

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

Spring 2023 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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Reflections on a Life of Conservation: An Interview with Bill Forrey

By Jessica Aiello

Q: Before being appointed as Chief of State Park Planning in 1961, what work did you do for the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters (now the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources)?

A: I majored in landscape architecture at Penn State. When I graduated from there in 1953, the Korean War was still going on and the draft was still active. I enrolled in the Navy officer candidate school, but afterward had a difficult time finding a job. I did some highway design work for an engineering firm for a while, but then heard of the opening for a landscape architect in the Division of State Parks in Harrisburg and started the job in 1960.

At that time, there were only a few people on the central office staff in Harrisburg. One day I noticed a big roll of plans over in the corner of the office and I asked one of my colleagues, "What is that?", and he said, "That's Independence Mall in Philadelphia. We don't pay much attention to that because the city's going to pay for the design."



January 1986 with Gov Thornburgh and Jack Zogey.

Well, that answer wasn't good enough for me. So, I started getting involved, and soon I was the go-to person for Independence Mall under Secretary Goddard (before it was transferred to the National Park Service).

The same thing happened with Point State Park in Pittsburgh. When Secretary Goddard got a call about the project, I was his go-to person to answer any related questions since I grew up in an urban area. You can't get more urban than those two parks. I learned later that one of the things that helped Goddard get reappointed to the position of Secretary after Governor Leader left office was the attention he paid to these two parks. And Goddard kept getting reappointed whether the Governor in office was a Republican or a Democrat, which is virtually unheard of.

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President's Message

Marci Mowery

Happy New Year!

Perhaps you kicked off the new year with one of the many organized First Day Hikes. A group of friends chose to hike at White Rocks near Boiling Springs, with its amazing vistas and rock scrambles.



Perhaps, too, you set a resolution to spend more time outdoors. While resolutions can be a help, they often fall to the wayside due to decrease in motivation over time, our chaotic schedules, and when we come to view them as punishment. To help you keep your resolution, try the following:

1. Build time into each day to move you towards your goal.
2. Make tiny targets or steps. Can't make it to a state park or forest? Take a walk in your neighborhood or the community park instead.
3. Try not to make too many resolutions.
4. Share your resolution with others. Find a buddy to join you!
5. Sign up for Take Five/Fridays with Pam to keep abreast of what is happening in state parks and forests. Delivered right to your inbox each Friday, this quick read is full of ideas for getting outdoors.
6. Visit the "About Us" Page on our website for resources to help you find new places to explore or to try a new activity.

At PPFF, 2023 we will be focusing not on resolutions, but on reflections. We were inspired by the many amazing images received in the 2022 photo contest. We love the idea of "reflections" as it is more than an image in a mirror or shiny surface. It is also:

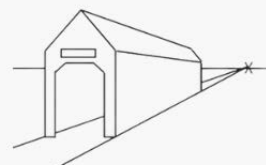
1. A thing that is a consequence of or arises from something else.
2. An effect produced by an influence.
3. Serious thought or consideration. (Contemplation or meditation)
4. An idea about something, especially one that is written down or expressed.
5. A bend.

With so many interpretations, we are sure to have some fun with reflections – and we invite you to join us!

We are pulling together the accomplishments that YOU made possible in 2022 and as always, we reflect on how fortunate we are to have support of people like you. State parks and forests play such an important part in the lives of so many people and so much wildlife. Without your support—monetary, encouragement, advocacy—our work wouldn't happen. Thank you!

Yours in the Outdoors,
Marci

SAVE THE DATE
LITTLE BUFFALO STATE PARK
MAY 16



THE PPFF AWARDS
Honoring the people that make
the places special

Continued from page 1...

Q: All told, you worked under Goddard for 19 years. During that time, he established 45 new state parks. Why was it important to expand the state park system?

A: When Goddard was appointed Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters in 1960 there were 45 state parks. When he left in 1979, there were 90. It was important to him and to all of us to expand the number of parks because driving around we could see the constant building of new homes and offices. The fear was that any existing green areas could be built upon, so the idea was to save these wonderful places while we still could. The idea of having a state park within 25 miles of every Pennsylvanian became the goal.

Living right outside of Philadelphia, I had never been to a state park before. Through my work with Goddard, I got to see how important it was for people, especially those in cities, to find a place to enjoy the outdoors. Projects 70 and 500 came along to provide the money to buy land, especially closer to urban areas where land is more expensive, and to establish parks.



Secretary Maurice Goddard reviewing plans for Prince Gallitzin State Park.

Q: What are some of your favorite or most memorable state parks and forests?

A: Promised Land State Park is one that stands out. Every summer when my four children were small, we would spend a week there in an old cabin called Whittaker Lodge. It was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to honor one of their own named Whittaker, who died on the job.



Ohiopyle State Park June 1990

Another park that I'm fond of is Ohiopyle and the whitewater opportunities there. I remember a time when Governor Thornburgh's 11-year-old son wanted to raft, but the rule was no one under twelve. Somehow, he got

around that. We had a young fellow from Turkey named Guzman living with us at the time, and he was in the same raft as the son. These monster waves came and out fell Guzman. When he came back into the raft, he conked the Governor's son on the head with his paddle. That was a very memorable experience!

But really, there are so many great parks and forests; it's hard to single any out. State lands in general are great memory builders with family and friends. Pine Grove Furnace, Caledonia, Kings Gap: all great places.

Q: When reflecting on your career with DFW/ DER/ DCNR, what stands out the most to you?

A: There were many public hearings for Project 70 that really stand out to me. For instance, at one there was this man, Mr. Jeffords, who was the owner of the largest single private land holding in Delaware County. I was Chief of Planning at the time and was sitting in the front row at the hearing. The lawyer for the landowner was also the town's lawyer, and he asked Goddard, "You mean to tell me that you are going to maintain this property better than Mr. Jeffords?" Goddard said, "I never said that. I don't have as much money as Mr. Jeffords." A reporter was sitting next to me, and he said, "He's too honest for his own good!"

During another public hearing related to Marsh Creek State Park, there was a professor there whose home was going to be taken to make the park. He was a wonderful speaker and got up to give all the reasons why this shouldn't be done, but after Goddard made his case for why the park should be built, the professor was so impressed that he invited Goddard to stay at his house.

Goddard really was an amazing guy. The Camp Hill Historical Society recently asked me to give a 25-minute talk about Goddard, and I thought, well I know enough about him to speak for a week!



Three eras of state park directors: John Norbeck, Bill Forrey, and John Hallas. Photo by Marci Mowery

I retired from DCNR in 1991 but I continue to go into the office to write books on the history of our state park system. The first one began as my master's degree thesis and the third edition, which will cover 2016 to the present, is currently underway.

Continued on page 4...

Continued from page 3...

Being retired from DCNR doesn't mean that we stop getting together. Another thing that stands out to me is the retirees' luncheons and how popular they are. Up until 2019, there



Celebrating the anniversary of DCNR with Secretary Dunn and previous Secretary Oliver.

had been three a year, with as many as 100 people in attendance. The pandemic put a stop to them for a while, but I said, "Let's rev it up again!" On December 1, 2022, there were 75 people at our most recent luncheon. I was really pleased with that turnout and the chance to see people and reminisce after so many years.

Q: *What do you think the future of Pennsylvania state parks will look like over the next 10-25 years?*

A: There are some changes happening already. For example, many parks are using electric vehicles and other equipment and that's a growing opportunity. And I think people are starting to see the many health benefits of parks, being a good place to exercise and enjoy time outdoors.

After I retired, I worked for a consulting firm that helped to convert railroads to rail trails. I know of commuters in Philadelphia who use them to get to work, so that's really a great thing. And the one that goes from Pittsburgh through Ohiopyle State Park to DC (the Great Allegheny Passage) ... so many businesses have opened along the trail: overnight lodging, restaurants, and so forth.

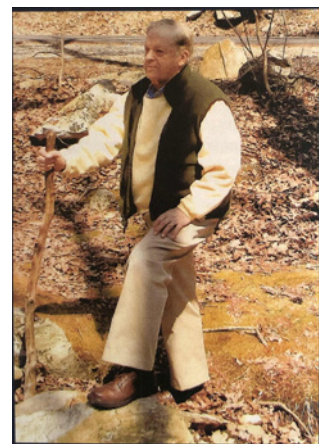
We will need to continually show the importance of outdoor recreation and why money should be spent on it. It seems that the legislature and elected officials now recognize the value it brings to our economy and to our citizens, and that's great, but we need to keep at it.



Keystone State Park, Photo by Angelo Mamone

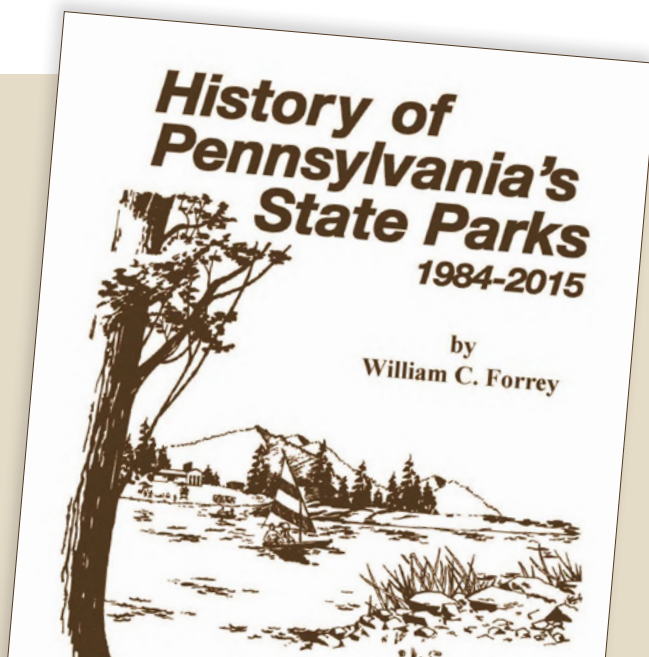
I just think the future of Pennsylvania state parks and forests is a rosy one!

Editor's Note: Bill Forrey was a founding member of The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). He served for 18 years on the board and remains on the advisory board. In 2010, he was awarded the PPFF Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award for his distinguished service to Pennsylvania's public lands.



History of Pennsylvania State Parks

Bill Forrey wrote the book on Pennsylvania state park history... literally! In fact, he wrote two and is in the process of writing a third. These comprehensive books cover the system's inception in 1893 through 1983 (volume 1) and 1984 through 2015 (volume 2). When volume 3 is available later this year, it will cover 2016 through today. These books are treasure troves of information about the people who helped make Pennsylvania's state parks come to life and all the amazing amenities contained within these public lands. You can download the first two volumes for free today at <https://paconservationheritage.org/resources/articles> or at <https://paparksandforests.org/store>



Comings and Goings

The end of another year occasionally means the end of their term of service for PPFF board members and 2022 was one of those years. Farewell and thank you goes out to former Representative Mark Longietti and Eric Williams for their service. Mark is staying on with us as a member of the Advisory Committee.

We share hello and welcome back to **Angelica Brill**, who served as an intern last year and has now returned as a research assistant for a special project on the strength of (and ways to improve) the PA Outdoor Corps. Also joining us for the first part of the year is intern **Megan Conley**, a senior from Messiah College who is assisting us with event planning and marketing.

We initially welcomed four new board members after the November board meeting: **Beth Kase**, **Marcus Shoffner**, and **Representative Jim Struzzi** remain. Sadly (for us), Amanda Lipps is relocating to Tennessee, the aptly-named Volunteer State, and will not be joining us. She will be right at home!



Beth Kase is a lover of nature and previously an avid hiker. Unfortunately, in 2015 septic shock resulting from a serious bout of strep throat resulted in Beth's becoming a quad amputee. She has not allowed that setback to stop her; upon discovering the IMABLE foundation and qualifying for a grant for an adaptive recumbent bike, she's now a cyclist! Beth also loves adaptive fishing and CrossFit, and enjoys serving as a certified peer for amputees and an ambassador for the IMABLE foundation. Says Beth, "Being a representative of a community I am now a part of and learning to live in a world that must accommodate us is now my goal."



Marcus Shoffner is President & CEO of the Outdoor Inclusion Coalition, an organization focused on developing the outdoor industry to represent the diversity of Pennsylvanians. Marcus resides in Pittsburgh and can be found biking on the Great Allegheny Passage, camping in one of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests, or skiing at one of the many resorts the state has to offer.



State Rep. Jim Struzzi is in his third term of service to residents of the 62nd Legislative District, Indiana County. In addition to PPFF's board, Jim serves on the board of PENNVEST, funding sewer, stormwater, and drinking water projects across Pennsylvania. Jim's many years of experience as a journalist, press secretary with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for District 11, and president of the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce shows that he understands the importance of maintaining good infrastructure. He is committed to improving the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

We are incredibly lucky to have these dedicated newcomers join our already devoted board. Welcome!

Gravel Riding Can Be Fun for Everyone

By Jessica Aiello

During the last five years or so, gravel riding – also known as mixed-surface riding because it usually includes paved and unpaved roads as well as trails – has climbed in popularity. One reason for this is that it is seen generally as being safer than cycling on paved roads and is less technical than using designated mountain biking trails. So, if fast moving cars or the idea of tumbling headfirst over the handlebars of a mountain bike are keeping you on the couch, why not give gravel riding a try?

“Riding your bike is a perfect way to enjoy the great outdoors while improving your overall health,” said Marci Mowery, President of PPFF. “Gravel riding has the added bonus of fewer vehicle interactions, thus is safer, and with more than 3,000 miles of public use roads and trails in Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests, there are places for everyone to go without having to drive very far.”

*John Lavelle during the Iron Cross race.
(photo by Eric Schoonover)*



*Brian Auman's bike on Armstrong Road in Lycoming County
(photo by Brian Auman)*

Gravel riding is also seen as more inclusive than road cycling and mountain biking, according to a recent article on the website [BikePerfect](#). The perceived exclusivity of those sports can make people who don't fit the stereotypical image feel like outsiders, making them quit before they even try. Gravel cycling on the other hand is all about having a fun time at whatever ability level you bring to the road.

“I got into gravel riding in 2019 and have ridden some of the local organized events,” said John Lavelle, Deputy Director for Lycoming County Planning and Community Development. “Each event has a similar vibe. It’s about having fun, challenging yourself, and enjoying the time on and off the bike. Regardless of your ability or the bike you ride, you’ll be supported and cheered on.”

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There are dozens of organized gravel rides taking place each year across Pennsylvania, in addition to any solo journeys you might take, so there are plenty of ways to gravel ride no matter where you live.

Examples include the [unPAved](#) event in Lewisburg (Union County) each October. With several race lengths and categories for paracyclists and non-binary/gender expansive individuals, the event is incredibly inclusive and accessible to people of all ages and skill levels. Another example is [Rothrock GRIT Gravel Grinder](#), which takes place annually in June in Rothrock State Forest (Centre County). Women, men, and non-binary individuals of all ages and abilities are encouraged to register and participate in a 25-, 49- or 65-mile gravel ride.



The Sunnyside Trail in Lycoming County (photo by Brian Auman)

“Events like unPAved and Rothrock GRIT have put Pennsylvania on the map for gravel riding,” said Brian Auman, Board Member of the Bald Eagle Mountain Bike Association. “They have gotten many local residents to better appreciate our regional assets: recognizing the recreational and economic potential offered by our network of low-volume backroads and gravel roads, set in a beautiful rural and forested landscape.”

If you are interested in giving gravel riding a try, here are a few suggestions to get started:

- Before you go, talk to others who enjoy the sport. Since gravel routes aren’t necessarily marked by obvious signs and distance markers, upfront planning and guidance can save you from getting lost. Websites that www.gravelmap.com can also help you find a place to ride.
- Bring the necessary tools to fix or change a flat tire. This will depend on the type of tire you have, but could involve a tire lever, CO2 cartridges or a pump, an extra tube, and/or a small bottle of sealant. The longer and more remote your route, the more important these items become.
- Remember that some gravel roads are in remote places and may not have cellular signal.
- Always carry plenty of water, a snack, and a first aid kit. Of course, helmets are highly recommended, no matter your age.

Regardless of where you go and the pace you take, be sure to have fun and don’t take yourself too seriously! After all, riding is supposed to be enjoyable, not unbearable. So, get outside and ride!

DCNR recently released their e-bike policy. Visit DCNR.pa.gov to learn more.

Get your PA state park patch today!

PA Patch Project state park patches are now exclusively available at PPFF’s Online Store.

The patches are 100% embroidered, which means a high stitch count and quality product, iron-on, and range in size from 3 - 3.5”.

The PA Patch Project grew out of founder Caleb Heisey’s admiration of Pennsylvania’s state parks’ accessibility and free admission. “These patches are a labor of love for me. Each patch is created to capture the unique spirit and character of each state park,” Caleb said.

Visit PPFF’s Online Store at www.paparksandforests.org to see all the available patches and make a purchase!



Message in a Bottle

In the fall of 2022, Camp Host (and husband of PPFF President Marci) Joe Frassetta discovered a time capsule at Fowlers Hollow State Park. In the bottle was the camp tag and a message, written on a paper plate. Perhaps you know the Moore family of York? Despite forgetting some critical items, they managed to have an enjoyable weekend almost 50 years ago. If you know the Moore's, we would enjoy hearing from them!

Labor Day Weekend, 1973
Tag: 8.31.1973
Bernard Moore of York PA
\$6.00
Stayed in Site 11.

Person 1.

Weather very hot, 3 90 and above degree temperatures. First and only camping trip of the year. Joel stayed home. This trip we forgot more than any other time: 1. Toothbrushes (ugh); 2. Razor; 3. Hammer; 4. Soap; 5. Saw and shovel (Take note all before departure!) Donna forecast a long, cold and snowy winter ahead.

Person 2 (Leonard)

Had the same luck with neighbors—noisy and late. We will have to do something about next year to get a better campsite. Had good fishing.

Person 3 (Steve), in child handwriting

I saw a lot of deer at night with a light.

Person 4 (Christa), in child handwriting

Went swimming at Col Denning. It was all weedy at the bottom. Got cut. Saw some deer.

Person 5 (Steph), in child handwriting

I had plenty of fun just being with the Moore family and hope that I am lucky enough to be along next year.

Partnerships

Supporting Tree Plantings

Those New Trail Brewing Company folks have done it again! Ho hum. Another day, another international award. Out of 600 beers entered into the 2022 Brewski Awards, Replenish IPA took one of the "Beer of the Year" awards for "Most Extraordinary Beers of 2022." Now we know it's special if for NO other reason than its sales plant trees but apparently the actual beer folks think it's cool as a beer!



Investing in the Future of Conservation

A shout out to our Educational Improvement Tax

Credit donors for investing in the future of conservation by supporting Watershed Education and One Bird Two Habitat programs in state parks and forests. Thank you to Mid Penn Bank, Pennian Bank, Troegs Independent Brewing Company, and Weis Markets. If your business or company would like more information, visit our website at: PaParksAndForests.org/Support/EITC-Program



2022 Photo Contest Winners

PPFF's 2022 photo contest celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act and recognized the importance of forests for water quality. Photographers shared their artistic views on the value of clean water and the role forests play in watershed health by submitting entries of state park and forest photos in the Water Is Life, Caught in the Rain, Raindrop to River, Reflections, Forests, and Young Photographers categories. Submissions were judged per category, first by a panel of judges and then by a public vote on PPFF's Facebook page.

Best In Show

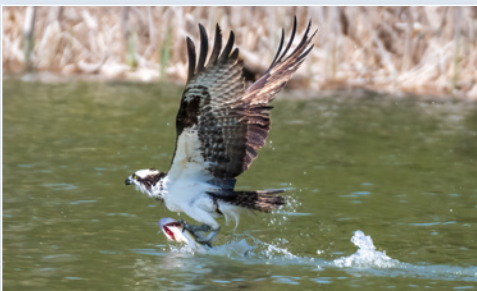


Best in Show - Judges' Choice: Jeffrey Sidle
(entered for the Reflections category), Promised Land State Park



Best in Show - People's Choice: Robert Bush
(entered for the Water Is Life category), Black Moshannon State Park

Water Is Life



Water Is Life - Judges' Choice: Bruce Walkovich,
Canoe Creek State Park

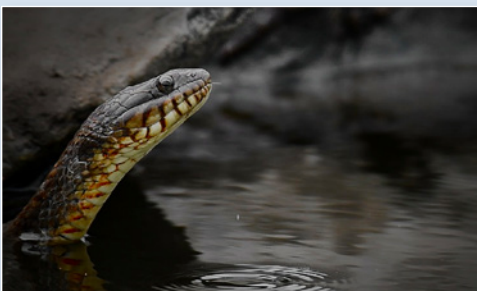


Water Is Life - People's Choice: Amanda Wydra,
Kettle Creek State Park



Water Is Life - Runner Up: Fran Bires,
Goddard State Park

Caught in the Rain



Caught in the Rain - Judges' Choice: Zachary O'Neill,
Susquehannock State Park



Caught in the Rain - People's Choice: Dot Monahan,
Oil Creek State Park

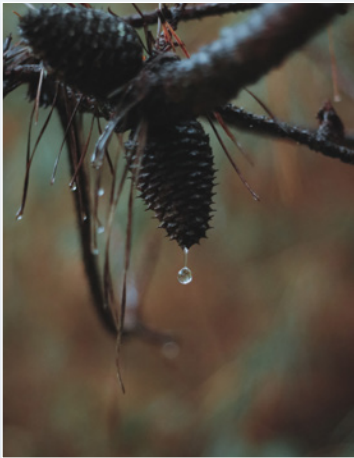


Caught in the Rain - Runner Up: Liz Mickley,
Fowlers Hollow State Park

Raindrop to River



Raindrop to River - Judges' Choice: Sabine Panzner, Ohiopyle State Park



Raindrop to River - People's Choice: Ryan Kunselman, Clear Creek State Park



Raindrop to River - Runner Up: Angie Purcell, Ricketts Glen State Park

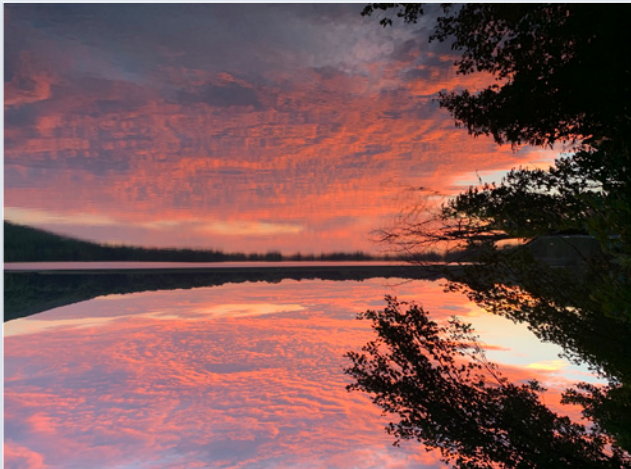
Reflections



Reflections - Judges' Choice: Jim Murphy, Ridley Creek State Park

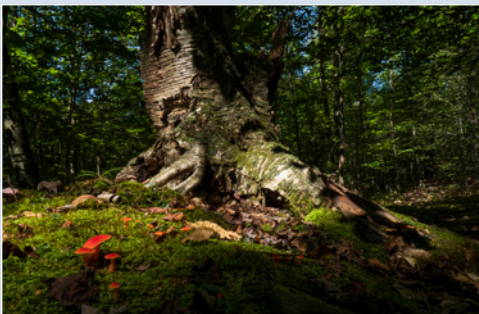


Reflections - People's Choice: Jessica (Kurtz) Mitchell, Pine Grove Furnace State Park



Reflections - Runner Up: Dolores Sadusky, Locust Lake State Park

Forests



Forests - Judges' Choice: Mark Lucas, Gailitzin State Forest

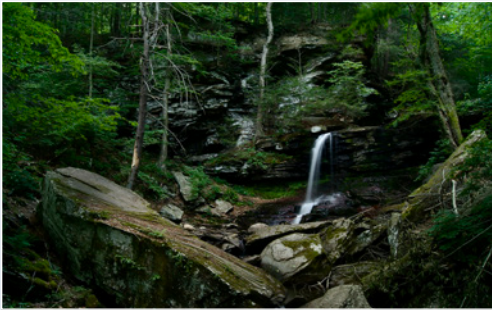


Forests - People's Choice: Sabrina Hilpert, Beltzville State Park



Forests - Runner Up: Derek Gilliam, Parker Dam State Park

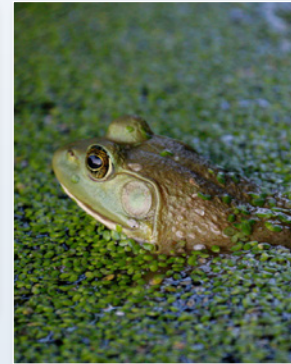
Young Photographers



Young Photographers - Judge's Choice: Ellory Potter, Ricketts Glen State Park



Young Photographers - People's Choice: Lilly Zhang, Marsh Creek State Park



Young Photographers - Runner Up: Bella Kaminsky, Marsh Creek State Park

2023 Thru the Seasons Photo Contest:

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

To celebrate the legacy of parks and forests, the theme of 2023's photo contest is Reflections. Share with us your artistic views on the importance of PA's state parks and forests with "reflection" being interpreted in the following categories:

Mirror Images
Meditation
Conversations

Celebrations
What Parks and Forests Mean To Me
Young Photographers (ages 12-17)

The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers. All photos must be taken in a Pennsylvania state park or forest. The submission deadline is September 30, 2023. For full contest details, please visit www.paparksandforests.org.



April 22 to 29, 2023

[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.

Find your "suitable activity" in a nearby state forest
#RothrockWeek

Dr. J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week

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



Winter Tree ID Sleuthing

by John Schwartz

Winter is a wonderful time to get out and identify Pennsylvania's forest trees but can present some challenges. For instance, one of the easiest ways to tell a red oak from a red maple is leaf shape, but autumn has stolen that "easy button" from would-be tree detectives. Yet plenty of clues exist to narrow down the list of 134 possible native trees to just a few. Subtle clues can help determine the exact species, and a good field guide can be very handy.

Branch Arrangement

There are three main arrangements in which branches grow, opposite, alternate and whorled. Buds will be arranged the same, as the leaves and branches follow the same pattern. Look at a few branches just to make sure a branch wasn't lost and healed over when the tree was young. Whorled arrangements are very uncommon.

Opposite Arrangement

This arrangement would appear similar to your arms/shoulders. Two branches will leave the main stem at the same location directly across from each other. Maples, ash, and dogwoods are the only native opposite trees.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Alternate Arrangement

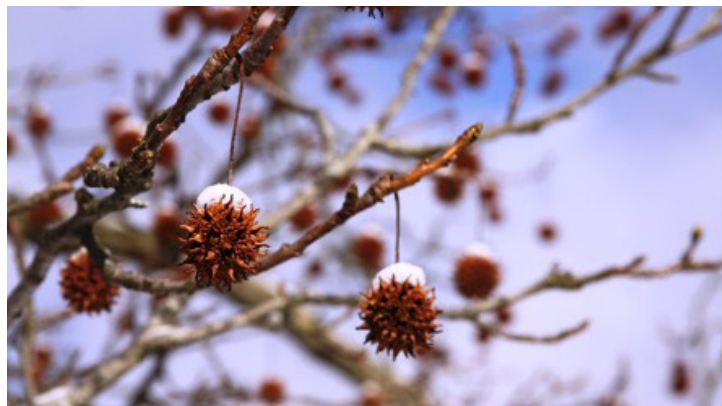
An alternately arranged tree will have buds and branches with a staggered arrangement. Oak, cherry, hickory, walnut, and blackgum are common examples.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Fruit

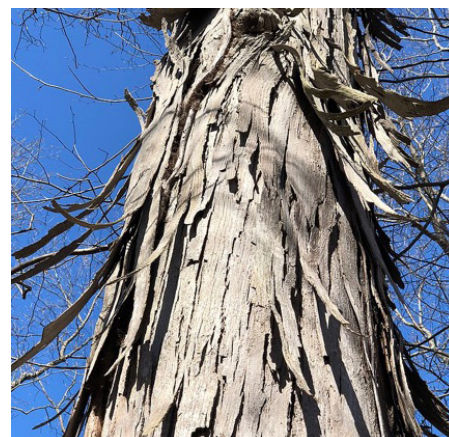
The fruits of many trees fall to the ground during the summer, but some linger into and even through winter. Fruits are not just things we eat but anything that holds the genetic material for the next generation: nuts (walnut), samaras (maple), drupes (cherry), pomes (apple), berries (persimmon)... all trees have fruits; the list is long. A dried-up apple hanging on a tree is a good clue that you're looking at an apple tree. The fruits don't even have to be on the tree. Walnut husks and shells laying under a tree might show the location of a walnut tree.



© 2016, The Ohio State University

Bark

Bark can be another big clue as to what tree is found. Smooth, rough, furrowed, streaked, and color are all indicators of a tree's species.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Identification of trees can be more challenging in the winter, but with a little practice using the tips above, anyone can become an advanced tree ID sleuth. A great resource for identifying common trees in PA is the DCNR publication "Common Trees of Pennsylvania" available at http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20029752.pdf

Reflection Series



Ice Cutters' Path

*Opposite the cabin,
steep-graded, rutted
by rain, the new road skirts
the flooded ore pit, climbs*

*Piney Mountain
and is lost in overgrowth
of a forgotten skidder road
first beaten*

*by the boots of men
come to harvest
winter with long-handled
sawblades, "sleds, plows, drill-barrows,*

*turf knives, spades, saws,
rakes... double-pointed pikestaff," *
cutting the cold
into blocks*

*hoisted with grappling
hooks, stacked, bedded
in sawdust, straw
wedged in the slabs*

*against the wind,
hauled by wagons
not a quarter of it
to reach the city.*

**Thoreau, Walden
Paul Caulfield*

Ice industry at Laurel Forge Pond started in 1872 -- made possible thanks to the new railroad; a large ice barn was first built around 1878; commercial ice harvests continued into the 1920s. Wildfires in 1900 and 1915 destroyed the huge ice storage barn, which was not rebuilt after the 1915 fire (this seems like a bad joke -- an ice storage building on fire! -- but was a well known hazard because sawdust and tree bark was used as insulation). Last ice harvested from Laurel Lake went to the Kings Gap Mansion in the 1930s. Source: Andre Weltman, Chair, Friends of Pine Grove Furnace SP

History at Pine Grove

Pennsylvania's state parks and forests are abundant in both cultural and natural history. As part of our reflection series, we will introduce you to these places to both encourage exploration as well as celebrate the culture of Pennsylvania.

To accompany the Ice Cutters' Path, which was inspired by the poets cabin at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, we introduce you to the history of Pine Grove through an interpretive video, narrated by Andre Weltman, chair of the Friends of Pine Grove and local historian. The videos were produced courtesy of our friends at Cross and Crown at cacpro.com.



Visit the play list at: <https://www.youtube.com/@PAParksAndForests/playlists>

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

**FIRST DAY
HIKES
2023**

36 state parks
55 hikes
2,317 hikers
3,972 miles



VOSBURG NECK STATE PARK:

At 669 acres the park is home to several historic buildings dating from the 1700 and 1800s, a 1700s-era cemetery, eight miles of trails, non-motorized boating access and picnic areas. The park is in a lovely oxbow on the north branch of the Susquehanna River known as the Vosburg Neck.

GPS DD: Lat. 41.55003 Long. -76.00969

The passport stamp is located at the barn in the park.



MEET PENNSYLVANIA'S THREE NEW STATE PARKS



SUSQUEHANNA RIVERLANDS STATE PARK:

The undeveloped 1,044-acre Susquehanna Riverlands State Park lies in York County, along the confluence of Codorus Creek with the Susquehanna River. The park features multiple rock vistas, a mile of riverfront along the Susquehanna, and 1.5 miles along Codorus Creek. About 2.75-mile-long portion of the 200-mile-long Mason-Dixon Trail traverses the park.

GPS DD: Lat. 40.053868, Long. -76.644658

Passport stamp is located at Samuel S. Lewis State Park



BIG ELK CREEK STATE PARK:

The undeveloped 1,700-acre Big Elk Creek State Park in southern Chester County lies less than ten miles northwest of Newark, Delaware. Most of the park consists of farmlands and forest, which act as a wildlife corridor and provide refuge for an array of threatened and endangered species. The park's namesake high-quality stream, Big Elk Creek, traverses the park. Visitors currently enjoy passive recreational activities, including trail hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting.

GPS DD: Lat. 39.730960, Long. -75.835722

The passport stamp is located at White Clay Creek Preserve



We Will Miss



Sarah Heppenstall

It always brightened our day when an envelope arrived with Sarah's return address. Her generous spirit compelled her to make a donation to the Foundation whenever she visited a park or forest with her eight grandchildren. Donations are, of course, important to any nonprofit organization but what we truly enjoy is reading of the impact these wonderful places have on the people who visit them. Her gratitude for the beautiful places was matched by ours for her light and love.

Marcus Schneck

Beloved outdoor writer Marcus Schneck died on December 20. Marcus's contributions to Pennsylvanians' understanding of the natural world can't really be overstated. His interests were as varied as his talent was large – the most cursory review of his by-lines on the Harrisburg Patriot-News website, PennLive.com, finds musings on wildflowers, wildlife, and wild stories. His obituary tells his story better than we could (<https://www.pennlive.com/outdoors/2022/12/pennlives-marcus-schneck-pas-preeminent-outdoors-journalist-dies-at-66.html>). We would only note that his last published piece for Pennlive was on the subject of the Belsnickel, the "Pennsylvania Dutch Yuletide arbiter of naughty or nice." There is no question on which side of that equation Marcus fell.



Bringing Your Voice

Advocacy

During the lull between sessions of the General Assembly and the start of a new administration, PPFF prepared a transition document for the new administration outlining our support for investments in park and forest built and natural infrastructure, environmental and recreational education, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps, inclusive recreation, and green technology. We were fortunate to meet with a member of the then Governor-elect team to express our support and explain our positions.

We continue to monitor legislation, mostly in the form of co-sponsorship memos, as the house currently negotiates its operation. We sent welcome letters to new members of the general assembly, introducing PPFF and why investment in parks and forests is critical to human and environmental health.

If you haven't signed up to receive our action alerts, visit our website and click on "Take Action." Here we will list the bills that we are following and where we stand on the bills.



Friends in Action

The **Friends of Ridley Creek** spearheaded a lavish and fun-filled celebration of the park's 50th anniversary in October with tours of the mansion; an informative presentation on the history of the park and mansion; hikes and a 5k; children's activities; food; a little guitar and fiddle by local musicians, the Midnighters, and abundant sunshine and smiles. Congratulations to the Friends on an event well done!



The **Friends of Canoe Creek** helped feed and entertain the largest FDH crowd in Pennsylvania! Ten gallons of hot chocolate and 270 marshmallows were consumed by 262 hike participants. Can there be any doubt that this is a wonderful way to kick off a year?



Speaking of 50th anniversaries, the **Friends of Tuscarora & Locust Lake** celebrated Locust Lake's special day last summer and raised money to place a comfy bench by the camp store. The bench is in place and ready for visitors to relax and enjoy the view.



The **Friends of Nolde Forest** have begun a special "speakers' series" of educational programs at the mansion, kicking off with two owl presentations by Indian Run Environmental Education Center. Both sold out within a week so keep an eye on the Friends' Facebook page and the DCNR Calendar of Events for more programs as they are scheduled.



First Day Hikes continue to grow in popularity and the **Friends of Shawnee & Blue Knob** were able to take nearly 100 interested visitors to Chappells Field at Blue Knob for some wonderful vistas and clear skies.



In 2020, we introduced you to C.R. Chippy, the **Friends of Prince Gallitzin** geocache mascot, as he embarked on his quest to lead visitors to the park on a quest. Well, he's been one successful chipmunk with two geocache adventures in the park. In 2022, 775 geocache logs were recorded for the 10 caches along the Crooked Run Campground trail and 478 logs for the other 15 caches in the park at large. Play along with C.R. on your next visit!



Friends in Action

The **Friends of Trough Creek & Warriors Path** have been awaiting delivery of their new Trough Creek playground for a long time and on a cold and blustery January day installation began at last. The sound of children's laughter on this new equipment will be worth some cold fingers.



Another new bridge was completed last fall by the **Friends of White Clay Creek** along the Penndel Trail. Perhaps not as impressive in size as the June 2022 bridge that required a crane for placement, this hand-placed bridge is another vital connection along one of the Preserve's most popular trails.

Finally, a shout-out to the **Friends of Milton**. This small determined group of volunteers has transformed a run-down and neglected space along the Susquehanna River into a local treasure, where friends and families can walk the dog, launch a boat, enjoy a picnic, spend an afternoon's hike, or just be a little silly (like the Hivelys, pictured here). Join them in being stewards for this special place by visiting our website paparksandforests.org. Click on Friends Groups, Current Chapters



Farewell: Friends groups are formed with a specific goal in mind. Occasionally, a group reaches their goal and decides it is time to say goodbye. We want to thank the hard working Friends of Shikellamy State Park, who during their tenure hosted hundreds of events, reconnecting the community to the park. They supported a playground at the park, and continue to support the park through the funds they had raised with benches, grills, and picnic tables. Thank you!

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

Wetlands? Yes!

Viewers young and old gain a new perspective on bird migration and the invaluable role of wetlands in the recently released *Wings of Water*, now at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg. PPFF is one of several sponsors who worked with the center to bring this large-screen production to Harrisburg.



Photo by Joe Frassetta

Fishing, Everyone?

With your support, and a grant from the Luzerne Foundation, access to fishing improved at Tobyhanna State Park with the restoration of the ADA fishing pier. Fishing helps to reduce stress, connect people, and improve health by spending time in the outdoors.

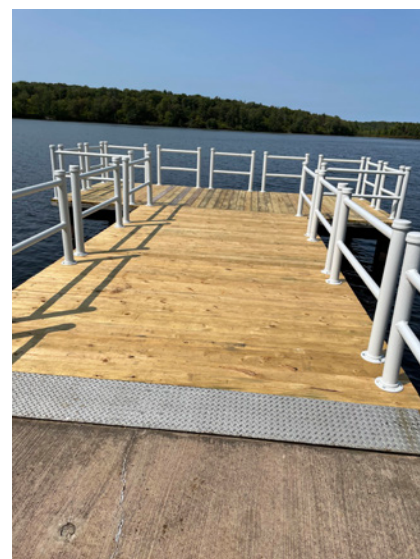


Photo by DCNR

Trees, Shade and Water Quality

The campground at Little Buffalo State Park received the gift of shade with the planting of 28 native trees throughout the camping area. The trees were selected to thrive in the shallow soil and community-like growing conditions.



Photo by DCNR

Safety First!

Accidents and incidents are not uncommon in state parks and forests. To help rangers and other staff be trained and prepared, PPFF has acquired a variety of safety equipment to make available at parks and forests with needs, ranging from first aid materials, training equipment, and signage. We are also working to raise funds to purchase much needed AEDs.



Photo by DCNR

Access for All

As the habitat restoration of the Bunker Hill area of Michaux State Forest continues, visitors might notice the addition of two new bird blinds. Nestled into the landscape, these blinds permit viewing of birds and other wildlife from a concealed area. Pictured here is the ADA blind. We continue to try to raise funds for the trail completion to the blinds.



Photo by DCNR



Photo by Jenna Behringer

You Made it Happen

Understanding the Impacts of Erosion

Your support enabled 54 students from Newport Elementary School to apply their knowledge of erosion in real life studies. This trip was an extension of the students FOSS Soil, Rocks, and Landforms module in which students tested the quality of the stream, created water filtration systems, explored a watershed Enviroscene, and conducted a stormwater simulation using Penn State Extension's "Rain to Drain: Slow the Flow" lesson plan. The students also completed a service project for Little Buffalo State Park, cleaning up the mill area in preparation for the Apple Butter Festival.



Photos by Newport Elementary School

Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps

Youth and Young Adults gained conservation, recreation and job skills through employment in the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps. With your donations and a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, PPFF supported several corps crews.



Photo by DCNR

Review of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, with your support and a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, hired researcher Dr. Andrew Mowen and Intern Angelica Brill to perform a study of the six-year-old program to understand the impact that it makes and to create pathways for growth.

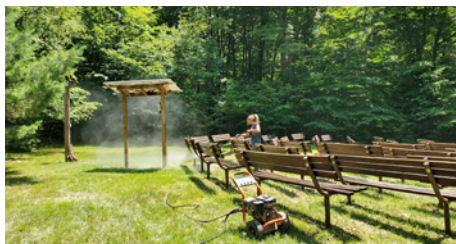


Photo by DCNR

GPR? What is that?

As part of the on-going rehabilitation of the Carroll Cabin, Shippensburg University staff and students performed Ground Penetrating Radar on the cabin grounds. Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) is a geophysical method that uses radar pulses to image the subsurface. It is a non-intrusive method of surveying the sub-surface to investigate underground utilities such as concrete, asphalt, metals, pipes, cables or masonry.



Photo by Joe Baker

What is That Large Pile?

Inclusive play benefits not just children, but parents as well. With the delivery of 3600 hundred pounds of playground, PPFF and the Friends of Little Buffalo are one step closer to making inclusive play a reality. Supported by private donations, a grant from the Partnership for Better Health, and a donation from the Friends of Little Buffalo, this will be the first of its kinds in the park system. To support the installation and pouring of an accessible surface, consider a donation by scanning the QR code.



Photo by DCNR



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There's no need to pussyfoot around

Your support during 2022 will make a world of difference to everyone who needs a green and growing Pennsylvania

Photo by Dot Monahan. Oil Creek State Park.



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