

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

Summer 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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Contact Us:

Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

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

PAParksAndForests.org



Fire Towers

By Michael Klimkos

Original article appeared in Pennsylvania Forests, the quarterly magazine of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. Used with permission. To learn more about PFA visit: paforestry.org

Spotting fires in the early days mostly revolved around climbing to a high point on a mountainside or crawling up a tree. When a fire was spotted, the observer climbed from his perch and traveled to someplace where he could obtain help, or at least report the fire.

A wooden tower built and operated by the U.S. Geological Survey was erected in 1899 in Tioga County. Records show it was dismantled in 1921. In 1902, the Pocono Protective Fire Association, the first organization of its kind in the United States, organized and collected money paid by the members for, among other things, construction of wooden fire towers to watch over the lands of the membership.

In 1905 the first state forest fire observation tower was erected in Franklin County. The tower was wooden and was open to the elements. By the time of the absorption of the Department of Forestry into the Pennsylvania Department of Forests & Waters (PDF&W), at least 180 other towers or sites were in use in the state. In 1922 Forests & Waters Secretary Robert Stuart noted that 80% of all fires reported were from fire towers, of which fifty had been erected the previous summer. When Gifford Pinchot became Commissioner of Forestry, then shortly thereafter Governor, he found money to build more towers across the state. The fully enclosed towers were known by many as "Pinchot Towers."



An old wooden tower is replaced by a new steel tower. Date and location unknown.

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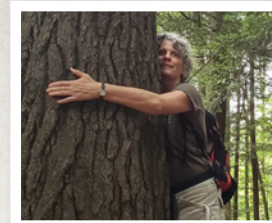
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President's Message

Marci Mowery



I write this from my campsite at Locust Lake State Park. We are camped near the Lakeside Trail and are enjoying sharing pleasantries with a constant flow of people circling the lake. Families, teens, seniors—all ages, laughing and enjoying the spring air while getting in their steps.

We, too, walk the trail, only a bit slower now with our aging dog, Izzy, who also enjoys taking occasional dips in the lake. One man laps us in his jog—once, twice, three times. We laugh.

Wildflowers are popping up—trillium, lady slippers, pinxter bloom azalea. And the birds! Well, I was quite disappointed to have left my binoculars at home. Orioles, scarlet tanagers, wood thrush, warblers, bald eagle, and more.

Locust Lake and her sister park Tuscarora are the home to one of our newest friends groups—the Friends of Tuscarora and Locust Lake State Parks. Recently joining them in the family is the Friends of RB Winter State Park. Welcome!

Use of our state parks and forests remains high, with visitors continuing to seek ways to connect with family and friends, reduce stress, and to stay healthy. The Outdoor Recreation Industry recently completed a special report, 2021 Special Report: New Outdoor Participant (COVID and Beyond). A few of the key findings include:

- New outdoor recreation participants chose to recreate close to home.
- New participants chose activities with low barriers to entry such as walking, hiking, running, and biking.
- New participants tended to be younger, urban, female, and more ethnically diverse.
- People sought the outdoors for relief from screen time.

Fortunately, in Pennsylvania, with our 6000 community parks, a state park within 25 miles of nearly every resident, and 2.2 million acres of state forest, we had the places to accommodate those seeking to be outdoors. The Outdoor Recreation Study also found that recreationists are inspired to reevaluate their priorities and focus on what is important. To see the full study, visit: <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2021-special-report-new-outdoor-participant-covid-beyond/>

In mid-May, we celebrated those who made it possible for folks to be outdoors during the pandemic—rangers, educators, recreation professionals, mask makers, the Incident Response Team, volunteers, and more. If you missed our COVID-19 Champions event, visit our website to catch the presentation. Dr. Michael Suk, the keynote speaker, shares the science behind why being outside is truly good for us, and why we want to continue to be outside. You'll find a link right on the home page to all the details.

As restrictions begin to lift, volunteerism opportunities in our state parks and forests continue to return. Watch our calendar of events for opportunities near you. Do you work for a company that is looking to volunteer? Give us a call and we will help set up a day. Let's all work together to care for these places that kept us—and continue to keep us—healthy and happy.

Continued from page 1...

Fire towers usually were staffed by men in Pennsylvania, but there were exceptions. Nora Apple Stadden of Bartonsville, Monroe County, was the first woman "towerman." Rebecca Goodwin of Smithfield, Fayette County was the "towerman" at the tower near her home. In the Weiser District two of the ten towers in the district were staffed by women. Mrs. Verna Ringemary of Mt. Pleasant and Mrs. Warren Creasy maintained watch in the Silver Creek tower. Miss Alice Willard was the lookout at the tower near Foxville, on South Mountain.

In 1934 the PDF&W announced that with the aid of federal funds, and the use of CCC labor, eleven new fire towers would be erected in Pennsylvania to help spot forest fires.

By 1935 there were 137 forest fire towers in the state, with more under construction or planned for construction. Fox Hill in Plains Township, Luzerne County; Catfish Mountain south of Rauchtown in southeastern Clinton County; Penn View Mountain east of Blairsville in Indiana County; Cross Mountain in Franklin County to service both Pennsylvania and Washington County, Maryland were sites.

Take in a virtual tower experience from the Hopewell Fire Tower in the William Penn Forest District at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8DiQYIVa1o>

In 1939 the state had 146 fire towers in service. There is no clear consensus as to how many fire towers or lookouts existed in Pennsylvania. Many towers were first built on one site, then, as the need changed, they were dismantled and moved to another site. Even the State Capitol building in Harrisburg was used as a fire lookout in 1921.



Left: The Mount Penn Tower in Berks County, 1993



Right: Construction of the Boot Jack Tower, Elk County, 1921. Note all the safety equipment and protection from falling the men are utilizing.

The PDF&W also promoted the sites as tourist destinations. People thronged to the towers each year to view the surrounding countryside. They were encouraged to use the sites as picnic areas and hiking destinations. Due to liability concerns and vandalism, visitors today are not permitted to climb the fire towers and many sites are at the end of gated roads.

In March of 1970, Governor Shafer proclaimed that 1970 was Wildfire Prevention Year. Despite this grand proclamation the Bureau of Forestry's budget was cut necessitating closure of 56 of the state's 132 fire towers.

Fire towers gradually fell out of favor in the waning days of the PDF&W and the early years of the Department of Environmental Resources. Airplanes were seen as more efficient, in being able to cover more area. But as the costs of flying rose, the use of towers was re-considered. At least 380 of the states' 449 towers are no longer standing and many that are still standing are unfit for use.

In 2016 the Bureau of Forestry began a capital effort to enhance the ability to spot fires. At least 25 new towers were planned and rehabilitation efforts are underway to rehabilitate and upgrade the 27 active towers and some of the 36 towers that are still standing but are classed as inactive. What was old is new again.

Mike Klimkos is the author of The Fires of Penn's Woods, a detailed account of wildfires and extinguishment efforts in Pennsylvania. This essay is excerpted from that book. To learn more about that book and where it can be purchased visit www.mjklimkos.com.

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



Campfire Savvy

The Campfire Infographic on the following page is also available in Spanish by visiting our website at PaParksAndForests.org and clicking on About Us, Publications. The graphic was made possible by a Community Conservation Partnership Program grant from the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Spanish language translation sponsored by Latino Connection.



Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

The Foundation has launched a guest blog section under the NEWS tab of our website. Visit the site regularly for stories of interest, such as Indigenous History, Solo Women in the Outdoors, Tips for the Outdoors, and more! Have a topic you would like to write about? Contact us at newsletter@paparksandforests.org



WHATEVER YOU DO - DO IT OUTDOORS!

Meet our new intern Angelica Brill

"Hello! My name is Angelica Brill, and I am a rising senior at Penn State University with a double major in Community, Environment, and Development as well as Spanish. I am excited to intern with PPFF for the summer, as it will provide me with new experiences and insights in the behind-the-scenes of the Parks and Forests world!"

CAMPFIRE SAVVY

IT'S THE NEW COOL

CAMPFIRES OFFER A SPECIAL TOUCH TO A CAMPING TRIP...
KEEP IT SAFE FOR MAXIMUM FUN!

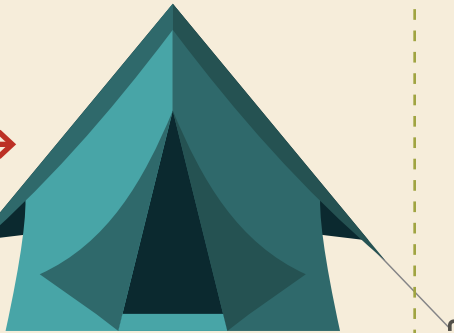


KNOW:

Check weather and burn conditions. Don't burn if it is windy or on high fire danger days.



10'

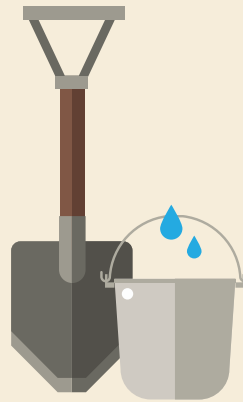


AVOID:

Keep at least 10 feet away from tents or RVs and away from low hanging branches.

BUILD:

Use an existing fire ring. Use wood that fits within the ring. Use downed wood—do not cut trees or branches.



BURN:

Keep a container of water and a shovel near fire at all times for emergency extinguishing. Make a 4-foot circle of safety around fire and teach children to remain outside the circle unless accompanied by an adult.

Burn **ONLY FIREWOOD**

Pack out garbage and uneaten food and cigarette butts.



EXTINGUISH:

Apply the 1-2-3.

1. Carefully douse with water.
2. Stir with a stick to ensure all surfaces of wood and coals get wet.
3. Repeat until cool to touch-test by placing back of hand over fire—needs to be cold to the touch.



TO LEARN MORE, VISIT OUR VIDEO AT:
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=-UTBG264ATG

Black Bears – Summer Encounters when Adventuring Outdoors

By Emily Carrollo



As things get warmer, many of us are appreciating the long-awaited opportunities to get outside and explore the wild places Pennsylvania has to offer. However, we aren't the only ones enjoying the sun and taking advantage of the bounties of Penn's Woods. During the summer months, the wild things are out and about after a long winter, and many are breeding, eating, and making up for lost activity (and calories) winter months take away.

Black bears are one of the animals who share nature with us. It is important to know how to handle black bear encounters to make these moments enjoyable and safe for both humans and bears.

Knowledge empowers. Understanding black bear biology and behavior leads to better decision making should you come upon a bear. Some books to review? "Living with Bears Handbook" by Linda Masterson, and "Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance" by Stephen Herrero. The second book is not as scary as it sounds, and both authors discuss how we can be good "bear stewards" in our everyday lives and when adventuring out into the wild. A website called www.Bearwise.org is another great resource.

Humans are often incredibly loud when in the woods, and many bears will know we are coming long before we know they are there. Their excellent sense of smell and good sense of hearing mean they will most likely do their best to avoid you. Black bears do not want anything to do with people; they are shy animals, and will avoid trouble with humans whenever possible.

What do you do IF you encounter a black bear (the only bear species found in Pennsylvania)? First, assess the situation. Understand where you are, where the bear is, what the bear is doing, and identify possible escape routes for the bear and you. Are you extremely close to the bear, or fairly far away? What is the bear doing? Is it alone? These are all good questions to ask yourself to understand how you should react.

If the bear has not noticed you yet, quietly remove yourself from the area (i.e., back down the trail), and wait about 10-15 minutes before continuing.

If the bear has noticed you, chances are that the bear does not want a physical encounter and will try to remove itself from the situation. Make sure the bear has an escape route--give the bear plenty of space, and back away from the bear while making yourself big (putting your hands up in the air). Talk to the bear to make sure he recognizes you as a human and knows you don't want a problem.

If the bear happens to be brazen and tries to follow you, continue to make yourself big and start yelling at the bear while clapping your hands or using a loud item like an air horn (a very easily packable item).

In the extremely unlikely chance a physical encounter does occur between you and the bear, be prepared to fight back, keeping your neck, back, and head covered as much as possible (with your hands and pack if applicable). Black bear attacks rarely happen, and if they do it's because the bear was cornered or food was involved.

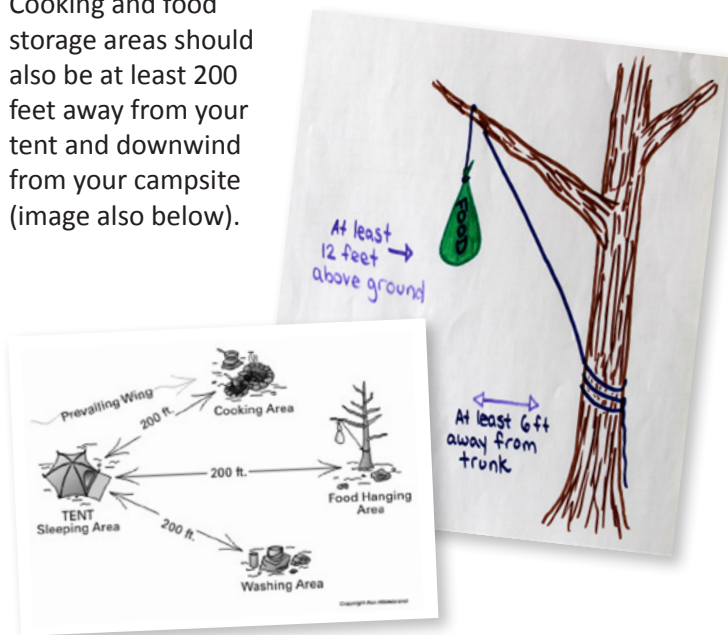
When you corner a bear, become as non-threatening as possible and continue to protect the aforementioned parts of your body. The bear will leave once it feels you aren't a threat and it can get away. If the attack is food related, fight back, and give the bear all the food. Inherently bears want an easy meal because the less calories they expend to get the food, the more they keep as stored energy.

Continued on page 7...

If the bear is following you as you try to remove yourself from the scene and a physical encounter has not yet happened, it can be helpful to give the bear your pack as a distraction, and then report the encounter immediately to wildlife authorities. *Do not use this trick every time a bear simply notices you on a hike, as you could unintentionally condition a bear to start pushing people to give them their packs.*

Food is a huge motivator for black bears. This becomes important to remember when camping or staying overnight in black bear country. Food should never be easily accessible to bears and storing it appropriately can avoid the vast majority of problems people experience with black bears when camping. NEVER leave food out overnight (or unattended at all), and clean up your campsite after meals and before going to bed. Keeping food inside a car or camper is fine, but NEVER store food in a tent as this is not an appropriate barrier.

If you have a tent or are backcountry camping, purchase a bear proof canister. Your packs/food related items or bear canisters should always be stored on "bear hangs" like the one below to keep bears from being able to access them. Cooking and food storage areas should also be at least 200 feet away from your tent and downwind from your campsite (image also below).



NEVER EVER feed a bear intentionally. Ultimately, a fed bear is a dead bear. Black bears that associate people with food become incredibly dangerous and are often euthanized as this is not an easy behavior to break.

In summary, black bear encounters often end with absolutely no problems or harm done. It is up to us as visitors to their home to keep these encounters safe. Understand and study the wildlife you may encounter when out in the woods prior to your adventuring. If you respect wildlife, they will respect you.

Additional Notes

Are a sow and cubs more dangerous than a lone bear?

Only slightly. Obviously, sows are protecting more than just themselves, but her ultimate goal is to walk away from a dangerous scenario unscathed with her cubs. Don't corner mom or her cubs, and if you get between them, slowly remove yourself from the situation while making yourself big and talking to the bear. Give them plenty of space, and you will be fine.

The bear is standing. Is it threatening me?

No. Bears stand on their hind legs to get a better idea of what's going on (like we get a higher vantage point when we're lost).

Menacing or threatening bears will physically charge you, and probably go through with it too.

Bears who are in the standing position are not looking for a fight, but probably figuring out if they should leave or not.



What other signs do bears display when threatened?

Black bears make a whole host of sounds many people may not even know they could make.

Bears that feel threatened may whine or huff/blow air out of their mouths because they are scared. If you are very close, they will "pop" their jaws and may even bluff charge, tell you that you are too close. Remove yourself from the situation as quickly as possible. Back away slowly while keeping your eyes on the bear, making yourself big and talking.



A fun activity?

Look up black bear sounds on YouTube. You'll be amazed at how many different sounds and calls they make!

Advocacy Update

The Foundation continues to monitor several bills that could have an impact on parks and forests.

This includes legislation that impact budgeting and the special funds, a bill related to prescriptive easements, Lyme Disease insurance, legislation related to the Sunday hunting ban, legislation that would open all forestry roads and trails to all forms of off-highway motor vehicles, legislation that would preserve the Joint Legislative Conservation Committee, and legislation that would reduce volunteer liability. Additionally, we are engaged in conversation related to the America Recovery Plan and possible investment in state park and forest infrastructure.

On the federal level, we continue to monitor legislation that would create a modern day Civilian Conservation Corps, the 30 x 30 land protection program to reduce climate impacts, and other stimulus money that could benefit our state parks and forests, such as the American Recovery Plan.

Learn more about the bills that we are following/commenting upon on our website under the stewardship tab.

Keep an eye on our Protect Our Parks and Forests website protectourparksandforests.org for a new story map that we hope to unveil shortly.



Can't Keep My Eyes Off of You!

Have you found our YouTube Channel Yet? It contains a wealth of information from outdoor recreation to history! Visit and subscribe at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PAParksandForests/videos>



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.

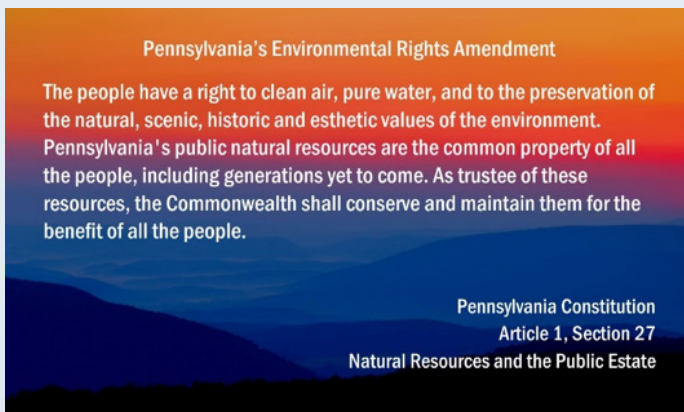
Did You Know? PPFF is able to accept your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donations of stock to support our work and/or projects in state parks and forests.

For more information visit www.PaParksAndForests.org

Sing a Song to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Environmental Rights Amendment

What do clean air, pure water, and scenic natural vistas mean to you? Do you take these for granted or recognize them as valuable rights for all?

Franklin Kury was a lawyer and Pennsylvania legislator who believed that environmental rights were as essential as the rights to free speech, freedom of religion, and privacy. In 1969, Kury introduced an amendment to the PA Constitution that would ultimately – once approved by the public on May 18, 1971 – put environmental rights on an equal footing. You can read more about Kury's journey in the [Spring 2021 issue of Penn's Stewards](#). You can also watch documentaries on the ERA at PaConservationHeritage.org.



Join the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) as we continue celebrating the ERA anniversary:

- In June, submit an essay on what “preservation of the historic value” means to you.
- In July, submit an acrostic (a poem where a word or phrase is spelled out vertically, with each of the letter spelling out a line of the poem) on what “preservation of the aesthetic value” means to you.
- In August, submit a 6-word essay on what “common property of all the people” means to you.
- In September, submit a note to future generations about what it means to have protected the resource for them.

A full list of activities and details on how to submit can be found at <https://paparksandforests.org/our-work/education/era50>.

Need some inspiration to get you started? Here are a few winners from past activities:

Cinquain winner, by Ami Dalkner. “Breathe in... Not just for thirst. Ah, the sound of peaceful harmony; the Earth in balance. Refreshed.”

Six word essay winner, by Sue Adams. “Reducing the risk of respiratory diseases!”

Haiku winner, by Robert Checket. “misty early morn, serenity of the hike, mountain peace and quiet”

Is music more your thing? Across generations, Mother Nature has inspired songwriters of every stripe and genre. From Appalachian folk songs to modern rockers and country bands, from protest songs to poems of celebration, we love to sing of the outdoors. By entering our ERA50 song contest, you too can give us something about which to sing.

Before submitting your song, please read the contest rules at <https://paparksandforests.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/song-contest-flyer-rules.pdf>.

You can then upload your original song file at <https://paparksandforests.org/our-work/education/era50/song-contest>. All entries are due by August 1, 2021.



Follow PPFF on social media and our website for new details and events all year long, and use #PAERA50 and #PAEnviroRights50 in your related social media postings!

Recognizing the Innovative and Amazing Work of COVID-19 Champions

Last year was a year like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic made changes to our lives for which we were not prepared. Visitation to Pennsylvania state parks rose an unprecedented 23%, with more than 45 million people seeking refuge and ways to safely connect. State forests saw similar high usage, which created new demands on the resources and new ways to think about delivering programs.

Across Pennsylvania, parks and forests staff, volunteers, and businesses rose to the challenges posed by the pandemic, and that is why PPFF decided to focus its annual awards on those "COVID-19 Champions" who exemplified the creativity, flexibility, and determination to make sure outdoor recreation and education programs could continue in a safe and socially distanced manner. On May 12, we honored the following individuals and organizations during a virtual awards celebration:

Ambassadors Category:

- Brandi Aulston, who started "Hike and Heal" to show how all women in Philadelphia can safely share time in nature.
- **Mike Teeter, a volunteer across numerous state parks and forests, who has the goal of spending time in each park across Pennsylvania.**



A Hike and Heal group outing at Wissakickon Valley Park in Philadelphia

Education Category:

- Angelina Capozzi, Parks & Recreation Program Coordinator for Upper Gwynedd Township, for developing a special Facebook page, story walks, food pantry and other ways to help people in need during the pandemic.
- Onnolee Jensen, Program Manager at Kings Gap State Park, for her inventive story book trail, DiscoverE Activity Guide, and virtual educational programs.

Public Safety Category:

- All 232 state park and forest rangers who kept people safe and addressed increased issues during the pandemic, going above and beyond their normal duties.
- **Hannah Wilson, Ranger 1 at the Colonel Denning State Park Complex, for her relationship building with park visitors and her extensive knowledge of the park's resources.**



Hannah Wilson

- Cody Miller, Maintenance Supervisor at the French Creek State Park Complex, for instilling trust in his workers and visitors and assisting at neighboring parks.
- The 53 members of DCNR Bureau of Forestry's Incident Management Team for helping set up and maintain COVID-19 testing sites in addition to fulfilling their normal job duties.
- The Friends of Beltzville State Park for managing record crowds by directing traffic, picking up trash, and educating visitors.
- The 30+ members of the Mask Brigade, who stepped up to make 2,000 masks for state park and forest employees to help keep them safe.

Stewardship Category:

- **Luke Miney and Georgetta Frederick** for their work removing graffiti at Beams Rocks in Laurel Ridge State Park and Wolf Rocks in Gallitzin State Forest.



Luke and Georgetta

- Amanda Galvan for her volunteer work at numerous places like Forbes State Forest and Canoe Creek Park, planting trees, picking up litter, and removing graffiti.
- Gary Kirk, a volunteer at the White Clay Creek Preserve who repaired bridges and cleared ditches on an almost daily basis to ensure cyclists and hikers could safely use the trails.
- AeLin Compton, Community Initiative Specialist for the Philadelphia Department of Parks & Recreation's Park Stewardship Team, for developing socially distanced volunteer events and co-creating the Philly Forest Stewards program.



Ryan Beltz directs a group of volunteers for their stream clean-up.

- **Ryan Beltz, Executive Director for the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy**, for finding ways to do their annual stream clean-up, native plant sale, and auction in spite of the pandemic.
- Cindy Hogeman, founding board member of the Capital Area Greenbelt Association, for taking over stewardship of the Five Senses Garden and coordinating volunteer efforts.
- The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership for distributing free lunches, creating virtual bilingual tours of the park, and giving away trees for people's yards.
- The Friends of Trough Creek/Warriors Path for implementing a firewood sale for the Trough Creek State Park campground and restoring stone fireplaces in the park's picnic areas.

Communications Category:

- The 4-person Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Communications Team (Chris Novak, Terry Brady, Tara Ramsey, Al Germann) who empowered safe outdoor recreation through timely information to disperse recreation, thus ensuring social distancing and safety.

To learn more about each of these award winners, as well as to see the recording of the virtual award ceremony, please visit <https://paparksandforests.org/our-work/volunteerism/2021-annual-awards/covid-19-champions>.

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 Tuscarora & Locust Lake

Friends of Varden Conservation Area

Friends of Weiser - Haldeman/Greenland

Friends of Weiser - Roaring Creek

Friends of White Clay Creek

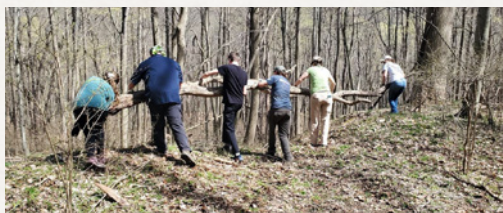
Friends of Worlds End

Friends of Yellow Creek

Lackawanna State Park Trail Care Crew

Friends in Action

The Friends of Ohiopyle were overjoyed to hold their first trail day of the year in April (look for them on the first Saturday of each month) and to get a little muscle into the job.



*It takes a village to move a log that size.
Photo by FOO.*

Earth Day was a good day for launching an assault on the invasive species sneaking up on the Furnace Stack at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.



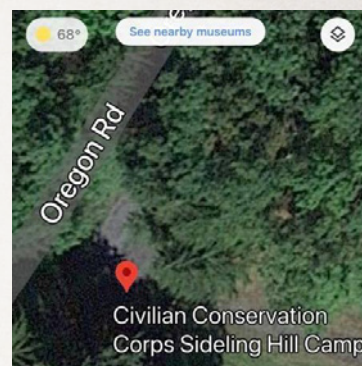
*Good-bye, garlic mustard. Be gone, barberry.
Photo by Friends of Pine Grove Furnace.*

The budding friends of RB Winter State Park came together for a day of volunteerism, improving the playground.



Photo by Marci Mowery

The Friends of Buchanan spent Earth Day clearing the Snowfield and Scotia trails near Oregon Road. Dorene says, "Sorry I forgot to take pictures." That's okay – the next work day is June 19. Photographers (and extra hands) welcome!



*The location of Earth Day work.
68 degrees is nice, too.*

With the blessing of the park, Friends of Prince Gallitzin volunteers Rosemary and Lynn Haselhoff joined forces ("She's the creative one," says Lynn. "I'm the tech guy.") to place ten geocaches in the Crooked Run Campground. An activity page accompanies the geocache adventure.



*(Crooked Run) Chippy is the geocache mascot. Everyone knows chippies love to stash treasures!
Design by Rosemary Haselhoff.*

Continued on next page...

Friends in Action

An iconic feature of the Beltzville State Park is its covered bridge. Now the bridge is commemorated by a Little Free Library, dedicated on Earth Day.



Volunteer Deb cuts the ribbon on the LFL.
Photo by Diane Szwajkowski.

The Friends of Michaux joined with the forest district for a Keep PA Beautiful event on Earth Day weekend. Eight miles of roads yielded over 1,500 pounds of trash: lumber, bricks, drywall, tires, appliances.



Dump trucks full of these bags resulted.
Photo by Michaux Forest District.

We Will Miss

Jim Montgomery:

A core project of the Friends of Yellow Creek is sailing. So the recent gift of a 22' Catalina sailboat for use in friends programs had the same effect on them as a 10 knot breeze across the lake.

Florita Montgomery of Morgantown, WV made the gift of her late husband Jim's boat to the Friends. Although Jim relocated to Morgantown in 1970, he frequently returned "home" to Indiana County to sail in Yellow Creek Lake. According to Mrs. Montgomery, Jim wouldn't officially name his Catalina but she always considered it to have been named "Monty," the nickname given Jim by the WVU athletics staff and students with whom he traveled as videographer.

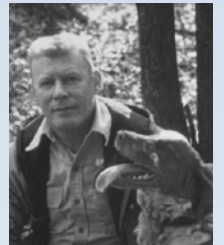
Friends group chair Ken Sherwood says, "We are grateful for the chance to introduce IUP students and community sailors to sailing a small keelboat. Our volunteer instructors and group sailors enjoy sharing their time to help beginners get involved in sailing. "Monty" really caps off the Yellow Creek fleet."

Jim enjoyed introducing others to sailing. We think he would be happy to know that his boat will continue to share that teaching gift.



Edward Bellis:

On April 5th, Pennsylvania lost a true trailblazer for the environmental movement at the age of 93, Dr. Edward Bellis of State College. It was Dr. Bellis who introduced the first "ecology" course at Penn State back in 1957 before anyone even knew what that word meant. Clean water became his primary focus, from controlling erosion to fostering habitat.



John Eastlake:

The PPFF family – and indeed all lovers of Pennsylvania history and outdoors – suffered a loss with the February 20th passing of John Eastlake of Williamsport. Long-time readers of "Penn's Stewards" may recall John's long-running regular features on CCC history.

John had a hand in the creation of some of Pennsylvania's most iconic hiking trails. He was one of the original incorporators (along with Tom Thwaites and Jean Aron) of the Mid State Trail Association. Jim Hyland of the Tiadaghton Forest District wrote: "Although John technically retired about 15 years ago, he never stopped advocating for the quiet, healthful pastimes he loved, hiking and x-country skiing. We would not have the Black Forest Trail, Old Loggers Path, Golden Eagle Trail and many others had it not been for his passion and vision. He made an impact in so many lives. He will be missed."



Friends and co-workers Bob Webber and John Eastlake at Bob's iconic cabin in the woods. See the Pennsylvania's Conservation Heritage website at <https://paconservationheritage.org/stories/bob-webber/>

You Made it Happen

New Friends Tuscarora & Locust Lake and R.B. Winter

Not even COVID-19 can stop the growth of the PPFF network of Chapter friends groups. This spring saw the launch of a new group for the combined Tuscarora & Locust Lake state park complex in Schuylkill County and one is on the way for R.B. Winter State Park in Union County. Both groups formed in the wake of increased usage at their respective parks and recognition of the need to help their park management take steps to alleviate some of the impacts of that increased usage.

Both budding chapters certainly hit the ground running with successful spring spruce-up volunteer days immediately upon organizing.



Photo by Marci Mowery

Working Together

Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, at the suggestion of Elder Ron Poorman, invited congregation members to support the work of planting trees and native plants in state parks and forests in lieu of poinsettias at Christmas and Easter flowers at Easter. The congregation responded positively and gratefully. We look forward to working with the Church with a hands-on opportunity to plant trees and ensure a greener future.



Cleaning Air, Cleaning Water

Air and water improvements happen with your support of the Year of the Tree campaign. Tree plantings continue across the state.

Photo by DCNR



Photo by DCNR, Sam Lewis SP



Photo by DCNR, Blue Knob SP

Play--An Essential Part of Everyone's Day

Play is as important to children's development as love, shelter, and air. Over the past year, as the pandemic separated children from their peers and added stress to their lives, having a safe and enjoyable place to play became even more valuable."

Research backs up those claims. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that play:

- Improves social skills by encouraging children to communicate, share, and empathize
- Develops imagination and creativity
- Teaches thinking and problem-solving skills to assess risks and tackle new challenges
- Created confidence in their physical and social abilities
- Helps children to let off steam, reducing stress and improving mental health
- Builds life-long exercise habits, improving physical wellbeing

With support from donors and members like you along with a grant from the Harley-Davidson Foundation, the inclusive playground at Sam Lewis State Park was expanded and a generous anonymous donation placed a playground at Blue Knob State Park.

You Made it Happen

Promoting Stewardship

Heavy use of our state parks and forests left a mark last year. To assist DCNR in spreading the word on the importance of Leave No Trace (LNT) ethics, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation became a member of LNT, kicking it off with a training for volunteers and campground hosts, in which more than 40 individuals participated. To learn more about LNT, visit: The [7 Principles - Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics \(lnt.org\)](https://www.lnt.org/)



Camping Enhancements

Matt Holland of the Prince Gallitzin State Park maintenance staff happily installs a new upgraded electric breaker in Crooked Run Campground funded by your contributions to the Camping Enhancements campaign.

Expanding Access to Healthy Outdoor Recreation

Visitors to the river islands in the Susquehanna's middle section (part of Weiser State Forest) will more easily find the camping islands thank you to your support and a grant from DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. In partnership with the Susquehanna River Trail Association (SRTA) and the Center for Land Use and Sustainability (CLUS) at Shippensburg University, the middle section river trail map was updated and can be purchased from our online store.

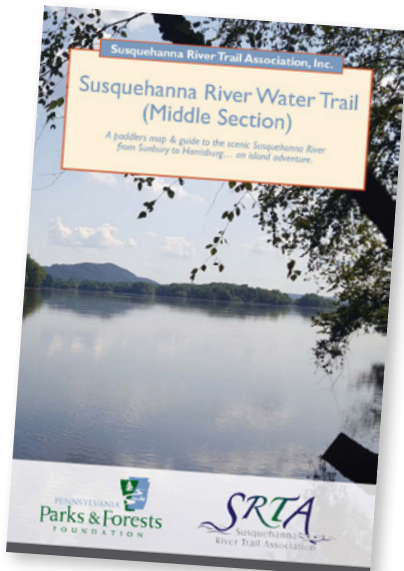


Photo by Marci Mowery

Building the Sawyer Base

Volunteers work diligently to keep our state park and forests trails clear of fallen trees, wielding the helpful but potentially dangerous chainsaw. With your support and a grant from DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, twenty-two volunteers improved their skills and sharpened their safety (and their saws!) in a two-day chainsaw workshop.

PARK & RECREATION PROFESSIONALS DAY

Friday, July 16, 2021

In partnership with the PA Recreation and Park Society (PRPS), and Good for You, Good for All is celebrating the park and recreation professionals that keep Pennsylvania's public spaces, safe, clean, and fun!

Learn more and get involved!

prps.org/parkrecreday



PRPS
good for you.
good for all.



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☐ **I'd like to donate extra money to support the work of PPFF!**

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