

# Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

Summer 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.

## In this Issue:

Dark Skies in the Keystone State	1
President's Message	2
How to Read Trail Markers for Hiking in Pennsylvania	6
Partnerships	7
Bringing Your Voice	8
Yoga on the Beach?	8
Magnify Your Impact through Workplace Giving	9
Farewell to Brian	9
Hiking Trail Etiquette	10
Welcome Tasha Ferris and Jessica Lee	11
Reflecting on the Past	11
Friends in Action	12
You Made it Happen	14

## Contact Us:

### Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

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

[PAParksAndForests.org](http://PAParksAndForests.org)



Photo by John Blough, Cherry Springs State Park

## Dark Skies in the Keystone State

By: Steve Conard, Pennsylvania Wilds Astronomy Club, [www.paWILDSastro.org](http://www.paWILDSastro.org)

### Introduction

Pennsylvania's Cherry Springs State Park (CSSP) has been renowned for its dark skies for well over 20 years, drawing visitors from the northeast and around the world to view the Milky Way and other astronomical objects under pristine skies. What often is not well known is that Pennsylvania has other state parks with dark skies at levels approaching Cherry Springs. These parks may be much closer to your home and less crowded on new moon warm-weather nights.

### Astro-tourism

Astro-tourism has been on the rise for about a decade worldwide. The popularity is understandable, given that it is estimated that 80% of the people in the US cannot see the Milky Way from their homes. Of the 20% who can, only a very small percentage live in an area with skies comparable to those found at Cherry Springs. Public locations with dark skies have been popularized by newspaper and magazine articles as well as social media. Darkskies International, formally the International Darksky Association, certifies dark sky sites based on light levels and light pollution mitigation efforts. Currently, Cherry Springs is the only certified site between Virginia and Maine. In coming years, additional Pennsylvania state parks may join Cherry Springs in this designation.

Continued on page 3...

## Board of Directors

### Chairman

**Bradley L. Mallory**

*Retired, PennDOT, Michael Baker Jr. Inc.*

### Vice Chairwoman

**Christine (Tina) Molski**

*REI*

### Treasurer

**Dr. James Grace**

*Retired, DCNR*

### Secretary

**Mary Soderberg**

*Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park*

### Directors

**Brian J. Clark**

*Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney*

**George Fernandez**

*Latino Connection*

**Paul Fogal**

*Owner, Pocono Outdoor*

**Kate Harper**

*Timoney Knox, LLP*

**Mary Hirst**

*Retired, DCNR Park Manager*

**Beth Kase**

*IMABLE Foundation Ambassador*

**Jessica Lee**

*Managing Director at CRA | Admired*

*Leadership*

**Eric Madden**

*Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.*

**Maria Montero**

*Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority*

**Marcus Shoffner**

*Outdoor Inclusion Coalition*

**Rep. Jim Struzzi**

*PA House of Representatives*

## Advisory Board

**George Asimos**

**William C. Forrey**

**Mark Longietti**

**Gary Smith**

**Rob Wonderling**

## Staff

**Marci Mowery**, President

**Jenna Behringer**, Office Assistant

**Bernadette Howard**, Bookkeeper

**Pam Metzger**, Membership Coordinator

**Tasha Ferris**, Public Engagement Coordinator

**Margarita Caicedo**, Ambassador

## President's Message

*Marci Mowery*

My Mom, who is a PPF member and receives our newsletter, has told me several times that she wanted to see a new picture of me. You can't argue with Mom, no matter how old you are, so here's a picture of me, with Mom!

It has been super busy at PPF, with a transition in staff (see pages 9 and 11) and welcoming a new board member (see page 11). We are in the process of hosting our annual banquet. The timing of the newsletter is such that the banquet photos will be included in our fall newsletter, but we are excited to take the banquet on the road and host it at Little Buffalo State Park.

Hopefully you participated in an #ILoveMyStatePark event. It's never too late to post images of you, family, and friends enjoying Pennsylvania's - or any state's - state parks using the hashtag mentioned. Let's raise awareness about the importance of these amazing places!

A shout out to all our guest writers in this issue. The enthusiasm that people have for our state parks and forests shows in the variety of ways in which people enjoy and advocate for these places. From workplace giving to yoga, dark skies to reflections, I hope that you enjoy the articles.

Walking is one of the most popular forms of outdoor recreation and is accessible to many people with little investment in equipment. As National Trails Month (June) begins, to help you navigate the trails, we provide you with a primer on reading blazes (page 6) and information on proper trail etiquette (page 11). Feel free to share these with others. In fact, help spread the word about PPF's work by sharing your print or electronic newsletter with at least one other person! Take the #NewsletterChallenge and spread the word!

In closing, I want to recognize all the amazing volunteers who gave of their time and talent to make our parks and forests better. Collectively, in 2022, PPF and our Friends Groups:

- Hosted 137 special events and programs that served over 80,000 people.
- Hosted 157 projects.
- Attracted more than 3200 volunteers who provide more than 41,000 hours of volunteer service. These volunteers often work shoulder to shoulder with DCNR staff, enabling a variety of projects to happen.

Thank you all!

Yours in the Outdoors,  
Marci



Continued from page 1...



Photo by Donna Schneider, Sinnemahoning State Park

Areas such as the Pennsylvania Wilds region have benefited from the resulting tourism. It is reported that, at times, nearly half the tourism information inquiries for Potter County mention dark skies as part of the motivation for a visit. As a result, these areas view their dark skies as a resource, and as such Potter County recently enacted legislation requiring responsible lighting on new construction.

## Other Benefits to Dark Skies

While seeing the stars and increasing tourism is the obvious benefit of limiting light pollution, there are some less obvious ones. Wildlife and possibly plant life are impacted by light pollution. For example, foxes spend more time hunting during nights with less light—in a pristine environment, this would be around a new moon. If the sky is relatively bright around the new moon, they'll save the effort they would put into hunting as they have less of an advantage seeing potential prey.

Migrating birds are sometimes confused by illuminated structures at night and crash into them. During a single night in 2020, it was estimated that as many as 1000 birds may have flown into windows in a 4-block area of Philadelphia, at least partially due to night artificial lighting.

Light going directly into the sky from improperly designed fixtures serves no purpose and is one of the leading causes of light pollution. Recent estimates from the Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council reported that as much as \$6.2 billion per year was wasted on electrical power due to this.

## What Makes for a Dark Sky Site

Areas of sky darkness are determined by three major factors, localized light pollution, regional light pollution, and weather.

Localized light pollution is readily controlled by relying on the five principles of responsible lighting, as outlined by Darksky International. Responsible lighting includes lighting that is useful, targeted, low level, controlled, and warm colored.

A visit to CSSP demonstrates these principles in action. Park lighting is only in areas where it is essential, for example at the entrances to the restrooms. These fixtures direct the light to the sidewalk, with no direct path to the sky or observing field. They are quite faint, and if your eyes haven't had time to adapt, you may initially feel they are too faint. The lights are all red in color, which both limits light pollution and preserves night vision.

Large cities that are 50 miles or more away produce light domes that can illuminate areas of the sky nearer to the horizon. Regional light pollution stems from artificial lighting

Continued on page 4...

*Continued from page 3...*

which can only be controlled by concerted action within these areas. Action to implement the five lighting principles over a region may require governmental legislation, although areas that reap the benefits of astro-tourism may achieve some results by voluntary means.

Weather, including atmospheric dust and air pollution, also has a significant impact on light pollution levels. Areas with high humidity levels, windborne dust, and aerosols from both natural sources and air pollution are much more prone to being impacted by distant artificial light sources. While air predominantly scatters blue light, these scatter light throughout the visible color range—resulting in a higher sky brightness. As weather is variable, a location's light pollution levels can vary significantly even on clear nights.

### Quantifying Darkness

There are several ways to determine the darkness of the skies at various locations. The easiest way is to access maps which show the Bortle scale of sky darkness.

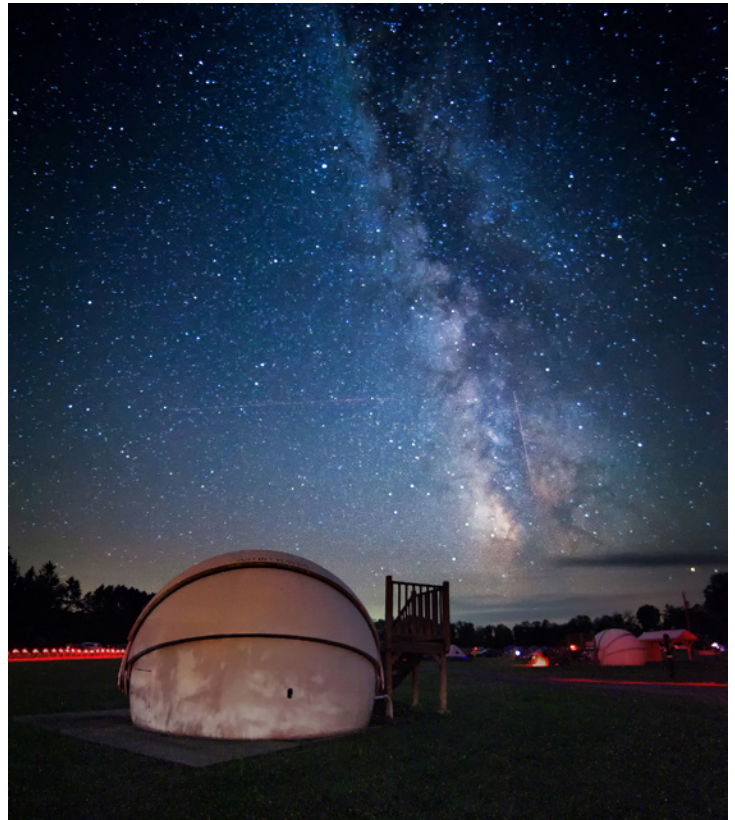
This is color coded from white to black, with darker colors indicating darker skies. Here anything blue, gray, or black is very good. The Bortle scale is most often used on maps, and referring to one of these maps of Pennsylvania can provide information on which parks to consider for your night viewing.

### Planning your first visit

In planning your first visit for a night sky viewing at a state park, first check their website for facility details, hours, and posted park rules. If it is a park that generally does not attract astro-tourists, it would be best to contact the facility manager and make sure night astronomy activity is welcome.



*Photo by Frank Flores DelRosario, Bald Eagle State Forest*



*Photo by Jiang Ming, Cherry Springs State Park*

When looking at potential visit dates, you'll want to look at moon phase and the park's event schedule. Any park that regularly hosts astronomy enthusiasts will be busiest on new moon weekend. If you are only planning to observe the first part of the night, planning a trip around third quarter might be a good way to avoid crowds, but still not have any impact from moonlight. Visiting during a public star party might be a great way to spend your first dark sky night.

Also consider how the seasons impact what you can see in the sky. Different times of the year feature different areas of the sky in primetime before midnight. For example, if your goal is to see the brightest part of the Milky Way, planning a visit in spring would require you to be awake until just before dawn. Late summer, after twilight ends, is the best time for seeing this.

As your visit becomes closer, start looking at the long-term weather forecasts so you can be prepared to decide on the visit. Note there are several very good astronomy weather forecasting websites specializing in cloud cover.

Some parks, for example Cherry Springs, have "know before you go" programs. These virtual programs tell you what to expect during your visit, and how to prepare for it. Check the park's website for more information.

*Continued on page 5...*

Continued from page 4...

## What to Expect to See

Understanding what to expect using your telescope under dark skies is important. Many people will see photographs taken at dark sky sites and assume that they'll see a similar view with a modest size telescope. Unfortunately, directly viewing through a small telescope even at the darkest site will not produce the views that a camera can give. A camera can effectively collect light much longer than your eye, and as a result, it can show color variations. Generally, except for planets, you will not see colors—instead, everything will look gray. You will be able to see deep sky objects much better at a dark sky site—so trying to find some gaseous and planetary nebulae, and galaxies is a good goal. If you are a beginner, Messier list objects are a great way to start, as they include some of the brightest deep sky objects.

## Wrap Up

Astro-tourism is rapidly growing in popularity and is a great way to enjoy the outdoors at night. Pennsylvania's state parks offer many options, ranging from Cherry Springs' popular observing field to parks with nearly as good skies closer to where you may live. Make the parks you use for the night skies aware of your interest, so they can plan facility updates to support these activities in the future.

## Pennsylvania State Parks to Consider Visiting

Some offer programming, while some are only by special request. Please contact the individual park for specifics prior to visiting. Here are some to get you started:

- **Moraine State Park,**  
morainesp@pa.gov, 724-368-8811
- **Prince Gallitzin State Park,**  
princegallitzinsp@pa.gov, 814-674-1000
- **Laurel Hill State Park,**  
laurellhillsp@pa.gov, 814-445-7725
- **Cowans Gap State Park,**  
cowansgapsp@pa.gov, 717-485-3948
- **French Creek State Park,**  
frenchcreeks@pa.gov, 610-582-9680
- **Promised Land State Park,**  
promisedlandsp@pa.gov, 570-676-3428
- **Ricketts Glen State Park,**  
rickettsglensp@pa.gov, 570-477-5675
- **Greenwood Furnace State Park,**  
greenwoodfurnacesp@pa.gov, 814-667-1800

**2023 Thru the Seasons Photo Contest**  
PRESENTED BY PENNSYLVANIA PARKS AND FORESTS FOUNDATION

Submit your photos, taken in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests, that best capture what PA's state parks and forests mean to you.

Categories:

- Mirror Images
- Meditation - bringing a sense of calm
- What Parks and Forests Mean to Me
- Conversations
- Celebrations
- Young Photographers

For details and contest rules, scan the QR Code or visit [paparksandforests.org](http://paparksandforests.org).

**PENNSYLVANIA Parks & Forests FOUNDATION**  
Conserve. Protect. Enhance.  
[paparksandforests.org](http://paparksandforests.org)

[@PaParksAndForests](https://www.instagram.com/PaParksAndForests)  
[@PaParksAndForests](https://www.facebook.com/PaParksAndForests)  
[@PaParksAndForests](https://www.twitter.com/PaParksAndForests)

**Get Outside**  
PENNSYLVANIA PARKS AND FORESTS FOUNDATION

**UNPLUG**  
FIND YOUR OUTSIDE VOICE

**Escape the Ordinary**

**NATURE'S CALLING**  
PENNSYLVANIA PARKS AND FORESTS FOUNDATION

Available on PPF's Online Store!  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.PAPARKSANDFORESTS.ORG](http://WWW.PAPARKSANDFORESTS.ORG)

**SCAN ME**

# How to Read Trail Markers for Hiking in Pennsylvania

Trails in Pennsylvania may be marked in a variety of ways. Knowing the basics can improve your enjoyment of a trail experience.

## Posts

These are perhaps the easiest hiking markers to see. Posts are erected with the trail name or next destination marked, usually with an arrow. Posts may be used to indicate distance traveled (generally called trail mile markers) or distance to a destination, or to show direction at an intersection.

## Affixed Markers Hiking Signs

Some trails have metal signs affixed to trees which may or may not contain the trail name.

Other metal markers that you might encounter in Pennsylvania state parks or forests are boundary markers, indicating the edge of a park or forest. The marker will be on the outside edge of the property.

## Paint

Blazes may be used to mark direction on a trail, indicate the type of trail, or could be used to indicate the trail on which you travel. In the latter case, most colors are coordinated to the map. For example, at Boyd Big Tree Preserve, the Janey Trail is red.

There are several methods used, but perhaps the most common is to use a small dab or rectangle of colored paint.

Color patterns or formations have meaning.

**Straight:** A single rectangle of paint or single marker means you are on the trail. Go straight.

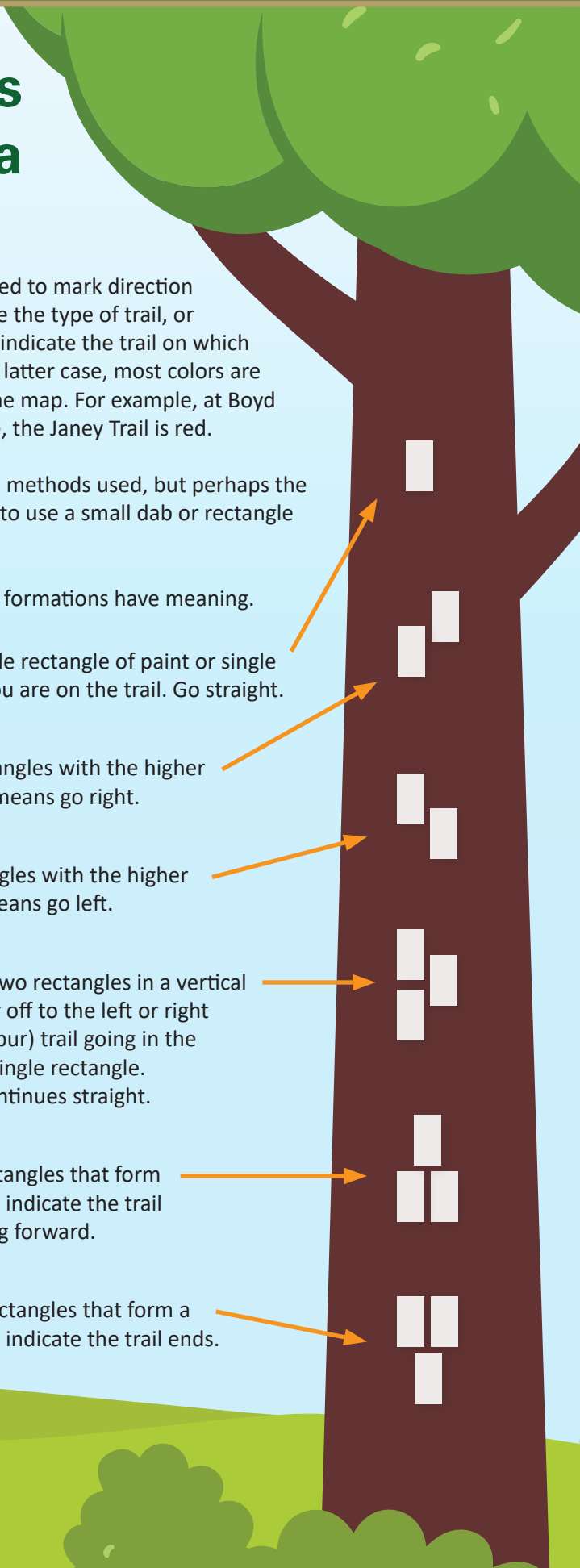
**Right:** Two rectangles with the higher one to the right means go right.

**Left:** Two rectangles with the higher one to the left means go left.

**Intersection:** Two rectangles in a vertical line with another off to the left or right indicate a side (spur) trail going in the direction of the single rectangle. The main trail continues straight.

**Start:** Three rectangles that form an upward arrow indicate the trail starts and is going forward.

**Finish:** Three rectangles that form a downward arrow indicate the trail ends.



## Partnerships

### Many Hands Make for Light Work

Mid Penn Bank joined PPF and Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area Staff for an Earth Day event of planting trees, replacing a missing bench, and doing trail maintenance. Thank you, Mid Penn Bank! Thank you, New Trail Brewing, for funding the trees!



### Double Replenish Double the Donation for Trees!

You know that your purchase of New Trail Brewing Company's Replenish IPA replenishes the tree-planting fund (just like those planted by Mid Penn Bank volunteers at Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area a couple of weeks ago) and allows us and DCNR to share the message about the importance of trees. It's working! DCNR's educators got to learn more about the brewing process and its connection to clean water and forested ecosystems through tours of the brewery as an optional evening activity during their recent meeting in Williamsport. Interestingly, forest

history is also prominent in the location of the brewery, with Williamsport being a central hub during the heyday of lumbering in Pennsylvania.



Photo by DCNR



### Days of Doing

National Fuel employees pitched in at Goddard and Chapman state parks and Elk State Forest to help during this annual employee volunteerism program. Volunteers helped to plant trees, clean signs, and clear trails. The company notes that last year for the inaugural event, "We had volunteers assisting with a variety of tasks including meal delivery, food reclamation, reusable bag creation and park clean ups. The National Fuel Gas Company Foundation further supported these efforts with matching grants to the nonprofits at which our employees volunteer." At PPF, these funds are reinvested into the park and forest where the events occurred.



Photo by DCNR

## 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](http://www.PAParksAndForests.org/support/ways-to-give)



# Bringing Your Voice

## Advocacy

We were excited to hear Governor Shapiro recognize in his budget address the important role that parks and forests play in Pennsylvania. From boosting human physical, mental and emotional health to boosting economies, these places in the landscape are key to Pennsylvania. The Governor's proposed budget recognizes this importance, with an increase in funding to DCNR of \$34.4M or 5.9%. Included is \$112 million to maintain and improve park and forest infrastructure and additional funding for two initiatives to expand access to outdoor recreation and improve management and safety on public lands. The budget also includes funding for additional positions, much needed in the management of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

As you read this, we are on the road advocating for the budget. Keep an eye on our website for where we will be and add your voice to the call for funding.

We are also monitoring several bills. To learn more about what we are watching, visit [PaParksAndForests.org/stewardship/be-a-voice](http://PaParksAndForests.org/stewardship/be-a-voice)

## Yoga on the Beach?

I am a Yoga instructor who believes we have a blessing in our PA state parks, forests and game lands: breathing fresh air, moving in ways that are safe and accessible for most, celebrating and respecting Nature, being with others in a beautiful and pleasant environment, creating community. This note is to encourage folks to visit their state park and encourage other yoga instructors to provide their gift of Yoga at their local PA state park.

I've taught "Yoga on the Beach", affectionately referred to as YOB at Canoe Creek State Park, for approximately 10 years. My participants' feedback is full of gratitude and pleasure. We include meditation, breath awareness, movement, humor, fun and relaxation. We do this all while acknowledging and celebrating the many gifts of Nature and the Park. And, yoga participants' voluntary contributions are donated back to our Friends group with my local state park.

We specifically design yoga classes that are simple, mindful and safe on slightly uneven ground. Our eldest participant is 100 years old!!! Folks with mobility supports have joined in as well, since our location is handicapped accessible. There are picnic tables and trees handy for those who cannot get down or up from the ground or need help with balance.



We don't teach in the sand beach at Canoe Creek State Park, as it is more likely for folks to injure themselves. [Though we can see the beach from our spots]. Those wanting a more challenging practice, are welcome to build it in themselves.

Folks get excited if birds or critters join us. Families bring children to participate or play in the playground adjacent to where we are practicing yoga. Some of the youngins (I'm from PA) run back and forth while everyone seems to enjoy their zest for life!!!

Come find the blessing of your local state park and Yoga together!

As told to Danielle Fitch, by Sharon Green of Bloom Yoga



# Magnify Your Impact through Workplace Giving

By Jessica Aiello

***PPFF is seeing a growing trend in the support that we receive... workplace giving. Not familiar with the concept? Read on.***

## What Is Workplace Giving and How Does It Work?

Workplace giving is defined as programs at places of employment that encourage employees to volunteer their time and/or make donations to charities. Employers might provide paid time off for their employees to volunteer, hold corporate giving drives with prizes to those who donate the most, match employee donations, offer volunteer grants, and provide other incentives to promote charitable giving. Workplace giving can be a once-a-year campaign, but it is generally morphing into something year-round to empower employees and have a more significant impact on charities doing good.

## Why Is Workplace Giving Important to Nonprofits Like PPFF?

Because workplace giving funds are often considered “unrestricted funding” for a nonprofit, the donation can be used where it is needed most, making a difference for the mission of the organization, such as stewardship of parks and forests in the case of PPFF. As was mentioned earlier, a company matching gift program can potentially double the funds going to the nonprofit, intensifying the positive impacts, and employees are more likely to donate when they know their gift is being matched.

“We are seeing an increase in workplace donations and matching gifts,” said Marci Mowery, President of PPFF. “We have also seen an increase in corporate volunteerism—which enables good things to happen in parks and forests.”

## How to Get Started?

Some companies use an online giving platform such as Benevity, while others may be a system such as the State Employees Combined Appeal (SECA).

“If you don’t see PPFF listed among the approved charities to which your company will provide matching gifts or we aren’t one you can volunteer for during company time, reach out to your HR staff and suggest PPFF as an important nonprofit to include,” added Mowery. “Likewise, we are always willing to provide a program to help employees understand the benefits of healthy outdoor recreation.”

Many workplace giving programs also allow you to write in a nonprofit even if they aren't listed. Contact us if you need additional information.



## Farewell to Brian

With this issue of the newsletter, we bid a fond “adios” to Brian Swift, Public Engagement Coordinator, as he and his lovely wife head out for some travel and adventure. We certainly can’t argue with the “call of the wild,” although we are truly sorry to see them go. You will undoubtedly have noticed that our social media presence has become seriously fun in the last year and that’s all very much due to Brian’s colorful, whimsical streak. ¡Viajes seguros, amigo!

# Hiking Trail Etiquette

Pennsylvania's parks and forests contain thousands of miles of trails, some of which are foot-traffic only and others shared use. We all have a role in conserving these pathways to wellness. Proper trail etiquette helps instill respect for other trail users while promoting stewardship of the land.

## On a shared use trail, remember the general rule of yielding:

Hikers going uphill have the right-of-way. If you are moving downhill, simply step aside.

Hikers yield to horses and other pack stock—slowly and calmly step to the side. If you are approaching from behind, quietly make your presence and intentions known.

Bicyclists yield to hikers and horses—come to a full stop and step aside, being mindful of where you are stepping to avoid stepping on plants.



## General etiquette:

**Plan ahead and have an alternative destination in mind. If a trail head or parking area is at capacity, seek another destination.**

When in a group, hike single file.

**When approaching another hiker/biker/equestrian from behind, make yourself known with a simple 'hello' or 'passing on your left' comment.**

Stay on the trail to avoid damage to plants and animal habitat and reduce trail erosion.

**Do not disturb wildlife—watch from a distance.**

Pack out any trash.

**Know how to relieve yourself without having an impact.**

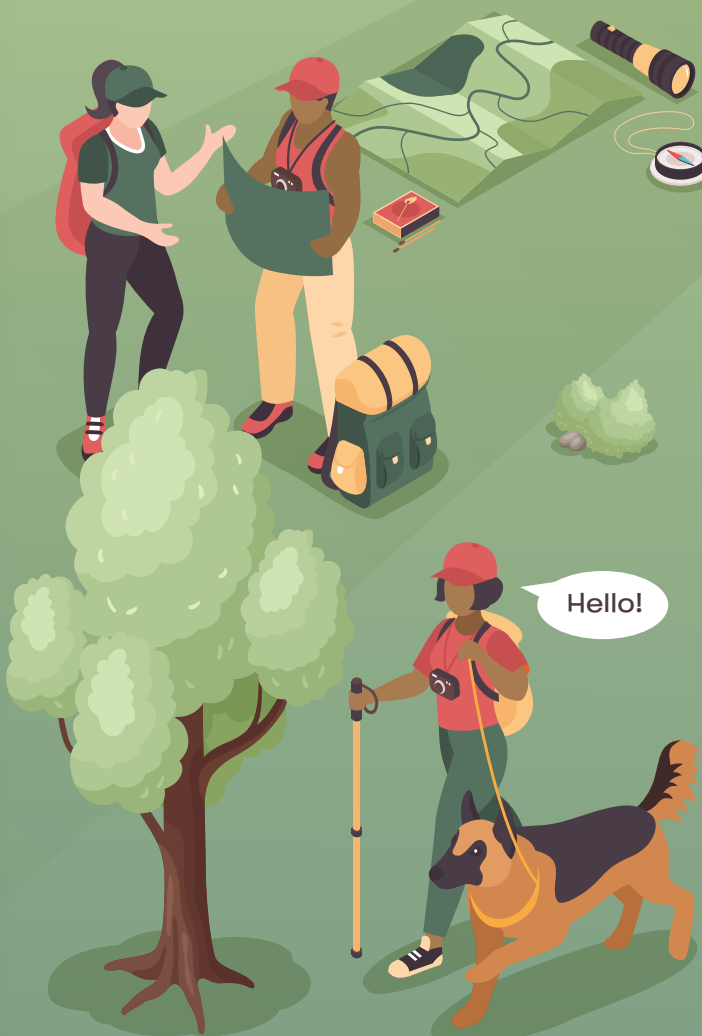
Keep pets leashed and clean up after them.

**Be mindful of trail conditions—if a trail is too wet or muddy, choose another trail.**

Speak in quiet tones and limit the use of electronic devices to not only promote a sense of calm, but to reduce disturbance to wildlife and wildlife communication.

**Be aware of your surroundings.**

Respect others.





Scan to watch!

**Reflections:**  
**Barbara Davey**

@PAParksandForests

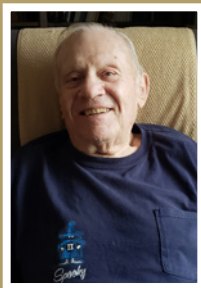
## Reflecting on the Past

Col. Forrest Kissinger, USAF Ret., managed aircraft operations for the Bureau of Forestry's Division of Forest Fire Protection for nearly 18 years.

Before his time with the DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, Col. Kissinger flew with the U.S.A.F. for over 31 years. After retiring, his love for flying kept him eyeing the skies, so much so that he went to work for the Bureau of Forestry to manage air operations in 1981.

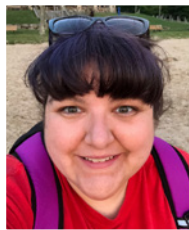
Using aircraft, fixed-wing, and helicopters Forrest and his colleagues saved Penn's Woods from wildfire destruction and protected trees and foliage from destruction by pests.

From 1981-1998, his team provided services for 20 forest districts and all state parks throughout Pennsylvania. "I'm most proud of having had the opportunity to run a first-class operation for nearly 18 years, doing what I loved - flying aircraft, executing aircraft contracts, and getting the best performance from our air operations for the least expense to the PA taxpayers," Forrest said.



## Welcome Tasha Ferris and Jessica Lee

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Tasha Ferris and Jessica Lee to the PPF community.



**Tasha Ferris** is the new Public Engagement Coordinator. With years of graphic design and project management experience, Tasha will use her skills to communicate PPF's mission and inspire others to take up the challenge of stewarding PA's state parks and forests.



**Jessica Lee** is the newest member of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's Board of Directors. Jessica is passionate about leadership, words, and the outdoors. As a Managing Director at CRA | Admired Leadership, she brings a wealth of knowledge in strategic communication and leadership development and is a great addition to the dedicated and talented group that is PPF's board of directors.



**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](http://www.PAParksAndForests.org)

## Friends in Action

As if you needed any proof of the oddities of 2023's weather, the **Friends of R.B. Winter** are only too happy(?) to provide it! February's Snowfest was snowless. But 800 people showed up to the park – enjoyed a 5k, visited Smokey Bear, learned a lot about the outdoors and the organizations that support it, and raised over \$5,000 for park projects.



Not a summer day by ANY stretch! It was a blustery but productive day with the **Friends of Parker Dam and Moshannon Fire Fighters Assoc.** cutting and wrapping some 80+ bundles of firewood for the cabin colonies at Parker Dam and S.B. Elliott state parks. Grilled hot dogs, chili, chips, and homemade cookies helped with the cold.



**Friends of Black Moshannon** volunteers spent Earth Day putting 250 trees in the ground. Friends chair Terry Harrison said it best. "You regularly publish spectacular pictures of outdoor venues in the State Park system. The pictures [he shared] are the 'before' version—it will take years for these planted trees to reach maturity. However, I still deem it a 'spectacular photo' as it shows a group building community volunteering doing hard, dirty work with a multigenerational group of folks. Beautiful!" Indeed it is!



Monthly work days at **Colonel Denning** are making a huge difference to the trails in this beautiful gem of a park! The April event saw clearing of downed trees and mitigation of erosion on the Rattlesnake Trail near the campground. The second Saturday of the month is when you can join the efforts and help in the transformation.



## Friends in Action

We aren't sure that readers understand just how vital a role firewood plays in the lives of PPF chapter volunteers! Campers love it and the sale of it is the source of funding for many of the terrific projects several Friends groups are able to achieve in their parks. The **Friends of Pinchot** have used their proceeds to buy things like new curtains for the cabins and fund wetlands and other habitat improvement projects.



A warm(ish) February day brought the **Friends of Michaux** volunteer crew out to the Camps Trail to clear brush and tree falls. The Friends note that the work crew included mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians, and hunters and correctly say, "the FoM is where we all come together!"



## 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 RB Winter*
- Friends of Ridley Creek State Park*
- 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

### Keeping Tools Dry

Your support of the retail space at Ohiopyle State Park enabled the acquisition of a shed to keep volunteer tools out of the elements and in good repair. These tools allow volunteers to do a variety of projects in partnership with the park.



Photo by DCNR

### Warm and Safe Campers on the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail

On a cold night after backpacking a long day, being able to find dry firewood is a gift. Your support provides hikers on the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail with a little trail magic—another firewood shelter built by the Pa Outdoor Corps.



Photo by DCNR

### Sustainable and Fashionable

The PA Outdoor Corps members were back at Ohiopyle roofing restrooms with steel shingles that are both sustainable and fashionable. These shingles have a 50-year warranty and when removed can be recycled. Now that is a win-win!



Photo by Pam Metzger

### Parks—History and Health

PPFF and the Latino Hispanic Professional Association recently partnered for a day of information and hiking at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Andre Weltman, Chair of the Friends of Pine Grove as well as a local historian, provided a historical context to the park's establishment, while participants also learned about the important connection between spending time outdoors and physical, mental, and emotional health.



Photo by Brian Swift

### Know Where to Go

Volunteers worked with Fowlers Hollow State Park and Tuscarora State Forest to enhance a loop trail out of the park for campers and day users alike. The loop takes about two hours to complete and is easy hiking with slight grade and following a mix of trail and forest roads.



Photo by Marci Mowery

### Projects, Projects and More Projects!

Your support and successful grant applications are empowering projects across the state. From education stations at Susquehannock State Park, to bike camping at Ohiopyle, to pavilion restoration at Mont Alto, and new playgrounds. Look for images as these projects come to fruition....and take pride in the work that you are making happen!

# You Made it Happen

## Sester- Semi- Quarter....What?

A 250th anniversary can be called a *quatermillennial*, but other acceptable terms are also used. When Pittsburgh and Allentown held their 250th anniversaries in 2012, both Pennsylvania cities used the term *semiquincentennial*, which directly means the half of 500 years. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Interior and the Huffington post have used *sestercentennials* for the 250th anniversary, which used the Latin prefix *sester* to shorten the word *semiquincentennial*. (Source: [Our Everyday Life](#))

Whatever you call, there is much preparation going on to prepare for the nation's 250th. ([www.America250.org](http://www.America250.org)) Recently, PPF President Marci had the opportunity to speak to the Harrisburg Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution about the Revolutionary War history in Pennsylvania's State Parks and Forests. She also explored the connection between Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness to the Environmental Rights Amendment:



Photo by Anne Wain

*"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people." Article 1, Section 27, Pennsylvania Constitution*

## Reconnecting

Pennsylvania's parks and forests are known for the memories that they create, memories that last a lifetime. If you recall, the spring issue of Penn's Stewards included a story about a 50-year-old message found in a bottle at Fowlers Hollow State Park. The story was picked up by WGAL TV 8 News, and subsequently aired across the nation and the world! Within minutes of airing, the family who left the note recognized their names and called the station.

It was an emotional reunion with the family, who recalled the day and the weekend of camping, vividly. We look forward to getting them back out to the park for some campfire time!

Read all about it on the News page of the PPF website at [PAParksAndForests.org/news/fowlers-hollow-memories/](http://PAParksAndForests.org/news/fowlers-hollow-memories/)



Photo by Marci Mowery

## Ohiopyle Retail

When you shop at the Ohiopyle Retail Shop located in the visitor center at the park, your purchases are helping to support projects in the park, such as the new shed pictured above, equipment for rangers, repairs to tools, and so much more. Operated by PPF in partnership with the park and on-site volunteers, the space is one of many retail establishments operated under PPF's non-profit umbrella. These retail spaces, like the firewood sales in many park campgrounds, support the work of Friends and other volunteers, with funds being reinvested into their parks.



Sadly, we sometimes see firewood or goods walking from the sales areas without payment. When this happens, it impacts everyone—the volunteers who prepare the wood or stock the store, the visitor who doesn't get to benefit from a project that goes undone, and the park, who may have to find another funding source to make a project happen.



704 Lisburn Road, Suite 102  
Camp Hill, PA 17011



NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARRISBURG, PA  
PERMIT #560



### STOP THE PRESSES!

Find the newly-updated **Pennsylvania State Parks & State Forests Passport** in the online store at [PAParksAndForests.org](http://PAParksAndForests.org). All 124 parks now listed. Get yours today!

Meet the late Marcus Schneck, winner of the Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award (accepted here by his son, Casey), and all Award Winners and sponsors in the online program at [ppff.events/2023-banquet-program](http://ppff.events/2023-banquet-program). Pictures can be found in the Banquet Gallery at the PPF website. Click **Gallery** at the top of any page.



## Become a Member Today!

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

\$25 Single Membership

\$35 Family Membership

I'd like to donate extra money to support the work of PPF!

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

