

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

Fall 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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Burned meiler at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Park by Joe Frassetta

Black History, Charcoal and State Lands

By Dr. Benjamin Carter, Muhlenberg College

I imagine that most people reading this enjoy walking in the woods and otherwise experiencing Pennsylvania's parks, forests and game lands. You may also know there's an abundance of history in state lands, much of it centered on the iron industry. Indeed, I'm often surprised at how many know that charcoal production for iron furnaces was an important industry that occupied vast portions of Pennsylvania - and that this industry is still visible.

Yet, I also talk to folks who love the outdoors who do not know the history of charcoal. I have yet to find many who understand the connection between state lands, iron, charcoal, and Black history. It's there, but you have to know where to look and what to look for.

Before I get into details, I must be clear that some of what I present will feel a bit speculative. I am still working on aspects of this research, but the evidence is rich enough to share at this point. I'm an archaeologist. "Cool. What did you dig?" you say. *Umm... nothing.* Yet bear with me. We're moving in that direction. Recent experience demonstrates that researching Black communities is significantly more difficult than working on White (which I have done - a lot).

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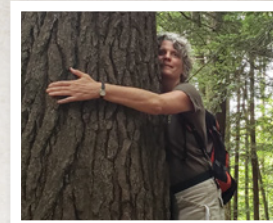
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President's Message

Marci Mowery



I sit here at my campsite, pondering the shortening days and the swiftness with which summer has passed. The campground has some vacancies, with families back to school and sports. Instead campers are couples and groups of friends enjoying activities of the park and surrounding forest. With temperatures dipping into the 60s, I see many campsites with blazing campfires.

Pennsylvania's parks and forests remain open year-round, providing 365 days of opportunities. Summer kayaking may give way to ice fishing or skating, trail hiking to cross country skiing or snowmobiling, and walking to hunting.

As I contemplate my surroundings, I am thankful for your voice in conservation. These places in the landscape—your state parks and forests—benefit from funding that you helped to secure through your advocacy. Seventy-five million dollars of American Rescue Plan funds were released during the state budgeting process, putting a dent in the \$1.4 billion need for maintenance and infrastructure investments.

While grateful for this state budget investment, we know that there is more to be accomplished. We are in the process of preparing a white paper for the new governor, members of the general assembly and agency heads as to WHY it is important to continue to invest in state parks and forests. One such reason is the evidence presented in the return on environment reports outlined in Intern Jason's article found on page 7.

As I write, three new state parks are being prepared for the big unveiling. These new parks will help to accommodate the growing demand for outdoor recreation spaces. To learn more, sign up for our weekly Take-Five e-blast to stay abreast of the new projects, the new parks, and how you can become involved in advocating for the places that bring you memories and improve your health.

Also happening as this newsletter goes to press is the inaugural Healthy Lands Week—a week of stewardship and education with a goal towards long-term sustainability of all public lands. The event will occur annually, kicking off the fourth Saturday of September. Look for an update in our next newsletter.

As summer turns to fall and as fall turns to winter, I hope that you continue to explore your state parks and forests. Perhaps with an eye to history after reading the lead story or perhaps with a goal exploring some place new in your quest to see all 121 (124!) parks and 20 forest districts (on page 13 read about the Zitricks who are on their fourth time around!).

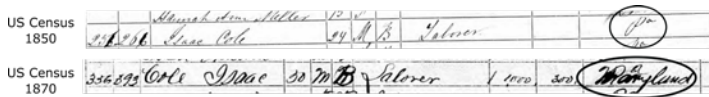
Yours in Conservation, Marci

Sadly, also as I write this, Joe and I lost our fur baby, also known as the Office Dog. We will miss her terribly—our faithful companion exploring Pennsylvania's parks and forests.

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“Why is that?” First, much of the documentation that we rely upon to do this work is from state, federal and local governments (census, taxes, deeds, etc.). In the 19th century, Black individuals and communities were treated poorly by all levels of government. Anti-Black racism was deep, even in the “Free” state of Pennsylvania. Even most white abolitionists (except for the “radicals” like iron master Thaddeus Stevens) did not believe in equal rights for Black Americans. And within Pennsylvania governments, there were many supporters of slavery, often leading Black Pennsylvanians to protect themselves and their communities by providing misinformation. For example, across two decades of census information, an individual might have a different name (e.g., Aquila to William) or claim the same age after a decade has passed.

In 1860 (just before the Civil War), very, very few Black Pennsylvanians claimed to have been born in “slave” states - that would have potentially identified them as “fugitives.” But after the war many of those same people reported that they were born in Maryland, Virginia, and beyond.

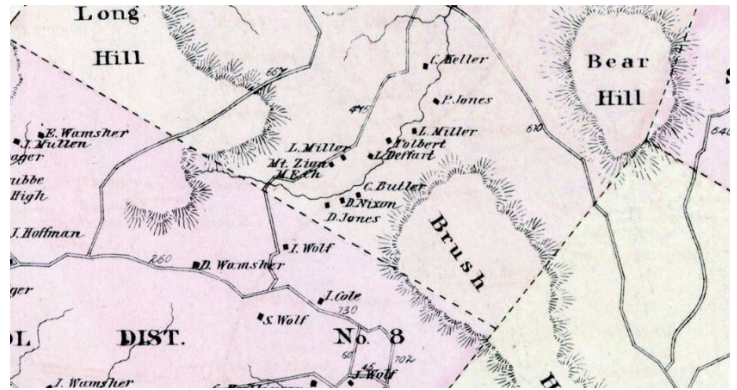


Images of census records for Isaac Cole from 1850 and 1870.

Secondly, throughout this time there is a massive movement of Black Americans north from the south via the Underground Railroad. While Black communities did their best to support these people, housing was in VERY short supply. So, many moved on (again and again, etc.), but sometimes returned. This sort of movement - especially of people whose “documentation” might endanger their freedom or their life - makes it much more difficult to track individuals and families.

This means that, in order to understand the Black communities, we often need resources beyond the standard historical documents. One of these resources is the landscape - enter archaeology and state lands. With both new technology and good-ole walking around in the woods looking for “cultural features,” unique landscapes can be identified and studied.

If this seems on the speculative side, remember historic documents are confusing and contradictory. Yet with new techniques from archaeology we’re getting there.



Map of Six Penny Creek from 1876. From the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Berks County by F.A. Davis

Six Penny Creek, a small rural Black settlement in southern Berks County, was established in 1842. At its peak, between 1860-1870, approximately 40-50 people lived in the community of nine houses on 40 acres of land owned by community members. They built a church, the Mt. Frisby African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, and a cemetery. As archaeologist Cheryl LaRoche demonstrated, AME churches were central to the Underground Railroad and local historians have long recognized Six Penny Creek as a “station.” This community was surrounded by “charcoal lands,” which provided the fuel for two iron furnaces - Hampton and Hopewell Furnaces. Today this land is part of French Creek State Park where you can “see” this community.



Image of Mt Frisby African Methodist Episcopal Church and cemetery. The two marked headstones are for Civil War veterans, Isaac Cole and James Jackson.

Ok, but why does that matter? Charcoal lands were excellent routes and places to hide for Freedom Seekers.

Really? Why? Ok, to understand this, we need to talk a bit about charcoal.

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Colliers building a meiler. From the National Archives- #419979

To make charcoal, colliers (charcoal burners) would tightly stack wood in domed piles around 30 - 50 feet in diameter and more than 10 feet tall. This was called a "meiler." The stack of wood was then covered with a layer of leaves and then soil before being ignited. Because it was encased, the wood did not burn, but was "distilled" into gases (which leaked out of the mound) and charcoal. The charcoal was transported (usually) to furnaces, where it was used as fuel to smelt iron. Because this process could take up to eight days, colliers would have more than one meiler (up to eight) going at any one time. To tend the meiler, the colliers lived in the forest for up to eight months.

Each meiler consumed somewhere around one acre of woodland. Clemson University Forester Tom Straka has shown an iron furnace required roughly 600 acres of forest per year. Cut forest would regenerate in around 20-30 years when it could be harvested again.

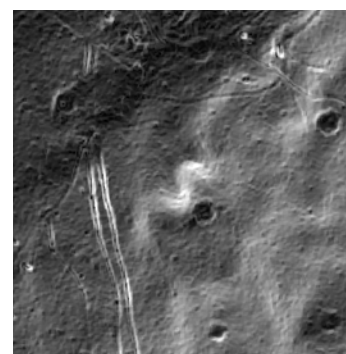
At any time, vast tracts of forest would have been in the process of regrowing, in a very patchy manner. Portions of the forest would have been filled with brambles and thickets - impassable to any except those who knew the area well. These forests would have been ideal for Black Americans attempting to avoid those who would return them to slavery.

Wayne Homan, in an article entitled "The Underground Railroad" in the *Historical Review of Berks County* (1958) states, "An active raccoon hunter and part-time supervisor of charcoal burners, [Henry] Segner's knowledge of the forested hills [close to Six Penny Creek] ... was second to none. It was reputed that, if necessary, he could send a fleeing party of slaves, guided by a charcoal burner, in one

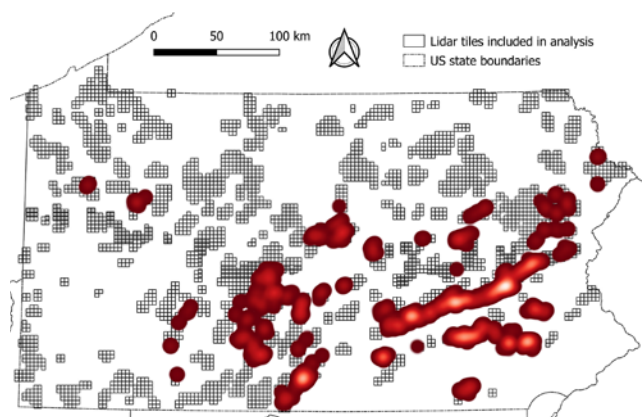
direction, then lure a group of slave hunters to follow him all night until they were so thoroughly lost in the mountains they could not find their way out for days."

One of the coolest aspects of the charcoal industry is that it is still widely visible in state lands. I first thought that Pennsylvania had built wonderful tenting spots all across the land (you can especially see these along the Appalachian Trail). However, before a meiler is built, the land is leveled and flattened. When the meiler is abandoned this flat area, called a relict charcoal hearth, remains leaving a wonderful tent site. You can see these on the landscape, but they tend to be hundreds of feet apart and locating them can take a long time (I've visited well over 300).

Using a type of remote sensing called LiDAR, an incredibly high resolution "picture" of the ground surface can be produced. Using LiDAR and machine learning, my colleagues, Jeff Blackadar and Weston Conner, and I have identified approximately 26,000 relict charcoal hearths in and around state game lands.



Dark circles are remnants of charcoal hearths as seen through LiDAR.



Map showing charcoal "fields" across Pennsylvania (based solely upon an analysis of PA State Game Lands).

We know that many of the small, rural Black communities in Pennsylvania were near these charcoal lands - evidence for the importance of the connection. We're trying to map this, but many of these communities have been abandoned.

While these charcoal landscapes were likely important, the small huts that colliers lived in may have been more important. Because colliers stayed in the woods for extended periods of time they needed a place to stay. So

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they built small huts. These huts, called "collier's huts," are conical in shape. Imagine a cone of long straight poles with little to no gaps between them. Cut out a small door on one side. Cover the rest with leaves, then dirt. Voila! A collier's hut.

The hut is surrounded by a circular trench, likely for drainage as well as the source for the soil covering the hut. Inside, the center may have been six feet high; the only furniture two small sleeping benches - one for the collier and one for the assistant. The interior diameter was around 6-8 feet. These were mostly for sleeping and weather protection, as most activities took place at the charcoal hearths or outside the hut. Huts were abandoned each year as the colliers moved to the next hearth.

Before the Civil War, much of the charcoal lands would have been littered with small, abandoned, but easily repaired, structures. Homan states, referring to a valley a few miles from Six Penny Creek (near SGL 52), "The slave hunters ranged that valley too, and when they pressed too hard, runaways were taken 'into the woods' to charcoal burners huts." Referring to a different, but nearby location, he adds, "To avoid pursuers, some fugitives hid out in the woods in the huts of charcoal burners working for Joanna Furnace." Joanna Furnace is a few miles west of Six Penny Creek. Referring specifically to Six Penny Creek, Homan wrote, "They [the residents of Six Penny Creek] joined the Underground Railroad and earned their living as charcoal burners." The 1880 census lists five of the fifteen people with an occupation at Six Penny Creek as "colliers." Six Penny Creek is just one of these small, rural Black communities adjacent to charcoal lands.

Most collier huts were abandoned annually. Normally, I have encountered two important situations in which collier huts were not abandoned. Both were in Black communities, indicating a deeper connection to the structures. The first were the homes of the "outlaws" of the Welsh Mountains. When searching for these outlaws, a reporter (*Lancaster Examiner*; May 6, 1885) described the house of Cal Green, a Black woman and the purported "Queen of the Welsh Mountains." He wrote, "when they want a new house, they take a few fence rails, stand them on end in a circle and plaster them with mud, leaving a small hole for the door." Sounds like a collier hut, right?

In a separate article, in the *Philadelphia Times* (Aug. 12, 1894), a reporter visited John Henson, a Black man who had lived in the Welsh mountains for 40 years. Although the description doesn't mention



John Henson's cabin. *Philadelphia Times* (Aug 12, 1894)

the shape of his home which is partially "covered with sod," an accompanying photograph shows that the front portion is conical like a collier's hut. This colliers hut, however, appears to have a modified front and an extension built off the back.

Far away, along the northern edge of Lebanon county lived another Black collier by the name of Joseph Johns. Johns, reportedly 112 years old when he died in 1906, escaped enslavement in Virginia in the 1850s and reportedly lived in a collier hut for his 50+ years in Lebanon county. His home has been reconstructed by the Boy Scouts.



Joseph Johns' reconstructed colliers hut.



Muhlenberg College students standing on the remains of a colliers hut.

You might see one of these huts - or the remains of one at least - on your next visit to a park or forest. Evidence of collier huts remains visible on the landscape. They often look like an 8' to 12' diameter doughnut that has sunken into the earth, surrounded by a trench. Just above Six Penny Creek, on the land of French Creek State Park, sits the remains of one of the largest collier huts that I have seen, suggesting that it may have been used more than other huts.

These examples of Black Pennsylvanians using collier huts for longer time periods than normal demonstrate the importance of these structures as places of refuge and hint at their importance in both hiding people and ensuring that, when necessary, people could move on and build a new hut relatively easily.

Many people who use the public lands owned by Pennsylvania consider them "wild." Perhaps, but they are also reservoirs of history. Lying within those lands rests an important - and rarely told - story of Black settlements who used the charcoal landscape to aid those fleeing slavery and build community. Sometimes, we just need to look, but additional ways of "looking" - such as LiDAR - can help us.

Return on Environment

By Jason Lenker, Intern

In 2011, the Pennsylvania Audubon paired with the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape to aid counties along the Kittatinny Ridge (Berks, Carbon, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Lehigh Valley, and Perry) in completing Return on Environment (ROE) reports. The goal of the ROE reports is to estimate the monetary value that protected open space contributes to the local and state economies. Since 2011, other counties in sensitive environmental regions such as the Delaware Valley and Laurel Highlands have completed similar studies in order to illustrate the important and often unseen economic value that protected open space has in these counties and in Pennsylvania as a whole.

What is ROE?

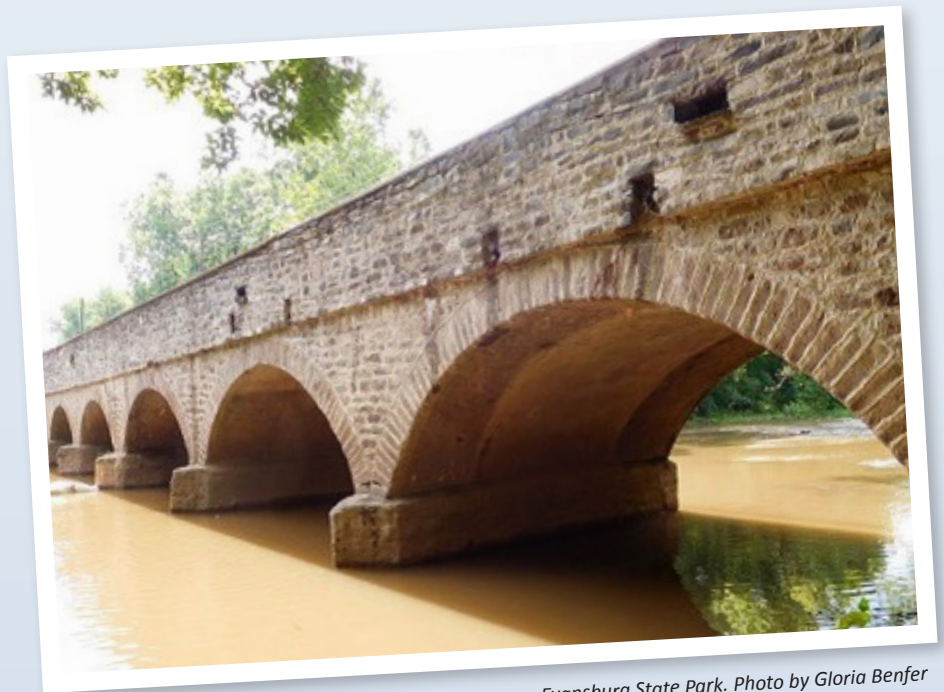
Return on Environment is a way of assigning estimated monetary value to the services that protected open space provides for a county or region. This evaluation is based on four major criteria: the value associated with natural ecosystem services that open space provides such as stormwater management and reduction in air pollution, the monetary value associated with direct and indirect spending on outdoor recreation, savings from avoided healthcare costs attributed to access to recreation and clean environments, and the increased property values that come from living close to open land and/or water.

Through complex analysis, an estimated monetary value is determined for each category based on quality, quantity, and type of protected open space in each county. And while this is only an estimation, ROE offers a more tangible visualization of the impact that open space brings to these counties.

So, how much is open space worth?

According to the Return on Environment reports, protected open space provides significant monetary value for each criterion in almost every county. The reported estimated annual value of open space for each county is at least \$550 million with some counties like Cumberland and Franklin reporting that open space provides more than \$1 billion in annual value. The estimated cost savings from natural ecosystem services provided by open space adds up to nearly \$5 billion along the Kittatinny Ridge, and the total estimated direct and indirect economic contribution of outdoor recreation within these protected spaces exceeds \$2.2 billion. In addition to its economic value, protected open space provides over 30,000 jobs and more than \$140 million in annual state and local taxes in just these eight counties.

In the Delaware Valley, an estimated \$1.3 billion in health-related cost savings is attributed to recreation on protected open space with an estimated \$577 million in direct and indirect economic contribution from recreation related spending. Protected open space in this region employs approximately 6,900 people, contributes an estimated \$30.2 million in state and local taxes annually, and adds over \$16 billion in property value.



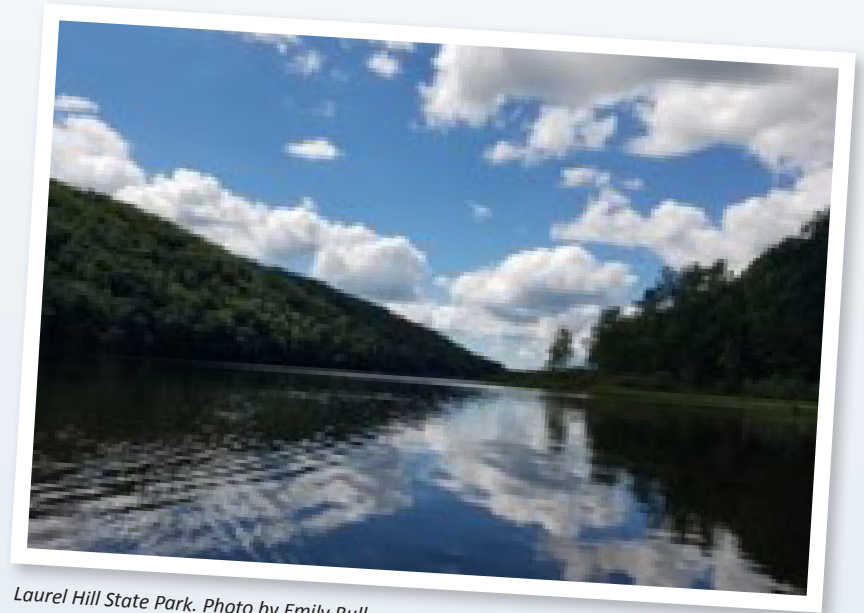
Evansburg State Park. Photo by Gloria Benfer

The Laurel Highlands region completed a similar report in 2019 that focuses on the value of clean water for the 6000 miles of streams and waterways that flow through the area. It is reported that its freshwater systems provide an estimated \$3.7 billion in total ecosystem services annually, employ over 14,800 people, and add upwards of \$765 million to overall property values.

Continued on page 7...

As is evidenced by these reports, protected open space not only provides a place for recreation and ecosystem conservation, but these spaces also contribute heavily to the local and state economy and to community health as well. By increasing the amount of protected space within Pennsylvania, we will be investing in both environmental and economic sustainability, as well as human health, for generations to come.

For a compilation of the reports, visit [What is the Value of Protected Open Space in Pennsylvania? | Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation \(paparksandforests.org\)](https://paparksandforests.org/)



Laurel Hill State Park. Photo by Emily Bull.

Giving through a Donor-Advised Fund Supports Pennsylvania's State Parks and Forests, Regardless of Where You Live

By Jessica Aiello

Last year around this time we discussed planned giving, which enables donors to make larger donations to charities over an extended period. For this article, we focus on one specific method of planned giving—donor-advised funds.

How Does a Donor-Advised Fund Work?

A donor-advised fund is a form of planned giving that uses an investment account set up for the sole purpose of supporting one or more charitable organizations. You can contribute cash, securities, stocks, and other assets to a donor-advised fund and then be eligible for immediate tax deductions. The funds are a guarantee to a charity – they can never be returned to the donor or used for any purpose other than grantmaking to the named charities.

One such donor recently named PPF, and specifically Promised Land State Park, through his donor-advised fund. This gentleman's family has had a cabin in the park since the 1920s. Before he could walk, he had fond memories of visiting the park.

"Last fall, while I was in the park office, I spoke with the park manager about how to make a donation to the park,"

he said. "The manager recommended donating to PPF, so I went home, did my research, and decided to give to the park through my donor-advised fund. I could specify to PPF that I wanted my donation to go directly to work in the park."

While the donor decides which charities to support through the fund (either anonymously or openly), the donation may continue to grow, depending on which investment option(s) are selected, thus potentially making even more money for the charities of your choosing.

Donor-advised funds can be incorporated into estate plans as well by making a bequest in wills to the fund sponsor or by making the sponsor a beneficiary of retirement plans, life insurance policies, or charitable trusts. These types of gifts can help reduce or eliminate estate tax burdens on loved ones.

How to Get Started

To learn more about the benefits of the many forms of planned giving, please visit <https://paparksandforests.org/support/planned-giving/build-the-future-leave-a-legacy>.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and friends chapters across the state steward YOUR parks and forests through volunteerism, education, and projects. In 2021, we collectively hosted:



212

service projects with
5,609 in attendance

81

EVENTS

held attracting over
82,500 participants



2,929

volunteers who provided 41,987
volunteer hours of service

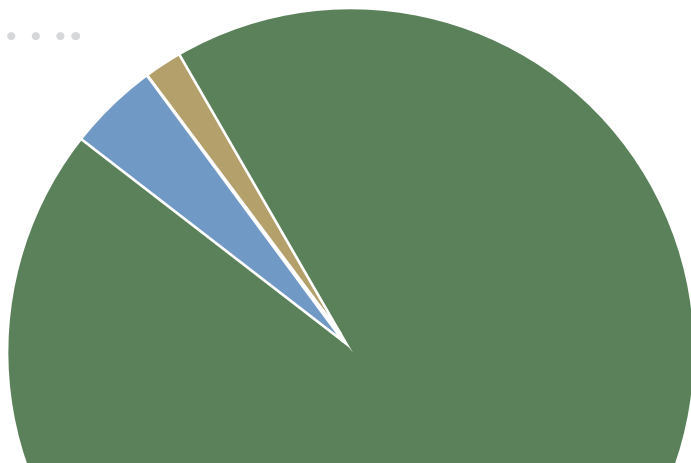
The value of this volunteerism is worth more than

\$1,198,000

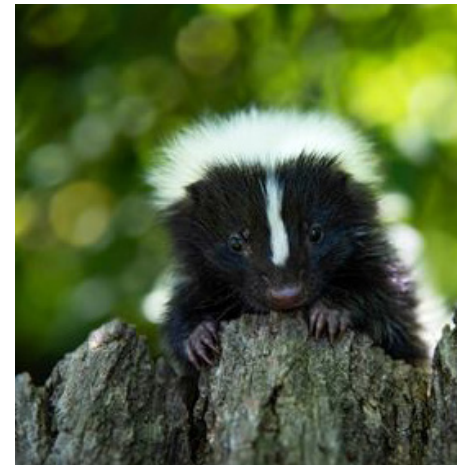
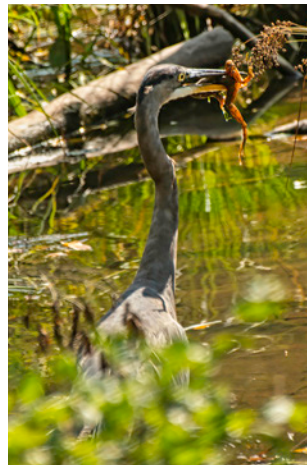
EXPENSES

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation prides itself in sound fiscal management and investing revenues in programs, not administration.

■ PROGRAM ■ MANAGEMENT ■ FUNDRAISING



The 50th anniversary of the Environmental Rights Amendment provided the theme by which the Foundation organized our year, working to raise awareness of the role this important amendment plays for Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests. From the photo contest to our first ever song contest, from a virtual forum to a poetry contest, you joined us in the celebration, sharing your voice on how this amendment benefits not only our natural world, but human health and the state’s economy. Relive the year in our downloadable flip book at: [Environmental Rights Amendment | Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation \(paparksandforests.org\)](https://www.paparksandforests.org)



A YEAR IN REVIEW

Always trying to help people to understand the value of parks and forests to physical, mental and emotional health, along with the economic values of these places in the landscape, five videos were created to spread the word. These videos—along with other recordings of lunch and learns and informational videos—are readily found on the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation YouTube Channel.



Part of our mission to enhance the skills of our volunteers is to provide training, like in the safe use of chainsaws. Twenty-five sawyers were certified in 2021. It takes strength and stamina to wield this equipment; and to learn to use them in a white-out as these hearty sawyers can attest.



To educate decision makers on the value of state parks and forests we returned to leading tours of state park and forest infrastructure and maintenance needs. One such tour took us to Evansburg State Park, where we were joined by twelve legislators and members of the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

PPFF and friends strive to improve the visitor experience and to make parks and forests welcoming destinations for all visitors. A sampling of expenditure of time and funds includes;

- 5 PLAYGROUNDS BUILT
- 1 ADA KAYAK LAUNCH PLACED
- 427 MATURE TREES PLANTED
- 18 GARDENS MAINTAINED
- 116 TRAILS MAINTAINED
- 11 TRAIL BRIDGES BUILT OR MAINTAINED
- 3 INTERPRETIVE PANELS PLACED
- 1 AMPHITHEATER BUILT

Nolde Forest Interns Seize Opportunity



Stepping out of their comfort zones, two rising high school seniors, Lisette Sanchez and An Binh Nguyen applied for an internship with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center.

A generous donor had approached Nolde Forest staff - who then reached out to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation - with the goal of setting up an educational, recreational, and paid professional development experience for youth to learn about career opportunities with DCNR.

Over the summer, An Binh and Lisette assisted in the center's Story Time program, as well as a variety of educational programs on forest ecosystems. They met the Friends of Nolde Forest and other park enthusiasts, assisting in a volunteer-led Wag Walks, group hikes, and a night hike where participants went out with UV lights to see which forest creatures glowed in the dark. They joined the Nolde Forest's Volunteer Trail Crew where they learned about invasive plants and how to combat them. Sarah Presogna, the environmental education specialist at Nolde, comments, "As the summer progresses and they are more comfortable with one another, the job, and the staff here, I have been so impressed with the interesting observations and connections they are making with the resource."



One special moment for An Binh was kayaking at French Creek with the Friends of Nolde Forest and observing birds, fish, and - her favorite - a blue heron while learning about lake ecosystems. A highlight for Lisette was a stream study with a biology teacher from Governor Mifflin High School. "My favorite part about working here is trying new things that I haven't done before," she says.



To other students thinking about doing an internship, Lisette says, "It's a fun experience that exposes you to nature and can help guide you to a career in the future. Even if you end up not liking the outdoors, you'll still gain something from the experience. You'll know whether you still want to pursue something in conservation or if you want to take a different route."



Our Mission

Mission is to inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania state parks and forests.

Our Vision

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



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

Did You Know? PPF 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

Latino Conservation Week Recap

In July, the 9th annual Latino Conservation Week (LCW), an initiative of the Hispanic Access Foundation, whose primary objective is to “connect Latinos and others with partners and opportunities to improve lives and create an equitable society,” was celebrated across the United States. With funds from a Department of Conservation, Community Conservation and Partnership Program Grant, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation worked with partners to offer educational and recreational activities.

Activities ranged from bilingual storybook trails to guided hikes in state parks and state forests. On one such hike, District Forester Steve Wacker partnered with Mighty Writers of Kennett Square to hike and interpret the Goat Hill area of William Penn Forest. PPF provided transportation funding for an adventurous group that braved the heat to tour this unique ecosystem.



Photo by Dana Loma

An adventure hike in Boyd Big Tree Preserve Conservation area saw the Latino Hispanic American Community Center (LHAC) youth join a hike led by the Keystone Trails Association (KTA), with transportation funded by PPF.

Other activities included learning about local wildlife, introductory kayaking and canoeing, introduction to archery, forest bathing and meeting Smokey Bear.

Latino Connection took their Mobile Health Unit to Beltzville State Park to provide public health information, while the Friends of Beltzville offered educational and stewardship programs. The Mobile Health Unit also visited Neshaminy State Park with free COVID-19 vaccines.



Photo by Dana Loma

Holiday Gift Giving for People and the Planet

By Jessica Aiello

The holiday season can be a stressful time. There are gifts to buy, meals to make, houses to decorate, and places in which to travel. Being kind to our planet might be the last thing on your mind, but now is the exact right time to do so.

According to the David Suzuki Foundation, household waste increases by more than 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Years Day, thanks in large part to excessive holiday meals, packaging and giftwrap from all those new purchases, and throwing out the old items that the new ones replaced. It doesn't have to be that way, though!

With a little bit of thought and planning, you can enjoy the holiday season while giving a gift to the environment. Here are just a few suggestions...

- **Shop local and in person.** This will cut down on miles traveled and cardboard boxes used, while supporting the local economy and in particular, small, independent businesses.
- **Be creative with your gift wrapping.** Old maps make great wrapping paper or consider wrapping an item in a reusable bag or fabric.
- **Purchase experiences rather than things.** So much of what is bought is rarely used, then forgotten about or discarded. Consider creating a gift certificate for a hike and picnic or a gift card for camping at state parks.
- **Be very selective about what you do buy.** Consider items that are made of recycled materials, with a low carbon footprint, are zero waste, and/or are upcycled in nature. The fall festivals hosted by friends groups offer locally crafted goods that make perfect gifts!
- **Donate to a worthwhile charity in the person's name.** Nonprofits like the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) rely on individual donations to fulfill their mission. The gift getter feels good about helping a worthy cause and you get a tax write-off.
- **Consider a Living Gift through PPFF or other charities of your choice.**

Showing your loved ones that you care about them this holiday season doesn't have to involve lavish five-course meals and spending hundreds to thousands of dollars. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that spending time with those closest to us (whether in person or virtually) cannot be underestimated. Your presence can be your present.



Meet the Zitricks

Richard and Suzanne Zitrick saw them all and then some. They've visited all of Pennsylvania's 121 state parks four times. Now, they are going for five.

The Zitricks love PA's state parks and forests and want to share that love with others. That's one reason why they visited the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's conference room one sunny June day.

They passed around three bulging binders. Each binder represented a PA state park and was full of carefully organized journal entries that detailed park facilities, road conditions, food, points of interest, as well as photos from each visit.

The pages revealed not just the Zitricks' personal experiences, but the history of these special places.

Asked about the motive behind their enthusiasm, Richard said, "on our family trips, my father used to b-line from here to here, point to point, and I wanted to do something different."



The idea of, "what's over there?" has led the Zitricks down many trails and roads, as well as across the paths of unique people who became good friends.

Two of them live on a farm near Mt. Pisgah State Park. Henry and Dotty enjoy stacking their hay bales in ingenious ways, creating snowmen, spiders, and pumpkins. Many people stop to appreciate the sculptures and grab a pic. Richard and Suzanne happily recalled how they had been taking photos of the hay sculptures for years before they had the chance to meet Henry and his wife. Now, they are good friends.



We loved the story, reminded that time outdoors creates many memories and that the adage holds true, "not all who wander are lost."

Every week, Take Five/Fridays with Pam features news from PPF, the parks and forests, our chapters. With beautiful photos, challenging trivia, upcoming events - even an online jigsaw puzzle.

Subscribe at ppff.online/subscribe-take-five or scan the QR.

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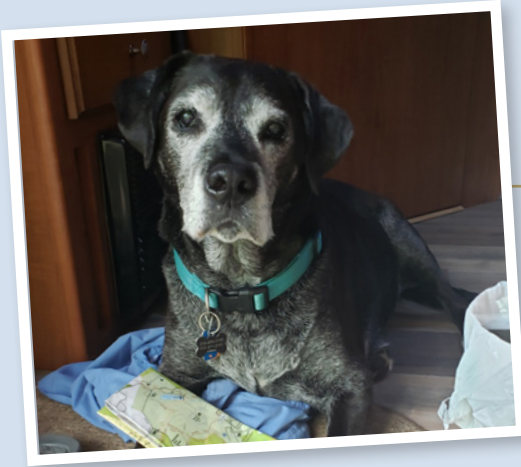
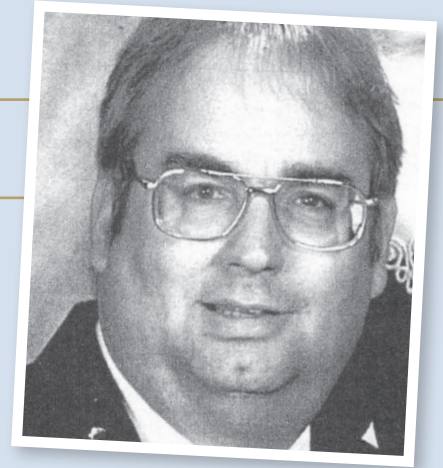
Tus Tierras Públicas - Los parques y bosques estatales de Pennsylvania

La Fundación de Parques y Bosques de Pennsylvania, te invita a un programa en WXAC 91.3 donde conversamos sobre las increíbles oportunidades al aire libre cerca de ti. ¡Sintonice a las 11:00 am cada tercer viernes del mes para escuchar sobre los próximos eventos, recibir recomendaciones y consejos de seguridad, y conocer más sobre las actividades recreativas y educativas en los parques y bosque de Pennsylvania! ¡Te estamos esperando!

We Will Miss


David Willard Myers (1957-2022)

The Friends of Nockamixon shared the sad news of the passing of their long-time vice chair, Dave Myers. Dave loved to sail on Lake Nockamixon, a hobby that brought him to the Friends' board. A first responder EMT and EMT instructor, Dave was a hero on many levels.




Isabella Frassetta also known as the PPF Office Dog (2009-2022)

It is with sad hearts that we share the passing of the Presidential Pup and Office Dog, who greeted guests at the office, on the trail or while campground hosting for over 13 years. Izzy modeled patience, playfulness (more than once stealing the show when at a program), and inclusion—always rounding up others to join an adventure. When not at the office, she enjoyed visiting seniors at senior living centers, hiking, a good swim, sticks, getting snacks, napping, making her humans laugh, and rolling in smelly things.



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State Employee?

Please consider PPF for your annual SECA donation

Memorial or Honorary Gifts

You can honor the memory of a special person or joyous occasion while supporting PPF's work in conservation, recreation, education, and volunteerism in our state parks and forests.

Download a form at
www.PAParksAndForests.org/support/ways-to-give



Partnerships

Education Improvement Tax Credit–EITC

With funds from our EITC donors—Mid Penn Bank, Pennian Bank, Troegs Brewing and Weis Markets—we have been purchasing educational materials to expand the Watershed Education and One Bird Two Habitat programs in state parks and forests. These funds also support transportation costs to get students to these outdoor learning areas and will be supporting the construction of new outdoor teaching stations. If your business is an EITC approved company, consider supporting environmental education through PPF.



From Beer to Trees



New Trails Brewing and PPF announced a new beer to benefit the planting of trees in state parks and forests. Replenish IPA was released in September. This west coast IPA is on a mission to replenish native tree populations. \$1 of every case sold will go directly to planting trees that clean the air and water for future generations.

Videos that Inform

Trees, water and craft beverages? Indeed! PPF recently released an 8-minute video making the connection between what we do on the land with the craft beverages that we enjoy. The video features Stick City Brewing, New Trails Brewing, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Capital Water Authority. Grab your favorite craft beverage and head to our YouTube channel (or scan the QR code to the left) and enjoy!



Perhaps you have seen the health benefit video series produced in 2021. Joining the series is a pediatric focused video featuring Dr. Colby Wesner. Additional materials relating to engaging children in the outdoors will be added to our website to support the video. Head to our YouTube channel for this and many other videos. Subscribe while you are there to be alerted when new videos are added.



Restoring that Which is Lost

In August New Trails Brewing Company released their most recent state park series beer focused on the dune restoration project at Presque Isle State Park. PPF and New Trails will be planting trees this fall at Hyner View, a direct benefit of the series partnership.

Friends in Action

Friends of Caledonia:

One of the most popular projects accomplished by various Friends are the butterfly/pollinator gardens. Caledonia's version incorporates the stumps of trees lost to disease. From sadness blooms new life.



Friends of Lyman Run:

Next time you're camping at Lyman Run, thank the Friends (Chip Harrison and John Halter shown here) for library lending boxes in each of the campgrounds.

Friends of Cook Forest:

The Friends dedicated the first sensory trail for people with disabilities in western Pennsylvania. Visually impaired user Mandy Smith wrote in the Friends' summer newsletter: "With a guide wire and the smooth pavement, the trail is easy to traverse. The comfortable benches lining the walk provide a wonderful spot to sit down and take in nature. However, my favorite part has to be the signs that are interspersed along the guide wire. The signs are accessible with the addition of Braille. The signs also provide interesting facts about nearby nature, including examples. Overall, I truly love the trail. I think it is great that there is a forest walk that is not only accessible to those without a disability but also to those that have a disability."



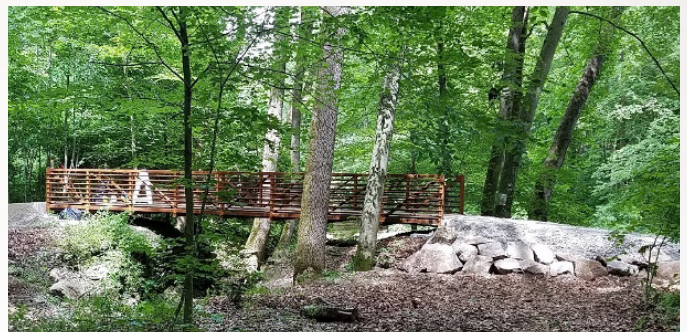
Friends of Goddard: The Frogs welcomed music back to the Marina this August with two days of music, food, and demonstrations. We can hardly believe it, but next year is the 25th anniversary of Music at the Marina. Plan to be there!



The Friends of Mont Alto like to spread it around whether it's gravel around the historic pavilion or mulch around the pollinator plants



Friends of White Clay Creek: A huge sigh of relief was heard in the southeastern corner of Pennsylvania when the Friends' beautiful new Pennel Trail Bridge was opened. Construction equipment had barely left the site before the first users were enjoying it.



Friends in Action



Friends of Michaux: Hearty volunteers don't let a little wet stuff get in the way of getting the word out. The Friends of Michaux took their work trailer to the Mason Dixon AT Outdoor Festival to let people know how they can get involved.

Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Speaking of music, another great season of concerts on the beach at Whipple Dam concluded over Labor Day Weekend. Mark your calendar now to come back in 2023 for a relaxing evening at the park.



Shown here, June's performance by the Tussey Mountain Moonshiners. (Photo by Paul Fagley.)



Friends of Worlds End: A beautiful July day greeted over 500 people who came out to enjoy the park, watch demonstrations, hear some music, and learn a bit about the critters you might or might not encounter in Penn's Woods.

The Friends of Black Moshannon recently unveiled a new interpretive panel on early travel ways during a dedication ceremony at the park. Philipsburg PA was the focal point of five Native American paths, including Bald Eagle's Path. To see the panel, it is found at the bech parking lot close to the intersection of state Route 504 and Black Moshannon Road.



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 Oil Creek*
- Friends of Ole Bull*
- Friends of Parker Dam*
- Friends of Pinchot*
- Friends of Pine Grove Furnace*
- Friends of Prince Gallitzin*
- Friends of Ridley Creek State Park*
- Friends of Rothrock*
- Friends of Ryerson Station*
- Friends of Shawnee*
- 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*

You Made it Happen

Supporting the Next Generation of Leaders

Investing in the future of conservation through youth employment is just one of the success stories of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps. Through your support and a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, three corps programs were supported. In this image, members of the American Sign Language Corps prepare the Carroll Cabin for the next steps in the rehabilitation process.



Photo by Joe Baker



Photo by DCNR

Recreation for All

Without an assistive device or water-safe wheelchair, some visitors to Blue Knob State Park couldn't participate in water activities with family and friends. Your support changed this with the acquisition of a new water-safe wheelchair that is available on free loan from the park.

Safety First!

While the goal is to keep visitors safe, sometimes first aid is needed. Through your support, safety equipment purchases are happening across the state, such as this first aid couch at Blue Knob State Park or the generator for Cornplanter State Forest. Other items—snake tongs, first aid supplies, bleed kits, ranger training materials—are heading to places such as Cowans Gap State Park, Bald Eagle State Forest, and William Penn Forest District. To support the purchase of safety equipment—visit our Living Gifts program on the PPF website.



Photo by DCNR

Hands-on Learning

Staff and volunteers have been out and about engaging the public in hands-on learning and discussions related to conservation, outdoor recreation, and the value of trees. In this picture children made fish print tee shirts while learning about the value of trees to fish habitat and water quality.



Photo by Marci Mowery

Looking Ahead

Your support enables us to look for opportunities to pair projects with potential funding partners. In August, it was announced that we would be receiving a large grant to leverage additional funds for a watershed restoration project at Jacobsburg.

You Made it Happen

Universal Design Benefits All Users

Access to the beach at Gifford Pinchot State Park just became easier for those with mobility impairments with the work completed to improve access to the camper beach. A paved trail, shade trees, mobi mats and chairs, and a raised sand bed create an accessible area. The chairs are available on free loan to be used at the park. Your support and grants from Lawrence L. and Julia Z. Hoverter Charitable Foundation and Memorial Health Fund made this project possible.



Photo by Marci Mowery



Keeping Food Safe

149 campers immediately felt the benefit of your generosity when an aging industrial refrigerator was replaced with a new one at Camp Shehaqua at Hickory Run State Park, allowing camp to go on!



Photo by DCNR

Bringing Your Voice

Thank you to all who raised their voice through calls, letters and emails to support investing American Rescue Plan funds into state parks, forests, open space, and water quality protection.

The budget that passed in Harrisburg in June included welcomed news that all of your efforts helped to secure:

- **\$100 million to an Outdoor Recreation Program to be managed by the DCNR for State Parks and Forest infrastructure, conservation, and recreation projects;**
- **Three new state parks;**
- **\$220 million to a newly created Clean Streams Fund;**
- **\$320 million to Commonwealth Financing Authority for water, sewer, flood, and high hazard dam projects.**

The PA Outdoor Corps was secured with a clean extension of the Reemployment Fund through the Department of Labor & Industry that provides much of their funding; critical agencies like DEP, DCNR, and Agriculture also received support for additional staffing, programming, and improvements.

Our work to secure relief from volunteer liability for groups across the state continues as this newsletter goes to publication. Additionally, we continue to monitor other legislation that could impact state parks and forests.



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