



REMARKS BY RICHARD LEWIS, PRESIDENT
PENNSYLVANIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

The members of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the nation's oldest forestry association, who are woodland owners, timber harvesting contractors, wood consuming companies, forestry and natural resource professionals and citizens interested in conservation are very aware of and concerned about the declining infrastructure of our Commonwealth's State Forests and State Parks.

For 133 years PFA members have worked to sustainably **manage and protect Pennsylvania's** forest, wildlife, water and recreational resources.

We recognize that we are at a critical point in maintaining the quality of the experience that our citizens will experience when they visit our State Forests and State Parks.

It is for this reason that the Pennsylvania Forestry Association is participating in this rollout of "The Legacy of Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests" Report. Our members recognize the need for and fully support the importance of investing in Pennsylvania's State Park and State Forest infrastructure....now!

The Report documents the visionary leadership that created a forest and park system that supports **Pennsylvania's economy and improves our human health and quality of life.**

The Report also details the investments we need to make in our State Forest and State Park infrastructure over the next decade in order to continue the story of success and this historical legacy of conservation for all Pennsylvanians. Investments that will allow our children to continue to safely learn to hike, to hunt, to boat and swim, or to roast hotdogs over a campfire.

It's time to stop asking those professionals who manage our vital State Park and State Forest assets to "make do" while they watch our campgrounds, buildings, rest stations, hiking trails, swimming beaches, boat ramps, dams, and forest roads to continue to become degraded.

The members of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, as well as the other conservation organizations here, ask Governor Wolf and our Pennsylvania Legislators to carefully review and study our degraded State Park and State Forest infrastructure.

We sincerely hope that our elected leaders today will express the same type of visionary leadership exhibited by Joseph Rothrock, the first President of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, Gifford Pinchot, Mira Lloyd Dock, and others who fought for the establishment of the **"crown jewels"** of Pennsylvania, our State Forests and State Parks.

We hope that our elected leaders' vision for the future of Pennsylvania includes restoring and maintaining these "crown jewels" so they can be fully enjoyed by future generations of Pennsylvanians.