery Shoot
- 9/29 National Public Lands Day



OCTOBER

- 10/1-15 Photo Contest Gallery Showcase at Lackawanna
- 10/7 Friends of Kings Gap: Garden Harvest Day
- 10/7 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Apple Cider Fest
- 10/12 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Trunk of Treats Halloween Weekend
- 10/13 Friends of Black Moshannon: Cranberry Festival
- 10/13 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Apple Butter Day
- 10/14 Friends of Beltzville: Wild Creek Hike
- 10/14 Friends of Beltzville: Keep PA Beautiful Roadside Clean-Up
- 10/20 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Fall Furnace Fest
- 10/20 Friends of Cowans Gap: Harvest Day
- 10/24 Friends of White Clay Creek: Historic Haunting
- 10/27 Friends of Kings Gap: Ghoulish Gallop

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.

For more information visit 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 Rothrock State Forest

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 Worlds End

Friends of Yellow Creek

Lackawana State Park Trail/Care Crew

Laurel Mountain Volunteers

Your Friends In Action: Friends of Varden Conservation Area

The 445-acre Varden Conservation Area in Wayne County offers a relaxing destination filled with opportunities for outdoor recreation and learning history. Visitors can enjoy exploring a mix of forest, meadow, and marsh land.

Excellent streams used for milling attracted the Shaffer family in the late 1700's. They purchased 64 acres and built a house that served as home for several generations of Shaffers. Beginning in 1960, Dr. Mead Shaffer began purchasing land adjacent to the original property and in 2001 he donated 445 acres to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Varden Conservation Area. Dr. Shaffer donated the land in order to see it used by the public for recreation and education during his lifetime.

The Friends of Varden Conservation Area formed in 2011 to enhance the recreational capabilities the park offers. The group holds several annual events as fundraisers and to expose more people to the park. Projects include maintaining and building trails, interpreting and restoring the chimney from the original Shaffer home, and promoting the park. Recently, volunteers completed a trail for use by the Western Wayne High School cross country team.

Varden's most popular event is its annual Conservation Day, which has been held each September since 2010. Filled with family-friendly events, including a children's fishing tournament, guided hikes, a scavenger hunt, local fiddlers, and a live animal demonstration by Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation, the day attracts young and old alike.

Throughout the year, the Friends group offers additional opportunities to introduce the public to the trails by holding programs such as Stream Explorers, Night Hikes, and an Earth Day Hike.

Dr. Shaffer attributes his obsession with conservation, preservation, and the outdoors to his grandfather. When in sixth grade, Dr. Shaffer saw his grandfather planting trees. He continues this by annually planting rows of pine trees to reforest abandoned fields in the park. Although Dr. Shaffer no longer lives in the Varden area, he remains the heart and soul of the Friends of Varden Conservation Area.



Smokey The Bear and volunteers
at Conservation Day



Photo credit: Friends of Varden

Photo credit: Friends of Varden



Photo credit: Friends of Varden

Hand planted trees "reforested" the park.



Photo credit: Friends of Varden

Popular family-friendly fishing destination

The Friends of Varden Conservation Area meet monthly at 1100 Mid Valley Road. All are welcome. Check their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FriendsofVCA) for information about upcoming events and meetings.

More Friends In Action:



Mountain bike racing season has begun for the **Friends of Yellow Creek**. The monthly Grass Roots Racing Series began on March 31. Visit www.foyc.org/ycmonthly for the schedule.

For the **Friends of Beltzville**, spring means litter pick up. They gathered to clean up the park and have a few laughs.



The Koppenhaver Trail got a spruce up by the **Friends of Pine Grove Furnace** and some volunteers. The group moved and installed rocks at muddy spots, cleaned the foot bridges, and removed massive amounts of barberry to get the trail ready for use. Forestry students from Penn



State Mont Alto were on hand to cut, split, and stack firewood for the Friends to sell at the campground.



Visitors will have a new way to view the sights on Glendale Lake thanks to the **Friends of Prince Gallitzin**. They purchased a pontoon boat to be used

for boat tours and educational programming around the lake.

Thanks to the **Friends of Nockamixon**, the park's playground continues to evolve. Stay tuned for its dedication.



2017

PPFF CHAPTERS AT WORK

- 1 VALUE OF SERVICE PROVIDED - \$1,609,467
- 2 VOLUNTEER HOURS - 65,187
- 3 NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS - 2,743
- 4 SERVICE PROJECTS HELD - 198
- 5 EVENTS HOSTED - 160
- 6 DOLLARS RAISED - \$438,199 (OVER \$3 MILLION IN THE LAST TEN YEARS)
- 7 PLAYGROUNDS PURCHASED/BUILT - 5
- 8 ADA LAUNCHES INSTALLED - 1
- 9 TRAILS BUILT/MAINTAINED - 66
* Miles: 283 * Bridges: 34 * Signage * Vistas
- 10 OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE/EQUIPMENT
Storage/Maintenance Shed Purchased | Trees/Gardens Maintained | Butterfly House Constructed | Streambank Restored | Historic Stone Wall Restored | Swimming Area Updated



Visitors enjoy the new implemented smoke-free beach at Raccoon Creek State Park.

More Smoke-Free Beaches!

Visitors to state parks this upcoming summer season will now find 45 of the 54 swimming beaches across Pennsylvania designated as "smoke free." Responding to visitor requests and support, DCNR has implemented smoking controls at the following six additional swimming beaches:

- Clear Creek
- Presque Isle Beach #11
- Shawnee
- Yellow Creek
- Pymatuning Jamestown Campground Beach
- Raccoon Creek

Visit www.dcnr.pa.gov for more information on smoking, to see the complete list of 45 beaches, and to locate other state park regulations.

12-Month Calendar 2019

Pennsylvania State Parks

Once again featuring a breathtaking look at some of your favorite and soon-to-be favorite state parks. Hang it on your wall and dream of your next outdoor getaway.

Visit the PPFF online store at <http://bit.ly/PPFFOnlineStore> and pick up your copy for \$9 plus shipping and tax.



Little Pine State Park. Photo by Bernadette Chiamonte-Brown.

<http://bit.ly/PPFFOnlineStore>

YOU Made it Happen

Welcome New Friends Groups!

Three new groups were added to the PPFF family – Friends of Worlds End State Park, the Lackawanna State Park Trail Care Crew, and Friends of Rothrock State Forest.

Educating Legislators

Legislators had an opportunity to learn more about the importance of parks and forests and the work of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation through your support and a partnership with the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society to host a legislative breakfast in the state capitol.

Photo Gallery Showcase at Shawnee State Park

Economic development representatives, staff of elected officials' offices, members of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce and park enthusiasts were on hand for a ribbon cutting of the Photo Gallery Showcase at Shawnee State Park. Three receptions are planned this year, which include an opportunity to meet the photographers, celebrate the importance of our parks and forests, and to engage the public in being a voice for our public lands.



Photo credit: Amanda Trimmer

Working Together for You

Friends from across the state gathered in either eastern or western Pennsylvania to share ideas, build relationships, and learn new skills to improve your visitor experience and conserve our public lands at a park or forest near you!



eastern

Photo credit: Joe Frassetta



western

Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Third in the Burg Event Promoted PA's Rich Conservation Heritage

Visitors to the State Museum of Pennsylvania

benefitted from your support as they learned about Pennsylvania's rich conservation heritage at a recent Third in the Burg event co-sponsored by the Conservation Heritage Project, The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. Staff from Weiser State Forest were on hand to talk about tree identification and Smokey the Bear even made an appearance!



Photo credit: Marci Mowery



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Honoring Earth Day!

Volunteers and Friends groups across the state came out to steward our public lands on Earth Day.



Photo credit: Maria Montero

Kudos to Your Stewardship and Funding!

On April 24, the dedication of our volunteers and funders to stewardship and funding of our natural areas was recognized when the Graffiti Removal project was honored by the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

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



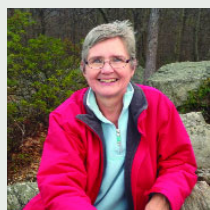
Meet the Executive Team

True Advocates for Our State Parks and Forests!



Maria Montero, Chairwoman

Maria is a first generation American, born and raised in Pennsylvania and at Beltzville State Park. Previously serving as the Executive Director for both the Pennsylvania Commission for Women and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs, she currently serves as the External Affairs Manager for the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority. Maria's passion is community engagement, public service, and conservation of Pennsylvania's beautiful parks and forests.



Mary Soderberg, Vice Chair

For all of Mary's life, hiking and paddling public lands has been an outlet and way of life. As a cabin owner in Michaux State Forest, she's now learned firsthand what a precious resource our parks and forests are and what hard work it takes to maintain them. She believes that the best part of her service on the PPFF board is being able to encourage others to have the same experiences she enjoys.



Brian Clark, Secretary

Brian's career as an attorney with Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney means a lot of time behind a desk or the steering wheel. At least his frequent travel means he gets to see a lot of Pennsylvania and appreciate more fully the precious time he may enjoy on hikes in central Pennsylvania or Bucks County where he and his wife reside. Brian joined the board in 2005 so he has seen the Foundation through thick and thin, never losing his passion for sustaining our state parks and forests.



Jim Grace, Treasurer

When Jim retired as the Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resources Conservation at Penn State University, PPFF was delighted to snap him up for service on the Board. He's definitely "been there, done that" after serving as both State Forester and Deputy Director of Parks and Forestry at the DCNR. When not exploring the outdoors, Jim can be found in his garden or cooking up good food.

We Wish You Well



March 30 marked the end of an era at the Bureau of Forestry with the retirement of State Forester **Dan Devlin** after nearly 40 years with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. From the beginning he saw the "big picture" that is forestry as his first position with DCNR in 1981 was the Bureau of Forestry's first wildlife biologist. Among many other accomplishments, Dan oversaw the acquisition of more than 50,000 acres of woodland for the state's holdings and the addition of 18 Natural and two Wild Areas to the forest system.

We Will Miss



Photo credit: Jim Leslie

On March 19, the Harrisburg and paddling communities lost a champion with the passing of **Pat Reilly**. If you looked up "character" in the dictionary, you would surely find a picture of Pat – he was a river rat with a passion for the Susquehanna matched by few. He led outings for the Sierra Club and its local Inspiring Connections Outdoors (formerly Inner City Outings) program bringing a taste of the outdoors to youngsters who might otherwise never have had the opportunity.



On March 31, Pennsylvania's trees lost a champion in **Greg Schrum**, retired Chief of DCNR's Resource Management and Planning Section (and 2009 winner of PPFF's Joseph Ibberson Government Award). A generous and thoughtful man, we hope each of you will take his family's request to heart and plant a tree in Greg's honor somewhere in Penn's Woods.



Conservation lost a champion in April with the passing of **Karen Light**. Karen, an active Audubon member and former leader in the Quittapahilla Audubon Society was always happy to share her natural history knowledge with enthusiasts of all ages. A member of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, she was one of the founding leaders of the Friends of Swatara State Park, a place that held a special place in her heart. Karen's passion for our natural world will be missed by many.

Create a Legacy Through Planned Giving

Ways to Give:



Beneficiaries Named in Your Estate Plans:

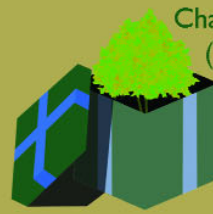
Bequeath a gift to PPFF through your will or trust simply by naming us as a beneficiary just as you would a loved one.



Retirement Account: When you make a designation to PPFF from your retirement account, you retain possession of the total amount of the asset for as long as you need. The remainder is designated to PPFF.



IRA Charitable Rollover: Federal law allows people 70 ½ or older to make a direct charitable transfer from your IRA to a qualified charity like PPFF. Your gift is not considered income, making it tax free. This applies to IRAs only.



Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)

(Immediate or Deferred): A CGA is the simplest life income agreement to set up because it is a direct contract between you and PPFF.

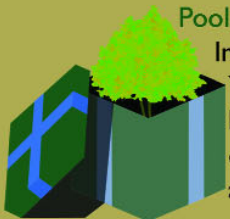


Charitable Remainder Unitrusts (CRUT) and Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT):

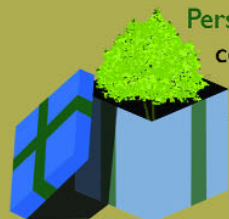
similar to a Charitable Gift Annuity in that they provide lifetime income. However, CRUT payments vary based on the value of the trust while CRATs and CGAs maintain fixed payments.



Real Estate: You can experience substantial savings and avoid capital taxes by transferring property as a gift to PPFF rather than selling the property.



Pooled Income Fund: Think of a Pooled Income Fund as a charitable mutual fund. You make gifts to the pool as you would buy shares of a mutual fund. Your income depends on the amount you contribute and the performance of the fund.



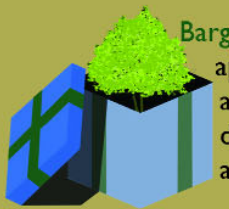
Personal Property: Charitable gifts could be collecting dust in your closet, attic, or garage, but this giving method turns your storage items into a valuable asset that supports the work of PPFF.



Donor Advised Funds: Funds placed under the management of a community foundation or financial organization. You retain the authority to advise the fund to make a contribution.



Appreciated Stock: Passed to PPFF can have a significant impact on our mission while creating a substantial tax benefit for you.



Bargain Sale: In a bargain sale, your real estate is appraised for its current value but sold to PPFF at a lower price. You receive the benefit of a tax deduction on the amount between the sale price and the appraised value.



Charitable Lead Trust:

Think of a charitable lead trust as renting a sum of money to PPFF.



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

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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



SHARE YOUR FAVORITE State Park or Forest Activity

Pennsylvanians are fortunate to have access to 121 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forest free of charge – no admission and no parking fees. To celebrate this abundance of opportunity, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation recently released a new four-minute video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCtKgSwaPJA) showcasing the many varied opportunities afforded our park and forest visitors.

DID WE MISS ANY? Let us know by posting your favorite activities using the hashtag **#ExplorePaParksandForests**

Celebrating the Best of the Best



The 12th Annual PPFF Awards

"Thank You" to our reception sponsor, award sponsors, table sponsors, and silent auction donors.

Young Volunteer Award:

Sarah Reeping
Parents Suellen and Allen Reeping,
Sarah Reeping, Tina Molski
of award sponsor REI



Forest of the Year Award:

Rothrock State Forest

Dave Yeager, Jodi Skipper, District Forester Mark Potter,
Jeff Sheaffer of award sponsor Stahl-Sheaffer
Engineering, PPFF board member Brad Mallory



Park of the Year Award:

Cook Forest

PPFF board member Brian Clark of award sponsor
Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney with
Dale Lutberinger and Jess Stewart



Volunteerism Award:

Over the Hill Gang

Denny Pattison, Rob McCall,
PPFF board member George Fernandez



The Improvement Award:

Gifford Pinchot Disc Golf Club

Jeff Ross, Robert Eberly, Frieda Eberly, Patty Sheaffer,
Michael Lordan, PPFF board member George Asimos
of award sponsor Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr



Education Award:

Tom and Marilyn Fye

PPFF board member Mary Soderberg, Suzann Rensel
of Clear Creek State Park, Marilyn Fye, Tom Fye,
Eric Rensel of Parker Dam State Park,
Representative Cris Dush. Award sponsor: Straub Brewery



President's Award:

PA Wilds Conservation Landscape Program
and the PA Wilds Center

Abbi Peters, Meredith Hill, Ta Enos,
PPFF board member Jim Grace.
Award sponsor: AFSCME Council 13



Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award:

DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn

Don Houser of award sponsor Dominion Energy,
DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn,
Marci Mowery, President of PPFF



Joseph Ibberson Government Award:

Representative Kate Harper

Representative Kate Harper and PPFF Chairwoman
Maria Montero. Award sponsor: Chamber of Commerce
for Greater Philadelphia

conserve enhance enjoy

Still Plenty of Time to Enter PPFF's Photo Contest

We have a fresh series of categories, including a brand new one called "Off the Beaten Path." In celebration of the 125th anniversary of our state parks and forests, we invite you to visit one of the lesser known gems of the state parks and forests (see below). Oftentimes, these hidden treasures allow a quieter recreational experience but they don't short-change the beauty at all.



Photo credit: Larry Laird, Poe Valley State Park

"OFF THE BEATEN PATH" State Parks and Forests

STATE PARKS

Allegheny Islands State Park
Bendigo State Park
Benjamin Rush State Park
Big Spring State Forest Picnic Area
Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area
Bucktail State Park Natural Area
Cowans Gap State Park
Denton Hill State Park
Elk State Park
Fort Washington State Park
Fowlers Hollow State Park
Frances Slocum State Park

Hillman State Park
Hyner Run State Park
Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area
Laurel Mountain State Park
Linn Run State Park
Locust Lake State Park
McCall's Dam State Park
Milton State Park
Mt. Pisgah State Park
Patterson State Park
Penn-Roosevelt State Park
Poe Valley State Park

Prouty Place State Park
Pymatuning State Park
Ryersen Station State Park
S.B. Elliott State Park
Samuel S. Lewis State Park
Sand Bridge State Park
Shikellamy State Park
Sizerville State Park
Susquehanna State Park
Tuscarora State Park
Varden Conservation Area
White Clay Creek Preserve

STATE FORESTS

Bald Eagle State Forest
Buchanan State Forest
Clear Creek State Forest
Cornplanter State Forest
Delaware State Forest
Elk State Forest
Forbes State Forest
Gallitzen State Forest
Loyalsock State Forest
Michaux State Forest

Pinchot State Forest
Moshannon State Forest
Rothrock State Forest
Sprout State Forest
Susquehanna State Forest
Tiadaghton State Forest
Tioga State Forest
Tuscarora State Forest
Weiser State Forest
William Penn State Forest

To enter, visit the website below before September 5
www.PaParksAndForests.org/Get-Involved/Photo-Contest