

# Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Fall 2019



Your support through SECA (choose #9200-0046) helps to ensure trails remain open.

## Many Hands Make Light Work



As we look to the end of our 20th anniversary year, we also look ahead—ahead to the next 20 years for the Foundation, but also ahead to the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020 and the 50th anniversary of the Environmental Rights Amendment in 2021. These collective anniversaries come at a critical time—a time when the infrastructure of our parks and forests is in major need of investment. A time when the impacts of climate change are felt in erratic storms, heavy rainfall, and periods of dry. A time when there are those who would turn back the clock on laws designed to protect our environment and natural resources. And a time where pressures on our public lands continue to rise—heavy visitation, industrial uses, development pressures, and more.

How we choose to move forward may determine the assets we leave behind for future generations. This legacy is one that we take seriously at the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. We know that we protect the legacy of those who came before us, but how do we create a legacy for those who follow? How do we ensure our children and grandchildren have the same and more opportunities than we had in the outdoors? How do we engage those who come after us IN the outdoors, when time seems to be a more valuable asset and we compete with organized sports and electronics? How do we make sure that our public lands are set to meet the demands of future generations, when they are in dire need of repairs today?

Following are a list of priorities and actions that we have planned over the course of the next two years. We would love to get your feedback to help shape how we approach these challenges and programs. **Ready? Let's go.**

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### CONTACT US:

**Pennsylvania Parks  
& Forests Foundation**

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



Site work has started on the ADA launch at Little Buffalo State Park.

## President's Message

Marci Mowery



I'm back in the office after a week away attending a conference with my peers from other state park foundations and visiting state parks in Ohio and western Pennsylvania. During that time I pondered both my column for this newsletter as well as the lead story, which is to focus on the future of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation as we celebrate our 20th year. Previous issues of the newsletter this year were filled with the stories of our formation and early years and the accomplishments made possible with and by you.

And then I realized as we talk about the future, it needs to be a conversation. You, our volunteer, member, and park/forest enthusiast, are the one on the ground seeing what is occurring in our state parks and forests. You are witnessing both the good and the challenging, such as the impact recent weather events have had on infrastructure.

During a recent trip to western Pennsylvania I toured a park to see the damage that was caused by five inches of rain in ONE HOUR! Trails washed away, trees down. A road down to a single lane ... no wait, that was from winter!



*"The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is proud of the work that we are collectively able to accomplish in our state parks and forests."*

And these isolated weather events aren't isolated to western Pennsylvania. We witness them across Pennsylvania where roads, bridges, culverts, trails, and water quality are all being tested and strained. This causes a shift in your day and perhaps plans for an outing. Or perhaps the finding of a harmful algal bloom at Frances Slocum State Park sent your plans for Labor Day weekend into a spin. Our amazing park and forest staff handle these challenges in stride, ensuring your safety and access to your public lands.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is proud of the work that we are collectively able to accomplish in our state parks and forests. At the meeting in Detroit we formed a National Association of State Park Foundations to bring together the 40 or so groups across the nation to share resources and expertise to help us better benefit our state parks, forests, and trails.

And as always, it would not be possible without your support. So please take the time to complete the survey to help us plan for the future to protect our state parks and forests for generations to come.

*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 Summer Newsletter winner Darlene Krenitsky of Harrisburg, who won a stainless steel tumbler!*

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 fall newsletter to [newsletter@PaParksAndForests.org](mailto:newsletter@PaParksAndForests.org) by December 4.

**Trivia #1:**  
Name two responsibilities of a DCNR ranger?



# Many Hands Make Light Work – Give Us Your Feedback!!

## Newsletter:

What topics would you like to see covered in future issues of the newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any features of the newsletter that you think we should retire? \_\_\_\_\_

Any steps we can take to make the newsletter more enjoyable/readable for you? \_\_\_\_\_

## Take Five with Pam:

Do you receive Take Five?  Yes  No If yes, how often do you read it? \_\_\_\_\_

What content would you like to see included in Take Five? \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Communication:

PPFF can also be found on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Marci also has a Twitter and Instagram account.

Are there other methods of communication that you would find useful? \_\_\_\_\_

On these social media platforms, what do you find most interesting? \_\_\_\_\_

The most useful? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in serving on a marketing/communications committee?  Yes  No

## Maintenance and Infrastructure Needs in State Parks and Forests:

We are in the first year of a three year campaign to build awareness of the needs in our parks and forests, with the ultimate goal of having revenue allocated for maintenance and infrastructure IN ADDITION to adequate operational funding that supports a level of staffing necessary to do the job. To this end, would you be interested in:

Attending an Activist Day at the Capitol to talk to your elected officials?  Yes  No

Meeting with your elected officials locally to talk about park and forest needs?  Yes  No

Sharing a story about how parks/forests benefit your health/quality of life or if you are a business, how they support your business?  Yes  No

Writing letters to the editor if given additional background information?  Yes  No

Sharing the names of other stakeholders/organizations who could be a voice for support for investing in our state parks/forests?  Yes  No

Of the following names for the campaign, which do you like best (or add one):

Protecting our State Parks and Forests  Protecting our State Parks and Forests for Health and Economic Well-being

Protecting our State Parks and Forests Forever  Groundwork

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What other thoughts or expertise can you lend to help make the goal of dedicated funding for maintenance a reality?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Advocacy, General:

In addition to maintenance and infrastructure needs, PPFF monitors issues and legislation that may impact our state parks and forests. In the past, these have included: funding, privatization, industrial uses of our parks and forests, towers, wind energy, and water quality standards.

What other issues do you think that we should be monitoring? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in serving on our advocacy committee?  Yes  No

*continued on page 4*



# Many Hands Make Light Work – Give Us Your Feedback!!

## Parks and Forests for All:

Fundamental values of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation include diversity and inclusion. Our goal is to make our parks and forests available for all to recreate and enjoy, across the lifespan.

What do you think we can do to advance this goal in a meaningful way? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have expertise in this area that you are willing to share?  Yes  No

## Needs List:

The needs list shared on our website consists of those projects in parks and forests that improve the natural environment and/or the visitor experience. Our goal is to pair projects with funding partners. Have an idea for a partner? Please let us know!

Needs? \_\_\_\_\_

## Earth Day 50th Anniversary:

In April, the largest conservation movement turns 50 (see related article on page 5). Some of our ideas for celebrating this milestone are listed below. *Pick your top three ideas.* There is a place at the end to add some other thoughts.

- Host an advocacy day at the Capitol during Earth Month (date dependent on when legislators are in session)
- Host 50 service projects across the commonwealth.
- Work with the library systems to have environmentally themed books on display and to host showings of the conservation heritage documentaries with panel discussions.
- Plant trees
- Identify some citizen science projects
- Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

## Environmental Rights Amendment 50th Anniversary:

On May 18, 1971, Pennsylvania's voters by a four-to-one margin ratified what is now Article I, Section 27 of our state constitution—the Environmental Rights Amendment:

*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 the people.*

What are your thoughts on how we leverage this historic moment to benefit our environment and public lands? \_\_\_\_\_

In case we need to clarify some of your thoughts, please share your name and contact information with us:

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

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

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

**Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback and share your expertise.**

**Please send the completed surveys to:**  
Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation  
704 Lisburn Road, Suite 102  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

**Or you can fill it out online at:**  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/FutureinOurHands](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FutureinOurHands)

Many Hands  
Make Light  
Work



## Looking for Ways to Celebrate Earth Day's 50th Anniversary?

With Earth Day 50 bearing down upon us, we have kicked in to gear a plan for the celebration. The first Earth Day in 1970 enlisted 20 million Americans and is credited with launching the modern environmental movement. It is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event and it led to passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States, including the Clean Air, Clear Water, and Endangered Species acts. Many countries soon adopted similar laws, and the United Nations chose Earth Day 2016 to sign the Paris climate agreement. Yet despite the numerous successes surrounding Earth Day, we still face many conservation challenges at home, in our nation, and globally.

We are reviewing some of the goals of Earth Day 50 promoted by [www.earthday.org/earthday/countdown-to-2020](http://www.earthday.org/earthday/countdown-to-2020) and have established a few of our own.

The first is to host 50 service projects across the state during the month of April. Keep an eye on our calendar for opportunities to come out and be a steward of your state parks and forests. Work for a company and want to have a volunteer day? Contact us! Have a youth group you want to engage? Shoot us an email!

Other ideas as we start our planning: viewings of the conservation heritage documentaries at locations around Pennsylvania. Want to show one of the documentaries



(<http://paconservationheritage.org/documentaries/>)? Reach out to Andreja at [arocknaga@paparksandforests.org](mailto:arocknaga@paparksandforests.org) and she will make it happen for you. Pair the documentary with a panel or discussion and use the lessons of the past to inform the future.

We'd like to work with libraries to feature conservation themed books and speakers during April. Work or volunteer at a library? Please reach out to see how we might work together. Have a favorite book? Let us know that as we build a reading list for book clubs and individuals.

*We'd love to hear your thoughts on how we can make this Earth Day meaningful to many!*

## Wilderness Wheels Provides Hands-On Outdoor Experiences



Participants in the Harrisburg Inspiring Connections Outdoor Program recently spent two days exploring the natural wonders of Hickory Run State Park while also developing their camping skills and learning about water quality. Supported through a transportation scholarship of the Wilderness Wheels Program, these young people, many of whom had never before experienced an overnight in the outdoors, had only previously participated in simulations of planning a trip to a national park. The hands-on nature of an outdoor experience allowed the students to not only plan the trip, but to learn such skills as pitching and striking a tent, building and extinguishing a safe fire, hiking, food preparation, water quality testing, and testing their team building in a white water trip on the Lehigh River.

**Trivia #2:**  
When are PPF award nominations due?

# SKILL BUILDER

## How to Choose a Water Purifier or Filter

Water treatment is important to maintaining your health in the outdoors. Not all water sources are unsafe, but why play intestinal roulette when it is simple and effective to treat water?

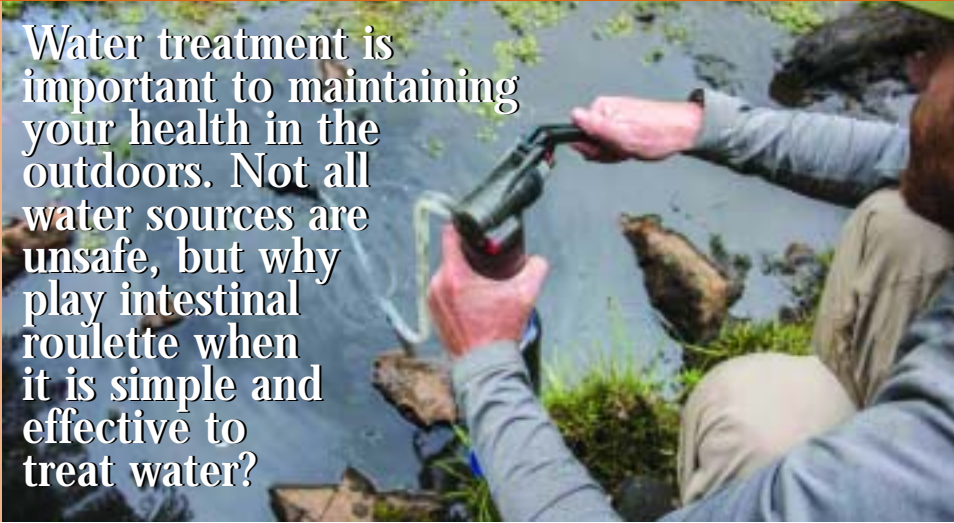


Photo credit: REI

### Tips from the Experts at REI

The two most popular methods of treating water are a water filter, which works by physically straining out parasites and bacteria, and a water purifier, which also combats viruses that are too tiny for most filters to catch. To help improve the treatment process, prefilters remove large particles from water. This accessory comes with many pump-style products or it can be bought separately. The following are a few examples of filters and purifiers. The effort required for each varies, as does the time for water to be ready to drink.

**Pump Filters and Purifiers** – Drop the intake hose into your source and the outlet hose into your water bottle, then work the pump. Pump mechanisms differ, as do flow rates.

**PROS:** You can process precisely the amount of water you need.  
Water can be pulled from seeps and shallow water sources.  
The internal element or cartridge is replaceable.

**CONS:** Pumping can be a chore.  
Field cleaning of the element is required.  
Weight and bulk are greater than other treatment methods.

**Ultraviolet (UV) Light Purifiers** – These pen-style devices require you to simply push a button and stir.

**PROS:** Treatment is easy and water is quickly drinkable.  
No element cleaning and replacement are ever needed.

**CONS:** Requires batteries.  
Silty or cloudy water impairs effectiveness.

### Alternate Methods

Water neutralizing tablets or drops (typically iodine- or chlorine-based) can be an effective water treatment system. They are easy to use, inexpensive, and light weight. But, the wait time can be at least 30 minutes and they impart a chemical taste. Boiling water for one to three minutes is also an effective method.

## Water Treatment Safety Tips

Even the best filter or purifier isn't effective if you don't take some basic precautions:

- Separate dirty and clean water containers.
- Pay close attention to directions.
- Seek out non-cloudy, sediment free water because sediment impairs treatment effectiveness.
- Keep your hands clean to prevent contamination.
- Keep camp, toilet, and dishwashing areas at least 200 feet from any water source.

Source: [www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/water-treatment-backcountry.html](http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/water-treatment-backcountry.html)

**Gravity Filters and Purifiers** – Fill a reservoir, find a suitable place to hang and wait.

**PROS:** Gravity does the work for you.  
You can easily process large quantities of water for a big group.  
The element or cartridge is replaceable.

**CONS:** Treatment process is slower than pumping.  
Shallow water sources can make it challenging to fill.  
Field cleaning of the element is required.

**Bottle Filters and Purifiers** – Offering fill-and-sip simplicity, these bottles have built-in filtration or purification elements.

**PROS:** Treatment is easy and water is quickly drinkable.  
The element or cartridge is replaceable.  
On average, lighter and cost less than pump and gravity filters.

**CONS:** Water quantity is limited by bottle size.  
Field cleaning of the element is required.

**Trivia #3:**  
When is the Extra Give?



# Investing in Sustainable Transportation

FREE CHARGING STATIONS INSTALLED IN STATE PARKS AND FORESTS

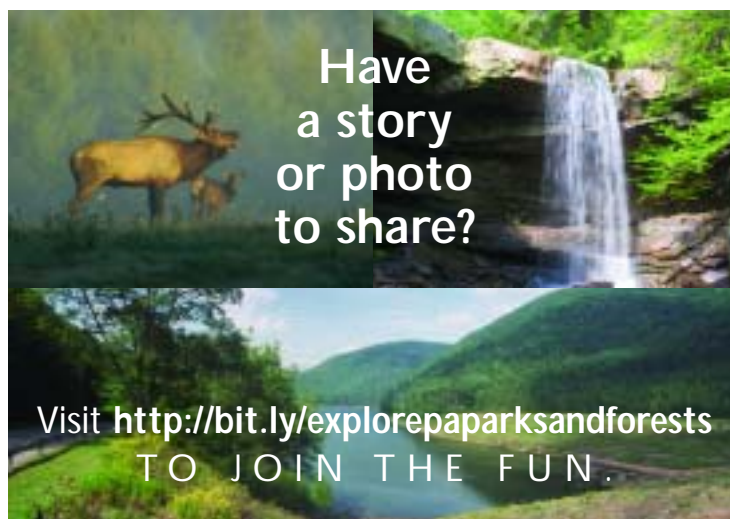
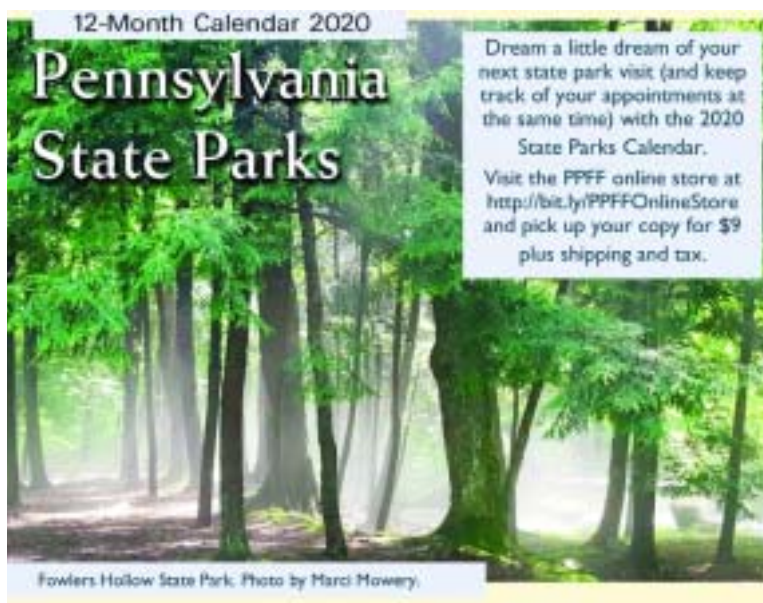
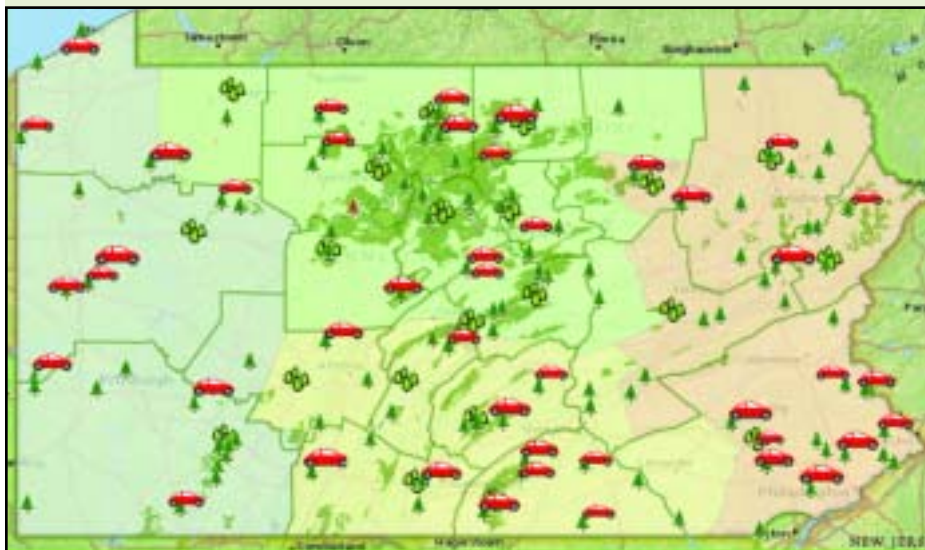
By Jake Newton

As one of the agency's six strategic initiatives, DCNR has made it a part of its mission to invest in sustainability projects that benefit our visitors, staff, and the environment. Since 2016, the agency has implemented projects focusing on high performance buildings, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation. To promote the use of sustainable transportation to and from our state parks and forests, DCNR has begun installing electric vehicle charging stations that operate free of charge to visitors.

In May of 2018, DCNR's first visitor charging station was completed at Kinzua Bridge State Park. Since the completion of this project, an additional 12 visitor charging station projects have been installed. Each visitor charging station location will include at least two Level 2 chargers that on average are able to fully charge a plug-in hybrid or electric vehicle in 2.5 to 8 hours, depending on the vehicle's make and model.

These electric vehicle visitor charging stations currently being installed in DCNR's state parks and forests are receiving funding through the PA Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Driving PA Forward Level 2 charging station rebate program. The \$7.7 million allocated to this rebate program comes from the U.S. EPA's 2016 emissions equipment settlement with Volkswagen. The goal of this and other grants and rebates being offered by DEP's Driving PA Forward initiative is to help Pennsylvania meet its emissions reduction goals.

By 2021, DCNR will provide electric vehicle charging stations at a total of 43 state park and forest locations.







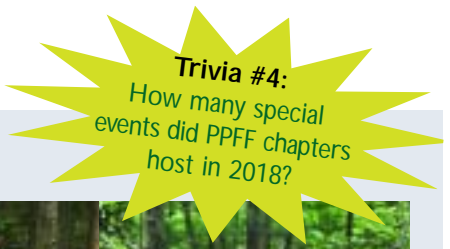
## The 2019 Walk in Penn's Woods is Right Around the Corner!

The excitement is growing for the third annual Walk in Penn's Woods on Sunday, Oct. 6. At sites across the state, Pennsylvanians of all ages will be getting out in the woods, building appreciation for forests, the people who own them, and the importance of caring well for them.

Since 2017, the first Sunday in October has been set aside for Pennsylvanians to join hosted walks to learn more about Penn's Woods and gain easy access to expert forest and wildlife professionals. Last year, over 1,100 people joined in at 68 walks throughout the state. Walk in Penn's Woods also features a growing number of sites with wheelchair and stroller accessible walks.

For individual walk locations, times, descriptions, and more, go to [www.walkinpennswoods.org](http://www.walkinpennswoods.org). The website is regularly updated as new walks are added, so keep checking!

*Also look for status updates on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/walkinpennswoods](https://www.facebook.com/walkinpennswoods).*

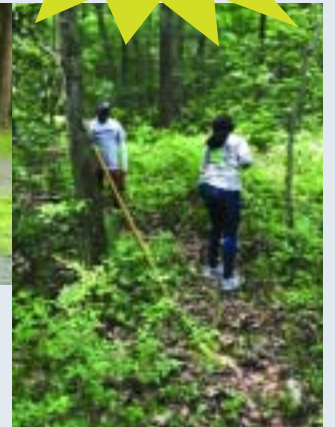


**Trivia #4:**  
How many special events did PPF chapters host in 2018?

## Deloitte IMPACT Day Activities



A group of more than 35 Deloitte employees and members of Friends of Weiser spent the day clearing trails in the Haldeman Tract of Weiser State Forest. The group divided up to conquer several trails in need of cutting back bushes, cutting tree limbs, and spreading stones to make the trails ready for use by both hikers and horses.



Over 100 employees from Deloitte joined PPF and Gifford Pinchot Disc Golf Club at Gifford Pinchot State Park in preparation for the World Amateur Disc Golf Championship. Benches were built, hazardous trees removed, sightlines improved, and more was accomplished over the course of five hours.



## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[www.PaParksAndForests.org/events](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org/events)

### OCTOBER

- Thru 10/26 PPF is part of SECA: Make PPF Your Charity of Choice by Choosing #9200-0046
- 10/4-5 Pymatuning Boo Crew: Spooktacular
  - 10/4 Legislative Tour – Frances Slocum State Park
  - 10/4 Friends of Kings Gap: Garden Harvest Dinner
  - 10/6 Friends of Kings Gap: Garden Harvest Day
  - 10/6 A Walk in Penn's Woods
  - 10/6 Fundraiser for Sam Lewis State Park Environmental Center
  - 10/7 Legislative Tour - Neshaminy State Park
  - 10/11-13 Pymatuning Boo Crew: Spooktacular
  - 10/11 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Trunk of Treats Halloween Weekend
  - 10/12 Friends of Black Moshannon: Cranberry Festival
  - 10/12 Friends of Nockamixon: Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up
  - 10/18 Friends of Lyman Run: Spooktacular
  - 10/19 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Fall Furnace Fest
  - 10/19 Friends of Cowans Gap: Harvest Day
  - 10/19 Friends of Little Buffalo: Old Fashioned Apple Festival
  - 10/19 Friends of Black Moshannon: Haunted Lake Loop Trail

### NOVEMBER

- 11/9 Friends of Kings Gap: Jazz in the Mansion
- 11/22 PPF is Again Participating in the EXTRA Ordinary Give

### DECEMBER

- 12/1 Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Holiday Open House at Greenwood Furnace
- 12/1 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House at the Cameron Mansion
- 12/7 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Coffee House at the Cameron Mansion
- 12/8 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House at the Cameron Mansion
- 12/17-23 Friends of Little Buffalo: Christmas Trail

## PPFF Partners with Sinnemahoning State Park for 2020 WOMEN IN THE WILDS WEEKENDS



Friday, 2/7 through Sunday, 2/9  
Registration opens December 1



SAVE THE DATES AND WATCH FOR YOUR CHANCE TO REGISTER ON THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, 6/26 through Sunday, 6/28  
Registration opens April 1

## Annual Awards



## Call for Nominations

Deadline: December 13th  
Visit [PAParksAndForests.org](http://PAParksAndForests.org)



## Get Ready to Ramble

**FIRST DAY HIKES 2020**  
Coming January First to a Park Near You



*For a complete list of PPF Friends Groups and the projects they are working on, turn to pages 14-15.*



*Friends of Caledonia volunteer hard at work.*

## Your Friends In Action: *Friends of Caledonia*

Named for the charcoal iron furnace of Thaddeus Stevens, Caledonia State Park is located on 1,125 acres in Adams and Franklin counties. Having once served as a field hospital during the Battle of Gettysburg, today the park offers hiking, camping, an 18-hole golf course, a section of the Appalachian Trail, and it features the renowned Totem Pole Playhouse offering daily summer performances.

The Friends of Caledonia host four big events each year and plans for the 2020 calendar are underway. The group will start the year off by hosting their sixth First Day hike. In past years, a group of nearly 100 participants met to hike the Ramble Trail followed by hot chocolate and cookies.

Spring brings the group's Earth Day clean up event followed by the annual summer Craft Show, which the Friends have coordinated for the past 37 years. Featuring over 100 vendors selling all kinds of art, crafts and food, plus entertainment that changes from year to year, this event is hugely successful. The final event is the Lincoln Highway Jubilee in September, which celebrates the building of the Lincoln Highway. The year 2021 brings the 100th anniversary of when the workers stopped at Caledonia. Plans to make that Jubilee extra special will begin soon.

The funds from membership dues and fundraisers have made it possible for the group to make several purchases for the park. This year they were able to buy tan bark for the park office, a new doggie fountain, benches for the bridge



All Photo credits: Friends of Caledonia



to the pool, stones to repair the road to the camping area, and replaced a slide in the day use area. The group is particularly proud to be able to help the educational programming with the purchase of a television for the park educator. The history and environment of the area are topics for discovery for park visitors of all ages.

The small but mighty Friends of Caledonia group is always looking for volunteers to help out whether on clean up days or with firewood sales. Check out their Facebook page to learn about volunteer opportunities and events at [www.facebook.com/caledoniafriends](http://www.facebook.com/caledoniafriends).

**Interested in joining the Friends of Caledonia?** Contact Karen Moose, [karenmoose@pa.net](mailto:karenmoose@pa.net). The next Friends of Caledonia meeting will be held on Oct. 9 at the Park Office at 6 p.m. All are welcome!

*"The small but mighty Friends of Caledonia group is always looking for volunteers to help out whether on clean up days or with firewood sales."*





## PPFF AND OUR CHAPTERS BY THE NUMBERS

NUMBER OF SERVICE PROJECTS

160

NUMBER OF SPECIAL EVENTS

164

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

3,344

NUMBER OF HOURS DONATED

76,373

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED BY FRIENDS

\$383,482

VALUE OF HOURS DONATED

\$1,885,649

Get your free booklet on the PPFF website at

<http://bit.ly/MyDCNRRangerPPFF>

(En Español at <http://bit.ly/MiGuardabosquesDCNRPPFF>)



A LEARNING ADVENTURE!



## State Park and Forest Tours Offer Close-Up Look at Needs

There are two ways to demonstrate the need for investment in our state parks and forests—doing a PowerPoint presentation to a large group or taking a small group to visit a park or forest and experience firsthand the challenges faced with maintenance and infrastructure needs. With your support, we have chosen a combination of both approaches.

Kicking off in August, we launched a multi-month tour in which we invite state-elected officials, the media, and local stakeholders to an on-the-ground tour. During the tour, we talk about the need for investment, the positive impacts parks/forests/recreation have on the economy and human and environmental health, and we interact with the park. When you smell a 50-year old bathroom, when you bounce along on a road that is long overdue for paving, or when you walk out onto a dock that lists precariously to one side, you engage your senses, not just your mind.

Watch our website for tours near you. We invite you to join us and talk about what parks and forests mean to YOU!



**Memorial or Honorary Gifts** You can honor the memory of a special person or joyous occasion while supporting PPFF'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 Made it Happen



Photo credit: Pam Metzger

*HistoriCorps provided volunteers of all skill levels who worked alongside experienced historic preservation professionals, learning, and practicing preservation skills.*

## HistoriCorps: Conserving History One Project at a Time

Visitors to Laurel Hill State Park might notice with each visit that the historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) structures are taking on new life. This summer, your support and a grant from the Allegheny Foundation provided funding for HistoriCorps, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Laurel Hill State Park and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, to restore the historic Laurel Hill State Park Mess Hall.

Laurel Hill State Park has the largest collection of CCC architecture in the Pennsylvania State Park system. In 1935, the Laurel Hill Recreation Demonstration Area welcomed its first CCC enrollees. Projects completed by the “boys” included three dams, multiple hiking trails, trail shelters, tree planting, and nine group camps including the barracks in which the boys lived. Laurel Hill became a state park in 1945. Uniquely, many of the camps are still used today to welcome organized groups to enjoy the forests of Pennsylvania. The renovated mess hall will be used to tell the pride-filled stories of the CCC at Laurel Hill State Park.

The restoration builds upon previous successes of park staff and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, through funding from the Allegheny Foundation, to restore the historic structures at the park. It is part of a larger effort by the foundation to address maintenance needs and historic preservation throughout the park and forest system.

## A Big Thank You to Keystone RV Center in Greencastle!

Mark Thomas, the Director of Marketing for Keystone RV, met Pam at Cowans Gap State Park in July where he presented PPF with a check for \$6,230 to be directed to campground improvements at the park. Keystone RV sets aside \$10 from each unit sold and gives a quarterly donation to a project or charity close to their hearts. We are delighted to be a part of this generous program!



Photo credit: DCNR

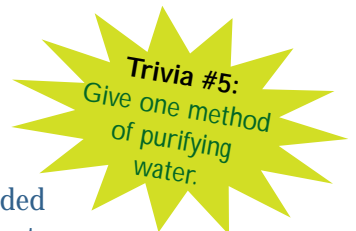
## Gardens Restoration

Your support, and a grant from EQT, empowered the restoration of the gardens at Point State Park. Master Gardeners shared their expertise and skills for this project to remove invasive species in the park and replace with native plants.



## New Playground = More Fun at Oil Creek State Park

Remember time spent on the playground as a child — the games made with friends and the confidence built? Children at Oil Creek State Park will soon have expanded opportunities to do so in part to your support and a grant from the PNC Foundation.



**Trivia #5:**  
Give one method of purifying water.



# YOU Made it Happen

## A Successful Ribbon Cutting!

The West Shore Chamber of Commerce and staff from Representative Cheryl DeLozier's office joined staff and board of PPF to officially cut the ribbon on the new office building. In the neighborhood? Stop on by!



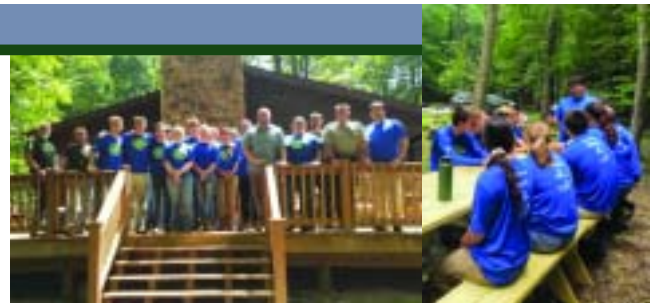
## Safer Waterfall Access

Accessing the view of Breakneck Falls became safer and easier through a collaborative effort of time and funds. The skills of the North Country Trail Association and the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps were fueled with funds from an Access Fund grant, a donation from Stick City Brewing, support from a local paddling club, and private philanthropy in an attempt to reduce the rate of injuries and fatalities at this popular park.



## Historic Chimney Brought Back to Its Original Beauty

Cold hotdogs and raw hamburger are never fun, and when historic chimneys in Civilian Conservation Corps picnic areas deteriorate, this could be the menu. Your support of the Living Gifts Program and a grant from the REI Bedford Distribution Center, combined with funds from the Buchanan State Forest, recently brought back the beauty and functionality of one of these historic chimneys.



## Engaging Pennsylvania's Youth, One Project at a Time

With support from the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation and the Richard King Mellon Foundation, youth were able to join summer Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps crews from Meadville, Greensburg, and St. Marys along with a 10-month crew out of Unionville. These young men and women not only learned job skills by working on projects in a variety of parks and forests, they also developed career and resume skills, developed their recreational abilities, developed a better sense of place, and enhanced their leadership skills. A sampling of projects included building picnic tables, removing invasive species, rebuilding pedestrian bridges, relocating trails and making trail improvements, restoring historic structures, and improving habitat. Stay tuned for a final tally of what was accomplished in 2019, as the youth crews are still hard at work.





# How Our Friends Groups Help

No two Friends groups are alike. Below is just a sampling of what is taking place in your state parks and forests with these PPF Chapter groups!

## Friends of Beltzville

The Friends continue to stay busy with the Pollinator Garden. This week their Master Gardner and folks will do a fall planting.

## Friends of Big Pocono

Historic Cattell continues to blossom through the efforts of the Friends.

## Friends of Black Moshannon

Engaging visitors in the park is an important focus of this Friends group.

## Friends of Buchanan

Working with DCNR and PA Equine Council, the Friends hosted a one-day training and rerouted Jackson Trail/Sideling Hill, with a stream crossing.

## Friends of Buchanan



## Friends of Caledonia

The Friends have four major events planned for 2020—check out the PPF calendar to learn more.

## Friends of Canoe Creek

Wild summer weather meant that some plans for Friends of Canoe Creek didn't happen this year, but they worked to engage the public through such things as movie nights.



Friends of Beltzville

## Cherry Springs

**Dark Sky Association**  
Keeping the dark skies dark.

## Friends of Colonel Denning

After the rededication of the park, this reinvigorated Friends group has plans to improve the visitor experience.

## Friends of Cook Forest

The Friends bought the licensing rights to the documentary "Cathedral, The Fight to Save the Ancient Hemlocks of Cook Forest." This documentary has been instrumental in teaching about the infestation of the invasive insect, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

## Friends of Cowans Gap

This group focuses on bringing people to the park by sponsoring annual events such as a 5K race, music in the park over the summer, Art in the Park, and a fall harvest day in October. A playground is on the horizon for 2020.

## Friends of Davis Hallow Cabin

This newest PPF chapter focuses on the restoration and access to the cabin.

## Friends of Goddard

The Friends are working to finish their key project for the year: finishing up the new playground.

## Friends of Greenwood Furnace

The group finished up their music series with another successful concert.

## Friends of Keystone

The Friends have a lot of new ideas for 2020. Keep an eye on our website as these evolve.

## Friends of Kings Gap

The Friends hosted Music on the Mountain on Sept. 1. It is their biggest project every year.

## Friends of Laurel Hill

Another successful Laurel Hill Bluegrass Festival. It just gets better every year, from food to fiddles, it is a grand weekend.

## Friends of Little Buffalo

Working with PPF to get the ADA boat launch set, as well as planning for this year's Applefest, Halloween Hayride, Artfest, and Christmas Trail.

## Friends of Lyman Run

The Friends are working towards placing a playground at the park and continue to engage visitors with events.

## Friends of Michaux

The group has been working to complete the Long Pine connector trail and they are also working on outreach campaigns to promote the #leavenotrace stewardship ethic.

## Friends of Milton

This group is dedicated to combating invasive plants and maintaining the trails to improve access to the park.

## Friends of Mont Alto

When not tending to their pollinator garden, the Friends are hoping to place a playground.

## Friends of Mount Pisgah

The Friends are ending their season with three events: Patriots in the Park, a 3-D Archery Shoot, and a Story Hour for little ones.

## Friends of Nockamixon

The Friends partnered with the local Penn State Extension Master Gardeners and Watersheds Specialists group to improve their gardens and areas of interest throughout the year.

## Friends of Nolde Forest

The Friends continue to restore the mansion gardens by planting native plants and eliminating invasive species. The group is discussing adding a large pollinator garden and hosting a plant swap.

## Friends of Ohio Pyle

This year's focus has primarily been on the updating of the trail system, including drainage issues and other maintenance.



**Friends of Oil Creek**

The Friends held their annual biathlon on August 10th, about 70 people participated with one who traveled from Texas to participate.

**Friends of Parker Dam**

The Friends held several successful events this year and is looking for additional board members.

**Friends of Pinchot**

The Friends have purchased new low-voltage LED lighting for the pathway to the Amphitheater in the campground. The installation should be completed in a few weeks.

**Friends of Pine Grove Furnace**

The Friends raised \$5,500 for a kayak launch ("EZ dock") which park maintenance staff installed at Laurel Lake.

**Friends of Prince Gallitzin**

Christmas in August — visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus.



*Friends of Prince Gallitzin*

**Friends of Pymatuning**

The group just held their Onion Festival. The event was successful and well received by the community.

**Friends of Ridley Creek**

The Friends held their 15th Annual Friends of Ridley Creek Photo Contest. The 36 entries made this year's contest tough work for judges.



*Friends of Rothrock*

**Friends of Rothrock**

The group hosted a Conservation Volunteer Day in June. During this safety training, trail building equipment demo, and trail building day, 33 people volunteered their time to learn and begin building a new trail.

**Friends of Ryerson Station**

The Friends are hoping to attract new members with the rededication of the park.

**Friends of Shawnee**

July 4th Fireworks with music and water fun marked the highlight of the summer at Shawnee and is a signature project of the Friends.

**Friends of Shikellamy**

Hosting events and improving the visitor experience is an important role of this Friends group.

**Friends of State Line Serpentine Barrens**

It's all about the habitat!

**Friends of Trough Creek and Warriors Path**

One of the newest groups in the family, these Friends began their planning process on projects to improve the visitation experience.

**Friends of Varden Conservation Area**

Conserving the gem that is Varden!

**Friends of Weiser**

Keeping trails open and responding to needs of the forest keep this Friends group hopping.

**Friends of Weiser Roaring Creek**

Mountain bike access is a priority.

**Friends of White Clay Creek**

Preserving the history of this unique place.

**Friends of Yellow Creek**



**Friends of Yellow Creek**

The Friends recently installed a kayak rack for park patrons at the Community Sailing Base.

**Friends of Worlds End**

Thanks to the Friends, firewood and bagged ice are now available for purchase. Money raised from the sales goes to fund park improvement projects like improving the amphitheater.

**Lackawanna Trail Care Crew**

It's in the name!

**Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail/Laurel Highlands Ultra**

Proceeds from this world-famous race support restoration of this key destination.

**Laurel Mountain Volunteers**

Meet three times a year to address projects in Forbes State Forest.

**Loyalsock Trail/ Worlds End Ultra**

The race and the trail work together in a mutually beneficial relationship.



*Friends of Ohiopyle*



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



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On November 22, donate online at ExtraGive.org and your generous gift will be stretched by more than a HALF MILLION DOLLARS in stretch pool and prizes from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and sponsors. Help us go the EXTRA mile together!

[www.givegab.com/nonprofits/pennsylvania-parks-and-forests-foundation](http://www.givegab.com/nonprofits/pennsylvania-parks-and-forests-foundation)

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

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

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

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

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

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