

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

Spring 2021 Newsletter



The mission of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is to inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

Vision: To be the trusted voice and advocate to sustain and enhance Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

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Penn-Roosevelt Camp, work crew. Photo by Greenwood Furnace State Park

African-Americans in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Pennsylvania

By Paul T. Fagley, Environmental Education Specialist, Greenwood Furnace State Park

The decade of the 1930s was one of hard economic times, and even more so for minority communities. One of the many New Deal programs was a way to ease some of this for young men. Unemployment for minority youth was among the worst, and there were few prospects for work.

At the same time, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a conservationist, was concerned about the degradation of the environment from years of use and misuse. Roosevelt saw a solution in marrying these issues into what arguably became the most popular of the New Deal programs – the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The idea - take unemployed youth and put them to work restoring the environment.

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PAParksAndForests.org



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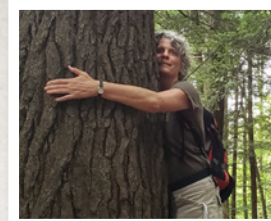
Pam Metzger, Membership Coordinator

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President's Message

Marci Mowery

First, I must apologize, for as I reread my last President's message, it struck me that the wrong park was mentioned! We were not at Caledonia, but Little Pine and Codorus state parks.



As 2020 drew to a close, PPFF put the final touches on a strategic planning initiative focused on the next five years. Many of you replied to our survey, helping to shape that plan, approved by the board at our November meeting. An over view of the plan can be found on page six.

In 2020, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. As we enter 2021, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Environmental Rights Amendment, also known as Section 27, Article 1, of the Pennsylvania Constitution. A copy of it hangs in my office—reminding me daily that we, the people, are constitutionally guaranteed the right to clean air and pure water and that the state is the trustees of those lands which we all own—our state parks and forests.

Our goal throughout the year is to connect you to the specific rights outlined in the Environmental Rights Amendment through contests, events, and learning opportunities. Even our photo contest focuses on the Amendment, inviting photographers of all ages to interpret the amendment through the lens of their camera. See page 11 for photo contest details and page 14 for information on some of the activities we are looking forward to conducting. We also encourage you to use the hashtag #PAEnviroRights50 on your social media outlets.

Last summer we launched the Camping Enhancements effort to raise money to buy needed equipment and fixtures in some of our parks and forests. Thanks to the generosity of donors who supported the campaign, we have started to order these items and can't wait to show you pictures of them in place and being enjoyed. There are still items to be purchased. See what's available in on our online store at ppff.gives/camping-enhancements.

In the next few weeks—possibly by the time you receive this—we will have unveiled our new website! The website offers more visibility for friends groups, has opportunities to engage with park and forest enthusiasts such as yourself, and contains information to improve your outdoor experiences. It is obviously quite light on the events calendar (oh, how we look forward to that changing) but overall seems a little brighter and a little better organized. We know there will be room for improvement. Please let us know what you think. New look; same URL – PAParksAndForests.org!

As evidenced by that empty calendar, access to volunteer events and public programs are hard to predict for the coming months, as the pandemic continues to alter our lives. Keep an eye on our webpage, social media and Take Five, and we will keep you apprised as things change. In the meantime, our Lunch & Learn programs (bi-weekly) are entertaining and informative. Have you learned to paint? Cross-country ski? What birds you might find in your backyard? Visit our Facebook page or YouTube channel and catch up!

Yours in the Outdoors, Marci

Continued from page 1...

Roosevelt announced his bold idea in his inaugural address in March of 1933. It would take a massive effort to get the idea to fruition, let alone run it. In what is likely an unprecedented cooperation among government and private agencies, these competing interests came together, and from the announcement to when the first camp opened was a mere 40 DAYS!

The legislation creating the CCC forbid the discrimination of anyone based on "race, color or creed," as argued by Congressman Oscar DePriest, an Illinois representative and the only Black member of Congress. However, this was in an era when discrimination in society in general was commonplace and, sadly, the CCC never fully lived up to that ideal.

For instance, enrollment of Black youth into the CCC capped at 10%, roughly equal to the Black population's national percentage at the time. This was only minimally adjusted for population differences at the state level. Segregation was legal in the form of "separate but equal," as defined in the *Plessy vs. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision of 1896. Though segregation was not policy initially, within two years political pressure forced the CCC to officially segregate enrollees. Many states placed additional roadblocks but, when looking at Pennsylvania, something interesting emerges. Our Commonwealth seemed to buck the trend, and worked to help Black enrollees as best they could, within the confines of both society and regulation.

Pennsylvania hit the ground running with the CCC program, thanks to then Governor Gifford Pinchot. As America's first trained forester, he helped establish the U.S. Forest Service, and twice served as governor of Pennsylvania. Prepared, Pennsylvania had some of the first camps in the nation. Over the eight years of the CCC, Pennsylvania ranked second only to California in the number of camps, at 153.

So, how many of these were Black camps? Traditionally, many sources cite the number of African American camps, at 12. This number seems very low based on the overall Black population of the state at the time. Further, this author and fellow CCC historian John Eastlake found well over 12 Black camps during research.

What was the source of "12"? Most accounts simply stated this as fact. It turns out a letter dated in June of 1934, near the one-year anniversary of the program, included the number 12. This then represents only the camps formed in the first year of the CCC, not the total number of Black camps in the entire eight years of the program. (Crosschecking this number with research, I can only confirm 11 of the 12 camps. It would be interesting to examine this letter to see if it lists the camps. However, since it is housed in the State Archives, satisfaction of curiosity regarding this point must wait until COVID restrictions are lifted.)

As the CCC program got underway, dozens of camps were organized and opened within the first three months of the program. By the end of June 1933, there were eight Black camps. By the end of the year, another three were added for a total of 11 camps--two in the Allegheny National Forest, two at Gettysburg battlefield, one was an Army camp, and six were PA State Forest camps. As noted above, there is still one camp to be identified.

By the end of 1935, newspaper articles stated that Pennsylvania had the most number of Black camps, at 17, out of 250 nationwide. However, only one new camp would be established after 1935, in the fall of 1941, due to new regulations imposed on the CCC program. During 1935, reacting to political pressure, CCC director Robert Fetchner enforced several new regulations. One was that Black CCC members could only serve in their home state. Those enrollees that were out of state were ordered to return home and, depending on the state, were placed in existing units or summarily discharged. To compound this, no new units of Black enrollees were allowed. New enrollees were only allowed to fill vacancies.



*Gettysburg, resetting headstones in the National Cemetery.
Photo by Greenwood Furnace State Park*

Continued on page 4...

After the rules changes in 1935, Pennsylvania took a different approach and attempted to place as many returning Black enrollees as possible. Three existing Black units were split in half, creating another three new companies, which were then filled to the full complement of 200 enrollees. Nationwide, no additional units were created after 1935, in part due to Congress continually decreasing the CCC's budget and an overall contraction of the program. Over time, the number of companies dropped and by 1942, the final year of the CCC, it was a mere shadow of its beginnings. However, three Black units remained active until the very end of the CCC in Pennsylvania.

In total, there were 30 documented African American camps, a ratio of about 1 in 5, or 20%. These were occupied by 20 different companies, out of a total of 158, a 1 in 8 ratio. Pennsylvania's total Black CCC enrollment was slightly higher than the state's percentage of the Black population at the time, and exceeded 9% before the 1935 restrictions. (Pennsylvania's "quota" would have been 8%.) While a larger percentage of Black men were under or unemployed, the caps left them unable to join the CCC.

The CCC, never intended to be a laboratory of social experimentation, in many ways laid the groundwork for integration. The CCC had integrated units before the U.S. military, and showed the latter that it could be accepted. These integrated units were not by design, but a necessity due to enrollee numbers. While a step, it is not to say that Black enrollees didn't face racism and challenges that other recruits did not.

Similarly, in the beginning, all Black units had white officers, a rule imposed by the Army. But over time, junior officers, education advisors, medical officers, and supervisors would be Black. In November of 1939, the first CCC company in America had all Black officers and supervisors. It was here in Pennsylvania, at one of the Gettysburg units. Soon, a second company followed suit. Both proved successful, and paved the way for the



East Licking Creek Camp, scene in camp. Photo by Greenwood Furnace State Park

first Black supervisory officers and integrated units in the military during World War II.

In the end, though gains were made for African-American youth, the CCC never fully lived up to its potential. It was, though, a pioneer in advancing civil rights, and helped lay the groundwork for that movement in the 1960s.

For additional reading,

<https://livingnewdeal.org/tag/african-americans-and-the-ccc/>

https://forearmy.blogspot.com/2011/02/blacks-in-ccc.html?fbclid=IwAR25CUIf0VCyrbtCe6Ch1Z4qB_1eS1MMZU_1PwzJd8C88mOHJKhwjMsWcy8

[At Work in Penn's Woods \(The Civilian Conservation Corps in Pennsylvania\)](#) by Joseph M. Speakman

Points for Discussion

1. The article provides an overview of one aspect of the Civilian Conservation Corps program and encourages deeper conversation. Questions to explore include: What prejudices did the corps members encounter? How did this hinder their success? Why did Pennsylvania lead the nation in the number of camps? What might have been the emotional toll for those working at the Gettysburg Battlefield and other locations that interpreted the history of the Civil War or slavery?
2. If you or a member of your family served in the Civilian Conservation Corps in any of the camps listed on the following pages, we would welcome your stories and images to help tell the story of the Corps.
3. We welcome other ideas for untold stories. Please email us at newsletter@PaParksAndForests.org

Continued on page 5...

African American Civilian Conservation Corps Camps in PA

Camp No.	Camp Names (inc. Alternates)	County	Company	Opened	Closed
US Army					
A-2	Tobyhanna Army Depot US Army	Monroe	303-C	5/6/33	6/1/33
Allegheny National Forest					
ANF- 4	Highland	Elk	336-C	5/6/33	10/1/35
ANF- 5	Sugar Run , Bradford	McKean	321-C	4/25/33	11/1/35
ANF-12	Kane, LaMont	McKean	2314-C	7/3/35	10/5/37
ANF-14	Willow Creek, Corydon	Warren	2315-C	7/3/35	1/15/36
National Park (former designations MP -Military Park and SP - State Park in brackets)					
NP-1 (MP-1)	Gettysburg (Pitzer's Woods), Renaissance	Adams	385-C	6/15/33	4/12/37
NP-2 (MP-2)	Gettysburg 2 (MacMillan Woods)	Adams	238-C	10/18/33	5/9/34
			1355-C	5/26/34	4/**/42
NP-11 (SP-11)	Pymatuning Reservoir, Westford	Crawford	2312-C	7/3/35	10/25/38
NP-13 (SP-13)	Buffalo, Trexler-Lehigh County Preserve, Schnecksville	Lehigh	2313-C	7/3/35	12/15/37
			2312-C	10/25/38	~12/1/39
Private Land					
P-149	Stoddartsville, Thornhurst	Luzerne	3309-CV	8/3/35	10/31/35
P-150	Moosic, Avoca	Luzerne	3309-CV	10/31/35	1/16/36
P-152	Long Hollow, Columbia, Beaver Valley	Columbia	3323-C	9/13/35	12/15/37
P-153	Nesquehoning	Carbon	3308-CV	8/27/35	7/10/37
State Forest Camps					
S-56	East Licking Creek, New Deal	Mifflin	314-C	5/6/33	1/16/36
S-60	Owl's Gap, Whipple Place, Petersburg	Huntingdon	1355-C	3/15/42	6/**/42
S-62	Stone Creek Kettle, Penn-Roosevelt	Centre	361-C	6/5/33	10/31/35
S-69	Beaverton, Beaver Springs	Snyder	361-C	11/1/35	12/11/36
S-72	Huntley, Medix Run	Clearfield/Elk	315-C	5/6/33	~1/15/36
S-76	State Camp, Renovo	Clinton	1330-C	6/14/34	3/**/42
S-83	Straight, Wilcox	Elk	316-C	5/6/33	1/15/36
S-84	Vann	Elk	303-C	6/20/33	7/12/37
S-101	Croyland, Ridgeway, Portland Mills, Brockway	Elk	321-C	10/11/37	7/7/41
S-113	New Lancaster Valley, Buffalo	Mifflin	3308-CV	7/10/37	7/8/41
S-116	Clearfield Nursery, Anderson Creek, Penfield Mtn	Clearfield	303-C	11/24/41	3/13/42
S-119	Wolf Rock, Port Matilda	Centre	303-C	7/12/37	11/24/41
S-141	Indiantown Gap, Grantville, Lickdale	Lebanon	336-C	10/1/35	6/1/37
S-146	Austin, Bark Shanty	Potter	2336-C	7/6/35	3/18/42
S-147	North Creek, Emporium	Cameron	321-C	11/1/35	10/1/37
S-154	Martin Hill, Chaneyville	Bedford 2	317-C	7/3/35	10/1/37
S-158	Dry Hollow, Lecontes Mills, Medix Run	Clearfield	2336-C	3/18/42	7/2/42

C= Colored, CV = Colored Veterans

Note: Historical reference only

Strategic Plan Goals

Thanks to the hard work of the Foundation's board during the challenging summer of 2020, we have a new strategic plan to guide us over the next five years.

Our Mission:

PPFF's mission is to inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

Our Vision:

To be the trusted voice and advocate to sustain and enhance Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

We Reaffirmed Our Values:

Integrity	Excellence
Innovation	Collaboration
Conservation	Diversity
Inclusion	Sustainability

And We Set Five Goals:

Goal 1: Work with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and other partners to ensure a sustainable system of parks and forests.

Goal 2: Build a diverse stakeholder base for the sound investment in our parks and forests through messaging and education on the value of our parks and forests for outdoor recreation, the economy, the environment, and for physical, mental and emotional health.

Goal 3: Ensure a place and an experience for everyone in the outdoors.

Goal 4: Invest in transformative projects and opportunities to enhance and conserve our parks and forests.

Goal 5: Strengthen the capacity of PPFF, friends' chapters and volunteers through strategic investment of time, talent and revenue.

COVID-19
CHAMPIONS
AWARD WINNERS
TO BE ANNOUNCED
SOON

We are taking the 2021 awards on the road this spring and summer.

Watch the website for information on how you can join in the celebration and help us honor the winners!

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)



Changes to the Board of Directors

The PPFF Board of Directors welcomed three new members in 2020.

Paul Fogal

Founding partner of Pocono Whitewater, Skirmish, and Pocono Biking. Paul has over 40 years of experience as a park concessionaire in the United States and Canada. He currently serves on the board of the Jim Thorpe Tourist Agency and Penn Forest Zoning Board, and has previous experience as a board member with the Delaware and Lehigh Heritage Corridor and the Rails to Trails Conservancy regional board.



Mary Hirst

A newly retired park manager from the Ole Bull State Park Complex. Mary was the first female field park manager in the state park system. A lifelong park user, Mary now volunteers as the chair and founding member of the Friends of Ole Bull State Park, is an EMT and the President of the Kettle Creek Ambulance Association. During the summer months, she can be found campground hosting, sharing her knowledge of the outdoors with visitors to state parks.



Josie Byzek

Executive Editor for New Mobility Magazine, an award-winning lifestyle magazine for wheelchair users that covers topics like travel, health & wellness, and parenting. Josie is the past secretary for the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania. She has served as a school board member of Susquehanna Township School District and has chaired the SPIL and Education Committee of the Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council.



Welcome to you all thank you for your commitment to our state parks and forests.

We also said “goodbye” to two board members, Gus Fredrick and Brian R. Kavalukas. Thank you for your time and commitment to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.

FIND OUT MORE AND ENTER AT
PPFF.EVENTS/ERA50-SONG-CONTEST

#PAENVIRORIGHTS50

SONG CONTEST

CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PENNSYLVANIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL
RIGHTS AMENDMENT THROUGH YOUR
ORIGINAL SONG

**Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week
April 24 through 30, 2021**



Rothrock Week: Fitting Tribute to the Father of Pennsylvania Forestry

Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock viewed preservation of forests as integral to our well-being and survival. It is to him that we owe gratitude for the tree-covered hills and mountains of Pennsylvania.

In recognition of his accomplishments the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1961 proclaimed the last week of April as Dr. J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week when "the citizens shall be encouraged to consider through suitable activities the broader subject of the conservation of all of the natural resources from which the wealth of the Commonwealth is derived."

This year, as you celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment, take a moment to pay tribute to Dr. J.T. Rothrock by getting outdoors and enjoying the land that he devoted his life to preserving.

Great Gifts for Family and Friends!

Check out our online store at paparksandforests.org



#IGive
Extra

EXTRAGIVE.ORG

Thank you!

THE EXTRA
ORDINARY
GIVE

COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Rodgers & Associates
ARCHITECTS

HIGH
FOUNDATION

On November 20th, *124* of you gave Extra,
helping to raise *\$10,422* to help ensure a
place and an experience for *everyone* in
our *state parks and forests*

Remembering Jerry Eicher

The COVID-19 Pandemic has taken a toll on too many American families. We would like to extend our sincere condolences to all who suffered a loss during this challenging time.



In November, the PPFF family lost a bulwark with the passing of Jerry Eicher, long-time chair of the Friends of Laurel Hill and all around wonderful guy, who lost his battle with cancer.

Remembering Merle Hawn

In December the PPFF family lost Merle Hawn, a founding member of the Friends of Greenwood Furnace. A 30-year employee of the Bureau of State Parks, the valley and parks where he spent his career were his beloved home.



THE NEW PPFF WEBSITE

Check Out: ABOUT US/PUBLICATIONS
Skill Builders/Fact Sheets

Cycling is wonderful. I wonder where we can learn what else we could do outside?

And don't forget something called the You Tube channel!



Auto Touring
Cross Country Skiing
Fishing
Horseback Riding
Hunting
Mountain Biking
Primitive Camping
Forest Bathing
How to Choose a Water Purifier
How to Plant a Tree
Outdoor Dog: Pet First Aid
Outdoor Dog: Pet Friendly Outdoors
Lunch & Learn Handouts:
Nordic Sites
Cross Country Skiing Basics



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

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

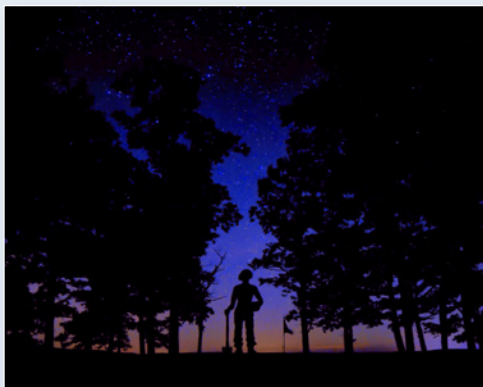
2020 Photo Contest Winners



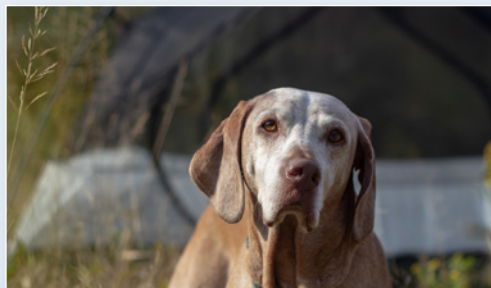
Best In Show, Judges' Choice - Motion
Bruce Walkovich, Prince Gallitzin State Park



Best In Show, People's Choice - Other Wildlife Sightings
Jean Palmer, Gifford Pinchot State Park



Staff Pick - Park and Forest Adventures
Douglas Clifford, Hyner View State Park



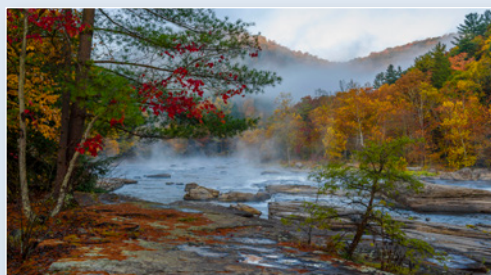
Judges' Choice - Dogs in the Outdoors
Jon Schwartz, Susquehannock State Forest



Judges' Choice - Selfie
Mary Jo Rodgers, Ricketts Glen State Park



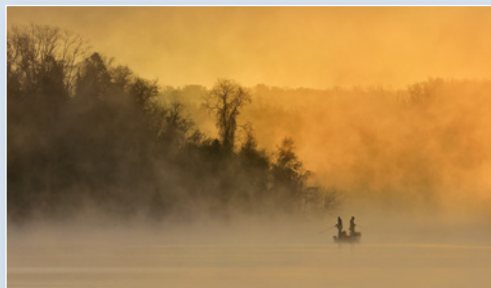
Judges' Choice - Other Wildlife Sightings
Mark Boyd, Susquehannock State Park



Judges' Choice - Motion
Clare Kaczmarek, Ohiopyle State Park



Judges' Choice - Intergenerational Joy
Annette Oates, R.B. Winter State Park



Judges' Choice - Park and Forest Adventures
Xiawei Zhang, Marsh Creek State Park



Judges' Choice - Young Photographers
Trent Stross, Parker Dam State Park

2020 Photo Contest Winners



First Place - Motion
Pam Illig, Whipple Dam State Park



First Place - Dogs in the Outdoors
Gwen Bratton, Kings Gap Environmental Education Center



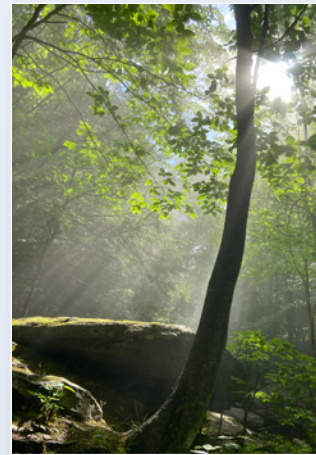
First Place - Other Wildlife Sightings
Carrie Huggler, Presque Isle State Park



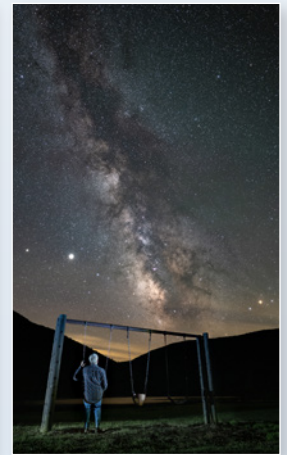
First Place - Intergenerational Joy
David Raymond, Michaux State Forest



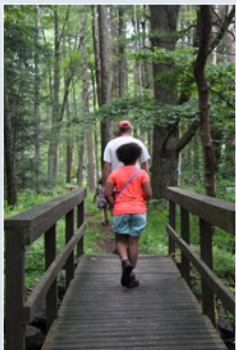
First Place - Park and Forests Adventures
Larry Laird, Pine Grove Furnace State Park



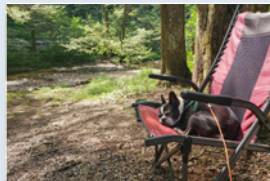
First Place - Young Photographers
Sydney Kilburn, Tioga State Forest



First Place - Selfie
Mark McAdams, Kettle Creek State Park



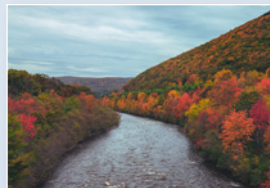
Second Place - Intergenerational
Joy Beth VanHorn, R.B. Winter State Park



Second Place - Dogs in the Outdoors
Scott Manicke, Hyner Run State Park



Second Place - Young Photographers
Holly Miralles, Kings Gap Environmental Education Center



Second Place - Parks and Forest Adventures
Jason Philibotte, Lehigh Gorge State Park



Second Place - Other Wildlife Sightings
Moraine State Park



Second Place - Selfie
Karen Books, Poe Valley State Park



Second Place - Motion
Heather Andrews, Ricketts Glen State Park

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR THE PARKS AND FORESTS THROUGH THE SEASONS PHOTO CONTEST

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment

Choose from seven categories:

- Clean Air
- Pure Water
- Natural Value
- Young Photographers (ages 12 to 17)
- Scenic Value
- Historic Value
- Esthetic Value

Find the details and rules at ppff.events/2021photocontest

Friends in Action

Even with restrictions on activities imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the PPFF chapters and volunteers found creative ways to continue both fundraising and work-days. Meetings were held online; planning took place through emails; they even managed to squeeze in a little fun. Congratulations to these examples of great volunteers in action.



The Friends of Colonel Denning helped fund installation of four double bat boxes (constructed as part of an Eagle Scout project) through their firewood and ice sales in the park's busy campground.

Friends of Kings Gap Presents



GARDEN HARVEST DAY
KINGS GAP ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

\$5
Tickets



**3rd and 4th
OCTOBER**
At 12pm and 3pm

MUSIC • APPLE CIDER PRESS • PUMPKIN PAINTING • FOOD



Tickets are only available online on Eventbrite or Facebook. Facemasks and social distancing are required.

Questions? Contact us at ra@rckingsgap.org or 717-486-3799

OCT. 3 @ 12pm - 2pm
OCT. 3 @ 3pm - 5pm
OCT. 4 @ 12pm - 2pm
OCT. 4 @ 3pm - 5pm

The Friends of Kings Gap shifted their annual Garden Harvest Day to a ticket-holders only with masks and physical distancing required.



The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace were not only able to complete the installation of a huge connector bridge over Mountain Creek, but they kept up with their other activities like invasive species removal and firewood sales with appropriate precautions.

SUNSET CONCERT at SCENIC VIEW
The Friends of Laurel Hill invite you to an open air, outdoor celebration of Celtic and Bluegrass music in the mountains!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020

Aurora Celtic & Robert Mabe Band



Tickets are \$10 and available at Eventbrite.com

- Space is limited — One ticket per person to enter
- Music from 4PM to 8PM — Gates will open at 3PM
- Be sure to bring your camp chairs & blankets to claim a space on the lawn!

"Inclement weather will postpone this event"



The Friends of Laurel Hill's gigantic bluegrass festival transitioned to a smaller, tickets only event on two Saturdays in September and October.



The Friends of Black Moshannon found fun in the bog with their Haunted Bog Trail event.

Continued on next page...

Friends in Action



The Friends of Rothrock took their annual Trail Fest to a virtual event this year, challenging participants to complete one or four challenges (mountain biking, gravel biking, equestrian, trail running) and share their photos.

The Friends of Prince Gallitzin are known for huge events which obviously could not take place this year but smaller groups of volunteers pitched in for things like spreading gravel in the always busy Crooked Run Campground and refreshing the benches for the park's amphitheater.



The drive into Beltzville State Park is a lovely one and keeping these approaches litter-free has long been one of the Friends of Beltzville's signature projects. You can't be much more physically distanced than these volunteers.



The Friends of Ole Bull

Located in Potter County, and surrounded by some of the largest tracks of forestland in the state, Ole Bull State Park is now home to The Friends of Ole Bull. The friends group has big plans for their park. This year they were able to set up firewood sales, and have a few fundraising projects on the horizon for 2021 including the sale of ice, magnets, and stickers. They hope to host a park cleanup weekend in April and the Kid's Fishing Derby in June. The friends group is planning four meetings this year at the park or via conference call, pending COVID-19 restrictions. Meetings are open to the public. Please contact Mary Hirst at 814-435-2218 or mhirst60@gmail.com for more information.

List of Friends

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 Mount Pisgah
Friends of Nockamixon
Friends of Nolde Forest
Friends of Ohiopyle
Friends of Oil Creek
Friends of Ole Bull
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 Trough Creek & Warriors Path
Friends of Varden Conservation Area
Friends of Weiser - Haldeman/Greenland
Friends of Weiser - Roaring Creek
Friends of White Clay Creek
Friends of Worlds End
Friends of Yellow Creek
Lackawanna State Park Trail Care Crew

The Environmental Rights Amendment After 50 Years

By John C. Dernbach

On April 21, 1969, at the dawn of the modern environmental movement, a young lawyer and legislator from Sunbury named Franklin Kury stood on the floor of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to introduce an environmental rights amendment to the state constitution. Environmental protection, he said, “has now become as vital to the good life—indeed, to life itself—as the protection of those fundamental political rights, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, of peaceful assembly and of privacy.”

His reference to rights was not just rhetoric. His amendment would make environmental rights equal in importance to these other rights. He would later explain that he chose a constitutional amendment rather than legislation because the high level of public interest and support for environmental protection that existed in the late 1960s and early 1970s would not likely last, and that constitutional protection is more durable.

A little more than two years later, on May 18, 1971, the public approved Article I, Section 27 by a four-to-one vote. Section 27 provides;



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.

Section 27 was buried by the courts for more than four decades. But in two landmark cases, *Robinson Township v. Commonwealth* (2013) and *Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation v. Commonwealth* (2017), the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court used it to hold parts of several statutes unconstitutional. In different ways, these statutes promoted Marcellus Shale gas production.

A half-century old, Section 27 is now recognized around the world as a pioneering, enduring, and increasingly effective example of environmental rights. It is being used to address climate change and other issues that were not on the public radar in 1971, and will help future generations address other issues we do not now recognize. That underscores Franklin Kury’s wisdom of embodying environmental rights in the state constitution.

Give your creativity an outlet in our celebration of Pennsylvania’s Environmental Rights Amendment			
FEBRUARY Tackle a 6-word essay: What does “clean air” mean to you? ERA song contest begins	MARCH Write a cinquain: What does “clean water” mean to you?	APRIL Try a haiku! What does “preservation of the natural value” mean to you? Video stream with those who created amendment	MAY—ANNIVERSARY MONTH Visual arts submissions: What does “preservation of the scenic value” mean to you? WTF-TV documentary presentation
JUNE Your essay on cultural resources in our parks and forests: What does “preservation of the historic value” mean to you?	JULY Do an acrostic. What does “preservation of the aesthetic value” mean to you?	AUGUST Return of the 6-word essay: What does “common property of all the people” mean to you? Song contest concludes	SEPTEMBER Write a note to “future generations” and tell THEM what it means to have protected the resource for them!
Follow us on social media and our website for details all year long PA ParksAndForests.org #PAERA50 #PAEnviroRights50	OCTOBER Join a post card campaign to the “trustee of the resources” - your elected officials	NOVEMBER Support your parks and forests with a gift to PPF through the annual ExtraGive campaign	DECEMBER Wrap it up with a big green bow! All submissions assembled in a booklet for our legislators (and for you to download)

You Made it Happen

Breakneck Falls Fencing

Safety improvements to Breakneck Falls at McConnells Mills State Park continued with the placement of fencing at the top of the falls. Please, at any state park or forest vista or waterfall, do not climb over the fencing. It is there to keep you safe and/or to protect a natural asset. When we ignore the fencing, we not only put yourself at risk, we put the lives of others at risk.



Photo by DCNR



Photo by DCNR



Education Improvement Tax Credit Program

Students across the Commonwealth had opportunities to apply the knowledge gained in the classroom in hands-on learning made possible by donations to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation through the Education Improvement Tax Credit Program. We would like to express our appreciation to MidPenn Bank, Pennian Bank, Troegs Brewing, and Weis Markets for their support. As things shifted to virtual, support also made it possible to acquire equipment for DCNR educators to offer innovative virtual programs. Thank you!



Photo by DCNR

Fire Rings

We can almost hear the chatter of happy campers around the campfire at Cowans Gap State Park with the acquisition of thirty fire rings through a donation from Keystone RV. Soon we will begin acquiring other campground enhancements materials made possible by your donations—stay tuned!



Photo by Marci Mowery

Year of the Tree Campaign

Clean air and water got a boost as tree plantings continued up until the ground froze! With your donations to the Year of the Tree Campaign, as well as a grant from REI, we will return to tree planting in the spring.



Photo by DCNR

Maurice Goddard State Park Fishing Pier

Universal design benefits all visitors to our parks and forests, such as this new ADA fishing pier at Maurice Goddard State Park. Made possible through a grant from Friends of Fish Foundation and your donations to the needs list, the pier welcomes anglers of all ages and abilities.



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Legislative Update

Thank you for making your voices heard when members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly stood poised to divert funding from the Keystone Fund and the Environmental Stewardship Fund. Your voices were heard, and these funds, which pay for much needed maintenance and infrastructure improvements in our state parks and forests, as well as invest in community parks, greenspace and historic preservation, were spared.

We will continue to monitor legislation that would adversely or positively impact our parks and forests, impact funding, or volunteerism. You can track the legislation that we are monitoring on our website. Thank you!

Become a Member Today!

If your current membership has expired, visit our website today to renew or use our form below. New members, complete the form and become a supporter of your parks and forests!

☐ \$25 Single Membership

☐ \$35 Family Membership

☐ I'd like to donate extra money to
support the work of PPFF!
\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

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

