

***Southern Chapter Retreat  
Buchanan State Forest  
March 16, 2019***

**NOTES**

Greetings from Marci

Jason Hall, Buchanan District Forester, gave the history and an overview of Buchanan State Forest

Attendees introduced themselves

Friends Group challenges:

- Finding members
- Recruiting new blood
- Permanent members
- Engaging the younger generation
- Improving communication within the group
- Fundraising to help support group
- Committed people
- Planning projects/sticking to timeline
- DCNR bureaucracy
- Just getting people to show up
- People, money, energy
- Staff changes at park

Tina Molski, REI (Member of the PPF Board of Directors and Friends Group Committee)

Spoke about support from PPF and Friends Group Committee

- Encouraged everyone to seek support from other groups (and give support to other groups)
  - There are a lot of different skill sets, so lots of help available
  - The committee is working on pairing groups with other groups and/or board members
- REI Grants- Must be in locations where REI employees live and recreate. Communicate your needs to PPF (a long-time REI partner) to help coordinate with REI and the existing PPF grant process.

Chapter “Braggs” – Get used to communicating your successes, telling people what you need

- Nolde: got new members and officers - people saw flyers, people who use the park often, new to the area, someone who was interested in the history of the park
- Buchanan: Leadership within group and work groups, relationship with DCNR (Forest staff), cleaning out trails, not a lot of people but very dedicated

- Pine Grove: Point of sale process, envelope in park office, making money, getting public to events
- Ohioople: Veteran's programing, Hellbender Defender study being done at park, selling themselves on Facebook
- Cowans Gap: Building on events year after year. Keep doing same events and interest builds

Infrastructure Presentation: Marci

PPFF by the numbers, Budget Talk, "recreation is an important economic engine"

Lunch

Tour of new building by Ranger Brian

A walk around the PPFF website:

- Calendar of Events – get info to Pam (or your environmental educator – they are tasked with getting your events on DCNR calendar which in turn feeds PPFF's)
- Check the website for accuracy and photo changes (and let Pam know of needs)
- Friends Resources – use them!

Q&A (members offered solutions and ideas to each other's questions and concerns)

- Insurance, why does it take so long? Why isn't language consistent?
- Important to have rep (manager) from park or forest at all meetings, put them on the agenda to give report
- Multiple people should have the authorization and passwords for social media
- Blue Mountain Sports, Chambersburg for merchandise

### **Problems and questions for PPFF to address:**

- On the Friends Group location map on website Cowans gap is in the wrong spot, no Buchanan Forest on map (this has been corrected – Pam)
- Donations: email cc to chapter – there is a strange space after street address and city, state and zip lines (Fred advised that this is because there is a field for a second line of the address; if there is no second line the system puts a blank space. Will correct when ALL emails are updated after PPFF office move – Pam)
- Reservation system: Should add information about events going on at the park for the dates they are booking
- Notify friends groups about any legislative meetings being held that groups may want to attend
- Insurance
- Dorene from Friends of Buchanan having some issues posting on Facebook (Amanda called her)