

# Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

Fall 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:

Lehigh Gorge State Park History in the Wilderness	1
President's Message	2
Meet Paul Fogal EcoTourism in the Lehigh Gorge	7
Outdoor Recreation: Fueling Small Trail Towns	8
Partnerships	9
2023 Awards Banquet	10
Comings and Goings	12
We Will Miss	12
Camping Etiquette	13
2023 Annual Report	14
Friends in Action	16
List of Friends	17
You Made it Happen	18
Bringing Your Voice	19



## Lehigh Gorge State Park History in the Wilderness

*By Diane Madl, Environmental Education Specialist Supervisor,  
Hickory Run State Park Complex*

*Photos by DCNR*

**"The Lehigh about this place forms numerous short turns between the mountains, and affords frequent falls, as well as below the falls deep pools, which render this stream a most valuable one for mills of any kind."**

**– John James Audubon, Great Pine Swamp  
– Lehigh River Valley, 1829**

What drew people like John James Audubon, Josiah White, and railroad pioneer, Asa Packer to the wilderness that is now Lehigh Gorge State Park? Perhaps the beauty, the grandeur, the river!

Lehigh Gorge State Park, known for its stunning natural beauty, is enjoyed by upwards of 400,000 visitors annually. This linear park, added to the Pennsylvania State Park system in the 1970's, follows the Lehigh River just south of the Francis E. Walter Dam, roughly 30 miles to the famous tourist town of Jim Thorpe.

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## President's Message

*Marci Mowery*

Is it me, or does time just seem to fly by these days? Hopefully, you had ample opportunity to enjoy state parks and forests over the summer and continue to enjoy them into the fall. Fortunately, state parks and forests are open all year to provide opportunities for everything from active recreation to peaceful contemplation.

As we continue the theme of reflection, I am happy to share with you this most recent edition of Penn's Stewards. The lead story reflects on the rich history of the Lehigh Gorge, with supporting stories reflecting on the relationship between communities and recreational amenities as well as an article on people and these amenities.

The newsletter also reflects on the many hardworking park and forest staff and the volunteers in these spaces that are making a difference (see story on pages 10-11). We challenge you to reflect on people who have made a difference to your visits and consider nominating someone for our 2024 awards program (ad on page 6). There is also a link to a video of former PPFF board member and current PPFF advisory board member Gary Smith as he looks back on this career in state parks.

Campground etiquette proved to be a hot topic at a recent Foundation board meeting, thus inspiring the infographic on page 13. While we may all choose to enjoy public lands differently, I believe we can all agree on a few basic guidelines to facilitate enjoyment.

As we wrap up the year, we start thinking ahead. Have an idea for our 2024 theme? Email us at [newsletter@paparksandforests.org](mailto:newsletter@paparksandforests.org). Are you beginning to plan your 2024 calendar (and we recommend doing it on a state park calendar available in the PPFF online store), we provide you with some dates to rally around. And if curling up with a book is something you enjoy, consider joining us for our new monthly virtual book discussions.

Thank you for your support of the mission of the Foundation to steward Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

Yours in the Outdoors,  
Marci





Continued from page 1...



The park, with its Class II and III rapids whitewater boating opportunities, excellent fishing, and beautiful rail trail, was once a bustling transportation thoroughfare. Visitors today may be unaware they are recreating among the shadows of indigenous Lenape, early land surveyors, loggers, lumber mill and tannery workers, canal builders and boatmen, lock tenders, railroader workers, brick makers, and even early tourists. The hustle and bustle once commonplace along the river has been replaced by the sounds of the gurgling river, the wind through the trees, songbirds and the occasional sound of excited rafters, bicyclists, and daily trains.

The story of Lehigh Gorge begins some 250 million years ago during the mountain-building event known as the Alleghenian Orogeny, when African and North American tectonic plates pushed rocks upward and over the area. Afterward, erosion began to erase as much as 20,000 feet of rock and a young river began to make progress following a path along the bedrock folds.

The Lehigh River, called Lechauwekink by the Lenape, means "where there are forks." Originating from a series of glacial bogs and marshes near Gouldsboro, the river flows nearly

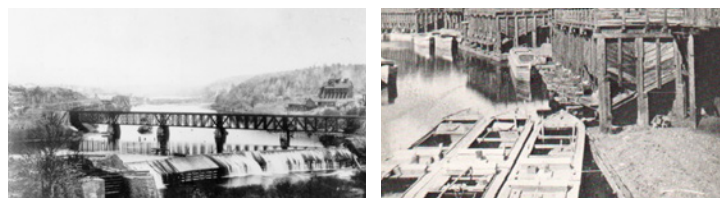


103 miles before entering the Delaware River in Easton. The land south of the park was settled thousands of years ago by the Lenape. They used the river as a means of travel. Numerous encampments were along the river, but no signs of permanent villages have been found within the park. However, archaeologists have uncovered a prehistoric Indigenous site where artifacts dating from the Transitional period (3,000-4,200 years ago) and the Late Archaic periods (4,200-6000 years ago) were uncovered. Several working hypotheses suggest that the site was occupied by at least six different groups between 3,000 and 9,500 years ago and possibly earlier.

## Canals

The discovery of anthracite coal near Summit Hill in 1791 transformed the area forever. From this point forward the river served to transport coal and lumber, goods, thus playing a major role in fueling the American Industrial Revolution. *Today the Lehigh Gorge is a main spine of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, a National Heritage Area designated in 1988 which encompasses 165 miles from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol.*

Legislation passed in 1818 gave control and ownership of the Lehigh River to businessmen Josiah White and Erskine Hazard. In 1820, they formed the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company to build a system of canals, dams, locks, and towpaths to move coal from the mines to market. In 1829 the 46-mile Lower Division, two-way navigation between Mauch Chunk (present day Jim Thorpe) and Easton was completed. From there, the canal linked to the Delaware and Morris Canals and onto Philadelphia and New York City. The company then turned its attention to exploring how to make the Upper Lehigh, now Lehigh Gorge State Park, navigable.



After surveying the gorge and witnessing the challenging topography, White realized that an entire canal would not be feasible, so he needed a new plan. He immediately hired engineer, Edwin A. Douglas who agreed the best way forward was a slack water navigation system.

Continued on page 4...



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From 1835 to 1838, between 1,700-2,000 immigrant laborers worked in the cold waters of the Lehigh to complete the Upper Grand Section of the Lehigh Navigation. In all, 29 dams, 20 locks and 4.5 miles of canal were built to overcome a 600-foot drop in elevation in the 26 miles from White Haven to Mauch Chunk. In parts of the gorge, sheer cliffs limited the engineer's options. In many areas, slack water pools were created to move canal boats from one lock to another. Amazingly, some of the locks could be filled or emptied in 2 minutes! *Today several lock ruins can still be seen hugging the banks of the river. Lock 28, near the White Haven access can be seen by walking a short, groomed trail leading to a viewing platform. You may also want to visit Hickory Run State Park's visitor center, where a scale size lock wall is included in their award-winning exhibit hall.*

By the end of 1838 boating season, 214,211 tons of coal had passed down the Upper Grand Section. In addition to coal boats, other boats carried lumber, iron ore, grain, brick, and passengers.

***"We here took passage for Mauch Chunk. The scenery, immediately upon leaving Whitehaven, is striking, but improves gradually, as you descend the Lehigh, until, some miles above Mauch Chunk, it becomes wild and picturesque in the highest degree. The dark waters of the river, dyed almost to a black, by the sap of the hemlock soaking in it, every where enclosed by mountains of from 100 to 700 feet in height, and confined to a channel, scarcely 300 feet wide, trace a circuitous course through, perhaps, the wildest and most rugged mountain region of the State."***

***– Canal passenger, (from the History of the Lehigh Valley by M.S. Henry, published in 1860)***



After many years in operation, powerful and devastating storms in 1841 and 1862 destroyed most of the locks, dams, and towpaths bringing an end to the canal system in the Gorge. With the Upper Grand Section in ruins, the Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroad, used to bring coal to canal boats in White Haven, was extended, ushering in the era of railroads.



## Railroads

Compared to the canal system, railroads could carry more, do it faster, and even operate in the winter. Early railroads, like the Buck Mountain Railroad in 1840 and Hazleton Railroad in 1850, brought coal from the surrounding mines to continue its transport by canal boats. But the Lehigh Valley Railroad, owned by famed pioneer of railroad construction Asa Packer and the Central Railroad of New Jersey (Jersey Central) operated for many years running on both sides of the river. In 1965 the Jersey Central lines were abandoned when it consolidated with the Lehigh Valley. More recently Conrail, the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern RR, and Norfolk Southern RR all ran the Gorge. In 2005 the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway began offering tourist excursions leaving from Jim Thorpe. While the canal era lasted only three decades, trains continue to travel through Lehigh Gorge 160 years later and the tracks that were abandoned have been repurposed to transporting hikers and bikers along a beautiful rail-trail.



*Continued on page 5...*



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Today, the Park along with local recreation and tourism businesses in the surrounding trail towns, provides visitors with amenities to make their visit safe and memorable. Boaters, bikers, birdwatchers, hunters, anglers, hikers, and rail enthusiasts all use the same river corridor and rail trail in the ancestral lands of the Lanape. The next time you visit Lehigh Gorge, look for remnants of history and stop for a moment to remember those from the past.

## Early Tourism

In the early 1870's two railroad stations were built at Turnhole, later named Glen Onoko. Located at the southern entrance of the Park, this area was a quiet respite for passengers visiting the magnificent Wahneta Hotel, a Victorian vacation resort built in 1886. Guests staying at the 47-room hotel hiked to grottos, ravines, and waterfalls,



strolled landscaped gardens, and enjoyed carriage rides, tennis courts, a dance pavilion, and amusement park. First Lady Frances Folsom Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland even visited the hotel and band leader John Philip Sousa, America's best known music man, worked and played there. After a series of destructive wildfires, the resort could not be rebuilt. Only the impressive large railroad tunnel that pierces Moore's Rock remains today.

## Lumber

Famed naturalist and ornithologist John James Audubon spent 6-weeks near Rockport in the fall of 1829. Audubon had set out across America to paint birds and document the countryside through his journals. Aside from painting birds, Audubon witnessed firsthand the changes to the landscape writing, *"Trees, one after another, were, and are yet, constantly heard falling during the days; and in calm nights, the greedy mills told the sad tale that in a century the noble forests around should exist no more. Many mills were erected, many dams raised, in defiance of the impetuous Lehigh. One full third of the trees have already been culled, turned into boards, and floated as far as Philadelphia."*



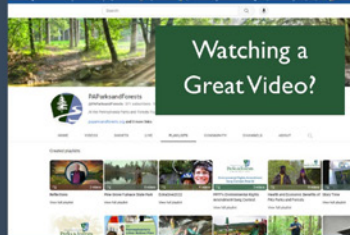
By 1841, 38 sawmills stood on the banks of the Lehigh River between White Haven and Mauch Chunk. Most of the tributaries were dammed to provide water for the mills and create millponds to hold the logs until they were floated down the river to market. The Lehigh Tannery, once the second largest in the nation, processing nearly 80,000 hides a year, sat along the banks of the river. Bark from nearby hemlock trees was used to tan hides and the village of Lehigh Tannery was bustling with activity. In 1875 fire took the tannery and ended this industry in Lehigh Gorge. *The remains of the Lehigh Tannery can be seen on the east side of the river at the Tannery parking access.*



## What inspires YOU to get out there?



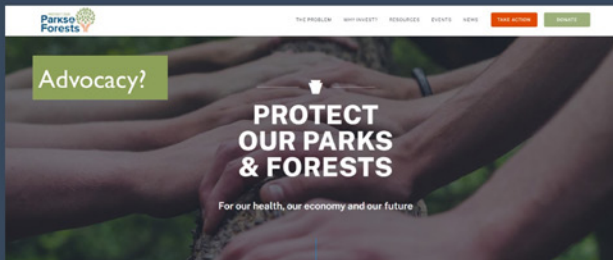
Check out [PAConservationHeritage.org](http://PAConservationHeritage.org)



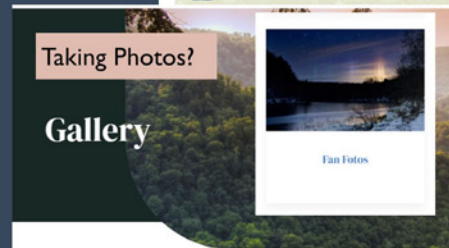
We have a channel at [youtube.com/@PAParksandForests](https://www.youtube.com/@PAParksandForests)



Get ideas at  
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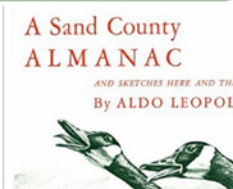
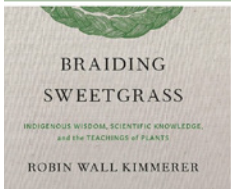
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Find what moves you at the PPFF family of websites and resources

The LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
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Find out more at  
[paparksandforests.org/event/ppff-virtual-book-club](http://paparksandforests.org/event/ppff-virtual-book-club)



the 2024 awards  
banquet will be here  
soon

Nominate someone  
deserving at [ppff.online/nominate-a-volunteer](http://ppff.online/nominate-a-volunteer)



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For more information visit [www.PAParksAndForests.org](http://www.PAParksAndForests.org)



# Meet Paul Fogal EcoTourism in the Lehigh Gorge

By Jessica Aiello



Photo by Cleo Fogal

Paul Fogal is the owner of Pocono Whitewater, Skirmish Paintball, and Pocono Biking – all of which are in the heart of the Lehigh Gorge. Back in 1977, Paul and his father were looking for a river on which to locate a whitewater rafting tour company. They looked in West Virginia and New York, but the Lehigh River drew them in.

“I am still amazed to this day by the natural beauty of the gorge,” said Paul.

The Poconos, synonymous with tourism, is conveniently located to major population centers. This, with the fact that the Class II and III river allows for more people and families to enjoy rafting, made it a natural choice. Paul and his father opened Pocono Whitewater and were later joined by his brother. Today, Paul’s two children and two nephews are also employed there, so it is truly a family affair.

Paul enjoys being outdoors with his wife and other family members, sharing his enjoyment of the scenery and history of the Lehigh Gorge.

“It’s fun to paddle the river or bike the trails and imagine what it used to be like when there were trains on the tracks and boats on the canal. This area was once a transportation hub. You see old photos of what it was like when anthracite coal was being transported by rail and now the area is so much wilder, with many more trees.”

Over the past 46 years in business, Paul has seen many positive changes. For instance, the biggest impact on his business was when the old railroad grade was turned into the Delaware & Lehigh Trail, running more than 140 miles from the northern metro area of Philadelphia to just outside of Wilkes-Barre. The trail brings in new visitors, supporting businesses in the region.

Another change was the establishment of the Lehigh Gorge State Park. Park improvements included converting the canal towpath into a bikeable and walkable trail and improving river access points.

“The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has been an excellent partner; I’ve worked with them for nearly 40 years. They have a good working relationship with outfitters, and they recognize that rafting is a benefit to the local economy, bringing in at least 200,000 people annually. Lots of local kids get hired by outfitters and they learn about the river and the environment.”

Another improvement in the Gorge was the creation of a water management plan for the river, which expanded the recreational opportunities available. The state park, the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), elected officials, and private businesses and individuals – including Paul – partnered to expand the purpose of the Francis E. Walter Dam north of White Haven (which was originally constructed by USACE for flood control) to include recreation. Once implemented, outfitters could run rafting trips in the summer months, when the river would historically run too low without periodic releases of water from the dam.



Photo by Cleo Fogal

Paul notes that the Lehigh is one of the most popular rivers for boating in the country, and while you might not be able to whitewater paddle year-round, there are plenty of other things to do, from biking to cross-country skiing.

“Being outdoors keeps me healthy, so I encourage others to spend time outside too. I am grateful for being able to make a living doing something I enjoy doing while being in such a great place as the Lehigh Gorge,” he added.

To learn more about the economic benefits of tourism to Jim Thorpe, catch the video at: <https://ppff.online/utube-video-economic-benefits>.





# Outdoor Recreation: Fueling Small Trail Towns

By Cathy McCollom

Wondering why local leaders should promote opportunities for outdoor recreation? In addition to improving quality of life for local residents and encouraging active, healthy lifestyles for all, it can stimulate their local businesses and communities.

In 2022, the outdoor recreation contributed **\$13.64 billion** to Pennsylvania's economy, accounting for 152,000 jobs, and 1.6 percent of the commonwealth's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) statistics.

The direct economic benefits to communities adjacent to known recreational assets is well researched. A 2021 study estimated that \$121 million in annual economic impact was realized from tourism in towns along the 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage rail trail.

For small, often rural, towns along a recreational trail or river, business growth has proved to have a positive outcome. Visitors seeking outdoor recreation also seek certain amenities: restaurants, lodging, repair shops, restrooms, fresh food, and water. These visitors also seek welcoming communities whose residents help ensure a pleasant journey. There are well-documented examples of significant business growth along long-distance trails.

A retired Naval officer and his wife, a retired teacher, fell in love with the small town of Confluence, PA while riding the Great Allegheny Passage. They sold their home in Arlington, Virginia and purchased a home in Confluence. The next summer they purchased and renovated a large commercial building in the town center and now operate a bike rental, sale, and repair shop. Relatives followed a year later and are now also settled in Confluence, where they are active community supporters.

Confluence, with a population of 717, also boasts six restaurants or diners, two markets, eight B & Bs, fourteen guest houses, and three campgrounds, all of which thrive on visitor dollars.

The Levi Deal Mansion in Meyersdale was purchased and restored by a couple from Baltimore. The marketing director of a Pittsburgh non-profit discovered it while on a trip on the Great Allegheny Passage. She and her husband operated the Mansion as a successful B & B for many years. The Mansion is now operated by yet another couple who relocated to the area.

A retired West Newton teacher partnered with a local man to turn a local convenience store into a restaurant, outdoor patio café, and bar. "The Trailside" in West Newton is now one of the most popular stops along the trail for visitors and expanded three times in its first five years due to the increasing demand for business.

The operator of a successful retail imported glassware business in suburban Pittsburgh moved with her husband (retired) to Connellsville to operate a B & B in an historical building which they lovingly restored. Not long after opening their successful B&B, the owner opened her fine glassware boutique in the same building.

As these stories illustrate, those passing through small towns to enjoy outdoor recreation also spend money in and support local businesses. Just as importantly, some of those who visit these small towns end up falling in love with them – for the recreational opportunities they offer as well as for their authentic character - and ultimately stay, helping to keep these small towns growing and vital.

To learn more about Gateway Communities, visit: <https://paparksandforests.org/our-work/recreation/gateway-communities/>





# Partnerships

## State Park Beer Series

The next in the series of state park beers developed by New Trail Brewing was released in October and features the work to restore the historic Civilian Conservation Corps cabin at French Creek State Park. You can support this work through purchasing the beer or donating directly to the project! Donate at: <https://ppff.gives/french-creek-ccc>



## Influencers Take to the Park

It was an exciting day at Little Buffalo State Park when more than fifteen social media influencers from across the state joined PPFF President Marci Mowery and DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn to learn more about our work, the important role of parks and forests, and Healthy Lands Week. #HealthyLandsWeek



## Touring Pine Grove

The PPFF Board of Directors were joined by members of several legislative offices as well as staff from the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau to learn more about the infrastructure needs at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.



Photo by Mary Soderberg




**Reflections:**  
**Gary Smith**

 @PAParksAndForests

Scan to watch!





**pennsylvania**  
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Please consider PPFF for your annual SECA donation



# 2023 Awards Banquet

Volunteers and dedicated park and forest staff are the lifeline for a sustainable park and forest system. PPFF was pleased to bring back the awards program in 2023, and, for the first time, host it in a state park—Little Buffalo State Park. The banquet marked PPFF's first in-person banquet since 2019.

## Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award

Marcus Schneck (posthumously) whose 27-year career with Harrisburg's Patriot-News and PennLive covered outdoor pursuits of all kinds and introduced many a Pennsylvanian to the natural world.



## Joe Ibberson Government Award

Mike Piaskowski, PaOC, recognized for his work as Manager of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Crops, convening partners to plan work projects, recruiting, and hiring Corps members, and ensuring the program's overall success.

## President's Award-Individual

Jack Stefferud, Senior Director for Land Protection at Natural Lands, recognized for his commitment to preserving natural areas, his congeniality when dealing with property owners, and his outstanding impacts on the diversity and availability of Pennsylvania's public lands.



## President's Award-Project

Both the Friends of Cook Forest and Cook Forest State Park recognized for their collaborative efforts to create the accessible Cook Forest Sensory Trail.



## Chair Award

New Trail Brewing Company, recognized for its fundraising initiatives linking a beer to important conservation projects, as well as exemplifying the vital connection between craft breweries, outdoor recreation, healthy economies, and safe, well-maintained outdoor spaces.



## Park of the Year

RB Winter State Park, recognized for its exemplary customer service focused on providing a quality experience for visitors, its boundless recreational opportunities, and its resilience in the face of unexpected hardship - due to the dedicated efforts of park staff and the Friends of RB Winter State Park.





## Forest of the Year

Pinchot State Forest, recognized for its innovative and exemplary work in both forest management and recreation being done.



## Volunteerism

Patti and Jamey Hutchinson from Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center go above and beyond as volunteers, not only maintaining the Cavity Nesting Trail but stewarding waterways and trails and being champions of the Leave No Trace philosophy.

## Improvement

Nittany Mountain Biking Association, recognized for making a positive and lasting contribution to the Rothrock State Forest trail system. The club's hard work allows for a larger portion of the public to enjoy a high-quality outdoor experience in Rothrock State Forest.



## Education Group

The Friends of Worlds End State Park brought tremendous improvements to the park's facilities, trails, and educational programs.



## Education Individual

Wayne Sierer's tireless energy as a volunteer in the DCNR Bureau of Forestry earned him this year's Education Award.



## Young Volunteer

Angelica Brill, intern and research assistant at PPFF, brings her energy and enthusiasm to all projects.



# Thank You

We would like to thank all the sponsors who made the event possible, as well as the amazing staff at Little Buffalo State Park.

## Award Sponsors:

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## Comings and Goings

### River Missal

River Missal is an AmeriCorps Member who is no stranger to service of PA's natural, outdoor spaces and joins us as a Trail Training and Workday Coordinator. He brings knowledge and experience with him in the form of working with volunteers and communities, recruitment, research, vegetation and invasive species management, erosion control, tree identification, trail work, and a degree in anthropology, archeology, and geoscience. In his new role, he will be responsible for training volunteers in trail maintenance, leading volunteers in trail work days, and educating the public on Leave No Trace principles.



### Matt Hess

Matt Hess joins the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation as the newest member of the Board of Directors. He believes that state parks and forests are a treasure and he wants to get behind promoting their benefits to everyone. Matt brings experience working as a business and fundraising consultant for Faith above My Ability, is a spokesperson for the American Cancer Foundation, and is a Patient Teacher with the University of Pennsylvania LEAPP Program.



## We Will Miss

### Patrick F. Gates

Friends of Yellow Creek remembers founding board member, Patrick F. Gates, of Nanty Glo, who passed away in March 2023. Pat was an enthusiastic, no-nonsense volunteer. Always ready to help, whether planting trees, registering bike racers, or building picnic tables. When the Friends rehabbed a pontoon boat for the Friends group, Pat showed up with a battery he'd purchased at Walmart -- "Thought this would be useful." He also made connections and sought donations from other groups for the park. A United States Marine Corps veteran, Pat was an avid golfer and enjoyed spending time on his boat at Yellow Creek.



### Jim Homerosky

In July of this year the biking and outdoor community lost Jim Homerosky, shown here crossing the Salisbury Viaduct along the Great Allegheny Passage. Jim and his wife Wendy generously contributed the funds to construct a picnic pavilion along the GAP in Ohiopyle, a project yet to be completed unfortunately.

Born in Canonsburg (Washington County), he and Wendy split their time between the Pittsburgh area and Williamsburg, VA. His obituary notes, "He was most proud of having bicycled through 23 states and eleven countries. His bicycling interests led him to write three bicycling guidebooks: Road Biking Virginia, Road Biking Western Pennsylvania and Williamsburg Area Bike Rides. Jim enjoyed planning bike trips... ranging from two hours to two weeks."

Our sincere condolences to Wendy and the family.





# CAMPING ETIQUETTE

While individuals enjoy the outdoors in a wide variety of ways, remembering a few guidelines can help to reduce friction in the campground.

## RESPECT THE PARK OR FOREST

- If having a campfire, tend the campfire and extinguish it upon leaving.
- Don't transport firewood—that also transports pests and diseases.
- Stick to trails and walkways already in place—avoid creating social trails or cutting through occupied campsites.
- Camp only at your designated campsite.
- Park vehicles in designated areas—many sites often have a vehicle limit.

## CAMPING WITH PETS

- Observe the park rules and guidelines.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Discourage barking and chasing of wildlife.

## RESPECT OTHERS

- Follow the posted quiet hours.
- Allow others to enjoy the sounds of nature by keeping human made noises—music, leaf blowers, etc.—to a minimum.
- Reduce light pollution by turning off outside lights when retiring for the evening.

## RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Keep a neat camp—wildlife who become habituated to human food often become a nuisance.
- Put all trash—including cigarette butts extinguished—in the dumpsters and trash cans provided.





## 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 2022, we collectively hosted:



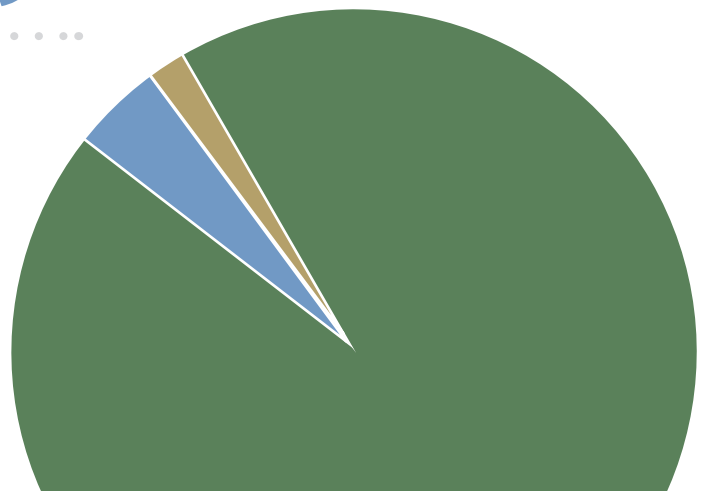
The value of this volunteerism is worth more than

# \$1,248,000

## EXPENSES

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation focuses on program, which is reflected in the annual allocation of expenditures.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT FUNDRAISING





# A YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022, the theme of the Foundation was clean water. What better time than during the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act! Pennsylvania's Forestry Commission formed out of the need to protect water quality by reforestation. Lands were acquire to protect watersheds.

Trees, and forests, still serve this very important function—reducing flooding, preventing erosion, and allowing water to filtrate through soil.

One we way shared this story was with the production of a new video, Forests, Clean Water and Craft Beverages!

We also formed a partnership with New Trail Brewing to plant trees with funds being raised through the sale of Replenish IPA. And plant trees we did! Through the support of members and donors, and funding from Replenish IPA, we hosted tree plantings across the state. Not only does water benefit, but wildlife and humans. Who doesn't enjoy sitting in the shade on a hot day!



Advocating for parks, forests and recreation are an important role that PPFF plays in conserving parks and forests and leveraging funding for infrastructure and maintenance needs. You came through in 2022, helping to secure \$75 million in American Rescue Plan funding to address critical maintenance needs.

Addressing need in parks and forests continues to be role that you make possible.

14 Playground Built/Maintained  
992 Trees Planted  
26 Gardens Planted/Maintained  
4450 Native Plant Plugs  
128 Number Of Trails Maintained  
262 Trail Miles Built/Maintained  
20 Trail Bridges Built/Maintained  
142 Bluebird Boxes Installed/Maintained  
3 Interpretive Panels Installed  
7 Roadside Clean-Ups Conducted  
4 Amphitheater/Education Center Built/Updated  
2 Leave No Trace Trainings  
1 Ada Fishing Pier  
3 Wheelchairs Purchased  
2 Informative Videos Created  
3 Graffiti Removal Sites  
EITC Programming Supported **1095**  
Programs Reaching **5900** Students  
26 Latino Conservation Week Events  
1 ADA Beach Developed  
1 Industrial Size Refrigerator purchased  
2 Bird Blinds Built  
70 Blogs  
34 Press Releases  
12 Paint By Numbers  
4 Pa Outdoor Corps Crews Supported  
1 Wood Shelter  
6 Spanish Language Radio Shows  
2 High School Interns  
1 College Intern  
18 Benches  
1 Trail Mower  
1 Historic Cabin Restoration Project Launched



## Friends in Action

Earlier this summer, employees from Sanofi, a pharmaceuticals company with a facility in Swiftwater, hit the Top of the Mountain at Big Pocono State Park for a great afternoon of cleaning up trails, the Cattell Cabin, and most of the benches in Lot 2. *Is YOUR business interested in team building through volunteerism?*

Visit [PAParksAndForests.org/our-work/volunteerism/corporate-volunteerism](https://PA ParksAndForests.org/our-work/volunteerism/corporate-volunteerism) and find out how.



The Friends of the Greenwood Complex (Greenwood Furnace, Penn-Roosevelt, and Whipple Dam) wrapped up the 2023 season of Music on the Beach at Whipple Dam with their largest crowd ever. Over 600 people enjoyed the music of the band "Caledonia," swimming and boating in the lake, and dancing on the beach. What a wonderful way to wrap up summer!



Music and heritage were the order of the day during Labor Day weekend at the Cameron Mansion at Kings Gap Environmental Education Center. The first-ever Celtic Highland Games and Celebration was a wonderful addition to the Celtic music that traditional wraps up Music on the Mountain each September, with nearly 800 visitors enjoying the day.



When it comes to summer and music, the Bluegrass Festival at Laurel Hill is the Grandpap. This year was the 15th anniversary of the event and the crowds were epic, just like the tunes. Turn it up to 11!





## Friends in Action

The Friends of Davis Hollow Cabin tend the historic (built 1780) log cabin that welcomes trekkers along the 4,800-mile North Country Trail as it makes its way through Moraine State Park. They keep it ship-shape; they just can't promise that a rainbow (double or otherwise) will always be scheduled for your arrival.



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



## 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

### Back In Time

Nothing says days of ol' like the sound of shoes scuffling along a board walk. With support from the PNC Foundation and the hard work of the staff at Oil Creek, visitors to Petroleum Center can see the first phase of a multi-phase restoration process currently underway.



Photo by DCNR

### Getting Around

When you work in the largest park in the system, which includes a multi-state trail, getting around can be challenging. Your support helped PPFF to acquire a ranger e-bike for Ohiopyle State Park, which not only makes accessing difficult areas on the Great Allegheny Passage easier, it allows for greater interaction with park visitors.



Photo by Marci Mowery

### A Place to Lay Your Head

Hikers and Bikers on the Great Allegheny Passage can more readily access camping with the opening of the High Bridge Biker Campground. With investments from the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation and hard work from Ohiopyle State Park staff and volunteers, the newest campground can now be reserved via the state park reservation system for one-night stays.



Photo by Pam Metzger

### Watershed Education

Understanding a watershed can lead to water quality protection. With your support and a grant from Bells Brewing, visitors of all ages to Susquehannock State Park benefit from the acquisition of an EnviroScape watershed teaching model and the newly constructed benches.



Photo by DCNR

### Time on the Water

Accessing the lake at Canoe Creek State Park just got easier when the Friends of Canoe Creek approached PPFF about applying for a grant for launch docks. With support from their fundraising efforts, and a grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds (FPW), two new launches were installed. The FPW intended to support Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation's work in advancing the quality of our environment. FPW is a nonprofit, grant-making organization supporting water quality needs throughout Pennsylvania.



Photo by Friends of Canoe Creek



## You Made it Happen



### Marshmallows and Story Telling

For many, a critical element in camping is community time around the campfire. With your support of the Campground Enhancement program, PPFF acquired five large campfire rings to enhance the group tenting area at Susquehannock State Park.

Photo by DCNR

### Shade and Habitat, We Like That

Visitors to Tombs Flat on the Pine Creek will benefit from the shade and habitat made possible by recent tree and shrub plantings made possible by your support and the Replenish IPA purchases.



Photo by DCNR

### SAVE THE DATE(S) FOR 2024

- ✓ J.T. Rothrock Memorial Conservation Week 4/20 to 4/27
- ✓ Bob Ross Happy Little Trees Virtual 5k 4/22 to 4/26
- ✓ Love My State Parks Week 5/12 to 5/19
- ✓ PA State Parks & Forests Week 5/23 to 5/30
- ✓ Latino Conservation Week 7/20 to 7/28
- ✓ Healthy Lands Week 9/28 to 10/6

Visit [PAParksAndForests.org](https://PAParksAndForests.org) to find ways to join the fun

## Bringing Your Voice

### Advocacy

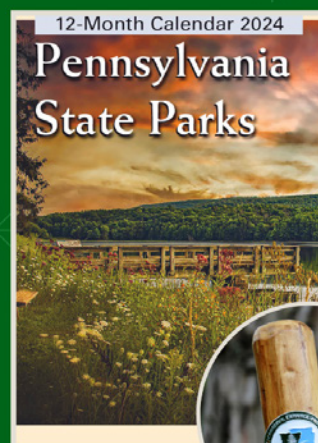
The 2023-24 State Budget recognized the important role of parks and forests \$112 million to maintain and improve park and forest infrastructure and additional funding for two initiatives to expand access to outdoor recreation and improve management and safety on public lands. The budget also includes funding for additional positions, much needed in the management of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

The Office of Outdoor Recreation was established as part of the budget, again, acknowledging the important role of Outdoor Recreation to Pennsylvania.

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

## ✓ GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK

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<https://www.extragive.org/organizations/pennsylvania-parks-and-forests-foundation>

## 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 PPFF!

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

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

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Camp Hill, PA 17011

