

The Pinchot Eagle

Friends of Pinchot State Park



November 2018

Friends of Pinchot State Park Celebrates 10 Years!



Sometimes we get caught-up in thinking about all that remains to be done, but on occasion it is good to remember all that has been achieved. As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we reflect on what the Friends of Pinchot State Park (FOPSP) has accomplished over the past decade. We can be proud of our purpose and our volunteers!



Park Fixtures: The FOPSP has purchased 22 park benches for the park, as well as many picnic tables (*continued on page 4*).

Tree planted in honor of
conservationist Greg Schrum
(*story on page 2*)



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Redbud Planted in Memory of Conservationist Greg Schrum

Pinchot's 2018 volunteer appreciation picnic commenced with a ceremony and memorial tree planting in honor of conservationist and former State Park Bureau Chief, Greg Schrum, who passed earlier this year. The ceremony celebrated Greg's career accomplishments including creating standards for Pennsylvania parks management, establishing the PA Park Information Management System and spearheading the creation of the new Conservation Areas Program. Present for the ceremony were Greg's loved ones, members of the FOPSP, park volunteers, and members of the park staff.



An eastern redbud (a favorite of Greg's) was donated by the FOPSP and planted with the assistance of Greg's sons.



PHOTO BY BETSY LEPP

Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a small and graceful tree native to Pennsylvania. In the spring its glowing pink flowers appear in advance of the heart-shaped leaves.



WELCOME

The FOPSP would like to extend a warm greeting to the new Park Manager Devin Buzard and his family!

In mid-September, Gifford Pinchot State Park welcomed a new Park Operations Manager, **Devin Buzard**. Mr. Buzard replaces the recently retired Robert Deffner.

“It is a great honor to have this opportunity to undertake Gifford Pinchot’s stewardship and serve its many visitors,” Buzard said. “I look forward to working alongside a staff that already is performing exceptional work at a premier destination.”

The new park manager began his bureau career as field training coordinator with the Park Operations and Maintenance Division in Harrisburg. In 2013, he was appointed manager of Beltzville State Park, Carbon County, and most recently served as manager of the Tobyhanna State Park Complex in Monroe and Wayne counties.

Attaining the rank of corporal, Buzard served as a U.S. Marine Corps military policeman from 2002 to 2006. He graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor’s degree in recreation, park and tourism management.

A native of Clarion, Clarion County, Devin (age 34) and his wife are the parents of two children, ages 5 and 8.

FOPSP 10 Year Anniversary Highlights continued...



Lake Habitat Installations:

In collaboration with the park and the PA Fish & Boat Commission, the FOPSP has helped fund and install many habitat structures in Pinchot Lake to support fish and turtle populations. These structures include rock piles, turtle basking platforms, catfish spawning boxes, and porcupine fish cribs (pictured at left).



Playgrounds: In the past six years, FOPSP has installed 4 new playgrounds. You can see them in the Quaker Race Day Use Area (pictured above), within the B Loop of the Campground, at Conewago Day Use Area, and at the Campground Beach. The FOPSP is also responsible for supplying and replenishing the wood fiber that's used in the playgrounds' fall zones.

NATIVE PENNSYLVANIA WILDFLOWER SALE

PHOTOS BY BETSY LEPP



In spring of 2017 FOPSP held its first annual wildflower sale, to promote native plants and the pollinators that need them. This event also raises funds for the Friends of Pinchot. Leftover plants were donated by FOPSP to beautify the landscaping around the park office.

RESTORATION OF NATURAL HABITATS



PHOTO BY BETSY LEPP



PHOTO BY BETSY LEPP

The FOPSP partners with the park on a variety of habitat improvement projects. One project restored five vernal pool wetlands in the park. Another removed invasive shrubs and other woody vegetation from meadows in the park. These wetlands and glades provide important habitat for plants and wildlife and help preserve the unique biodiversity of the park.



PHOTO BY SALLY RAY



Trail Work: The FOPSP hosts the park's annual fall Trail Care Day (8 years running). This highly successful collaboration between park staff, the Keystone Trail Association, the Mason Dixon Trail System, and the FOPSP, has cumulatively restored a major section of the park's Lakeside Trail where it doubles as a segment of the Mason Dixon Trail.



Tree Plantings: The FOPSP has funded memorial tree plantings including a tree in honor of former Governor Pinchot's 150th birthday!

Pinchotween: The FOPSP hosts the park's annual Halloween event, "Pinchotween". Over the past decade, this fun event has offered games, crafts, and learning activities during the daytime, as well as trick-or-treat, a campsite decorating contest, and a bonfire for overnight guests.

Environmental Education: Support for environmental education and programming in the park has been a high priority for the FOPSP. We've provided direct support and assistance for programs like the summer interpretive pontoon boat rides, the annual First Day Hike, and other nature hikes. We've helped staff the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) and have dedicated significant funding for a plan to install new professionally designed interactive displays.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK



Looking back on ten years with the FOPSP An Interview with Jim Merlino, past Chairr

What was it that originally sparked the creation of the Friends of Pinchot State Park (FOPSP)?

Bill Rosevear, Jesse Taylor, Ryan Rager and I had some funds left over from a one-time special interest project and thought it would be a good thing to continue the effort. We began recruiting others and had an initial meeting in 2009.

How has the role of the FOPSP changed over the years?

Working with park management has helped us identify needs that have changed over the years. It started out with picnic tables and led to other things. To raise money, we initially purchased wood that was already split and sold it to the campers. Eventually we bought our own log splitter and increased the revenue by doing the work with FOPSP volunteers.

Looking back on the last 10 years of the FOPSP, what gives you the most pride?

Helping the park in providing improved recreation

What do the next 10 years look like for the FOPSP?

I would like to see the FOPSP build a playground in the Cabin Colony and possibly buy a pontoon boat.

As long as we can have volunteers to help, the future looks good!



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK

Gifford Pinchot State Park Websites

Whether you are a new or a long-time visitor to Gifford Pinchot State Park, here are some websites to find some great information on the park including recreational opportunities, maps, geology, and history:

- ⇒ <http://www.friendsofpinchot.org/home/newsletters>
- ⇒ <http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/GiffordPinchotStatePark/Pages/default.aspx>
- ⇒ <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/topo/parkguides/PG10.pdf>
- ⇒ http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/topo/ogf/OGF_BalancedRock_York.pdf
- ⇒ <https://www.ydr.com/story/opinion/columnists/2016/08/16/remember-toboggan-run-pinchot-park-column/8>

The park doesn't close in the colder months; the recreational opportunities simply change. If you find yourself with "cabin fever" or the "winter blues" consider visiting the park and pursuing one of the following recreations:

Snow Sports:

Snowshoeing the park's 18 miles of trail provides a fantastic opportunity to view wildlife when the park is less visited. Snow cover on the campground's closed roads provides excellent conditions for cross-country skiing.

Bird watching:

The fall and spring provide prime occasions to witness migratory birds passing through, on and around the lake. Also, snow cover will offer a white canvas to highlight wintering birds, during a time when there is less leaf cover and more visibility.

Ice fishing:

When conditions permit, the lake becomes a destination for ice fishing. It's important to learn how to check conditions yourself, when going out on the ice. Ice thickness and quality, as well as size and distance apart of your fishing holes are just a few of the considerations needed before stepping onto the ice. All PA Fish and Boat Commission rules are in effect for this activity. Visit the PFBC website for proper guidance in ice safety, fishing regulations, and best practices: <http://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/Fishing/Pages/IceWinterFishing.aspx> (search "PA Fish and Boat", "ice fishing")

*If boating during cold months, you must be wearing a personal floatation device (PFD). Cold weather "wear it" law is in effect from November 1st to April 30th.

Ice Skating:

When conditions permit, the park allows ice skating. Check with the park office to find designated areas. PFBC's Ice Thickness Guideline is also a good guide for this sport: http://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/Fishing/Documents/ice_thickness.pdf (search "PA Fish and Boat", "ice thickness")

Hunting:

The park is open in limited fashion to deer, small game, turkey, and waterfowl hunting. Check with the Park Office for specific rules, regulations, and designated hunting areas that apply to the park.

The colder months can still present days with great weather and great opportunities to simply be outside at Pinchot. Before visiting the park, visit the park's website and view the "Winter Report", to give you an idea of current winter conditions.

Winter Recreation at Pinchot



PHOTO BY BETSY LEPPA

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

By Gavin Smith, Assistant Park Manager

If you are willing to help, a place will be found for your talents, but the FOPSP is especially seeking volunteers for the following planned projects:

November 3rd 2018, April 6th 2019, May 4th 2019

Firewood Effort:

Seeking hardy adults with experience (or a willingness to learn) to help split, (hydraulic wood splitter) stack, and bundle firewood. This work supports the FOPSP's efforts to turn downed hazardous trees into campground firewood sales. It generates revenue that supports FOPSP park improvements. Volunteers will need to bring with them leather gloves and water. Help is needed throughout the camp season.

March 23rd 2019

Preparing Plants:

Seeking experienced gardeners to assist in potting, care, and preparation of young native plants for the annual Native Plant Sale.

April 20th 2019

Landscaping Project:

Seeking volunteers of all ages and capabilities to help establish and maintain flower beds, shrubs, and landscaping features around the park buildings, especially in the Quaker Race Day Use Area.

April 27th 2019

Native Plant Sale:

Seeking gardeners to assist in mobilizing plants to the sale location, organizing the plants for sale, assisting customers with questions about care, and assisting customers with loading sold plants into vehicles.

October 5th 2019

Trail Care Day:

Seeking hardy volunteers to help with this annual effort to improve the sections of the Lakeside Trail that serve as a segment of the Mason Dixon Trail System. A tailgate lunch will be provided. Volunteers will need to bring with them leather gloves and water.

To offer your assistance with any of the above efforts (or other things that you would like to help with), please email FOPSP@aol.com

DID YOU KNOW...

Nuthatches are a pleasant and common sight at Pinchot Park. They can be seen year-round scavenging the ground for seeds, or upside down on the bark of a tree foraging for bugs. White-breasted nuthatches are often sighted, but park visitors in the fall may experience the striking red-breasted nuthatch. Nuthatches gain their name from the habit of wedging food in the bark of a tree, then using their chisel-like beak to split it open.



White-breasted Nuthatch
(*Sitta carolinensis*)

A smaller relative, the brown-headed nuthatch, (native to states south of Pennsylvania) has taken its “nut hatching” skills a step further by utilizing a piece of bark to scrape and dig for insects in tree crevasses. This observed behavior has earned the brown-headed nuthatch recognition as a user of tools, a rare distinction in the animal kingdom.



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This volunteer advisory board is dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the natural and recreational resources of Gifford Pinchot State Park for present and future generations.

Friends of Pinchot State Park is a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). The PPFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Newsletter Editors:

Glen Dunbar and Betsy Leppo

FRIENDS OF PINCHOT STATE PARK

2018-19 Annual Membership Application

Make checks payable to: PPFF
(include FOPSP on the memo line)

Mail form with payment to: Friends of Pinchot State Park,
2200 Rosstown Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339.

☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ I would like to receive my newsletter via email.

☐ Senior (age 62+)	\$10.00	☐ Corporate	\$250.00+
☐ Individual	\$15.00	☐ I'd like to make a	
☐ Family	\$25.00	tax-deductible	
☐ Damselfly Sponsor		contribution of \$	_____
☐ (Family)	\$50.00		
☐ Dragonfly Sponsor			
☐ (Family)	\$100.00	TOTAL \$	_____

☐ I am interested in volunteering.

All members receive the Pinchot Eagle newsletter and discounts on souvenir T-shirts. New members receive a Friends of Pinchot State Park bumper sticker (while supplies last).

Friends of Pinchot State Park was formed in March 2009 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). The PPFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to PPFF are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Memberships are for one year, June 1 through May 31.