

# Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Summer 2019



*Friends of Pine Grove Furnace's lending library located in the woodshed at the campground.*



## Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

*Look What We've Accomplished Together Over the Past 20 Years!*

*New interpretive signs at Hammonds Rocks.*

**As you may recall from our spring issue, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) formed in 1999 as a means for users and supporters of state parks and forests to become involved.**

The formative years were spent building the organization, with some early projects focused on acquiring in-holdings and indentures to park and forest lands. Three acquisitions occurred in the early years—a parcel that became a part of M.K. Goddard State Park, the acquisition of land in partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy that provided a buffer for a large bat colony (which is unfortunately diminished due to White Nose Syndrome), and a parcel that became a part of the Delaware State Forest.

Jon Delano, currently of KDKA, served as the first president of the Foundation, helping to lay the groundwork for the new organization. First on board as a Friends group: Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund. From tree plantings to public awareness of light pollution, their work helped to earn Cherry Springs the designation as an international dark sky park, as well as its rise as an international tourist destination (see sidebar on page 5).

From 2002 to 2005, Jack Keith served as the president of PPFF. During his tenure, Jack launched eight Friends groups. Marci Mowery took the helm of the Foundation in 2005, and building on the solid groundwork laid by Jon, Jack, and the board of directors, continued to build on the mission of the organization. Today we prepare to launch our 45th Friends group!



*Jon Delano, currently of KDKA, served as the first president of the Foundation, helping to lay the foundation for the new organization.*

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Photo credit: Sean Cornell

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Photo credit: Mike Walsh

Former and current Pennsylvania state park directors.

# President's Message

Marci Mowery



As I write this, it is the calm after a windstorm that swept across Pennsylvania, causing damage to property and sending our little shed (where we keep graffiti removal products) across the porch. Perhaps it portends another year of unusual weather—much like the heavy rains of 2018 that caused damage across our state park and forest system.

Pressures on our parks and forests mount—from infrastructure needs to increased visitation to the impacts of climate change. As we travel the state—discussing the need to invest in our public lands—we see first-hand the challenges that we face. It took years to reach this point—and it will take time to repair and restore our parks and forests. And it will take a team of dedicated people, like you dear reader, who come together and collectively use our voices to say “Enough! Our parks and forests are the common property of all Pennsylvanians, and as such we demand stewardship of these resources.”

We hope to launch a website dedicated to the maintenance needs of our parks and forests—where we can all gather to advance the mission of restoration. Keep an eye on our current website at [www.PaParksAndForests.org](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org) to mark our progress.

By the time you read this, we will hopefully be settled in our new office (see page 14). As some of you may recall, our current building will be razed for new construction. We have had a good eight years in Camp Hill Borough and have enjoyed being a part of the community. Moving provides us

*“Our parks and forests are the common property of all Pennsylvanians, and as such we demand stewardship of these resources.”*

a great opportunity to reflect and declutter, so we are sure our next adventure will be rewarding and we look forward to your visit at our new location.

Another transition is the retirement of our office manager Beth and the hiring of Andreja Rocknage. See page 6 for additional information.

May is a time of celebration for us, with our 13th annual banquet celebrating some amazing accomplishments. Check out the award winners on page 15. We couldn't do it without our amazing sponsors and silent auction donors. Thank you to all!

**It is photo contest time again!** The 2018 award winners will be traveling the state. Keep an eye on our calendar for opening receptions. And perhaps you'll pull out your camera or smartphone and join the fun. See page 7 for more details. We have a new software system for uploading and entering your images—bear with us as we work through any kinks this first year.

As always, thank you for your support—you are making great things happen in our state parks and forests!

*Yours in the outdoors,  
Marci*

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## PPFF 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trivia (and Giveaway!)

To celebrate our 20th Anniversary, each Penn's Stewards newsletter this year will have five trivia questions to answer. For each trivia question you answer correctly, your name will be put into a drawing to win some of the awesome PPFF merchandise we have accumulated over the years. **Congratulations to our Spring Newsletter winner Mike Flickinger, who won a long-sleeved glow-in-the-dark Cherry Springs State Park T-shirt!**

Keep in mind, the answers to the trivia questions could be in the newsletter, on our website or even our Facebook page, so be prepared to explore a bit—something we love doing at PPFF!

Send your answers from the summer newsletter to [newsletter@PaParksAndForests.org](mailto:newsletter@PaParksAndForests.org) by September 4.

**Trivia #1:**  
Where do the archived newsletters and annual reports of the foundation reside on our website?

# Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation *continued from front cover*

## Trying New Things

In addition to the continued development of the Friends groups, the Foundation began hosting events, raising money towards projects, and testing new ideas.

For example, in 2007, in partnership with Keystone Trails Association, PPF sponsored four different outdoor events: Oil Creek Outdoors, Hike the Hickory, Prowl the Sproul, and Absorb the Forbes. In 2018, PPF and our Friends hosted more than 115 events attracting more than 118,000 participants.



*Absorb the Forbes was one of four outdoor events that PPF sponsored in 2007 in partnership with Keystone Trails Association.*

For several years, state park collector pins were sold, helping to fund projects like an accessible fishing pier at Cook Forest State Park. This activity convinced us that there could be a connection between merchandise sales and projects.

The Annual Awards program launched in 2007 with the “boys” of the Civilian Conservation Corps being the recipients of the first Keystone Legacy Award designed to honor an individual (or group of individuals) who best exemplify and promote the cause of conservation and stewardship. From lifelong volunteers like 2017’s Paul Felton to environmental leaders like Franklin Kury, the now-renamed Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award (and indeed all of the annual awards) give all of us reason to celebrate the best of our parks and forests.

## Creating Connections

The youngest environmentalists are never far from our thinking. In 2008, PPF introduced the “Mission Green PA” activity book for children and in 2011 the “Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests Passport,” which includes visit suggestions geared to young park and forest visitors (see page 8). 2016 saw the summer project “Light on the Screen, Heavy on the Outdoors” social media campaign. Under development? Flat Ranger!



*Tanya and Steve Kohl completed their Passport to the State Parks and Forests in April of this year with a visit to Raccoon Creek State Park and Jennings Environmental Education Center. These hikers and wildflower enthusiasts chose two perfect parks to conclude their quest. But they certainly won't be their last state parks visited.*

When it comes to recreation and the younger set, who can forget playgrounds? The Leah Vogel Memorial Playground Fund was established in 2011 to honor the memory of Marci's beloved niece and is the repository for funds raised as an organization for playgrounds in parks. An accessible playground at Samuel S. Lewis State Park (Leah's neighborhood) was the first of these. The first chapter-installed playground came in 2008 when the Friends of Keystone installed one at the beach. Since then, chapters at Gifford Pinchot, Caledonia, Canoe Creek, Oil Creek, Shikellamy, Nolde Forest natural area, Little Buffalo, Mt. Pisgah, Black Mo, Pymatuning and Oil Creek are on the ground. Plans for playgrounds at M.K. Goddard and Ohiopyle are moving forward. And forgive us if we missed a few—the chapters have been busy!



*The Leah Vogel Memorial Playground Fund built its first playground at Sam Lewis State Park in July 2012.*

*continued on page 4*

# Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation *continued from page 3*

*"I spent my childhood summers in Neshaminy State Park's pool and playground. One of my very first dates with the man who is now my husband was a picnic in Tyler State Park. I recently picked up a Parks and Forests Passport and began revisiting my favorite local parks, and found some gems I never knew about!"*

*Jeanette Applegate, Warminster*

Sometimes an idea grows in ways one never really expects. Take dogs. We think we were at the forefront (forepaw?) of the current hot dog trend with our first "Bark in the Park" event at Colonel Denning State Park in 2009. Along with agility demonstrations and canine-centric products, the day featured a "Dogs in the Outdoors" photo contest. Ten years later, our "Parks and Forests Through the Seasons" photo contest still features that category.



*Nittany Carty was the winner from PPF's inaugural Dogs in the Outdoors photo contest in 2010.*

Photo Credit: Vanessa Carthy



*PPFF hosted its first "Bark in the Park" event at Colonel Denning State Park in 2009.*

Photo Credit: Pam Metzger

## **The Power of Partnerships**

In 2008, the first Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge felt like the right idea! It was a DIY-er's dream—pick a place, recruit your friends, do the activity you love, raise a little money. The GPOC morphed over the next few years and reached at its peak 1,500 participants, setting the tone for helping us encourage YOU to explore the outdoors.

In 2015, "The Stewards of Penn's Woods" launched, a volunteer program geared toward independent spirits who work when they want and when they can. Volunteers removed more than 150 bags of trash, 18 tires, miscellaneous metal, a swing set, a crock pot, and cinder blocks. Opportunities still abound for you to find your state forest stewardship niche.

As the program developed, 37 graffiti hotspots across the commonwealth were identified by DCNR. Volunteers—a.k.a. the Graffiti Busters—took on a few of these spots in 2016, beginning with the largest location, Hammonds Rocks in Michaux State Forest. More than 6,500 square feet of graffiti covered this 500 million year old rock outcropping. The Graffiti Busters next took on Beam Rocks and Cove Rock in Forbes State Forest. With the help of volunteers and 40 students from the University of Pittsburgh, more layers of paint were removed. Your donations helped to make these areas enjoyable places for families to explore once again.

Partnerships are key to conserving our parks and forests—be they Friends groups, volunteers, corporations, or members/donors. A partnership with Tattered Flag Still Works produced a co-branded gin! A portion of all sales supports the work of the Foundation.



Photo Credit: Marci Mowery

*In 2015, "The Stewards of Penn's Woods" launched, a volunteer program geared toward independent spirits who work when they want and when they can.*



Photo Credit: Marci Mowery

*Graffiti Busters in Michaux State Forest.*

# Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

## “The Outdoors is for Everyone”

This is the key idea that sums up everything the Foundation stands for. We are committed to expanding the availability of recreation and the health benefits of being outside to every Pennsylvanian. Together, we work to ensure that every age, race, and ethnicity is welcome on our public lands; we speak on behalf of every park and forest from the smallest to the largest with the same strong voice, we (and especially you) are broadcasting the knowledge that we all have a friend in Pennsylvania.

*History was preserved through your support of the restoration and interpretation of the Wharton Iron Furnace in the Forbes State Forest.*



## Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund

The first Friends group in the PPFF stable was the Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund founded right out of the box in 1999. The Dark Sky Fund’s mission was no different from any of the chapters that have followed over the next 20 years—contribute to the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the park or forest being served by the chapter.

Anyone who has visited to the northern tier of Pennsylvania knows that the nights are dark there. With no large cities and few large towns in the immediate vicinity, the lack of light pollution results in an ability to really enjoy the night sky. And the Dark Sky Fund members—mostly astronomers whose livelihoods and hobbies were dependent on and devoted to seeing what’s up there—were determined from the first to see that it stayed that way.

DCNR designated Cherry Springs as its first Dark Sky Park in 2000. Soon, Thom Bemus of the National Public Observatory approached the park to conduct public stargazing programs called “Stars-n-Parks,” with other astronomical groups following suit. These private events include public viewing nights allowing the astronomers to introduce park visitors to sights they may never have been able to enjoy before. And the existence of the Dark Sky Fund made it possible for donations from the star parties to be directed back to the park itself.

In 2008, the International Dark Sky Association named Cherry Springs State Park its second Gold Level Dark Sky Park in the world, giving rise to the park’s claim to have “The Darkest Skies East of the Mississippi.”

Tens of thousands of visitors now come to Cherry Springs State Park for organized events. Some of the projects the Association has developed include creation of a field “etiquette” guide; improving the observation field by taking down overhead electric lines; refitting the pavilion and the restrooms with red lighting; planting trees and erecting fencing for screening of the observation field from passing traffic; and assisting with education programs.

The Association has forged a very positive relationship with their neighbors in surrounding communities, providing education for the local schools and partnering with businesses interested in serving the influx of truly international visitors. In the works now is a “Solar System Drive” on the main route to the park to accompany an informational video ([YouTube.com/watch?v=xww2gDLkK6A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xww2gDLkK6A)) for new visitors.

A park master plan is under development by DCNR seeking to combine two seemingly incompatible goals—the continued protection of the night sky and the public’s enjoyment of the astronomical wonders revealed there.



Photo credit: John Blough



The Foundation would like to thank our 1% for the Planet supporters for their commitment to both conservation and the work of the Foundation.

*These include:  
Purple Lizard Maps, Morris Invest  
and Stick City Brewing Company*

## Farewell to Beth, Welcome Andreja

Our moods were blue when we knew we had to bid farewell to “our Beth,” PPF’s first office assistant. Beth’s organizational skills made her indispensable from the first day she walked into the office and we really don’t know how in the world we ever managed without someone to keep us all moving in the same direction. Beth’s retirement and need for a break left a gap smack dab in the center of the office (literally) and in our hearts, as well.

**But all is not lost!** Along comes Andreja Rocknage to serve as our new office assistant. With a degree in architecture and experience with event planning and coordination plus graphic design, we look forward to seeing her creativity. With three young children, Andreja still manages to find time for her interests in photography, playing the piano, and singing with the choir.



*Welcome Andreja to the PPF family!*

**Trivia #2:**  
*Where will you find the photo gallery tour in July?*

## Gone But Not Forgotten



### Donald M. Hoskins, 1930-2018

Donald was Pennsylvania’s state geologist from 1987 until 2001. Everyone who loves maps (and it seems many outdoorsy folks certainly do) owe Donald a debt of gratitude for his stewardship of the Pennsylvania Geologic Survey and his tireless promotion of the science of geology to anyone who would listen.



### Doug Woy, 1947-2019

A founding member of the Friends of Caledonia, Doug spent countless hours volunteering for the Friends, eventually becoming the treasurer. He could always be counted on to do basically anything and whatever job needed to be done.

### Nancy Walker, 1928-2019

A lifelong lover of dogs and the joy in the outdoors they make possible, Nancy was a long-time board member for the Friends of Shikellamy.



### Thomas W. Haddock, 1940-2019

A Pennsylvania forestry warden for over 30 years and “wonderful guy,” Thomas was at the William Penn State Forest District when Marci’s Joe began work there. He even made Joe a shirt because he knew it would take a while for one to arrive!

*At our 13th Annual Awards Banquet, PPF remembered those we’ve lost over the past year. To view the video, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2019InMemoriam>*

# 2019 PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline  
to Submit  
Photos:  
Sept. 4, 2019

All photos must be taken in a Pennsylvania state park or forest. For more information about categories and prizes, as well as a complete set of contest rules and submission details, visit:

[www.PaParksAndForests.org/get-involved/photo-contest](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org/get-involved/photo-contest)



Photo Credit: Rusty Glessner, Whipple Dam State Park

## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

The annual PPF "Through the Seasons" photo contest is a great opportunity to convey through pictures why our state parks and forests are special to you and to show off your photography skills—whether amateur or professional!

### CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

Selfie • Dogs In the Outdoors • Other Wildlife Sightings  
Park and Forest Adventures • Motion • Intergenerational Joy  
Young Photographers (ages 12-17)

The winning photographs will be featured on PPF's website, Facebook page, newsletter, and other electronic and print communications, as well as a state-wide gallery tour.

**Gallery Tour:** 6/10-6/25 • Leonard Harrison State Park  
7/9-7/22 • Marsh Creek State Park  
8/12-8/28 • Poe Valley State Park  
8/29-9/30 • Cook Forest State Park

## Plan Ahead

Continue the legacy of conservation of our state parks and forests for future generations through a bequest or life income gift to PPF.



## 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](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org)

# SKILL BUILDER

## Hiking With Children and Teens

### Introducing the next generation to the wonders of the great outdoors

Did you know that the love for the great outdoors isn't a trait we inherit? It is a learned behavior—one that needs to be fostered and encouraged. Taking children on a hike is the first step in helping them develop a life-long relationship with nature. Plus, it's great way to bond as a family!

Recognized as one of the most popular outdoor activities in Pennsylvania, hiking can lead to countless adventures—from finding beautiful vistas and waterfalls to exploring wetlands and old growth forests. Also, spending time in nature improves mood and self-esteem.

When hiking with children and teens, remember it's more about the journey than the destination. Below are a few tips for planning a successful hike. And just in case you find yourself wondering if it's all worth it, the answer is definitely "yes!"

### Keep it Simple.

Pick a short, interesting hike and allow lots of time. Look for a trail that has a unique feature—whether an overlook, historic site or waterfall—and set that as a goal to reach. Allow kids time to explore and investigate things along the way.

### Make it Fun.

Let children help read the trail map and decide what trail to take. Talk about the length of the trail, how to use a compass (if needed) and recognize trail markers. Look for interesting plants and signs of animals. Give children a chance to take turns leading the hike and setting the pace. Use encouragement to keep your child moving. Hiking with other families can make it more fun, as well. **HikeitBaby** is a group that supports families with babies and young children to get outside and connect to nature. Visit their website at <http://hikeitbaby.com/find-your-city> to find a group near you.

### Pack for Success.

Give each child a small pack with a healthy snack in it, as well as a water bottle and binoculars or hand lens. Check the weather beforehand and be sure to wear or pack the appropriate clothes. Consider dressing kids in bright, visible clothing so they can easily be spotted on the trail.

### Play it Safe.

Be sure to stop for breaks and drink frequently. Plan your route beforehand to familiarize yourself with the trail's length and features. Also, don't forget to pack sun protection, first aid supplies and rain gear.

### Teach Stewardship.

When on a hike, demonstrate the concept of "carry in, carry out" by making sure all trash is collected. Also teach children of all ages to observe wildlife from a distance, never pick plants and stay on the trail.

*Now that we've shared some of our trail tips with you, we'd love to hear from you! Email us your tried-and-true tips for hiking with kids and favorite kid-friendly hikes in Pennsylvania state parks or forests. Plus, don't forget to include pics!*



Photo credit: Tom McCorkle



Photo credit: Harrisburg Inspiring Connections Outdoors



Photo credit: Gloria Bentler

### The Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests Passport Provides Kid-Friendly Hikes!

The Passport includes maps, a history of the state's park and forest system, a brief description and most memorable feature of each state park and forest, and additional resources and areas of interest, including kid-friendly hikes. Participants can track their visits to our public lands by initialing their book or having it stamped at the park or forest office. The following are just a few examples of kid-friendly hikes found in the Passport:

*The Deshong Trail at the Kerper Tract in Buchanan State Forest*

*Lakeside Trail in Cowans Gap State Park*

*The Henry Wood Trail at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center*

*The Tunnel Trail at Tuscarora State Forest*



# UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS [www.PaParksAndForests.org/events](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org/events)



## JUNE

- 6/1 Friends of Worlds End: Worlds End Ultra-Volunteer Opportunity
- 6/1 Friends of Ohiopyle: Monthly Trail Day
- 6/1 Friends of Ridley Creek: Monthly Trail Day
- 6/1 Friends of Beltzville: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 6/2 Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain (Bluegrass)
- 6/3 PPF: Lappy Hour at Arooga's in Downtown Harrisburg
- 6/3 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 6/5 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 6/8 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Iron Run Half Marathon/Charcoal Challenge 5k
- 6/8 Friends of Nockamixon: Kids' Fishing Tournament
- 6/8 Friends of Cowans Gap: Cowans Gap Summer Concert Series
- 6/9 Friends of Kings Gap: Kings Gap Heritage Day
- 6/10 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 6/12 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 6/14 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Summer Solstice Square Dance
- 6/15 Friends of Cowans Gap: Art in the Park
- 6/15 Friends of Black Moshannon: PA Wilds Child
- 6/15 Friends of Cook Forest: Owls of Pennsylvania & Basket Raffle
- 6/15 Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Music on the Beach
- 6/16 Friends of Lyman Run: Father's Day Breakfast and Kayak Tour
- 6/17 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 6/19 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 6/22-23 Friends of Goddard: Pioneer Frolic
- 6/22 Friends of Rothrock: Volunteer Training and Work Day with the Friends of Rothrock
- 6/23 Friends of Nolde Forest: 10th Anniversary Run for the Ages
- 6/24 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 6/26 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 6/27 Friends of Beltzville: Garden Work Days-Connect with Nature
- 6/29 Friends of Shawnee: Fireworks on the Lake and Art in the Park
- 6/30 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park

## JULY

- 7/1 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 7/3 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 7/5 Friends of Lyman Run: Kayak Tour and Dessert
- 7/6 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Children's Decorated Bicycle Parade at Crooked Run Campground
- 7/6 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park
- 7/6 Friends of Ohiopyle: Monthly Trail Day
- 7/6 Friends of Ridley Creek: Monthly Trail Day
- 7/7 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park
- 7/7 Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain
- 7/8 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 7/10 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 7/13 Friends of Cowans Gap: Cowans Gap Summer Concert Series
- 7/13 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park
- 7/13 Tioga State Forest: Free Guided Public Tour
- 7/14 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park
- 7/15 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 7/17 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 7/20-21 Friends of Black Moshannon: 33rd Annual Summer Festival
- 7/20 Friends of Laurel Hill: Laurel Hill Adventure Race
- 7/20 Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Music on the Beach
- 7/20 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park
- 7/20 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Kids with Kayaks



- 7/20 Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Day
- 7/21 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park
- 7/22 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 7/24 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 7/25 Friends of Beltzville: Garden Work Days-Connect with Nature
- 7/27 Friends of Worlds End: Volunteer for Worlds End Day
- 7/27 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park
- 7/27 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Small Foot Trail Run
- 7/27 Friends of Lyman Run: Dutch Oven Dinner
- 7/28 Friends of Shawnee: Art in the Park
- 7/29 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 7/31 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day

## AUGUST

- 8/3 Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Fun on the Beach Day
- 8/3 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Women in the Wild
- 8/3 Friends of Ohiopyle: Monthly Trail Day
- 8/3 Friends of Ridley Creek: Monthly Trail Day
- 8/3 Friends of Beltzville: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 8/4 Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain (Bluegrass)
- 8/5 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 8/7 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 8/10-11 Friends of Goddard: Music at the Marina
- 8/10 Friends of Cowans Gap: Cowans Gap Summer Concert Series
- 8/12 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 8/14 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 8/17-18 Friends of Laurel Hill: Laurel Hill Bluegrass Festival
- 8/17 Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Music on the Beach
- 8/19 Friends of Beltzville: Friends of Beltzville State Park Shore Line/Kayak Clean Up
- 8/19 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 8/21 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 8/26 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 8/28 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 8/29 Friends of Beltzville: Garden Work Days-Connect with Nature
- 8/30-31 Friends of Shawnee: Kid's Catfish Fishing Derby
- 8/31 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Camper Appreciation Day
- 8/31 Friends of Lyman Run: Kayak Tour & Dessert
- 8/31-9/1 Friends of Ohiopyle: Music in the Mountains

## SEPTEMBER

- 9/1 Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain (Celtic)
- 9/2 Friends of Laurel Hill: Labor Day Bake Sale
- 9/4 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 9/7 Friends of Ohiopyle: Monthly Trail Day
- 9/7 Friends of Ridley Creek: Monthly Trail Day
- 9/7 Friends of Beltzville: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 9/9 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 9/11 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 9/13 Friends of Lyman Run: Kayak Tour & Dessert
- 9/14-15 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Patriots in the Park
- 9/16 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 9/18 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 9/21 Friends of Keystone: Paddle Against Pollution
- 9/22 Friends of Rothrock: Rothrock Trail Fest II
- 9/23 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day
- 9/25 Friends of Nockamixon: Trail Maintenance Work Day

## 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 Michaux

Friends of Milton

Friends of Mont Alto

Friends of Mt. Pisgah

Friends of Nockamixon

Friends of Nolde Forest

Friends of Ohioyle

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

Friends of Ryerson Station

Friends of Shawnee

Friends of Shikellamy

Friends of State Line Serpentine Barrens

Friends of Varden Conservation Area

Friends of Weiser-Haldeman/Greenland Tracts

Friends of Weiser-Roaring Creek Tract

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 Beltzville*

Nestled in the southern foothills of the Pocono Mountains is scenic Beltzville State Park, a natural haven that is popular with hikers, anglers, and water recreation enthusiasts.

The Friends of Beltzville formed in 2015 armed with a mission statement that reads: "The Friends of Beltzville State Park are dedicated to the enhancement and conservation of the park." And that is just what they are doing.

Encouraging more visitors to enjoy the park, the group started one-hour "Weekly Walks" that are held every Thursday at 11 a.m.\* and open to the public to attend. This is a great opportunity to enjoy nature and the company of others. The group also organizes "Hike with the Friends" events several times a year. Everyone is welcome to join in on the hikes, which are on varied trails, including wooded paths, old roads, and mowed walkways through forest, creeks, valleys, and along the shore of Beltzville Lake. Upcoming hikes include Oct. 13, 2019 at Wildcreek Trailhead and Nov. 10, 2019 at Trinity Gorge Trailhead.

Knowing the importance of pollination, the Friends of Beltzville put in a pollinator garden near the park office. The garden is an opportunity to educate visitors on how the needs of plants and wildlife go hand-in-hand. The garden has been a big success, attracting lots of bees and butterflies. The group gets together throughout the summer for "Garden Days" to keep it well tended.

Each year, the Friends of Beltzville plan several trail maintenance and clean up days. At this year's "Keep PA Beautiful" roadside clean up, volunteers collected 32 bags of trash. Keep PA Beautiful Shoreline and International Coastal clean ups are also being planned. Trail maintenance work days started last fall, with spring and summer dates getting added. Visit their active Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/beltzvillestateparkfriends](http://www.facebook.com/beltzvillestateparkfriends) for dates and times.

\* Unless it's really raining



*A group gathered for the "Weekly Walk."*



*New pollinator garden attracts bees and butterflies.*



*"Keep PA Beautiful" roadside clean up day.*



*The Friends of Beltzville is always looking for new members and volunteers. Check out their website at [www.fobsp.org](http://www.fobsp.org) for more information.*

## More Friends In Action:

The *Friends of Cowans Gap* completed their 5th Annual 5K Run/Walk on the first Sunday in April with everyone from babies to grandmas out to enjoy a little time in the park. Next up for the Friends is the annual lakeside summer concert series.



Sally Ray received DCNR's Individual Volunteer of the Year award on March 29. The ceremony noted Sally's leadership and stewardship as an advisor for educational program-



ing, in her role as a co-founder and treasurer for the *Friends of Pinchot*, as an active trail monitor, in her contributions to herpetology, and as an advocate for the park's ecologically valuable features. The park also benefits from visits by Sally's daughter, invertebrate zoologist Betsy Leppo, as well as Sally's grandchildren so her legacy is strong.

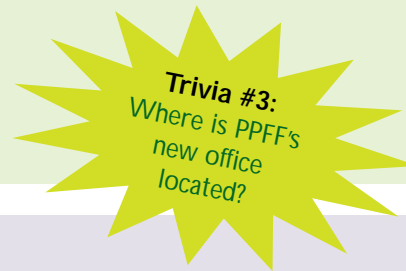
The *Friends of Lyman Run* hosted a series of Winter Adventure Hikes during the cold weather months, including this excursion in February. The word from the Friends is that on warm summer nights this same overlook affords a pretty spectacular view of the Milky Way.



The *Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve* joined with two partner organizations for a spring clean-up at the Preserve on April 6. They filled one dumpster with trash and tires and another with concrete pieces to be recycled at the maintenance building, and attacked threatening invasive plants along the stream banks.



The *Friends of Ohiopyle* are justifiably proud of their role in the park's veterans programming. FOO joins park staff, Trout Unlimited, and Team River Runner to offer active and retired military personnel and their families free fly fishing clinics, rafting and float trips, and hiking or snowshoe adventures.



**Trivia #3:**  
Where is PPF's new office located?

## Memorial or Honorary Gifts

You can honor the memory of a special person or joyous occasion while supporting PPF's work in conservation, recreation, education, and volunteerism in our state parks and forests. Download a form at [www.PaParksAndForests.org/support/ways-to-give](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org/support/ways-to-give)



YOU TEACH. YOU GUIDE. YOU SHARE YOUR LOVE FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S PUBLIC LANDS.



With a planned gift to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, your goal of caring for the places and people you love will continue long into the future.

Arrange a planned gift through the PPF Conservation Legacy Society.

Learn more at [PAParksAndForests.org/Support/Planned-Giving/PPFF-Conservation-Legacy-Society](http://PAParksAndForests.org/Support/Planned-Giving/PPFF-Conservation-Legacy-Society).



## YOU Made it Happen

**An Accessible Pavilion is a Welcome Addition at Pymatuning State Park**  
Pavilions provide sanctuary from the spring rains and summer sun, serve as gathering places for friends and family, and host many a reunion.



### Friends Lunch and Learn

Friends gathered at the new Buchanan State Forest Resource Conservation Center to share their challenges and successes, and to learn from one another. The discussion was hardy and the food delicious.

Visitors to Pymatuning State Park have a new accessible pavilion option. Built by the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps and furnished with accessible picnic tables through your support, the new pavilion will be a welcome addition at the park.



### A Win-Win Partnership

Dawood Engineering has been a multi-year partner with PPFf supporting our efforts to build the volunteer base in state parks and forests. Their annual Christmas holiday card features an image from the annual photo contest

with a link to our work. In exchange, they make a donation to the foundation. This year they also supported the ADA Kayak Launch at Little Buffalo State Park.

### PPFF Testifies to the Needs of our State Parks and Forests

Members of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee invited the Foundation to testify to the needs of our state parks and forests, and why it is important to invest in these public lands. Representative Mark Longietti, minority chair of the committee and PPFf board member, and PPFf President Marci Mowery pose for a picture after the testimony and before dashing off to an information hearing on a bike route on Route 6.



### Grant Funds New Play Opportunities

The young and young-at-heart will find new play opportunities at Samuel S. Lewis State Park thanks to a grant from Harley-Davidson Foundation. Stay tuned as we work with the park to move this project forward.



### Engaging Elected Officials

With your support, a legislative breakfast, co-hosted with the Pennsylvania Recreation and

Parks Society, provided a forum in which to discuss the factors impacting our state parks and forests, such as the need to invest in maintenance and staff, and the concerns we have regarding transfers of the Keystone Fund and Environmental Stewardship Fund.



### Park and Recreation Caucus

A new bicameral, bipartisan caucus formed in the Pennsylvania General Assembly focused on parks and recreation. Co-chairs include Representative Bob Freeman, Representative Lee James, Senator Judy Schwank and Senator Tom Killion. We look forward to working with the caucus on park, forest, and recreation issues.

### Improvements to be Made at Two State Forests

Visitors to Buchanan and Gallitzin state forests will soon see some improvements, empowered by your support and a grant from the REI Bedford Distribution Center. A Civilian Conservation Corps chimney will see a rebuild in Buchanan and a new hiking trail footbridge will occur in Gallitzin. Stay tuned to see the improvements.

**Restroom Makeover**  
Three campground restrooms at Ohiopyle State Park are sporting a new look thanks to your support, a grant from the McKenna Foundation, and the hard work of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps. The steel shingles are the first in the state, with a life expectancy of 50 years and when removed, can be recycled, keeping them out of the landfill. Thanks to Ohiopyle State Park Manager Ken for his pioneering spirit for looking for new options to steward our resources.



# MEETING THE NEEDS of Our Parks and Forests

In January, supporters from across the state joined the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation at the unveiling of the report outlining the need to invest in the maintenance and staffing of our state parks and forests. Since then, PPF has been hitting the road, meeting with members of the press, touring our state parks and forests, and building the stakeholder base of citizens, businesses, and industries who will join us in speaking out for the need to invest in these public lands.



**Pay now or pay later:** When we defer maintenance, such as replacing a roof, we are often then faced with additional costs, such as replacing a ceiling or restoring a hardwood floor. How is it fiscally responsible to defer maintenance on these special places that are the trusts of the state, as set forth in the Environmental Rights Amendment to the state constitution?



**CBS 21 News** toured Codorus State Park to get a better understanding of the issues facing our state parks and forests.

View the footage at:  
<https://local21news.com/news/local/state-parks-and-forest-advocates-calling-for-action>

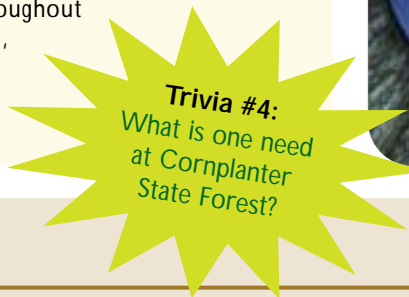


### Restore PA Tour

PPFF President Marci Mowery joined DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn on several tours of state park and forest infrastructure needs, including a visit to Memorial Lake State Park, whose dam would benefit from expansion of the spillway.



**Rain events in 2018** lead to the collapse of this bridge at White Clay Creek Preserve. Of the more than 860 bridges throughout our park and forest system, 144 of them are structurally deficient.



**Trivia #4:**  
 What is one need at Cornplanter State Forest?

## Top 6 Reasons to Give to PPF Monthly

6. Keep mail out of your in-box.
5. Make your donation go further—no more annual appeal letters.
4. No need to find a mailbox—your donation is automatically applied to your credit card.
3. Simplify your life!
2. Get a nifty bottle opener.
1. Conserve your state parks and forests!

To become a monthly donor visit:  
<http://bit.ly/MakeMineMonthlyPPFF>



Become a monthly donor and receive a PPF bottle opener, custom made by students at St. Mary's High School.

## A SNAPSHOT IN TIME



### Linda McKenna Boxx

Linda McKenna Boxx took what was once a dream of a 150-mile trail connection from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Maryland, and turned it into what is now known as the Great Allegheny Passage—one of the most popular rail trails in the United States.

Taking on the leadership of this massive undertaking, she worked tirelessly to build partnerships and encourage cooperation among a myriad of organizations working to make the trail come to life.

Linda was also instrumental in forming the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). She worked with PPF board members to implement various ideas, such as fundraising and engaging a strategic planning firm to develop the organization's first marketing and business plan. While Linda is no longer with PPF, she remains a strong proponent of its Friends groups, which total more than 40 today and contribute tens of thousands of volunteer hours to the state's parks and forests each year. In 2015, she received the Foundation's Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award.

Currently, Linda serves as chairperson of the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation and provides support for a wide range of projects.

# Supporting Small Business by Supporting State Parks and Forests

## ST. PETER'S VILLAGE by Casey Schneck

### History

St. Peter's Village is a small village in the Hopewell Big Woods of Chester County, supported by the region's natural and historical attractions. The village is now a tourist destination for its history of granite and iron mining, but its natural tourism dates back to the beginning. St. Peter's Village was originally named Falls of French Creek for the boulder-filled falling river that runs along the town. In the late 1800s, the railroad began shipping out iron and stone and shipping in tourists to see the falls.



The last granite quarry closed in the 1960s, but tourism never stopped. With French Creek State Park, Hopewell Furnace Historic Site, William Penn State Forest, and more in the Hopewell Big Woods, the local economy has shifted to support outdoor recreation. Thanks to its connection to the popular Horseshoe Trail and inclusion on self-guided history tours, St. Peter's Village is a notable stop by car, bike, and hiking boot for the many visitors to the region.

**“We are highly dependent on the tourism trade coming from the parks and trails system.”**

*-Melanie Melle, Co-Owner St. Peter's Bakery*

### Present Day

Local businesses have come to rely on that tourism traffic. St. Peter's Bakery is one such business. The bakery/café booms during the tourist season, enough so that locals tend to time their visits in order to avoid crowds. From March until October, an estimated 80% of the bakery's patrons are visitors to the region. Many of the small businesses throughout the village see tourists as the bulk of their customers in peak season. As such, changes to the parks and trails, or even the weather, can have significant impacts on business.



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### Impacts

A thriving park and forest system generates ample traffic that allows St. Peter's Bakery to be not only a successful business, but also an important community hub. With over 30 employees, partnerships with the local high school and technical institute to provide internships, and connections to the local charities and community groups, St. Peter's Bakery has a wide reaching impact in St. Peter's Village and beyond. The bakery and countless businesses like it throughout the state showcase the importance of properly supporting our parks and forests, not only for their own sake, but for the economic health of so many small towns across Pennsylvania.



**We're Moving!**

But don't worry ... we didn't go far!

Come visit us at:  
704 Lisburn Road, Suite 102  
just 1.5 miles from the old office.

Our phone number remains 717.236.7644  
and our home in the cloud is still  
[www.PAParksAndForests.org](http://www.PAParksAndForests.org)

**Trivia #5:**  
What is the town closest to your favorite park or forest that benefits from its proximity to public lands?

If your current membership has expired, visit our website today [www.PaParksAndForests.org/join/become-a-member](http://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 PPF) in an envelope to:

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PA Parks & Forests Foundation**  
 704 Lisburn Road, Suite 102  
 Camp Hill, PA 17011



**Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award:**  
 Larry Williamson  
*Award Sponsor: PA Environment Digest*



## The 13th Annual PPF Awards Celebrating the Best of the Best

*“Thank You” to our reception sponsor, award sponsors, table sponsors, and silent auction donors.*



**Joseph Ibberson Government Award:**  
 Dan Devlin  
*Jason Albright accepting on behalf of Dan Devlin.  
 Award Sponsor: Dominion Energy*



**President's Award / National:**  
 Recreational Equipment, Inc (REI) -  
 #OptOutside/#ForceofNature  
*REI team members from across the Mid-Atlantic,  
 Rob Wonderling representing award sponsor  
 The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia*



**President's Award / State:**  
 United by Blue  
*Steve Barber, representing award sponsor  
 Michael Baker International and accepting  
 the award on behalf of United By Blue*



**Park of the Year:**  
 Laurel Hill State Park Complex  
*Representatives from Laurel Hill State Park Complex  
 and PPF Board Member Brian Clark representing  
 award sponsor Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney*



**Forest of the Year:**  
 Bald Eagle State Forest  
*PPFF Board Member Jim Grace, Representatives  
 of Bald Eagle State Forest and Jeff Sheaffer of  
 award sponsor Stahl Shaeffer Engineering*



**Volunteers of the Year / Education:**  
 Friends of Washington Crossing  
*Representatives of award sponsor Enterprise Holdings  
 and Friends of Washington Crossing, and  
 PPF Advisory Board Member Gary Smith*



**Volunteers of the Year / Improvement Group:**  
 Clarion County Chapter of the  
 North County Trail Association  
*Matt Haar representing award sponsor Saul Ewing  
 Arnstein and Lehr and Ed Scurry representing  
 Clarion County North Country Trail Association*



**Volunteers of the Year / Improvement Individual:**  
 Ron and Donna Hirt,  
 Parker Dam State Park  
*Representatives Michelle Connett-Bergstein and Christiane  
 Delgado from award sponsor Latino Connection,  
 Ron and Donna Hirt and  
 PPF Board Member Brian Kavalukas*



**Volunteers of the Year / Volunteer:**  
 Don Litten,  
 Friends of Black Moshannon  
*Don Litten and PPF Board Member Mary Soderberg  
 Award Sponsor: AFSCME Council 13*



It's just our nature to help!

704 Lisburn Road, Suite 102  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 236-7644  
www.PaParksAndForests.org



*conserve enhance enjoy*

## Lappy Hour

Dine at Arooga's in Downtown Harrisburg throughout the day on June 3 and 15 percent of your dining and bar tab will be donated to help raise funds for a dog fountain at Boyd Big Tree Preserve. You must present the coupon below! PPF staff will be there from 5-7 p.m. with a silent auction on the premises that will also support the goal of raising \$4,000 for the project.



*Pet fountain to keep furry friends hydrated on hot summer days. These fountains also serve the humans that accompany them.*

Please hand voucher into your server or bartender to attach to your receipt to receive proper credit.



201 N. 2nd St.  
Harrisburg, Pa

YOUR LOCATION STAMP HERE

*Funds for Friends*

Pa Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF)

**ORGANIZATION**

June 3, 2019

DATE OF EVENT

**Dine at this Arooga's Grille House & Sports Bar location on the above indicated date & 15% of your guest check will be donated to the above organization/charity.**

15% donation not valid on specials. Coupons/vouchers must be distributed prior to event date. Any solicitation on site will result in forfeit of all monies to your organization/charity.