

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

Winter 2022 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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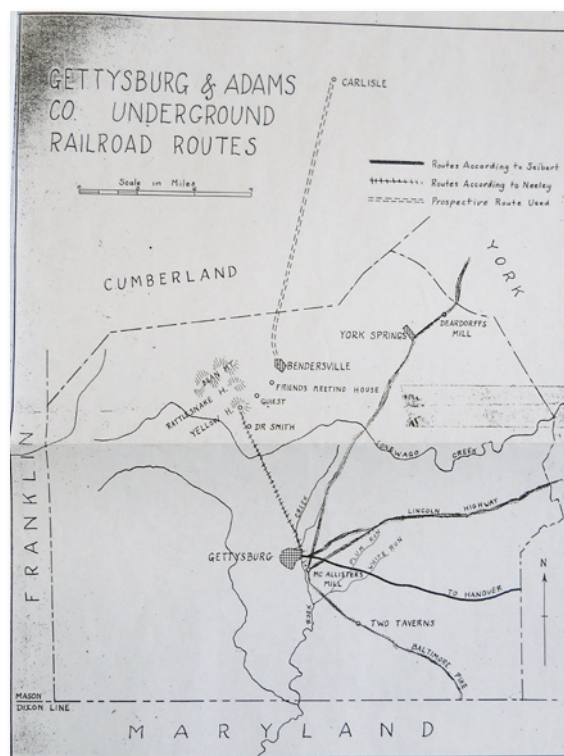
Underground Railroad

By: Beverly C. Tomek

Few historical events capture the public's imagination like the Underground Railroad. Images of brave abolitionists sneaking southward to guide enslaved people to freedom, reading secret messages in quilts and hiding fugitives in underground tunnels along the way make for exciting and uplifting stories. The stories become all the more enthralling when they include tales of dramatic escapes from slave catchers and kidnappers.

While recent scholarship has exposed much exaggeration in previous accounts of the Underground Railroad, historians have added important details and nuance to the story and given us a better idea of what really took place. We now know that the quilts were a myth, that most fugitives hid in barns and outbuildings rather than secret tunnels, and that the "conductors" on the railroad generally stayed home ready to assist fugitives who came to them, rather than going into the South to encourage escapes. Even so, the Underground Railroad not only existed but was significant, and Pennsylvania played an important role in its story.

Pennsylvania was the first state in the U.S. to end slavery by legislative act, passing a gradual emancipation law in 1780. This victory came after years of struggle on the part of black Pennsylvanians and their white allies. Black Americans performed the most basic, and most essential, antislavery acts through daily resistance to their own bondage, including running away every chance they could. Of course, slaveholders and others who profited directly or indirectly from forced labor worked hard to keep control over enslaved people, and they expected society at large to aid them in recapturing those who managed to escape.



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President's Message

Marci Mowery

Hello Reader

One thing we celebrate here at PPFF is history. It seems clear to us that how the Commonwealth appears today is fundamentally connected to what its people did and experienced in years and centuries gone by. So while our lead article on the Underground Railroad might seem removed from the Foundation's focus on state parks and forests, as we explore this subject in future issues you will note that the lands that would eventually become the shared common wealth of all Pennsylvanians were key for Freedom Seekers working their way north.

The landscape of Pennsylvania was quite different during the time of the Underground Railroad, approximately 1810-1860s. There were no state parks or forests. In fact, forests were disappearing at a rapid rate for agriculture, timber and industrial uses. Heavy industry was developing—coal, textiles, lumber, leather, gristmills. Canals and railroads were being built. How do all of these histories intersect and influence one another?

It is our goal in this newsletter to present the larger picture of the Underground Railroad, and in subsequent newsletters explore what may have been occurring in and on the lands that are now Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. We want to see not just the landscape of today, but to understand a landscape's history and its role in the lives of people.

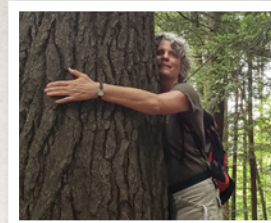
The research is still young on the paths, the process, and the people involved in helping individuals escape the bonds of slavery so we are fortunate to be able to bring to you some of the work of historians breaking this new ground. We welcome questions that may come to mind as you read the articles.

As we explore the landscape from an historical context, we will also be exploring the landscape from the context of clean water, as the Clean Water Act celebrates its 50th anniversary. What is the role of the forested ecosystem in cleansing water? What impacts exist to our water systems and how can they be addressed? Why is clean water important?

We will also explore the landscape from a healing perspective. I kicked off the new year with a first day hike with friends, and registered for a class about Awe. Yes, awe. I have written about it in the past, as our parks and forests provide myriad opportunities to find moments of awe—moments that build our connection, our compassion, and our curiosity. It's a four-week course, and I have only completed one session thus far, so I look forward to sharing some thoughts in an upcoming newsletter.

In the meantime, find moments of awe wherever you can—outdoors, watching the sunset from the window, enjoying the dance of a fire in a fireplace, watching a child take a first step. Those moments surround us. And allow your curiosity to delve deeper—what is the history of the landscape you may be observing? What stories does it have to tell?

Yours in the Outdoors, Marci



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The direct resistance of enslaved people led increasing numbers of white Americans to take note of the horrors of enslavement, and their awareness began to compel some to speak up and to act. The first to do so were German Quakers, who issued the first formal protest against slavery in 1688. After the Germantown Protest, antislavery agitation continued within Quaker ranks until the society ended the slave trade among its members in 1740 and forbade members from owning fellow humans in 1758. Pennsylvania followed by ending the slave trade in 1775 and adopting gradual emancipation in 1780. The road to this victory was a long one that involved creating alliances and forming groups such as the Pennsylvania Abolition Society (PAS), the Pennsylvania Antislavery Society, (PASS), and the Philadelphia Female Antislavery Society (PFASS). All of these groups relied upon a wide range of tactics and involved both white and black abolitionists working together either formally or informally. Abolitionists used legal loopholes in the courts as well as extralegal means such as harboring and assisting fugitives. The PAS as a body operated within the law to ensure freedom for fugitives who faced slave catchers as well as free people who faced kidnappers. Individually, some abolitionists employed extralegal means by helping people escape bondage as early as the late 1700s. Robert Smedley's 1883 account of the Underground Railroad contends that slaveholders began using the term in the late 1780s to complain about abolitionists in the Columbia area who were helping fugitives. While he probably misdated the emergence of the term, as other historians have shown that it most likely came into use in the 1840s with the emergence and growth of the actual railroad in the U.S., he was correct in identifying the Columbia area as an early hotspot in the clandestine activity.

After the state's abolition law, people began to head toward Pennsylvania as they fled bondage and a series of escape routes began to form. Fugitives who came to the commonwealth generally went in one of three directions. Some headed west, where they found allies primarily in Washington County. Some traveled a central route through Harrisburg. Others headed east toward Philadelphia, passing through south central counties such as Franklin, Adams, York,

and southeastern counties such as Chester and Philadelphia. Large African American communities in towns such as Mercersburg, Chambersburg, Gettysburg, and Carlisle, and white abolitionist enclaves in places like Philadelphia aided the fugitives along the way.

Antislavery leaders with a penchant for direct action began to gain reputations and followings soon after the Revolution. One of the earliest radical activists, Isaac T. Hopper was a Hicksite Quaker and a member of the PAS. He bent the law by helping captives escape in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Similarly, Elijah Pennypacker aided those who found their way to his Phoenixville home. Dr. F. Julius LeMoyne of Washington, Pennsylvania, was the most prominent Underground Railroad operative in the western portion of the state. These activists and those who joined them in direct action were the most radical of the nation's antislavery leaders.

The issues of slave catching and kidnapping provided a source of tension between Pennsylvania and its slaveholding neighbors, particularly Maryland. In 1820 Pennsylvania passed a "personal liberty law," which gave county judges power to try fugitive cases and made it a felony to capture an alleged fugitive without a warrant from a judge. This upset Maryland, so Pennsylvania adopted a new law to placate them in 1826. The new



Isaac Hopper (from public domain)

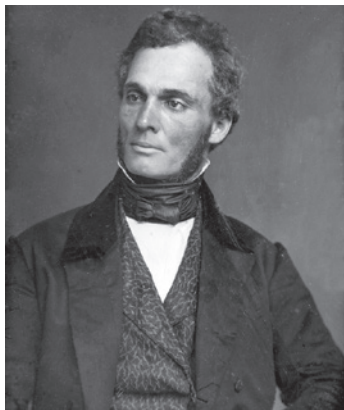
law made it easier for an accuser to obtain a warrant against an alleged fugitive. In 1842 the fugitive issue made it to the Supreme Court of the U.S. in the case of *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*, when the Supreme Court declared Pennsylvania's personal liberty law unconstitutional and voided other northern states' personal liberty laws as well. Pennsylvania responded by passing a new personal liberty law in 1847 that conformed to the *Prigg* parameters but made it a crime for any state judge to hear a fugitive case, or for a jailer to use a state prison to detain suspected fugitives. This basically nullified the federal Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 in Pennsylvania by denying state jurisdiction of its enforcement. At the same time, the legislature removed a provision of the 1780 law that allowed slaveholders who traveled to Pennsylvania to keep enslaved people with them there for six months. This offered fertile ground for freedom suits.

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Mason Dixon Line (from public domain)

Abolitionists became more organized in their efforts to assist enslaved people in gaining their freedom through extralegal means beginning in the 1830s by creating special groups called Vigilant Associations or Vigilance Committees. Philadelphia activists created the first vigilance committee in the state in 1834 after they grew frustrated at slave catchers and kidnappers who chased down free blacks along with fugitive slaves. Robert Purvis played a large role in the growth of the movement after participating in a dramatic rescue of four enslaved brothers.



Robert Purvis (from public domain)

Purvis and his father-in-law James Forten convened a group of men in 1837 to form the "Vigilant Association of Philadelphia." The goal of this group, as well as the Female Vigilant Association that formed soon after, was to help fugitive slaves and free people who had been kidnapped. Similar groups

existed in other towns in the region, and they created networks that operated in tandem with, but more openly than, the Underground Railroad. Abolitionists in both the PAS and the PASS assisted the Vigilant Committee. Among them, none were more dedicated to helping refugees, and to preserving their stories, than William Still.

William Still was born in Maryland but moved to Philadelphia in 1844, at the age of 22. Three years later he married Letitia George, a local dress maker who worked with him to turn their home into a station on the Underground Railroad. That same year he applied for and



This image shows the William and Letitia Still House today (in the small box) sitting next to what was, at the time, the Institute for Colored Youth. Photo by Oscar Beisert for the nomination for the house's historical preservation. (Information on the effort to preserve the home: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/underground-railroad-safe-house-discovered-philadelphia-180968572/>)

received the position of clerk in the office of the PASS. From that point forward he worked closely with black and white Philadelphians to assist refugees from slavery.

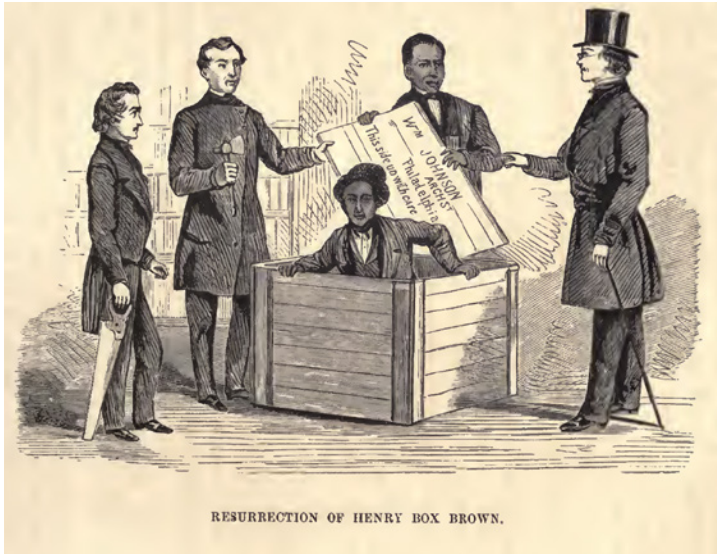


William Still (from public domain)

Underground Railroad activity increased in the 1840s and 1850s throughout the commonwealth. Outside of Philadelphia, Chester, Columbia, York, Gettysburg, and Chambersburg all became important centers of activity because they were closest to the Mason/Dixon line. In Philadelphia, William Still and PASS Corresponding Secretary and newspaper editor James Miller McKim increased their efforts to funnel people through the PASS office and along to safety. Their Philadelphia office saw a great deal of activity as a major point along the eastern line of the Underground Railroad. This line was the oldest route, with activity going as far back as the 1780s.

Through the Vigilance Committees and the Underground Railroad, abolitionists aided escaped slaves on their way to liberty, but the initiative always began with the fugitive. Women also played important roles in all aspects of this militant form of abolition. Some ran away, while others made clothes to help disguise runaways. Others raised money and helped more directly with Underground Railroad operations. As word spread of abolitionists' willingness to help fugitives, enslaved people from throughout the South began to seek their assistance in creative ways, including mailing themselves to the antislavery office in Philadelphia. Henry "Box" Brown shipped himself from Virginia, and Lear Green mailed herself from Maryland.

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Henry Box Brown (public domain and also at Historical Society of PA)

William and Ellen Craft pulled off an elaborate scheme that involved Ellen, who was light in complexion and could pass for white, pretending to be William's owner as they undertook a 4-day journey from Georgia, to Philadelphia in 1848.

Finally, in 1850 Still was taking notes as he assisted a man named Peter Freedman, who had escaped bondage and sought help finding his mother. As Freedman described his mother and the circumstances of their separation, Still realized he was talking to his own brother.



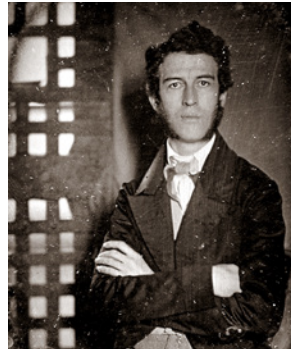
William and Ellen Craft (public domain)

Still, who preserved the records of these daring escapes, also worked with Passmore Williamson on the case of Jane Johnson and her children. Brought into the state in 1855 by John H. Wheeler, the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, Johnson managed to get the attention of Still and Williamson, who responded by rescuing the family.

Williamson spent three months in prison before county judge William D. "Pig Iron" Kelley exonerated the defendants, who had been charged with rioting. He found two rescuers guilty of assault and battery and gave them a week in jail and a ten-dollar fine. Neither Still nor Williamson were convicted.



Jane Johnson (public domain)



Passmore Williamson (public domain but also at Chester County Historical Society)

The issue of fugitive slaves played a significant part in the rise of sectional tensions as the nation came closer to disunion. As early as the late 1830s, abolitionists along Pennsylvania's borders were offering armed resistance to defend fugitives. One of the most dramatic incidents took place in 1847 in Carlisle and another in 1851 in Christiana. Both of these instances saw violent altercations between slave catchers on the one side and fugitives and their allies on the other. In less dramatic but equally important cases, black and white abolitionists rescued accused fugitives from jail cells and courthouses. Matters intensified after the passage of the Compromise of 1850 and the amended Fugitive Slave Act that came with it. The act threatened the security of all northern free blacks by placing the burden of proof with the accused slave rather than the person who claimed to own them. It denied the accused the right to trial by jury and required law enforcement officers and citizens in general to assist in apprehending accused escapees. It also created a bounty system that incentivized guilty rulings by providing more money for each case in which someone was returned to slavery. Realizing the danger to the union if the law was not respected, most northerners reluctantly accepted the new law and their role in its execution, though the most dedicated persisted in resistance.



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It is difficult to know exactly how many people found assistance along the Underground Railroad, but reliable estimates point to about 1,000 people gaining freedom annually between the 1830s and 1860s. One historian estimates that nearly 9,000 fugitives made their way specifically to Philadelphia by the beginning of the Civil War. Numbers aside, the Underground Railroad was important symbolically then and now. At the time, its existence gave hope to enslaved people in the South, letting them know they could find allies along their way to freedom. Today the history of the Underground Railroad reminds us of the importance of unity in the ongoing quest for social justice. Underground Railroad conductors, whether white or black, were participating in direct action that was illegal based on the laws of the time. They faced criminal penalties such as jail time and stiff fines as well as the possibility of civil suits from those who claimed property rights to the human beings who sought freedom. Those who dared to defy the injustices of the slave system set an example for later civil rights activists, and they serve as a reminder and a challenge to us today.

Further Readings

For a great overview of the functions of the railroad, as well as numerous detailed maps of routes, see William J. Switala, *The Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania* (Stackpole Books, 2001).

The authoritative work on the western route is W. Thomas Mainwaring's *Abandoned Tracks: The Underground Railroad in Washington County, Pennsylvania* (Notre Dame Press, 2018). Mainwaring also give detailed analysis of the origin and function of the myths as well as a detailed analysis of the different Underground Railroad landmarks in western Pennsylvania.

For the story of the eastern line, see David G. Smith, *On the Edge of Freedom: The Fugitive Slave Issue in South Central Pennsylvania, 1820-1870* (Fordham University Press, 2013).

The classic primary source on the Underground Railroad remains William Still's accounts, available in manuscript journal form at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and in published form in a variety of editions.

Guest Blogger Series

Looking for tips to be safe and comfortable outdoors this winter? Want to buff up on your PA park and forest history? In need of a good laugh?

Check out PPFF's guest blogger series on the news page of our website (PAParksAndForests.org/news).

With topics like the following, you'll get all the information you need and more from our experienced – and entertaining – guest bloggers.

- Heading Outside this Winter? Pack These Essentials!
- Weird Moments I Encountered While Running in All 121 PA State Parks
- Create Your Own Mini Bird Sanctuary
- What to Do and How to Enjoy PA's Tiny State Parks



120 State Parks for Boy Scout Troop 120!



The trek began in 2016 while camping at Fort Washington State Park when Scoutmaster Bob Gizinski was looking over a park map and noticed the number of Pennsylvania state parks available for visiting. "What better story can a Scout tell throughout life than they (visited) all 120 state parks while with Troop 120?" he thought, and so the idea was born.

Along with Assistant Scoutmaster Nathan Burvainis and Committee Chairman Jami Burvainis, Gizinski and the Scouts planned their route during troop meetings and made camping reservations. They rented a van, packed the trailer full, and set out on their exploration that summer.

The Troop tackled the challenge of visiting the many parks by planning their excursions around particular sections of the state. First, they took seven days and saw 26 parks in northeastern PA. Then, picking back up after a summer of Boy Scout camp, they were on the road again to see a whopping 46 parks within ten days! The journey was not without its challenges. Sadly, the Troop lost Assistant Scoutmaster, Jodi, due to COVID-19. However, they completed their goal of seeing 120 state parks in 2021.

Along with many wonderful memories, the Scouts gained skills in orienteering and camping, as well as fire, ax and knife safety. For some of the Scouts, this was their first experience being outside of Philadelphia. Highlights from their trip include sliding down the natural rocks in Ohiopyle, standing along awe-inspiring waterfalls at Ricketts Glen, walking the Kinzua Bridge, as well as hiking, swimming and fishing all around the state.

"These will be memories that will last a lifetime and will continue on with our Troop" stated Scoutmaster Gizinski. The Troop is on a mission to see the one state park that remains to be visited. Allegheny Islands is accessible only by boat but the Troop has plans to explore it in the near future.



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

2021 Photo Contest Winners

PPFF's 2021 photo contest celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Environmental Rights Amendment to Pennsylvania's Constitution through categories that highlighted key aspects of the legislation. Photographers submitted their entries of state park and forest photos throughout the seasons that best showcased Clean Air, Pure Water, and Natural, Scenic, Historic and Esthetic Values. Along with a Youth Photographers category, submissions were judged per category first by a panel of judges and then by public vote on PPFF's Facebook page.

Best In Show

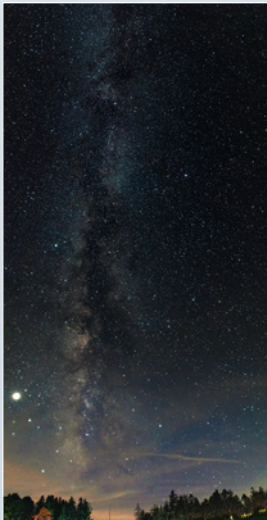


*Best in Show – Judges' Choice: Bob Fescemyer
(entered for the Pure Water category), Forbes State Forest*



*Best in Show – People's Choice: Sarah McAfee
(entered for the Natural Value category),
McConnells Mill State Park*

Clean Air



*Clean Air – Judges' Choice:
Matt Mann, Cherry Springs
State Park*



*Clean Air – People's Choice:
Bill Sisson, R.B. Winter State Park*



*Clean Air - Runner Up:
Bruce Walkovich, Canoe Creek State Park*

2021 Photo Contest Winners

Pure Water



Pure Water – Judges' Choice:
Sabrina Hilpert, Presque Isle State Park



Pure Water – People's Choice:
Liz Mickley, Codorus State Park



Pure Water - Runner Up:
Rick Baker, Presque Isle State Park

Historic Value



Historic Value – Judges' Choice:
Angelo Mamone, McConnells Mill State Park



Historic Value – People's Choice:
David Raymond, Point State Park

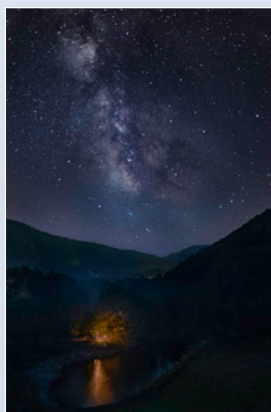


Historic Value - Runner Up:
Beth VanHorn, Greenwood Furnace State Park

Scenic Value



Scenic Value – Judges' Choice:
Kyle Yates, Cook Forest State Park

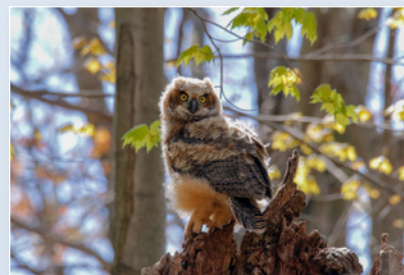


Scenic Value - Runner Up:
Dave Kile, Little Pine State Park

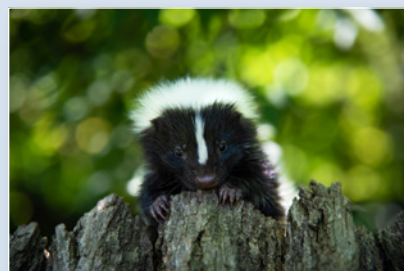


Scenic Value – People's Choice:
Sabine Panzner-Kaelin, Laurel Summit State Park

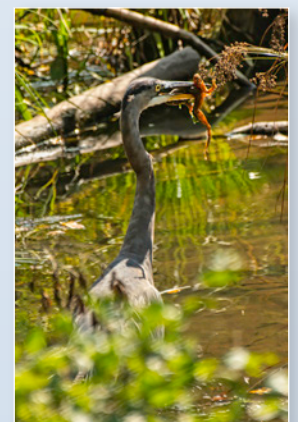
Natural Value



Natural Value – People's Choice:
Dot Monohan, Presque Isle State Park



Natural Value – Judges' Choice:
Krystal Blake, Laurel Hill State Park



Natural Value - Runner Up:
Cathy Straub, Elk State Forest

2021 Photo Contest Winners

Esthetic Value



Esthetic Value – Judges' Choice:
Clare Kaczmarek, Laurel Mountain State Park

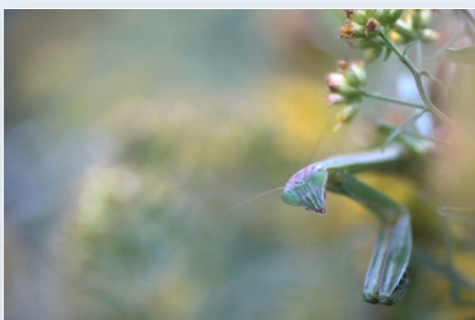


Esthetic Value – People's Choice:
Patti Keller, Pine Grove Furnace State Park

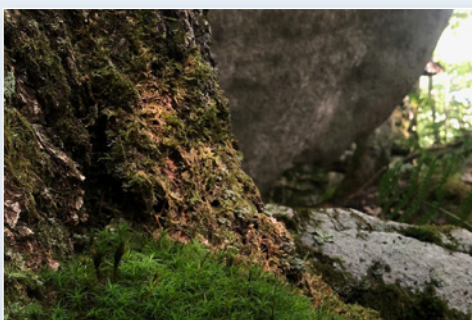


Esthetic Value - Runner Up:
Jenn Stillman, Lyman Run State Park

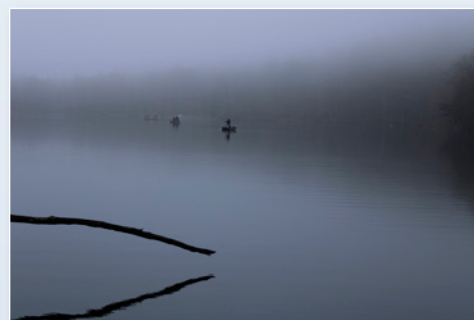
Young Photographers



Young Photographers – Judges' Choice:
Trent Stross, Sinnemahoning State Park



Young Photographers – People's Choice:
Gwendolyn Sobkowiak, Laurel Ridge State Park



Young Photographers - Runner Up:
Vincent Bratton, Cowans Gap State Park

2022 Thru the Seasons Photo Contest: Clean Water and Forested Ecosystems

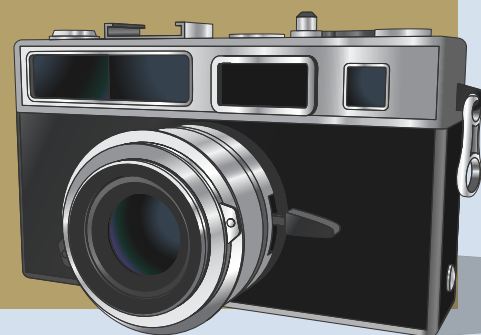
Calling all photographers, PPFF's annual Thru the Seasons photo contest is now open!

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. In celebration of this milestone and in recognition of the importance of forests for water quality, the theme of this year's photo contest is Clean Water and Forested Ecosystems. Share with us your artistic view on the importance of clean water and the role of forests in a healthy watershed by submitting to the following categories:

Water Is Life
Raindrop to River
Forests

Caught in the Rain
Reflections
Young Photographers (ages 12-17)

The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers alike. All photos must be taken in a Pennsylvania state park or forest. The submission deadline is September 30, 2022. For full contest details, please visit paparksandforests.org.





Skill Builder

Did you know that you can find a variety of skill builders on our website and YouTube channels? What is a skill builder? It is a fact sheet, video, or infographic designed to help you develop a new skill or to answer questions that you might have. An excerpt from the Fishing Skill Builder is below. To find the full file, visit: [Fishing_GOPA_14.pdf](#) (paparksandforests.org)



Bringing Your Voice

Fall was very busy on the legislative and issues front—thank you for those who loaned their voices to a variety of causes through our online system. Below is a brief synopsis of where we are and where we may be going on these fronts.

PA Wilds Military Operations Area—The Air National Guard proposed to expand their current flyover training program in the Pennsylvania Wilds to include low level, high speed flights. While the Foundation supports training for our military men and women, we do have concerns regarding the impacts of these flights on wildlife, the pilots' safety, and the area of the Pennsylvania Wilds. A letter was filed outlining our concerns are calling for an environmental impact statement and review of alternatives. The letter can be found here: [PPFF Comments on Air National Guard's Duke Military Operations Area Draft Finding of No Significant Impact | Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#) (paparksandforests.org)

Reducing Volunteer Liability, HB 1694—introduced by Rep. Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana), **amends an existing law encouraging landowners to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational purposes, including hunting**, by limiting liability in connection therewith by expanding the law's coverage to volunteers and nonprofit organizations. The bill passed house unanimously and has moved to the Senate. PPFF will continue to support this bill.

Senate Bill 525 creates a new iteration of the Growing Greener legislation, allocating funds from the American Rescue Plan to park and forest infrastructure needs, among other things. The bill did not come up for final consideration in the Senate, but may be a part of the Senate budgeting process. PPFF supports this bill.

Representative Lynda Culver's HB 2020 is similar to SB 525 and was recently introduced. PPFF supports this bill in its current state.

PPFF wrote a letter to the Governor expressing our support of spending American Rescue Plan funding to address maintenance and infrastructure needs, thus investing in local communities while keeping Pennsylvanians healthy.

In early February, Governor Wolf announced his proposal for spending ARP funds, which includes money for park and forest infrastructure.

A new Civilian Conservation Corps— basically this bill is stuck in the current Build Back Better bill which is itself stuck. Barring a sudden movement there, it probably has to get across the finish line as a single or combined program on its own bill, but there are six of those that could conceivably still advance.

Celebrating the ERA Through Song

In 2021, PPFF hosted its first-ever song contest as one of several special commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Environmental Rights Amendment.

Original songs depicting the importance of the historic legislation were received from musicians around the state. With the help of a panel of judges including experienced musicians Joe Cooney, who plays acoustically in the Harrisburg area and volunteers for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society and Bonnie Rannels, a violinist with both Central Pennsylvania and West Shore Symphonies, along with PPFF Board and staff, three winners were selected.

Grand Prize winner is Ed Holcomb from Titusville. With harmonica accompaniment, his song, "The Amendment", depicts the historical reasoning behind the creation of the amendment and need for environmental regulation to protect Pennsylvania's natural resources.

Youth Entry winner is Brooke Buser of Gettysburg. Played to the tune of her ukulele, Brooke's song, "Pick Up Trash", will provide all the motivation a listener might need to volunteer for a cleanup.

President's Choice awardee is Debra Wolf Goldstein of Philadelphia. Debra's song begins with a vivid depiction of the Cuyahoga River on fire among other environmental issues that helped pave the way for regulation. Her powerful voice conveys a key part of the ERA that is also the title of her song, "People Have the Right".

All three songs have been set to video with historic images and photos from PPFF's 2021 ERA themed photo contest and can be found on our website and YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/PAParksandForests>.

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



Expiration Date: 12/31/2021
Mr. & Mrs. Park & Forest Fan
123 Lovely Lane
Small Town, PA 10101-10101

CHECK YOUR LABEL.
Expiration date
passed?



Look for the renewal form on the back of the newsletter or visit
ppff.online/2022-spring-renew
(Get there with a scan of the QR)

Protecting Water Quality: Good for Pennsylvania

Did you know:



The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources—your state parks and forests—own and operate public water supply and wastewater treatment plants? These highly regulated operations require staff to be rigorously trained and require specialized equipment.

These systems are aging, leading to increased maintenance time and expense, potential leaks leading to contamination, and outages that cause disruption to operations and visitor experiences.

Maintaining and upgrading these water management facilities requires considerable funding that is not always readily available to DCNR.



State parks and forests have 68 wastewater treatment plants, including nine that service adjacent communities. There are 17 waste water collection systems that feed into plants operated by an outside entity. All systems require piping, lift stations, septic tank maintenance and utility costs.



173 public drinking water supplies and surface water treatment plants are managed by DCNR. Fresh drinking water is vital for park concession businesses, campgrounds, visitor and camper needs, and water fountains.

Evolving water regulations that better address pathogens found in drinking water, as well as aging systems—including the unseen infrastructure such as piping—need to be upgraded to meet the improved standards, reduce maintenance costs, and to ensure quality experiences.

A stable, dedicated source of funding is needed to keep up with the repairs, upgrades, and regulatory changes to wastewater and drinking water standards that DCNR must abide by.



Ready, Set, Action!

We want to see you out and about in PA's parks and forests. Get your camera, phone, or video camera and help us celebrate the special occasions listed below by sharing with us your footage. So we can find you, be sure to tag PPFF on social media and include the hashtag #GetInMotionPA, #GetMovingPA.

Facebook: [@PennsylvaniaParksAndForestsFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaParksAndForestsFoundation)

Twitter: [@PaPFF](https://twitter.com/PaPFF)

Instagram: [@paparksandforests](https://www.instagram.com/paparksandforests)

Earth Day through Rothrock Week:

You probably look forward to giving back for Earth Day every April 22 but did you know that April 24-30 is also cause for celebration? The last week of April annually marks J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week. Rothrock is honored as the Father of Pennsylvania

Forestry. As the first President of the PA Forestry Association, founded in 1886, Rothrock promoted forest stewardship in a time when our state was being clear-cut. (You can learn more about Rothrock at paconservationheritage.org.) What better time to join up with a Friends Group for a tree planting or find yourself immersed in a PA state forest?!

You might also want to include the following hashtags:

#RothrockWeek #ProtectOurParksandForests #PaForests #EarthDay2022

PA State Parks and Forests Week

In 2018, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of PA's state parks and forest, Governor Wolf proclaimed May 23-30 as Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests Week. This is the perfect opportunity to get outdoors and share with us your appreciation for all that Pennsylvania's state parks and forests provide! #PaParksandForestsWeek



Photo by Jill Cook, Fun in the Outdoors, Ricketts Glen

“ [Pennsylvania's] 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. ”

Dr. J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week
April 23 to 30, 2022

FIND YOUR "SUITABLE
ACTIVITY" IN A NEARBY
FOREST
#ROTHROCKWEEK



National Trails Day

Presented by the American Hiking Society, National Trails Day on June 4 is a day of service and advocacy for trails. How will you hit the trails? Hike, bike, by paddle or saddle: share with us your favorite way to explore #PATrails! #NationalTrailsDay

Healthy Lands Week

Help us kick off this new, annual week of volunteerism. Healthy Lands Week begins with National Public Lands day on September 24. Capture your volunteer service on video and help to inspire stewardship in others! The week wraps up with A Walk in Penn's Woods on October 2, the perfect day to take a hike in – you guessed it – Penn's woods!

#HealthyLandsWeek #PennsWoods
#NationalPublicLandsDay #PublicLandsDay

We Will Miss

Rose Chase

(8/19/1935-11/1/2018)

We were heartbroken to learn belatedly that southeastern Pennsylvania – and indeed all of us – lost dear friend Rose Chase of Nottingham Township back in November 2018. Rose campaigned long and hard – and successfully – for preservation of the Goat Hill section of the Serpentine Barrens in southern Chester County. Former District Forester for the William Penn State Forest, Joe Frassetta (husband of our own President Marci), said “One can trace the preservation efforts of Rose Chase and her neighbors back to 1979 when they formed the ‘Concerned Citizens of West Nottingham Township’ in response to a quarrying threat to the Serpentine Barrens,” Frassetta said. “In later years, their work was broadened to combat any further damage to the barrens and the wilderness surrounding it.” Pay a visit to the Goat Hill property and walk along the 1.5-mile Rose Trail named in her honor (Rose shown here cutting its ribbon back in 2011).



John Kafes

(12/20/1939-1/4/2022)

History and trees are a winning combination – and they represent the essence of the late John Kafes, former trustee of the Historical Society of Fort Washington and the Friends of Fort Washington State Park where the historical society's Clifton House preservation efforts and museum are centered. A gentle man who appreciated art, antiques, classical music, and NPR, John was a member of his community's Shade Tree Commission.



Paul Felton

(1/22/1920-7/25/2021)

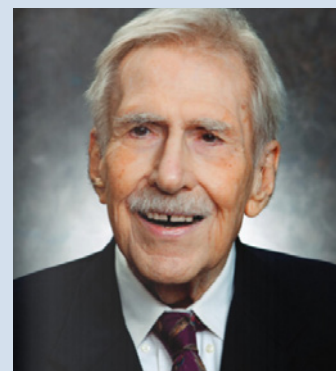
In 2017, the Foundation was proud to recognize then 98-year old Paul Felton with the Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award at our banquet. Paul captured our hearts when we learned that he was indeed the keystone of conservation efforts at the Meadowood retirement facility where he had been living since the 1990s. Development of the complex's nature preserve, spearheading annual tree planting efforts, and leading regular wellness walks for his fellow residents kept Paul young and engaged past his 100th birthday. Read more about this delightful man in a profile published a month after that centenarian milestone by The Reporter from Bucks/Montgomery counties. (<https://www.thereporteronline.com/2020/02/26/lansdale-centenarian-shares-environmental-legacy-2/>)



Tom Deans

(12/6/1933-10/28/2021)

It is difficult to imagine that there would be a Friends of Milton, much less a clean and cared-for Milton State Park without Tom Deans. A hometown Milton boy (from the age of 8) who traveled the world but always returned home, Tom was a professional AND personal planner and preservationist. He and his wife Gail devoted time and treasure to the revitalization of “everything Milton.” A loving portrait of Tom can be found in the tribute created for the dedication of the Phi Lambda Theta Chapter House at Bucknell University. (<https://en.calameo.com/read/00547139913c3413d4f86>)



Friends in Action

What hosted 20,745 visitors between July 1 and December 31, 2021? The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace's Koppenhaver Connector bridge! Here are about 19 more, taken on January 1 for the Friends' First Day Hike to kick off 2022.



Photo by the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace



Photo by the Friends of Parker Dam

Thumbs up from Smokey Bear and all the folks who attended the Friends of Parker Dam's Fall Fest. Yes, there was some rain but everyone was just happy to be back at the park for this popular long-time favorite event.

Christmastime at Little Buffalo means a walk along the lighted forest trail. Twinkly!



Photo by the Friends of Little Buffalo



Photo by the Friends of Yellow Creek

The Friends of Yellow Creek know how to have fun! On water they host "learn to sail" events all summer long. On land the YC Monthly series of mountain bike races is a great way for riders to both get a taste of the trail system maintained by the Friends and to support that continued maintenance of the trails. The races bring out a diverse crowd of participants and onlookers!



Photo by Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens

Invasive species removal is a difficult task; the very nature of a plant being "invasive" means that it usually has the capacity to over-run an area pretty quickly. In the unique ecosystem that is the southeastern part of the state's serpentine barrens, however, invasive plants face a stalwart foe in the Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens. "Tired but happy" is how we'd describe them after clearing this area.

The Friends of Caledonia did not take COVID-19 restrictions lying down. Their annual craft show fell victim to crowd size restrictions but their work in 2021 included the purchase of new benches along the creekside trail, doggie waste stations, a power washer for the maintenance crew, and lots and lots of firewood.



Photo by Friends of Caledonia

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 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

Partnerships

Support State Parks as You Sip!

Thanks to a partnership with New Trail Brewing Company, a beer is being created in honor of each Pennsylvania state park with proceeds benefiting park projects.

The four beers that have been released so far in the #StateParkSeries include the Keystone State Park Hazy IPA, Worlds End State Park Hazy Double IPA, Cherry Springs State Park Cherry Chocolate Milk Stout, and, most recently, the Cook Forest State Park Hazy Double IPA.



Along with getting stamps at each park and forest visit, you can collect New Trail Brewing stickers for your PA State Parks and State Forests Passport as you try each new brew! Simply send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we will mail you stickers to add to your Passport. (Don't have a Passport? You can purchase one from PPFF's online store at paparksandforests.org.)

EITC

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is an approved provider through the Education Improvement Tax Credit program. Support through the Foundation empowers Watershed Education and One Bird, Two Habitat programs at parks and forests across the state. We want to thank our EITC donors: Troegs Brewery, Weis Markets, Pennian Bank, Mid Penn Bank.

The following three images depict the hands on opportunities for learning provided by these programs, as well as the creativity of educators who had to adapt during the pandemic to remote programming. Funds from EITC helped to bridge this transition.



You Made it Happen

Legislative Tours

Park and Forest maintenance needs come to life through personal tours provided to legislators and the media. With your support, tours happened at various locations across the state to showcase maintenance needs and to advocate for investments.



Photo by Marci Mowery

Staying on Top of Graffiti

A small but mighty crew gave of their time to the Buzzard Rocks overlook in Michaux State Forest to return it to its natural look.



Photos by Jen Dunlap

Building Relationships

The Foundation, with support from the Chamber of Commerce for a Greater Philadelphia and donors like you, exhibited and spoke at the annual Pennsylvania Association of Chamber Professionals meeting. The focus of the exhibit was the value of public lands to quality of life to local communities.

Angling for All

We know spending time in the outdoors is important for human health and one way to spend time outside is through fishing. With your support and grants from Fish Foundation and the Luzerne Foundation, upgrades were complete on the ADA fishing pier at Gouldsboro State Park and started at Tobyhanna State Park.



Photo by Marci Mowery

Bridging the Gap

One way to protect water quality—and keep the feet of hikers dry—is the placement of bridges. The Gallitzin State Forest staff with assistance from the PA Outdoor Crew, Altoona and funding help from REI, Bedford and PPFF, completed the shared use trail bridge over Laurel Run Creek in the Rager Mt. Division. The bridge was designed by DCNR's Facility Design and Construction Bureau who also assisted with the installation by providing surveying and engineering expertise.



Photo by Gallitzin State Forest

Trees for Clean Air and Water

Mid Penn Bank employees joined PPFF for a day of tree planting and stewardship at Boyd Big Tree State Park. Mid Penn funded the costs of the trees and provided lunch for all of the volunteers. If your place of employment would like to host a volunteer day at a park or forest, let us know!



Photo by Marci Mowery

You Made it Happen

Outdoor Recreation Economy—Jim Thorpe

We know that Pennsylvania is fifth in the nation in terms of consumer spending on outdoor recreation, but what does that mean? In this newly released video, funded by a grant the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Community Conservation Partnership Program, the Foundation worked with UpRoot Creative Services to showcase Jim Thorpe as an outdoor recreation destination. The video features PPFF board member Paul Fogal, owner of Pocono Whitewater.



Right Tool for the Job

We all know that having the right tool for the job makes a job much easier to accomplish. With your support and funds from REI Bedford, Buchanan State Forest became the proud owner of a new mower for trail maintenance. More of these mowers are needed in other locations—and your support makes them happen.



Photo by Buchanan State Forest

The Outdoors and Health

Have you seen the new videos? With your support and a grant from the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Community Conservation Partnership Program, the Foundation worked with UpRoot Creative Services to create a series of videos (including a Spanish language version) related to the health benefits of spending time outside. The videos are available on our YouTube channel. Thank you to all of the experts who shared their time and knowledge to make the videos happen. Please help us to spread the word about these informative videos.



Let's Enjoy Together

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was pleased to be the recipient of a promotional brew from our friends at Stick City Brewing and the new Public Lands store in Cranberry Township. A kick-off event at the store included sale of the beer, free prizes, food, and PPFF sales and information. A portion of the proceeds from the beer will be matched by Public Lands and donated to PPFF to support the work of the foundation in stewarding state parks and forests.



Photo by Marci Mowery





*Thank you for caring for your
state parks and forests*

Your support during 2021 gave us an extra dose
of the warm fuzzies

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