

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Spring 2020



Photo Credit: Kasey Gilbert

Tuscarora
State Park

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Managing Pennsylvania's Greatest Environmental Crisis

By Greg Czarnecki,
Director, Applied Climate Science, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

In the 50 years since the first Earth Day we have made tremendous progress protecting our air, water, and natural resources. But in spite of that progress we now face our greatest environmental crisis—climate change.

Nearly every day we hear stories about the effects of climate change, such as melting glaciers in Greenland, horrific wildfires in Australia and California, and super-charged hurricanes. While many of these events are far away, we are also seeing climate change impacts here in Pennsylvania.

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Flooding at the Presque Isle Marina due to heavy lake levels.



Photo Credit: DCNR



Photo Credit: Jenna Behringer

Staff and volunteers making legislative visits to talk about investing in our state parks and forests.

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President's Message

Marci Mowery



Happy New Year! By the time this newsletter lands in your hands, we will be several months into the new year. I hope that it is shaping up to be your best year yet!

Since our fall newsletter, there have been quite a few changes in the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. First, you will see the "welcome" to our newest board members and staff and "farewell" to Andreja, Debbie and Amanda on page 8.

Second, as we prepared for Earth Day 50 and making 2020 the Year of the Trees, we made the decision to go green and defer our annual banquet this year. Look for the banquet's return in 2021. In the meantime, join us in activities across the state in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day—from volunteer projects, to lectures, to documentary showings, to tree plantings...we have you covered. You may even catch me leading earth-based yoga classes at various places throughout the year!

The theme of Earth Day this year is climate action. Climate changes are having a profound impact on our parks and forests with periods of heavy rain, atypical storm patterns and damage, and droughts. We are also seeing invasive species causing damage to some of our notable trees and clogging our waterways and lakes.

"...join us in activities across the state in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day—from volunteer projects, to lectures, to documentary showings, to tree plantings... we have you covered."

We can all take action to combat climate change—from simple things like walking when possible to planting a tree to large actions like using renewable energy and making consumer decisions based on a company's environmental practices.

The last quarter of 2019 also saw an uptick in completed projects made possible through your membership and donations. See "You Made It Happen" on page 12. These projects and purchases would not have happened if it were not for your support. Thank you for being a steward of our state parks and forests.

*Yours in the Outdoors,
Marci*

A CALL FOR ADVOCATES! Make Your Voice Heard!

Be an advocate for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests! Contact your elected officials and invite them to visit your favorite state park or forest and share its importance. The website at www.ProtectOurParksAndForests.org can help you learn about the needs of our parks and forests—and give you a means to encourage your elected officials to INVEST in our public lands through dedicated funding for maintenance and staffing. Sign up at the website and we'll add you to our mailing list to receive information and resources on legislation and initiatives that could impact YOUR state parks and forests.

Mark your calendar for May 19, 2020, when we will call together enthusiasts from across the state to make their voices heard in the halls of the capitol.

Join a press event or participate in legislative visits while enjoying the company of like-minded individuals. You may meet a new hiking or paddling buddy!

Find out more at <https://ppff.events/advocacyday2020>.

Recognizing the Impacts

Since the early 20th century, the commonwealth's average temperature has increased more than 1.8 F, with an even greater rise in winter temperatures. The amount, timing, and intensity of precipitation also changed. We receive about 10 percent more precipitation annually, with the greatest increase during winter as rain. The intensity of our rain events has also changed, with a 71 percent increase in very heavy rain events.

These changes impact our state parks and forests. Infrastructure damage from flooding has increased substantially, leading to washed out roads and trails and structural damage to buildings. Loyalsock State Forest experienced two 500-year storm events in a five-year period resulting in \$13 million in damages. Other impacts include wind damage and infrastructure damage and loss of recreational opportunities at Presque Isle due to historically high-water levels in Lake Erie.



These two photos illustrate climate change adaptation. The traditional culvert design (above) is small and susceptible to washout during very heavy rain events. The new design (below) withstands heavier flooding events and is also bottomless, thereby allowing the movement of aquatic species up and down the stream.



The natural world is also being affected by climate change. Our growing season is 10 days longer than it was during the mid-20th century, and while that might be good for your vegetable garden, it's leading to an increase in frost damage to forests that bud early during later winter warm spells. Animals are responding, too. The timing of bird migrations, for example, is shifting, and in the case of red-tailed hawks, many no longer migrate because food is available year-round.

Taking Action

To help ensure that our parks and forests remain resilient in the face of climate change, DCNR developed a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan. The plan identifies 46 climate change vulnerabilities ranging from the loss of species and the introduction of new invasive species, to increased wildfire risk and the loss of winter recreational opportunities. To address those vulnerabilities, more than 200 adaptation actions related to infrastructure, recreation, and conservation were identified.

The department designs and maintains a broad array of infrastructure including 4,877 buildings, 870 bridges, 133 dams, and innumerable miles of roads and trails. Consequently, the plan contains many recommendations for making infrastructure more resilient, including ways to avoid flooding and redesigning culverts and modifying dam spillways to accommodate heavier flows.

Climate change is also affecting outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania. The summer recreation season is longer than it used to be, and warmer, rainier winters have reduced or eliminated traditional winter recreation such as cross-country skiing and ice fishing in many parts of the state. To balance recreational demand with resource protection DCNR is looking at recreational sustainability and resource carrying capacity.

Our state parks and forests are key pieces in the system of interconnected habitats that plants and animals use to migrate to the north and higher elevations as the climate changes. DCNR is currently working to identify the state's key migration corridors to direct conservation dollars to preserving the missing links through acquisition, easements, and support of land conservation.

continued on page 4

Climate Change continued from page 3

Going Greener

The department is also working to mitigate climate change by reducing carbon emissions and removing carbon from the atmosphere. To date, DCNR has installed 16 solar arrays in state parks and forests with a combined energy production of 365kW. By the end of 2020, that will increase to 1,665kW with 11 new projects expected to be completed. Ultimately, DCNR plans to derive 50 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2022, reducing our carbon footprint by 3,548 tons/year.

DCNR is electrifying its fleet and installing electric vehicle charging stations. Since 2017, the department has replaced 23 of its vehicles with a mixture of fully electric and electric hybrid plug-in vehicles. Additionally, 19 electric vehicle charging stations have been installed in state park and forest locations to ensure guests can travel to and from our public lands without the anxiety of running out of a charge. By 2025, DCNR plans to have 25% of its fleet comprised of plug-in electric or hybrid vehicles and more than 40 electric vehicle public charging stations installed.

Recognizing that trees are a powerful natural solution to removing carbon from the atmosphere, DCNR is looking at ways to manage our forests to increase carbon sequestration. Collectively, Pennsylvania's 16.8 million acres of forest store about 1.2 billion metric tons of carbon and sequester an additional 7 million each year. DCNR's Bureau of Forestry is working to identify forest management strategies that simultaneously increase carbon uptake, forest health, and productivity.

Solar panel installation at Presque Isle's Tom Ridge Center.



Photo Credit: DCNR

DCNR's Commitment to Fighting Climate Change:

DCNR takes climate change very seriously, as illustrated in its official climate change position statement. For more information on DCNR's climate visit:

www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ClimateChange/pages/default.aspx

How YOU Can Make a Difference:

www.EarthDay50PA.org offers actions that you can take to reduce climate impacts and opportunities to be a steward of your state parks and forests.

REI'S Opt to Act Plan at www.rei.com/blog/stewardship/the-opt-to-act-plan provides 52 weekly challenges to reduce your impact, get active, and leave the world better than you found it.

It's widely recognized that society's actions over the next decade will determine how severe the long-term effects of climate change will be. As Pennsylvania's conservation leader, DCNR remains committed to reducing emissions, managing resilient state parks and forests, and educating the public about climate change impacts and solutions.

Happy 50th Birthday EARTH DAY!



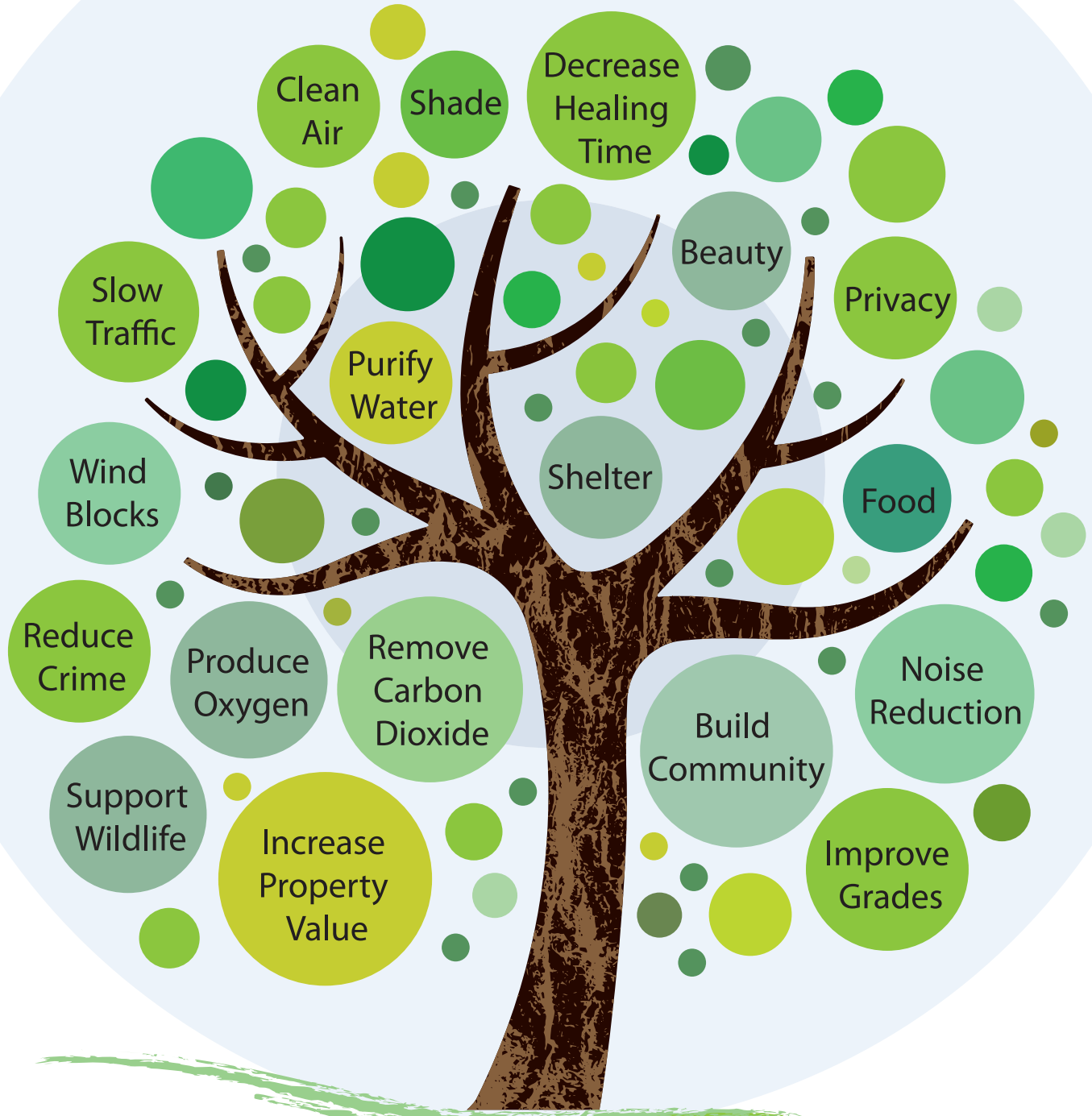
Earth Day was born 50 years ago as the result of an ever-increasing awareness of the impact of human activity on the planet we call home. From air pollution to pesticide use to devastating images from the explosion of an oil drilling platform off the coast of California and the burning Cuyahoga River, environmental issues took center stage in American politics throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Right in the midst of it was the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Conceived as a massive environmental education class, Earth Day since then remains a valuable teaching tool for people around the world.

In taking up the cause for the 50th anniversary, PPFF is hosting the clearinghouse website at www.EarthDay50PA.org where Earth Day events being sponsored by the partner businesses and organizations can be found, along with historical information, practical guidance on being green in the 21st century, and—of course—an educational component for teachers and students across the commonwealth.

If your organization would like to be a partner or to sponsor an event, or you are in search of an opportunity to flex your Earth Day muscles, visit www.EarthDay50PA.org.

The VALUE of TREES



Inspire Art Nature's Gym Flood Control Lower Temperatures
Energy Savings Erosion Control Reduce Stress Improve Soil

Let There Be Trees on Earth and Let it Begin with Me

It seems like every day you hear about raging forest fires in Australia or California or extreme over-logging in the Amazon rainforest. Closer to home we are losing trees to severe storms and invasive pests, leading us to ask: Is there something we can do to help?! The answer is a resounding YES!



Emerald Ash Borer, while tiny, wreaks havoc on ash trees across the state. Trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer need to be removed, as they become very brittle, causing a human safety concern.

There is no day like TODAY to replace trees in Pennsylvania parks and forests.

The need for replanting trees in our parks and forests is REAL, weighing in at \$600,000 across the state. Our approach to tree planting is not to propose a seedling for every \$1 donated ... we know these young trees will take too many years to replace the mature ones lost to emerald ash borer and hemlock woolly adelgid. Instead, our proposal is to plant larger trees that have a higher chance of survival and that will visually change a barren area into one of function.

Pennsylvania is the only state named for trees:

Penn's Woods ... Penn's Sylvania.

Trees are important to every Pennsylvania community—but especially our parks and forests where trees are the setting for all activities! Trees have been shown to reduce stress, decrease healing time, and improve human health. Trees breathe in what we cannot and they exhale what we need to breathe in. By taking in carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen, trees are vital partners to humans.

Trees are important in preventing soil erosion and keeping water cool. Large stands of trees can reduce storm water impacts, improve water quality, and reduce flooding.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation has designated this 50th anniversary of Earth Day the “Year of the Tree.” Throughout the year we will be focused on the function and value of trees, providing information on how to care and

plant trees, hosting “ask an arborist/forester” talks, and offering helpful information on our social media channels.

But the biggest part of “Year of the Trees” is to PLANT TREES, and here is where your support is truly needed.

While \$600,000 seems like a daunting amount, it is attainable.

Imagine if you:

- Went for a walk instead of the movies, and donated the cost of the movie to plant trees?
- Asked for trees for an upcoming birthday and hosted a Facebook fundraiser?
- Thought about the value of trees to you and made a donation in that amount.

Much like the roots of trees that are interconnected and depend on one another, trees depend on us. Please visit <https://ppff.gives/year-of-the-trees> and make a gift today!

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is today.”

—Ancient Chinese wisdom





Another Win-Win for the Wilderness Wheels Program

Thanks to the Wilderness Wheels program, 61 students from Newport Elementary School in Perry County got to take a trip this past fall to Little Buffalo State Park where they got to apply in the outdoors what they've been learning in the classroom. This included getting hands-on experience learning about stream testing, slope, watersheds and filtration, and how water works at the grist mill. One student said, "It was fun because we had laughs with our friends and teachers, and it was science!"



"Thank you again for your assistance with HICO (Harrisburg Inspiring Connections Outdoors) accessing funds through the Wilderness Wheels program to visit Hickory Run State Park this past summer. Transportation is a huge and often limiting cost for HICO. Because of this program, our youth were able to camp in a new park, learn about water quality, explore the massive boulder field, and do some campfire cooking. We had a wonderful experience and are so grateful for the Wilderness Wheels program."

—Jessie Stockwell, Secretary, HICO

SKILL BUILDER

How to Plant a Tree

By Marci Mowery



While planting a tree can be as simple as putting a stick into the soil, it often requires a bit more effort than that. If properly planted, a tree stands a better chance of surviving, thereby reducing costs and making the experience a bit more enjoyable.

First, **consider your growing conditions**, such as amount of sun, quality of soil, moisture content, use of the area, and where you live. We like to encourage the use of native trees and shrubs. You can find information on species that are good for Pennsylvania at www.iconservepa.org/plantsmart/treesandforests/planttrees/index.html

Second, **consider your timing**. The longer a freshly planted tree has to adjust to hot summer conditions, the better. In Pennsylvania, fall is a great time, as is early spring. Skip the summer plantings.

Next, **prepare the planting hole**. It is recommended to make the hole three times wider than the current root mass, but avoid making the hole deeper than the current container in which the plant is growing. You can test this by putting your shovel handle across the opening of the hole. It should lay flat on the root ball, but not be above or below. You don't want the flare of the tree to be in the soil—this could kill the tree. (It's OK to have the root ball a little higher, just never lower).

Loosen the root ball to allow the roots to be free of their current circular pattern for best growth results.

Back fill the hole with the existing soil. Try to reduce any air pockets by spraying with water as you backfill at the halfway and full points. While you can tamp around the soil, sometimes this leads to over compaction.

Starting about two inches from the trunk, **mulch around the tree** with organic matter such as leaf or bulk mulch. Mulch should extend out to the dripline of the tree and will help retain much needed water and keep the roots cooler. NEVER mulch up the tree trunk, as it is a sure fire way to kill the tree.

Proper watering is the final key to success. It can take weeks to months for a tree to establish itself, so be patient. For best results, you want irrigation that is slow and deep, allowing the soil around the roots to be saturated. But don't over water. Watch the tree—it will tell you if it needs more, or less, water.

For a tutorial, visit www.growingagreenerworld.com/how-to-plant-a-tree.

WE WILL MISS



Walter (Walt) N. Peechatka

(9/3/1939 - 10/19/2019)

Former Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Walt's love of Pennsylvania's public lands (and Pennsylvanians in general) led him to serve on the Department of Conservation and National Resources Advisory Council from 2007 until the present. A Distinguished Alumnus in the Field of Agriculture from Penn State, Walt was respected by those who knew him as a humble man of strong character and integrity.



Sara "Sally" Martin

(5/13/1930 - 1/7/2020)

Sally hiked the Appalachian Trail, was an age group champion triathlete, swimmer, cross-country skier, and an avid cyclist all her life. While bicycling around the world at age 65, she worked with Mother Teresa in India, and then wrote "Mustang Sally's Guide to World Bicycle Touring." In 1997, she was the oldest (at age 67) among a group of women who joined Marci in the Women's Expedition for the Environment, a cross-Pennsylvania trek by bicycle, boat, and boots.

Happy Retirement to PPF Staff Members

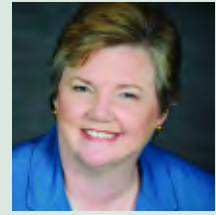
The late fall and early winter have been a time of transition for PPF with the retirement of both Outreach Coordinator Amanda Trimmer and bookkeeper Debbie Whitmoyer. We wish them both long years of health and happiness. *Read about the new additions on the right* →

NEW FACES at PPF

PPFF is happy to welcome **Brad Jones** and **Kate Harper** to the PPF Board of Directors.



An enthusiastic urban developer with a passion for catalytic positive change, President and CEO of Harristown Enterprises Inc., Brad is involved in a wide variety of exciting new real estate developments that are making Harrisburg better every day.



Former State House Chair and a partner at Timoney Knox LLP, Kate is a problem solver who works with individuals, families, local governments and businesses. Her passion lies in the preservation and conservation of Pennsylvania's special places.

PPFF also welcomes to its Camp Hill Office **Peggy Davidson** as Development Coordinator, **Sarah Scholl** as Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator, and **Jenna Behringer** as Office Assistant.



Peggy brings with her 18 years of experience in nonprofit fund development for several Central PA area nonprofits. She has spent many years volunteering in the community and serving on Boards. Prior to fundraising, her career was in occupational and environmental health.



A graduate of Temple University, Sarah comes to PPF with a background in TV production and marketing. Past career opportunities have allowed her to work in mediums including managing, idea creation, writing, publishing, monitoring, and analyzing social media channels.



Jenna brings a diverse mix of music industry, electronics, IT, and social media marketing experience to her role as Office Assistant. She is deeply passionate about nature and the outdoors and spends as much time as possible kayaking and playing along our creeks, lakes, and rivers.



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

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.PaParksAndForests.org/events

MARCH

- 3/14 Friends of Colonel Denning Volunteer Day
- 3/28 Friends of Beltzville State Park - Great American Cleanup



APRIL

- 4/11 Friends of Prince Gallitzin's Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/12 Eggs and Bunnies: Springtime Earth Day Exhibit at Ridley Creek
- 4/15 Penns Woods: Cradle of Conservation, Valley Community Library
- 4/18-25 J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week
- 4/18 Rachel Carson Documentary Showing at Dietrich Theater, Tunkhannock
- 4/18 Making the Most of Your Piece of Nature- DIY Pollinator Workshop
- 4/18 Earth Day at Black Moshannon
- 4/18 Earth Day Celebration at Prince Gallitzin
- 4/18 Earth Day with the Friends of Buchanan
- 4/18 Friends of Colonel Denning Earth Day Tree Planting
- 4/18 Take Back the Woods: Battling Invasive Species at Jennings Environmental Education Center
- 4/18 Friends of Beltzville Earth Day 50th Anniversary Celebration
- 4/20 EARTH DAY: GIVE A LITTLE BACK
- 4/24 Project Wet Educator Workshop at Codorus State Park
- 4/25 Annual Woodsy Owl Work Day at Parker Dam State Park
- 4/25 Earth Day Park Clean Up at Canoe Creek
- 4/30 Friends of Beltzville State Park Garden Cleanup

MAY

- 5/23 Memorial Day Service with the Friends of Prince Gallitzin
- 5/23-30 Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Week
- 5/27 Friends of Beltzville State Park Shore Line/Kayak Clean Up

For the up-to-the-minute calendar, visit our website at PaParksAndForests.org

#PAFacesofRec

Introducing the PA Faces of Recreation Campaign

Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are spaces we share with friends and strangers—spaces of equality that unite us with a common love.

Beyond hiking, camping, and birdwatching, our parks and forests offer a natural playground to all Pennsylvanians. We want to see the wide array of people using our shared spaces for a wide array of outdoor activities. To highlight and celebrate the diversity in our state parks and forests we are launching the PA Faces of Recreation campaign.

Take to social media and post pictures of the variety of ways you enjoy our state parks and forests. Our hope is these photos will encourage others to explore the parks and forests and inspire budding outdoor enthusiasts.

Tag the photos with #PAFacesofRec to build our rainbow of recreation.

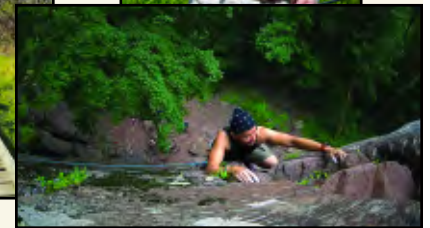
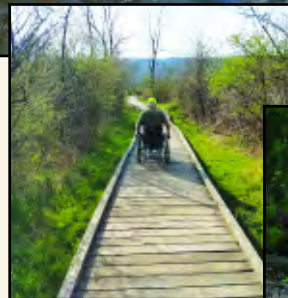


Photo credit: John Beatty

Bring on Spring!

Two PERFECT opportunities to celebrate spring while exploring a PA state park or forest!



Photo credit: Dot Monahan, Maurice Goddard State Park

April 18-25
Dr. J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week

May 23-30
Pennsylvania State Park and Forest Week

Done Exploring?
Consider supporting our parks and forests by helping to purchase trees
<https://ppff.gives/year-of-the-trees>

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PPFF FRIENDSGROUPS

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 Davis Hollow Cabin

Friends of Goddard

Friends of Greenwood Furnace

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 Ohiopyle

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 Worlds End State Park

Nestled in the Loyalsock Creek Valley, Worlds End State Park is 780 acres of isolated beauty. The origins of the park's name are uncertain. Throughout history it has been referred to as "Worlds End," "Whirl's Glen," and "Whirls End." Surrounded by the Loyalsock State Forest, the park offers many recreational opportunities in a pristine environment.

The isolated, rugged mountain location means beautiful hiking trails featuring many breathtaking waterfalls and vistas, and an ideal location for trail races or wilderness activities. The family campground and historic Civilian Conservation Corps cabin community provide a place for people to lay their heads after a full day at Worlds End. The swimming beach is perfect for a summer dip, kayaking, or canoeing. The Loyalsock Creek is stocked with trout, and cold mountain water equals great fishing conditions.

The Friends of Worlds End contribute to the park year round. Incorporated to PPF in 2018 they are always looking for ways to improve their home park. Through events like Worlds End Day (July 25, 2020) and archery classes taught by a member of their board, they are committed to engaging park visitors and creating a retreat from the busy world that people can return to again and again.

The group produced a new map—"Trails in and around Worlds End"—available at the park office and participate in regular trail construction and maintenance to ensure great hiking for all. In 2019 they began selling bundled firewood and bagged ice; all proceeds from those sales support improvements at the park amphitheater. The Friends hope to make it an all-weather amphitheater to support new events like family movie night.

The Friends plan to continue trail work in 2020, in addition to assisting with naturalist projects, volunteering at trail run first aid stations, and publishing their quarterly newsletter "The Vista."

Leave the real world behind with a trip to the beautiful Worlds End State Park. The park is open sunrise to sunset year round.

Interested in joining the Friends of Worlds End? Email friendsofworldsendsp@gmail.com or follow them on social media @friendsofworldsendsp. The Friends of Worlds End meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in the park office. Meetings are open to all!



Photo Credit: Friends of Worlds End State Park



Photo Credit: Friends of Worlds End State Park

More FriendsInAction:

The **Friends of Black Moshannon** have made the painful decision to markedly downsize their annual Summer Festival. Volunteers are in short supply and there really was no alternative.



Speaking of playgrounds, the **FroGs (Friends of Goddard)** have a new show-piece to present including accessible swings. Here's hoping for a ribbon cutting this spring!



The **Friends of Colonel Denning** restored the park's two volleyball courts and will have volleyballs on loan for visitors to borrow, free of charge. Grab your friends and family for a good 'ole fashioned game!



The **Lackawanna State Park Trail Care Crew** put in 630 volunteer hours in 2019 and they have one request this winter and early spring: exercise good judgment on soft surfaces and don't make it necessary to go back and redo the work they already did!

The **Friends of Cowans Gap** broke ground for their new playground in November. There will be lots of chances to help with installation in the new year.



The **Friends of Michaux** are on an anti-litter campaign and hikers along the forest's many trails are getting involved. As trash picker extraordinaire Isaac notes, "[Litter] gives a bad impression on our great forest."



While the **Friends of Oil Creek** wait patiently for snow to fall and the chance to get out on the cross country skis, they remind readers of their unique contribution to the environment and the damage left behind by the original oil boom of the late 1800s. Thousands of abandoned oil and gas wells dot the park and a dedicated crew of Friends, volunteers from the Venango PA Senior Environmental Corps, and the Conservation District work regularly to clean and plug the wells. It is quite the task and not one for which DEP or DCNR has funds.



Makingan Impact on Legislation PPF's Advocacy Committee

A very active committee on PPF is the Advocacy Committee, which monitors legislation and activities that could impact our state parks and forests. Current priorities of the committee include:

- Providing comprehensive comments on the "Penn's Parks for All" report.
- Monitoring a bundle of legislation that would remove the Environmental Stewardship Fund and the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund from their intended purpose of investing in community recreation and our state parks and forests and instead move these funds to the general fund. This bundle of bills (HB 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991) would also prevent future funds from being established.
- Rep. Ortity's HB 2004 targets the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, opening it up for General Assembly reallocation each year.
- Monitoring HB 2148 which restricts the use of conservation easements to protect forested lands.

The committee will continue to monitor legislation while also advancing the campaign for investments in our parks and forests.

YOU Made it Happen

Raceway Restored to its CCC-era Beauty

While the Civilian Conservation Corps made an incredible difference to the state in terms of forest regeneration, recreational development, and helping the commonwealth grow into a leader in outdoor recreation and sustainable forestry, these accomplishments are starting to fade as history progresses and structures start to deteriorate. With your support, and a grant from the Allegheny Foundation, restoration continues in the Blue Hole Division of Forbes State Forest. Many visitors will now leave the site with a message of the importance of the CCC, and a visual of what the site looked like. If you would like to support restoration of Civilian Conservation Corps structures, visit <https://paparksandforests.org/support/ways-to-give>.



Vision for Accessible Dock Becomes Reality

Access to the water at Little Buffalo State Park just became easier thanks to the support of donors like you, local service clubs, The Josiah W. and Bessie H. Kline Foundation, the Thomas J. McCormack III Foundation, Perry County Community Foundation, and the Partnership for Better Health. Formal dedication of the new accessible dock is expected to occur this spring. Keep an eye on our electronic calendar for details. Thank you also to the Friends of Little Buffalo for helping to advance this shared vision for the users of the park.

Tent Platforms = Sweet Dreams

A root in the back can make it difficult to sleep, while also providing some challenges for the tree, as well! A solution is in site, with new tent platforms popping up along the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail. Your support and a grant from REI Pittsburgh, has enabled six platforms to be built thus far (two at RT 553 shelter, two at Route 31 shelter, and at Grindle Ridge) and 10 more are planned for the spring of 2020. Thank you to all volunteers who have helped to build the platforms and to the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps.



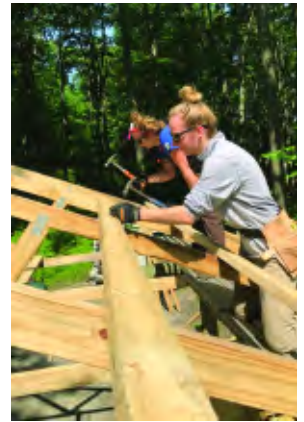
New Trailside Camping Area

Campers along the Great Allegheny Passage will soon have the opportunity to rest their head in a new trailside camping area thanks to trail work being funded by a Katherine Mabis McKenna Grant to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. Labor has been provided by the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corp, the Spring Valley Youth Group, and the Friends of OhioPyle.



Wood Shelters to the Rescue

Have you ever tried to start a fire with wet wood? As weather patterns continue to change, this will become an



all-too-common occurrence. To the rescue: wood shelters along the Laurel Highland Hiking Trail! With funding from the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation and the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and donors like you, members of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps built another shelter along the trail.



Grant Helps Fund ADA Dock

We are one step closer to placing an ADA dock at Gifford Pinchot State Park after receiving a grant from the Memorial Health Fund, affiliated with York County Community Foundation. If you would like to make a donation to the project, visit <http://bit.ly/PinchotADADock>.



New Friends Group!

The Friends of Davis Hollow Cabin is our newest Friends group. Located in Moraine State Park, the cabin is a Revolutionary War structure managed and maintained by the Friends.

New Mower Aids Trail Work

A vast network of trails can be found in the 217,000-acre Elk State Forest—trails that require regular maintenance and monitoring. Staff received a holiday gift at the end of 2019, when your donations supported the acquisition of a new mower, making trail work just a little bit easier.



Electric Bikes Make Trail Upkeep Easier



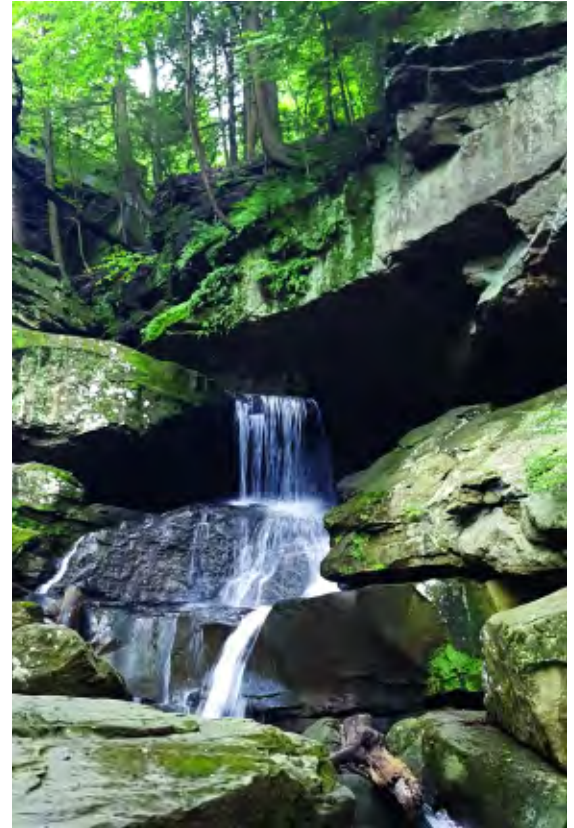
Maintaining sixty miles of trail, subject to flooding and used by tens of thousands of people each year is a big task, especially with reduction in staffing at parks and forests across the state. The job just got a little easier at Delaware Canal State Park where your donations enabled the purchase of two Rad bikes, an electric bicycle that enables easy access to the trail, and when not in use, folds neatly into the trunk of a car. That 60 miles seems a whole lot shorter now!

A New Place to Learn and Walk

Visitors to the Forbes State Forest Resource Center have an opportunity to stretch their legs on a newly created trail and arboretum funded in part by the Richard King



Mellon Foundation, the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation and through your donations. The work, completed with the assistance of forestry staff, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps, and local school children, will not only provide a place to learn and walk, the trees will help to reduce the impacts of carbon emissions. What a win!



Safer (and Better) View of Breakneck Falls

An increase in foot traffic and a corresponding increase in accidents at McConnells Mill State Park set into motion a plan to provide a safe way to view Breakneck Falls. With support from the Access Fund and private donations, and with work provided by the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps, the Wampum Chapter of the North Country Trail Association, and state park staff, a new, safer route was developed. And the other bonus? It's a better view of the falls! Now that is the kind of project that makes us smile.

New Interpretive Signs Help Educate Park Visitors

When a guide isn't available to interpret the historic mill at McConnells Mill State Park, visitors can educate themselves thanks to the installation of new interpretive signage. The project was completed in partnership with the Moraine, McConnells Mill Jennings Association and the Moraine Preservation Fund, and your support.



2019 PPFF's "Through the Seasons" Photo Contest Results!

PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST IN SHOW



Meredith Thomas, Gifford Pinchot State Park

CRITICS' CHOICE BEST IN SHOW



Lisa Shoap, Michaux State Forest

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE BEST IN SHOW



Jessica Lyter, Poe Valley State Park

SELFIE



FIRST PLACE: Kasey Gilbert, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

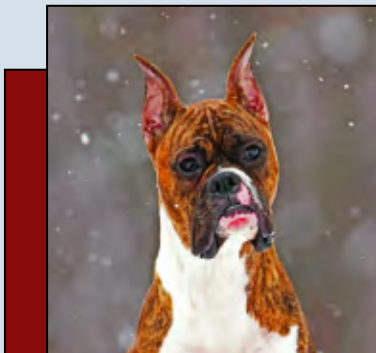


SECOND PLACE: Madeleine Beitmann, Prompton State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Rhonda Maloney, Ricketts Glenn State Park

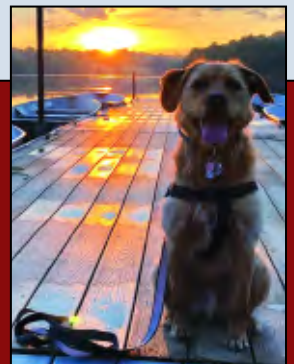
DOGS IN THE OUTDOORS



FIRST PLACE: Phyllis Terchanik, Gallitzin State Forest

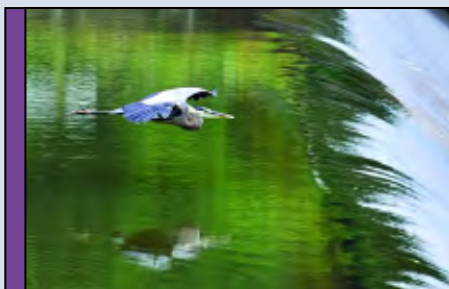


SECOND PLACE: Anthony Heath, Warriors Path State Park

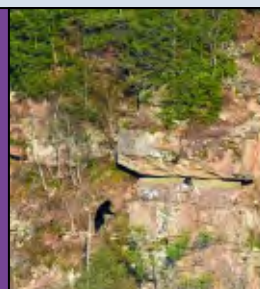


CRITICS' CHOICE: Gwen Knight, Marsh Creek State Park

OTHER WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS



FIRST PLACE: Shelia Shuba, Raccoon Creek State Park



SECOND PLACE: Deb Young, Leonard Harrison State Park



CRITICS' CHOICE: Carol Giamario, Nockamixon State Park



PARK AND FOREST ADVENTURES

FIRST PLACE: Diana Sanner, Laurel Hill State Park

SECOND PLACE: Barb Fogal, Lehigh Gorge State Park

CRITICS' CHOICE: Eric Oakman, Elk State Forest

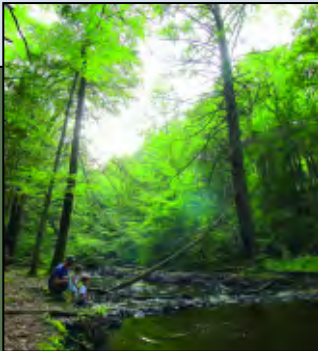


MOTION

FIRST PLACE: Ramchand Mynedi, Memorial Lake State Park

SECOND PLACE: Marilyn Moreno, Raccoon Creek State Park

CRITICS' CHOICE: Kelly O'Neill, Ricketts Glen State Park

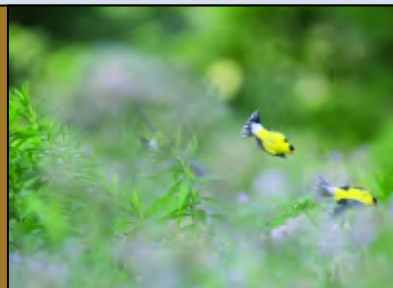
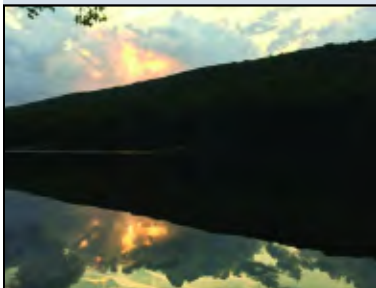


INTER-GENERATIONAL JOY

FIRST PLACE: Liz Mickley, Greenwood Furnace State Park

SECOND PLACE: Mirjam Spaar, Cowans Gap State Park

CRITICS' CHOICE: Gloria Benfer, Bald Eagle State Forest



YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS (AGES 12-17)

FIRST PLACE (TIE): Dakota Becker Imes, Poe Valley State Park

FIRST PLACE (TIE): Aidan Kissner, Kings Gap Environmental Education Center

CRITICS' CHOICE: Trent Stross, Laurel Ridge State Park

CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

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

2020 PHOTO CONTEST

Capturing the Beauty of Our State Parks and Forests "Through the Seasons"

The annual PPF "Through the Seasons" photo contest is a great opportunity to capture the beauty of our state parks and forests and share with others what makes it special to you. Plus, the contest offers a chance to show off your photography skills—whether amateur or professional!

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! All photos must be taken in a Pennsylvania state park or forest. **Deadline to submit photos is Sept. 8, 2020.** For a complete set of contest rules and submission details, visit www.PaParksAndForests.org/Get-Involved/Photo-Contest



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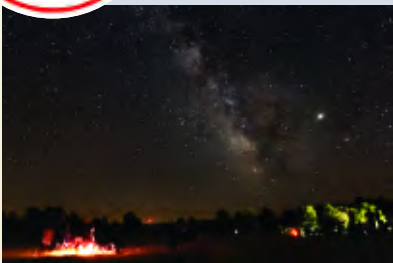


Photo Credit: Chris Scragg

Time (Magazine) for Kids picked Cherry Springs State Park as one of its 50 Coolest Places for families. *That's in the WORLD, folks!* Expect the Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association to be busy making a place for all of them!



Thankyou for supporting us through the ExtraOrdinary Give!

\$12,063.77 was raised for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests!

If your current membership has expired, visit our website today 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!

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To become a member, fill out the information below and mail this form with your check (made payable to PPF) in an envelope to:

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