

Annual
2017
Report

BFFS

& Parks!

BEST FRIENDS OF FORESTS



PENNSYLVANIA
Parks & Forests
FOUNDATION



OUR MISSION To inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests through public engagement in volunteerism, education, and recreation.

OUR VISION Building the voice for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Messages from Maria Montero and Secretary Dunn | 1 |
| Guided By Our Goals | 2 |
| Spring Is In the Air | 4 |
| Friends Groups | 5 |
| Summer Inspiration | 6 |
| Fall Exploration | 8 |
| Volunteerism | 10 |
| 2017 PPFF Banquet Winners | 11 |
| Appreciation of Donors | 12 |
| Financial Overview | 13 |

** Photos, unless noted otherwise, were taken by PPFF staff.*

I have fond memories of spending hours of time as a child coloring pictures of nature and animals in my coloring books. I particularly enjoyed coloring flowers, and I still do like to draw flowers when I doodle. Much like spending time in our parks and forests, coloring reduces stress and frees the mind. Perhaps that is why we've seen a resurgence of coloring books for would-be artists of all ages!



Marci, Joe and Izzy doing their favorite outdoor activity, hiking.

Just as crayons are the medium for turning the blank page of a coloring book into something vibrant, members of and donors to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation are the medium by which good things happen in our parks and forests. Your support empowers a vast array of projects and programs across the Commonwealth.

As you page through the annual report, you'll see a cross-section of those projects and programs. Our plates are as full as our hearts; we hope you know how much we appreciate your support. Without you, our parks and forests would be much less colorful.

Yours in the Outdoors,
Marci, PPFF President

Proud of Our Outreach

A nonprofit that does its work without telling the people it affects is very much like a tree falling in the forest with no one there to hear it. We are proud and happy to reach out across the Commonwealth to talk about the beauty and benefits of our parks and forests. A few of the places we could be found (and the subjects covered) include:

- The Penn Cumberland Garden Club – Mira Lloyd Dock
- AARP Chapter Events – History of State Parks
- University of Pittsburgh – Environmental Issues and Policy
- PA Land Trust Association – Eliminating Barriers to Recreation
- PA Recreation and Parks Society – Eliminating Barriers to Recreation
- Shanks Mare – Rebuilding Pennsylvania Forests and Public Lands
- Conservation & Natural Resources Advisory Committee
- Winnebago & Holiday Ramblers RV Clubs
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- William Penn Watershed Event
- Preservation Pennsylvania
- Wellness and Health Fairs



A WORD FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN



Maria enjoying a dam release at Lehigh Gorge-Rockport.

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY



DCNR Secretary Dunn working with the Outdoor Corps at Laurel Hill State Park.

Conserving, protecting, and enhancing our state parks and forests is a hallmark of PPFF and certainly part of the culture of our Commonwealth residents as evidenced by our State's Constitutional Environmental Rights Amendment which was passed in 1971 by a four to one margin of our voters. I am thankful for the many protections afforded to our parks and forests and for your support and belief in our PPFF mission to inspire stewardship, volunteerism, education, and recreation in one of our greatest assets.

Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment of 1971 (Article 1, Section 27 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania): *The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all.*

~ Maria Montero, PPFF Chairwoman

What an honor! Seeing PPFF and DCNR officials, and four state lawmakers come together May 22, 2018 at the state capitol to mark the 125th anniversary of Pennsylvania having a state system of rich and divergent public lands. In hand was a proclamation from Governor Wolf designating May 23-30, 2018 as the first-ever "State Park and Forest Week."

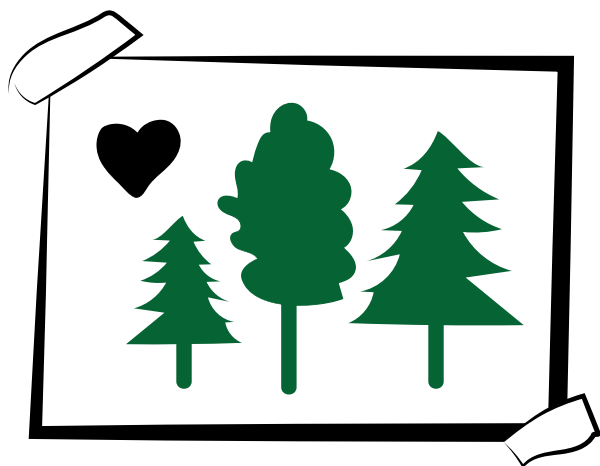
As its officials and staff have done so often in the past, PPFF saw the need for this recognition, and acted. Its support always is there, as we, the stewards of Penn's Woods, strive to provide parks that inspire; forests that support jobs and wildlife; and technical know-how that will create a greener Pennsylvania.

The three pillars of our agency's mission — Stewardship, Partnership, and Service — remain standing very tall and straight. They rise on a solid foundation that is its dedicated employees and partners, all committed to protecting our public lands for the future of all Pennsylvanians. They are supported by new DCNR endeavors that see us grappling with climate change, engaging young people in the outdoors, improving the diversity of the people we serve and employ, and enhancing sustainability in our buildings, our parks, and in our forests.

PPFF is a shining example of what a public-private partnership can accomplish. Working together, our staff and PPFF's cadre of dedicated volunteers, have accomplished so much in service of our mission to protect and enhance these wonderful lands entrusted to us. Our new initiatives, coupled with PPFF commitment, will empower us to do even more.

I look forward to another year of rewarding work with PPFF. We have the work plan, the tools, and the coworkers to accomplish so much!

~ Cindy Dunn, DCNR Secretary



GUIDED BY OUR GOALS

“This world is but a canvas
to our imagination.”

~ Henry David Thoreau

In 2015, you helped us to set five overarching goals that are serving as guidelines to our success. Keep turning the pages to see how we are working together to reach those goals.



Goal 1:

Expand the message on the value of and ways to engage in parks, forests, and recreation to increase participation, inform the public and decision makers, and build relationships with diverse partners.



Goal 2:

Engage the public in meaningful outdoor recreation to improve physical, emotional, and mental health.



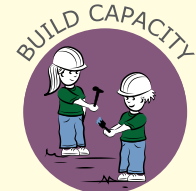
Goal 3:

Increase volunteerism in Pennsylvania state parks and forests to 50 Friends groups and 1,200 PPFF and Friends chapter volunteers by 2020.



Goal 4:

Invest in transformative projects and events to enhance the state park and forest visitor experience.

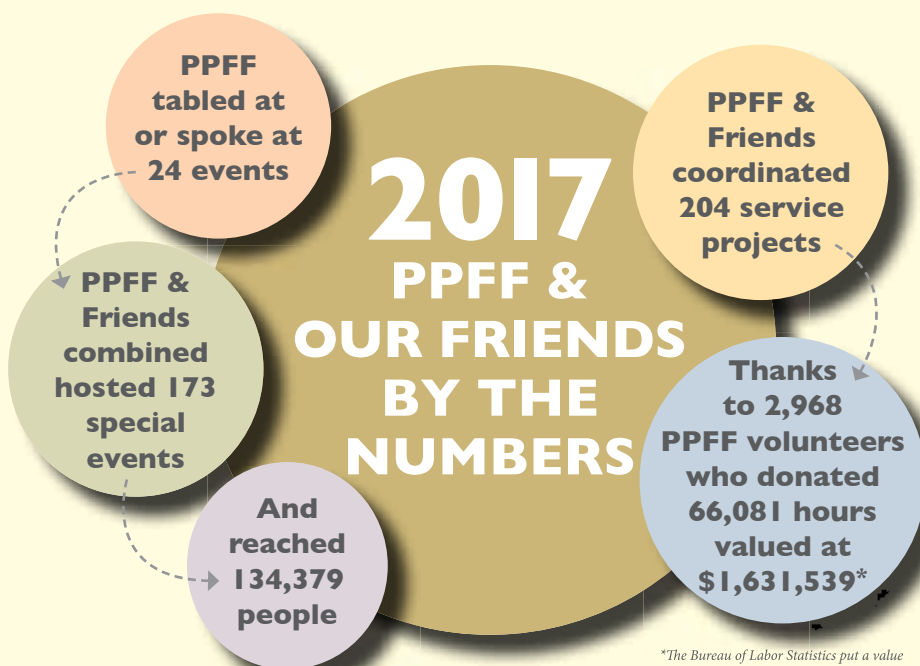


Goal 5:

Strengthen the capacity of PPFF and the Friends chapters through strategic investment of time, talent, and revenue.

OUR OPERATING VALUES

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Innovation
- Collaboration
- Conservation
- Diversity
- Inclusion
- Sustainability



*The Bureau of Labor Statistics put a value of \$24.69 on volunteer labor in 2017.



PPFF Launches Fun, New Marketing Campaign in 2017

You may have noticed some new faces around our newsletter beginning in 2017. They are a part of PPFF's new marketing campaign that whimsically highlights the work that we and our fellow park and forest advocates do behind the scenes to beautify, protect, fund, and most importantly, enjoy the many parks and forests across the state. The campaign is used in print and digital ads, social media, and in our communications.



Photo credit: Xiaowei Zhang, Marsh Creek



A Group Effort!

Thanks to everyone who turned out, PPFF's first Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community was a huge success!

From Mailbox to Inbox to Newsfeed – PPFF Keeps You Informed!

Three times a year our print newsletter, Penn's Stewards, is delivered to over 3,000 actual mailboxes and 2,000 virtual ones, and has a reach of over 100,000 through links and shares. Our theme for the newsletter in 2017 was the built environment of our parks and forests: beaches, bridges, and back roads.

Six times a year our bimonthly emailed newsletter, Explore PA, entertains nearly 31,000 people with stories from our chapters, DCNR, the Foundation itself — anywhere an exploration might take you. In 2017, Explore PA got a refreshed look.

Are you one of our 2,000 weekly Take Five/Fridays with Pam readers? This e-publication focuses on events and up-to-the-minute reporting of news across the parks and forests (and from PPFF), as well as behind-the-scene ideas on how to explore your state parks and forests. If you are not a subscriber visit www.PAParksAndForests.org and sign up soon!

We ended 2017 with over 15,000 Facebook followers, 4,700 Twitter followers, and over 200 Instagram followers. Are you one of them?

A Voice for Clean Water

In 2017, PPFF participated in and presented at a rally for clean water, while also calling for investments in our state parks and forests. To view a compilation of the presentations, visit www.facebook.com/pg/PaGGC/videos/?ref=page_internal



PPFF Wins Award for "Advancing a Sustainable Future"

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was awarded the Spirit of South Mountain Award by the South Mountain Partnership for its significant contributions to advancing a sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape.

Board Retreat and Training Focuses on Park and Forest Needs

To better address the needs of Pennsylvania's parks and forests, the PPFF board of directors took part in development training. They are eager to use their newly-developed or re-freshed skills to raise support for projects on the needs list.



Restoration of ADA trails is on the list.

Working with Interns is a Win-Win!

Frank Grumbine, our 2017 spring intern, got hands-on experience at PPFF. A graduate of Shippensburg University, Frank plans to work with government agencies to protect both environmental and historical resources. Interested in being an intern? Call us!



Photo credit: Steve Rubano

"Our family moved to Lewistown in 1960, and we soon discovered Greenwood Furnace State Park. Our mom was a Holocaust survivor and she found the beauty and serenity of Greenwood her haven for the next 55 years. I promised my mother that every summer I would go to Greenwood and have a picnic. My family, including my husband, three of my four children and their spouses, enjoyed a wonderful day there in August." ~ Heller Kreshtool



Spring Is In the Air — The Bridges of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests

Our spring newsletter's lead story connected readers with the history of bridges in Pennsylvania, as well as the fact that our state parks and forests offer one of the most interesting collections of bridges of any state – from historic covered bridges to foot bridges to the remnants and landmarks of bridges that once were.

Partnering with Health Care Providers to Promote Outdoor Recreation

A recent Penn State study found that more than 70 percent of Pennsylvania residents consider parks, trails, and open space to be a critical part of the health care system. Inspired by that news, PPFF with support from DCNR, and in partnership with the Department of Health, the South Mountain Partnership, and the Partnership for Better Health, organized "The South Mountain Health Summit – The Benefits of Being Active Outdoors." Held at the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau in Carlisle, the event brought together health care providers from across south central Pennsylvania to learn more about the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor recreation and to find ways to encourage their patients to spend time in nature.



Photo credit: Eric Forberger, Courtesy of the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau



Photo credit: Curt Weinhold

Ski Equipment Purchase

Did you hear the sound of cross country skis swishing on the freshly fallen snow last 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.

Making a BIG Impact with Infographics

Telling a story using few words is the essence of an infographic, and in 2017, the Foundation produced three such stories to assist us in our advocacy and educational outreach.

The economics infographic focused on the value our parks, forests, and protected lands. The reuses of water bottles addressed one of the largest sources of pollution in our stewardship days — single use plastic. Lastly, we translated the tick/Lyme disease infographic into Spanish to help spread the information to a larger population of Pennsylvanians.



Team Up to Clean Up!

Thank you to Liberty Travel/Flight Centre for working with PPFF to organize a volunteer work day at Neshaminy State Park. Participants pose with some of their unusual trash finds for the "Most Unique Find" competition.

Training Time!

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



PPFF Friends Groups

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association
 Friends of Beltzville
 Friends of Big Pocono
 Friends of Black Moshannon
 Friends of Buchanan State Forest
 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

Photo credit: Jeannie Frontz Norris



"The new Waterwheels adaptive beach chair purchased by Friends of Prince Gallitzin brought such joy back to my husband and our family. He hadn't been able to be in the water with the children in over two years. We have seen the amazing results that sharing our photos has had as we have been contacted by other people with disabilities who were thrilled to find out about the chair."

~ Jeannie Frontz Norris

Photo credit: Friends of Canoe Creek



#Friends

Helping to create and foster cohesive chapters is a big part of what PPFF does. The 40 chapters operating under our nonprofit umbrella are ambassadors and change agents for the park and forest system and helping them succeed is

important for them, for us, and for our public lands. PPFF works with the chapters to:

- Create annual work plans and goals
- Promote their work through our online and print media, the calendar of events, and press releases
- Create their own online presence through establishment of Facebook pages and other social media, and providing suggested content for their social media
- Manage their members, volunteers, and donors
- Adhere to best practices to provide a well-managed vehicle for those members, volunteers, and donors to confidently continue involvement with the chapter and
- Access the best information available for continued success — the expertise and support of each other!

Photo credit: Friends of Oil Creek



Ski Swap Success

While kicking off another year of cross country ski grooming, Friends of Oil Creek also hosted their annual and highly anticipated ski swap.



Playground Goals

Revenue from firewood sales, donations, and events enabled the Friends of Little Buffalo to dedicate a new playground. It was so popular that the Friends are making plans to build another one. Other state parks have also made updates to their playground equipment including Black Moshannon, Mount Pisgah and Pinchot.

Photo credit: Friends of Buchanan



Great Work Keeping Trails Clear!

Friends of Buchanan are always busy clearing, blazing, and signing multi-use trails, including

this intersection of the Bald Hill Trail and aptly-named Friends Trail. In this year's chapter annual reports, for the first time, we asked our Friends to report on the specifics of their trail work. We always knew they work hard but we were amazed to learn that 283 miles of trails were built or maintained in 2017, along with a staggering 34 trail bridges built. Happy trails!



Adding to Our Friends

The Friends of Pymatuning officially joined the PPFF family in 2017. With an expansive park to steward and big things planned, we're excited to see this group develop and thrive.





Summer Inspiration — The Beaches of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests

In our summer 2017 newsletter, the lead story highlighted a few of the more than 50 lakes and beaches within our state parks and forests — whether you're looking for a dip in the crisp waters of a mountain lake, a fun family afternoon building sandcastles, some solitude while exploring a sandy shoreline, or time to connect with friends over a picnic.



Advocating for Our State Parks and Forests

Acting as a voice for our state parks and forests is an important role that PPFF plays in the stewardship of our public lands. From monitoring the budget and voicing support for stronger investments in state parks and forests (both budget and staff), to protecting key special funding programs such as the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, the Growing Greener Fund, and the Keystone Fund, to advocating for a renewed investment in a Growing Greener 3 program, PPFF organized grassroots efforts and added their voice to the halls of the capitol. In 2017, the Foundation also joined forces with the National Parks and Conservation Association to advocate on behalf of investments in the infrastructure needs in our national parks. Follow our advocacy work on the News section of our webpage.

The Foundation also attended regular conservation/environmental stakeholder meetings with Governor Wolf's environmental team. These meetings provided venues to express concerns or support for environmental initiatives or legislation impacting our state parks and forests.

The photo contest hangs each February in the capitol as a reminder to invest in our state parks and forests.



Conservation Heritage Showings

The Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage project reconnects Pennsylvanians to their rich conservation legacy. Through your support, 13 showings with more than 420 attendees were hosted across the state, capturing stories from individuals like you about local conservation efforts. Visit the website at www.paconservationheritage.org to learn more about the project.

Equipment Purchase

Through your support and the Richard King Mellon Foundation, volunteers of the Forbes State Forests are finding their trail work a bit easier with the purchase of two new Stihl extended hedge trimmers.



Brewing Company Helps Restore Rare Vernal Pools in Michaux State Forest

Poorly placed ATV trails in the Michaux State Forest threatened to impact rare vernal pool communities



Photo credit: Michaux State Forest

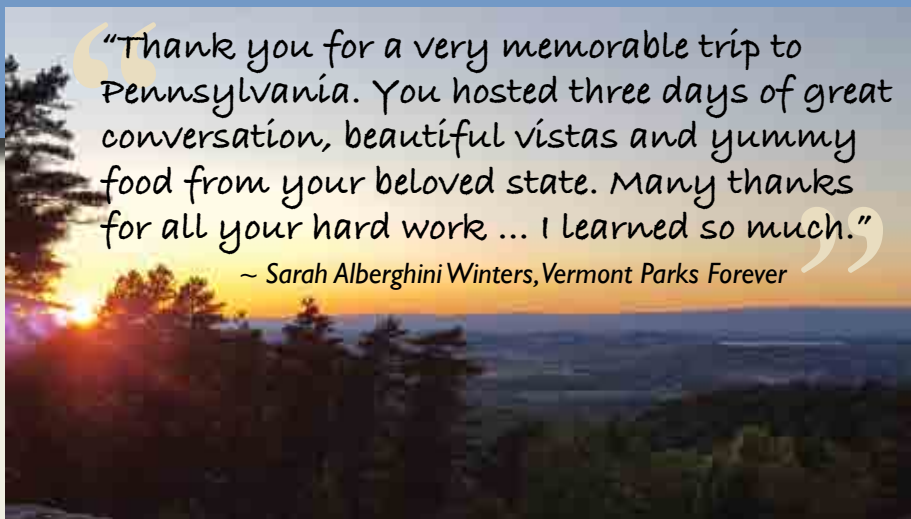
in this heavily used Pennsylvania forest, but a grant from Colorado-based New Belgium Brewing Company to PPFF helped offset costs to restore these important pools. Following this restoration project, Michaux State Forest staff will continue to monitor the ponds closely to ensure re-colonization of the site with the diversity of plants and wildlife that characterize these unique ecosystems.



And the DCNR Group Volunteer Award Goes to ...

In recognition of their work connecting portions of the Mountain Creek Trail through the placement of a 55-foot fiberglass bridge, Friends of Pine Grove Furnace received the DCNR Group Volunteer Award.



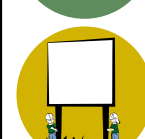


"Thank you for a very memorable trip to Pennsylvania. You hosted three days of great conversation, beautiful vistas and yummy food from your beloved state. Many thanks for all your hard work ... I learned so much."

~ Sarah Alberghini Winters, Vermont Parks Forever



Celebrating Earth Day
Friends of Ridley Creek welcomed more than 100 guests at its free Earth Day event, with educational activities, hikes, plantings and meet-and-greets with park staff.



Graffiti Removal Success Stories

Graffiti is still a problem in our state lands all across the Commonwealth, but with your support and lots of volunteer help, more locations have been tackled. Volunteers at Boulder Field in Hickory Run State Park and Buzzard Rocks in the Michaux State Forest, as well as spots in Lehigh Gorge, Pymatuning, and McConnells Mill state parks now have the knowledge and skills to keep our public lands graffiti free.



Foundation Gathering
State park foundations from across the nation gathered in Pennsylvania in October to share knowledge and ideas, network, and offer guidance in the fifth annual gathering of state park foundations. Started through an initiative between California and Pennsylvania, the annual gathering rotates around the country, providing valuable insight into challenges and solutions faced in these unique partnerships. Abe Lincoln joined the group to share some leadership lessons he discovered during his lifetime.



Supporting the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail Restoration Fund

A "before and after" comparison of the restoration of the chimney and firebox at one of the shelter areas along the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail was the perfect vehicle for PPFF to begin a comprehensive fundraising campaign

to complete the restoration of all eight. In 2017, the campaign to raise the necessary funds to restore the chimneys and fireboxes got a boost thanks to an additional grant from REI, as well as from the artistic talents of writer and hiker Dane Cramer who designed a trail map T-shirt with a portion of sale proceeds going to the Shelters Fund, and from Dale Yohe who came up with the idea of giving donors a durable sticker and patch as a 'Thank You.'



Second Plein Air Art Day
Artists of all ages joined PPFF for its second Plein Air Art Day at Hammonds Rocks, Michaux State Forest. The day also brought out writers and spectators to watch the artists at work. All enjoyed the scenery and some time to climb on the rocks!

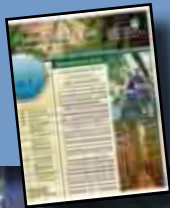
CCC Structures Get Upgrades
Made possible by your donations and support from Allegheny Foundation, the maintenance staff at Laurel Hill State Park have been able to show off their craftsmanship through the restoration of Civilian Conservation Corps structures at the park.



Still Time to Buy a Calendar!

In 2018, The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation assumed responsibility for creating the

annual state park calendar to showcase the many wonderful parks. The 2019 calendars are available on our website for \$9, plus shipping and handling. To order visit www.PaParksAndForests.org.



Fall Exploration — The Back Roads of Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests

Inspired by Ralph Waldo Emerson's quote, "It's not the destination, it's the journey," our Fall 2017 newsletter's lead story encouraged readers to explore one of the many scenic routes through our state parks and forests where the views range from majestic vistas to dense forests to meandering waterways.



Photo credit: DCNR

Infrastructure Requires Routine Rehabilitation and Upgrades

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.

To better understand the depth of this need, the Foundation launched an initiative, funded by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, to document the infrastructure needs in our state parks and forests, with a long-term goal of advocating for funding to address these needs. The full report is set to release in summer of 2018.



Back to Basics YouTube Videos

When it comes to the outdoors, some people need a little extra guidance. Thanks to you, they got it. The Back to Basics video series gave viewers the knowledge they needed to get them into the outdoors and improve their experience. The videos featured tips and techniques on how to set up a tent, pack a backpack, stay safe in a lightning storm, not get lost, and dress to stay warm in cold weather. The videos can be viewed at www.youtube.com/users/PAParksandForests/videos



Penn's Stewards

The Commonwealth is a bit cleaner thanks to some Stewards of Penn's Woods volunteers. They take time each season to tackle anything from litter pick up and graffiti removal to trail work.

#TrailRelocation

In 2017, a relocation of a small part of the 2.5-mile southern portion of the rail-trail at Pymatuning State Park was required to satisfy an agreement with an adjacent landowner. Thanks to the hard work of the park's maintenance crew along with able assistance by the PPFF-funded (via a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation) crew of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps and funds for the materials, the relocation took



the trail out of the sun and into the woods where shore-birds may be observed by park visitors from the shade and quiet of a peaceful lakeside setting.



New and Improved Calendar of Events

It just shouldn't be "that hard" to figure out where to go to have fun in our state parks and forests but with 40 chapters holding any number of events (not to mention the ones the Foundation itself hosts), managing a cogent events calendar can be a challenge. So in 2017,

PPFF contracted with Localist, the same vendor responsible for hosting DCNR's calendar. Attractive and easy to use, this online calendar allows users to easily search for a place, a chapter, or an event type AND includes a button users can click to volunteer to help with the event, too.

"Thanks for all your efforts to organize volunteers and the ways that you communicate with the public and legislature to keep state parks and forests free for all to enjoy. I truly support your efforts to make parks more accessible for those with disabilities. Your goal to get more kids to spend time in creative outdoor play is also commendable." ~ Brittany Howell



PPFF Dedicates ADA Kayak Launch at Beltzville State Park

We at the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation believe that all Pennsylvanians deserve the opportunity to experience the wonderment of nature, on both land and water, yet this is not available to everyone. Universal design in our parks and forests helps to address the needs of all users. With your support, and a grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority through the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program, we are proud to have been able to place an ADA kayak launch at Beltzville State Park in 2017. If you would like to support additional launch placements, visit <http://bit.ly/ppffoutdoorsforevereveryone> to donate.



BEFORE



AFTER

Photo credit: Friends of White Clay Creek

Photo credit: Friends of White Clay Creek

See the Results!

Before and after pictures are testament to the hard work put in by the Friends of White Clay Creek to restore the historic stone wall surrounding the park's Quaker Meeting House.



Nature's Classroom

Partnering with Shippensburg University and the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park, visitors to Hammonds Rocks learned about the unique geology of the area from Dr. Sean Cornell and several Shippensburg University students. Andre Weltman then presented a historical perspective of the area, taking visitors back to the days of the active iron mansion through stories and visuals.

Gone for the Day Documentary

Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project continues to archive the conservation stories of Pennsylvania with a new documentary featuring the story of Ned Smith. View it at <http://video.witf.org/video/3003781510>.

Start Collecting State Park Patches

In 2017, Caleb Heisey, a Philadelphia area graphic designer, launched a retro-looking patch program featuring Pennsylvania state parks. More than 20 patches have been produced and are ready for purchase. A portion of the proceeds from each patch sold is donated to PPFF. Imagine the adventures you can commemorate with a complete set of patches and a full Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests Passport. Visit www.PAPatchCo.com and get started on your collection today!



Engaging Youth in the Outdoors

Established in 2016, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps offers young people the opportunity to serve on a team completing conservation projects within Pennsylvania's state parks and forests, while at the same time gaining work experience, job training and skills to become successful stewards of our natural resources. With support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was able to partner with DCNR to partially support two crews, one out of St. Mary's and one out of Meadville. The crews supported a variety of projects, which included creating turtle basking platforms, performing trail repair and upgrades, and removing invasive species. PPFF had the pleasure of spending a day with the corps at Pymatuning State Park, where they assisted with graffiti removal. To learn more about the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps visit www.dcnr.pa.gov/outdoorcorps.

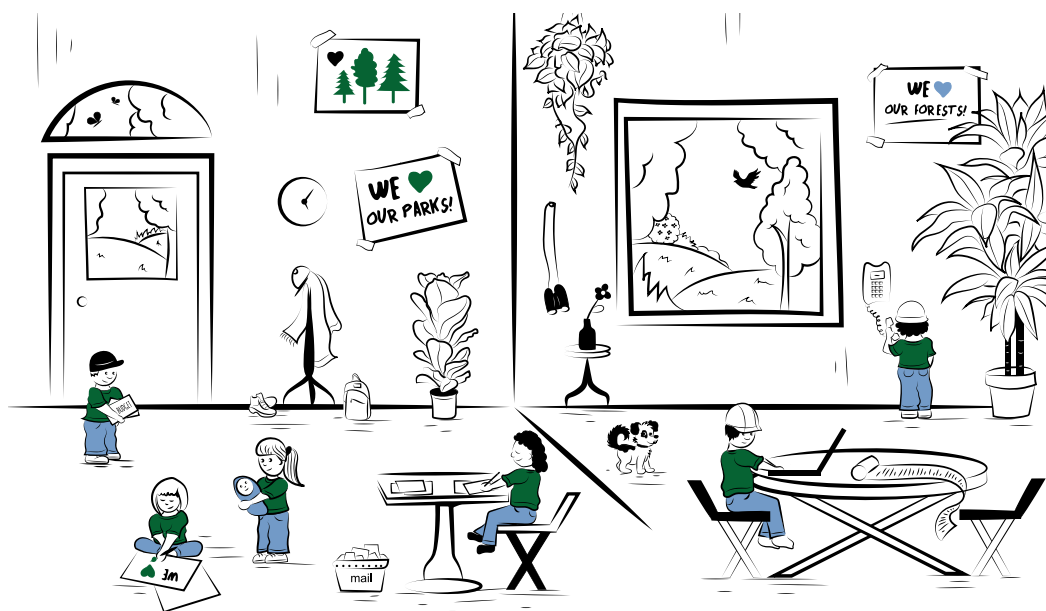
Members of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps St. Mary's group build steps at Kinzua Bridge State Park.



Photo credit: DCNR



If a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words, What is a Video Worth?
Did you know that there are more than 80 different job titles in the Bureaus of state parks and forests. To help the public better understand the various roles these positions play, Amanda and Intern Cameron created videos about the positions. From wastewater treatment plant operators to engineers to rangers to service foresters, it takes a host of people to keep our parks and forests safe and clean for the public. Additionally, PPFF worked with Cross and Crown to produce two videos about volunteerism and the foundation. All can be found on our youtube channel at: www.youtube.com/user/PAParksandForests



Reaching Out
“Many hands make light work” applies to the work that we do at PPFF. In 2017, we reached out to build relationships with the Chambers of Commerce across the state, as we understand the important role parks and forests play in attracting and retaining businesses and employees to the commonwealth. Again in 2017, the Foundation participated in the annual gathering of Chamber Executives.



“One White Pine,” by second grader Kenley Fryer.

“Nature of Nolde” Student Art Contest
Friends of Nolde Forest, along with the Nolde Forest staff and Art Plus Gallery organized the second annual “Nature of Nolde” Student Art Contest in 2017. Over 2,500 students participated, from which 75 were selected as finalists for an exhibit.

Forest Bathing Fact Sheet

Surrounding yourself in the beauty of the forest in the practice of Shinrin-yoku or forest bathing is a different way to experience the health benefits of the outdoors. Our fact sheet encourages readers to engage all their senses... and bask.



Find it on our website!



Closer to Every Park Having an Accessible Dock

Playing a part in PPFF’s mission to have an accessible dock in every park, Friends of Laurel Hill dedicated their kayak launch in 2017. The EZ Dock is not just for people with mobility issues, they are great for all paddlers. Visit <http://bit.ly/ppffoutdoorsforeveryone> to deposit a few dollars toward that “every park should have one” dream.

Photo credit: Friends of Laurel Hill

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

2017 PPFF Banquet Winners

• **Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award** • *Paul Felton*

Being raised in the woods in the Pocono Mountains Paul knew by age 12 that he wanted to become a forester. He did that and much more. At age 97, Paul is still leading hikes and overseeing tree plantings in the retirement community he now calls home. The life well lead is truly a Keystone Legacy.

• **Joseph E. Ibberson Government Award** • *Maryann Haladay-Bierly*

From 1982 (as a seasonal educator at Shikellamy State Park) through 27 more years at R.B. Winter State Park until her retirement in 2017, Maryann inspired and informed the public, including her fellow educators, through widely diverse programming, mentoring, and fun.

• **President's Award** • *The Graffiti Busters*

While removing graffiti in Michaux State Forest was a PPFF initiative, the true heroes of this story are the many partners and volunteers who took it from idea to reality, with more than 530 hours of volunteer time dedicated to restoring these 500 million-year-old rocks. Thanks to the Graffiti Busters, there has been very little new graffiti, no new fire rings, less trash, and the area feels safe and family friendly again.

• **Park of the Year Award** • *Shawnee State Park*

Shawnee State Park is the dream park package: a beautiful lake, rolling hills, numerous amenities and programs, as well as an innovative, knowledgeable, and a caring park staff that concentrates on maintaining the beauty and wellness of their park while establishing strong relationships with local volunteer groups and continually inviting new volunteers for projects.

• **Forest of the Year** • *Weiser State Forest*

The staff of the Weiser has placed an active emphasis on the connection between visitor access and improving habitat conditions in this large (nearly 30,000 acres and 50 Susquehanna River islands) and busy forest. Environmental education and community partnerships are also important, multiplying the impact of the staff and appreciation for the Weiser.

• **Volunteerism Award** • *Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve*

In just their first year as a chapter of the Foundation, they organized nature programs, performed two park clean-up and dump site removal events, and started planning for a very special new four-mile trail. The Tri-State Marker Trail travels to that point where Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania come together as surveyed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon.

• **Education Award** • *Friends of Mount Pisgah*

The Friends recognize the need to invest in projects that support education, as well as helping to provide the programs themselves. Recent projects include upgrading the Nature Center with new LED lights, tile flooring, and environmental education supplies. They built an amphitheater near the Nature Center, and purchased a pavilion near the playground, aptly named "Friends Pavilion."

• **Improvement Award** • *Boy Scout Troop 345*

The departure of one long-time volunteer left a void in the picnic-tabling building program at the park. But Troop 345 more than filled the void, constructing 15 tables their first year, five more the second, and planting trees that might eventually become more wood for more tables.

• **Young Volunteer Award** • *Katie Gustafson*

During the summer of 2016, Katie set out to reroute two washed out sections of the Adam's Run trail in Chapman State Park, totaling more than 400 feet. Katie scouted, GPS'd, and mapped the proposed reroutes, ran PA Natural Diversity Inventory surveys, and replaced or installed new culverts, all by hand. She volunteered over 120 hours while also continuing a full-time job with a local landscaping company.



Photo credit: Shawnee State Park



Photo credit: Boy Scout Troop 345



Photo credit: Katie Gustafson



We Asked and You Supplied

We had so many amazing photo entries to the annual "Through the Season" photo contest. The award-winning entries served as ambassadors of our parks and forests as they traveled the state, with an opening reception at the Community Arts Center of Cambria County.

IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT:

Conserving and continuing the legacy of our state parks and forests depends upon the time, talent, and financial support of people like you — YOU make it happen.

The depth of our gratitude cannot be expressed. We applaud your commitment to future generations of park and forest users. We are proud to work with you, shoulder to shoulder, on volunteer projects, at events, and on the trail.

We don't list individual donors in our annual report. Instead we choose to express our appreciation through our donor thank you calls, our letters, and our commitment to being responsive to your requests and our financial management to ensure your donations and memberships are doing great work for parks and forests — whether it be for projects or the staff person leading a team of volunteers.

We would like to recognize the following foundations, government grants, and corporate supporters:

Foundation/Grants

Community Foundation for the Alleghenies
PNC Bank
Recreation Equipment Incorporated, REI
Richard King Mellon
ShopRite/Wakefern Food
Stackpole Hall Foundation
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Government

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

Business/Corporate Donors

Advanced Communication Systems
AFSCME Council 13
AT&T
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia
CLIF Bar
CRA, Inc.
Creative Pultrusions
Dawood Engineering, Inc.
Dominion
Eastern Mountain Sports
Eddie Bauer
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park
George Ely Associates
Graphics&Design

Harrisburg Civic Club
Inside Track
Langan Engineering & Environmental Services
Latino Connection
Lindt Chocolate Factory Outlet of Carlisle
McKonly & Asbury LLP
Recreation Equipment Incorporated, REI
S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr
Stahl Sheaffer Engineering
SWELL
The H&K Group
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Williams

As well as all of our wonderful silent auction donors.



Building Relationships, Raising Revenue

When it comes to supporting projects in our parks and forests, sometimes you have to think outside of the box. In 2017, PPFF partnered with two local businesses to build relationships and to raise funds.

- A happy hour event at the Café Fresco in Harrisburg supported PPFF through celebrity bartenders and opportunities to win prizes. Over 100 people attended the event, making new friends and reacquainting with old.
- In October, we partnered with Tattered Flag Brewery and Distillery to co-brand a gin made from Pennsylvania Juniper berries. A portion of the sale of the gin goes to PPFF.
- Board member George Asimos hosted a get-to-know you event at the office of Saul Ewing LLC in Philadelphia. Two more are planned for 2018, one in Pittsburgh and one in Harrisburg.
- The Foundation was so excited to be accepted into the State Employees Combined appeal for 2017...AND we learned that we are again accepted for 2018! This is an easy way for state employees to support the foundation through payroll deduction.



Educational Improvement Tax Credit

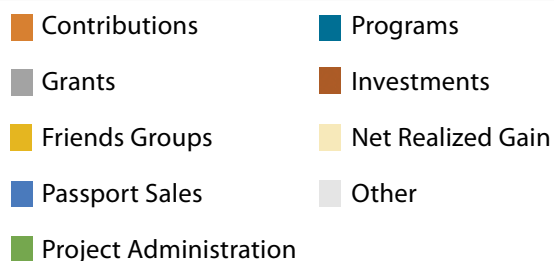
We would like to thank our 2017 Educational Income Tax Credit donors for their support of engaging youth in science and environmental learning in our parks and forests. **With gratitude to Troegs Brewing Company, Mid Penn Bank, and Waste Management.**

Planned Giving

To invest in the long-term sustainability of PPFF and our parks and forests, the Foundation launched a planned giving initiative. Planned giving, also referred to as gift planning and planned gifts or legacy giving/gifts, are designated through the assets of a person's estate. Some allow the donor to receive immediate tax benefits now — and even a recurring income for life. Others provide a way to include PPFF as a beneficiary. We've created the PPFF Conservation Legacy Society to thank supporters who further PPFF's mission through legacy gifts.

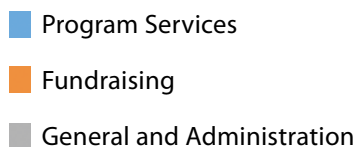


2017 FINANCIALS



Support and Revenue 2017 for PPFF, Friends Groups, and Park/Forest Projects

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| • Contributions (restricted and unrestricted) | \$950,973 |
| • Grant Income (project restricted) | \$155,701 |
| • Friends Group Fees | \$4,341 |
| • Passport Sales | \$9,495 |
| • Project Administration | \$10,808 |
| • Programs..... | \$3,950 |
| • Investment Income | \$25,299 |
| • Net Realized Gain on Stock | \$54 |
| • Other Revenue..... | \$4,669 |
| • Total | \$1,165,290 |



EXPENSES

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Program Services | \$985,846 |
| Friends Groups | |
| Park and Forest Needs List | |
| Photo Contest | |
| Stewards of Penn's Woods | |
| Outreach/Education/Events | |
| Constituent Programs | |
| Conservation Heritage Project | |
| Education and Training | |
| Accessibility/Barriers Removal | |
| • Fundraising | \$67,848 |
| • General and Administration | \$34,295 |
| • Total Expenses | \$1,087,989 |

The complete audited financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2017 is available by contacting Marci Mowery at mmowery-ppff@pa.net.
Funding for the annual report is made possible through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation and Partnerships Program.

In 2017, interpretive panels completed the restoration effort of Wharton Iron Furnace.

Friends of Goddard State Park Sheakleyville Homecoming Parade.

The Friends of Kings Gap hosted their annual Ghoulish Gallop one-mile fun run for kids.



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 & Lehr LLP

Nancy Ball
Retired, Lafayette College

George Fernandez
Latino Connection

Gus Frederick
FEMA

Brian Kavalukas
Direct Energy

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*



Photo credit: Kyle Yates, Cook Forest



1845 Market Street • Suite 202
Camp Hill, PA 17011
www.PaParksAndForests.org