



PENNSYLVANIA PARKS AND FORESTS FOUNDATION

STATE PARK AND FOREST AWARDS PROGRAM

Your sponsorship helps recognize exemplary work to protect and enhance our state park and forest system

Event At-A-Glance

Date

May 14, 2024

Time

4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Place

**Recreation Hall
Little Buffalo State Park
Newport, PA**

Program

**View project and
exhibits
Dinner
Program**

Contact:

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Reservations are required
by 5/4/2024

Pennsylvania Parks and
Forests Foundation
704 Lisburn Road
Suite 102
Camp Hill, PA 17011
PAParksAndForests.org

Since 1999, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation has been the only charity solely dedicated to stewarding our state parks and forests.

The awards program recognizes the outstanding service, programs, and exemplary work of volunteers and staff at state parks and forests.

We invite you to show your support for this exceptional work by becoming a sponsor.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE PPF BANQUET

- ◇ Since our banquet began in 2007, we've recognized the accomplishments of 177 deserving individuals and groups
- ◇ Our awards are "the best in the business" - hand-turned burl bowls from Lancaster County craftsman Bob Gochnauer
- ◇ Our chapters—each of whom deserve an award—have devoted nearly 661,000 hours to the state parks and forests since we started counting in 2008—and raised over \$5.8 million
- ◇ Our annual silent auction helps to purchase equipment to remove barriers from participating in outdoor recreation, ensuring an experience for all in the outdoors
- ◇ Last year's banquet was a first for us as we hosted the evening in a state park with a more casual "come as you are" vibe appreciated by everyone in attendance. So we're back this year to the popular Little Buffalo State Park Recreation Hall.
- ◇ In addition, our banquet program will be online and interactive, allowing direct links to our sponsors and award winners—increasing our ability to showcase you

Silent auction donations are also gratefully accepted.

Increase your visibility to the important outdoor recreation community with a banquet sponsorship

OUR OUTREACH MAKES IMPRESSIONS	
Communications Piece	Touches
Organic Facebook Reach	196,088
Twitter/XFollowers	8,345
Instagram Followers	7,489
YouTube Subscribers	436
Penn's Stewards (3/Year Newsletter) Impressions	100,000
Take Five Subscribers	6,911

Award Sponsorship Benefits

- ◇ \$1,500—four complimentary banquet tickets; \$1,250—three complimentary tickets; \$1,000—two complimentary tickets
- ◇ Photo opportunity with award winner
- ◇ Access to all images taken at event for your publications
- ◇ Network with a variety of decision makers and business leaders
- ◇ The opportunity to erect a promotional table display
- ◇ Listing and weblink in digital event program
- ◇ Recognition in *Penn's Stewards* newsletter and on our website
- ◇ Recognition on rolling screen during reception
- ◇ Visibility on our social media network

What additional sponsorships are available?

Reception Sponsor— \$2,500

Sponsor the appetizers that open the celebration.

Sponsor: Available

Dessert Table Sponsor— \$1,500

Put the ultimate smile on the faces of attendees with a treat to wrap up the evening

Sponsor: Available

Additional Sponsorship Benefits

- ◇ All benefits provided to Award Sponsors *plus*
- ◇ Eight complimentary banquet tickets
- ◇ Display of logo/banner at reception
- ◇ Listing in invitations, link on digital event program, and recognition on PPF website and in *Penn's Stewards*, our newsletter

Consider a Table Sponsorship

- ◇ Full table (8 tickets)—\$600
- ◇ Half table (4 tickets)—\$300

- ◇ Sponsor name and logo displayed throughout the hall
- ◇ Listing in banquet event program and announcement at banquet
- ◇ Recognition in *Penn's Stewards* newsletter and on our website

The mission of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is to inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests

Please see next page for award categories—

The Awards

◇ **Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award—\$1,500** **Sponsor: Available**

Honors an outstanding contribution to the protection and enhancement of Pennsylvania's park and forest system

Award winner: The Pennsylvania Forestry Association

As the oldest state organization in the US dedicated to forest ecology, the PA Forestry Association has an unmatched commitment to stewardship, education, and sustainability. After all, its first president was the Father of Pennsylvania Forestry himself! Continuing from Joseph Rothrock's leadership to the present day, the PFA understands that the health of Penn's Woods is intrinsically tied to the health of all its citizens. Working with both public forest stewards and the even larger cohort of private forest landowners, the PFA continues to educate and engage people in the enjoyment and conservation of Pennsylvania's 17 million acres of forest.

◇ **Joseph Ibberson Government Award—\$1,500** **Sponsor: Available**

Given to a person or department at any level of government; recognizes their work in the stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests

Award winner: Wayne Kober

Wayne took his life-changing inspiration from the very first Earth Day through a 35-year career in the Department of Transportation where the need to marry ever-growing transportation needs to a commitment to environmental stewardship was his guiding philosophy. Eventually, his leadership in the PA Conservation Heritage Project means a continued ability to educate the public on conservation. We salute his role in creation of the Forest Heritage Museum at Caledonia State Park and designation of the James C. Nelson Wild Area (and work-in-progress Nelson Trail) at Tuscarora State Forest.

◇ **Chair's Award—\$1,500** **Sponsor: Available**

Recognizes outstanding citizens or businesses who made a special impact through innovation and creativity

Award winner: Barbara Barksdale

When Barbara began clean-up of overgrown Midland Cemetery in 1993, she thought it was just the little corner where her own grandfather was buried. A plan to just "clean it up a bit" turned into a life's work as graves dating back to 1795 were uncovered throughout the cemetery's 3.5 acres. Sacred ground for former slaves and freemen and –women, veterans from the Civil War through the Korean War, and leaders of Harrisburg's African American community have been lovingly restored with due and overdue respect being given to people and stories long overlooked and a serene and contemplative green space preserved.

◇ **President's Award—\$1,500** **Sponsor: Stahl Sheaffer Engineering**

Recognizes outstanding citizens or businesses who made an impact in protecting open space, conservation, outdoor recreation, or volunteerism

Award winner: Purple Lizard Maps

Outdoor enthusiasts across Pennsylvania (Virginia and West Virginia, too) know that if they need a reliable resource for locating the perfect trail all they have to do is follow the purple lizard. Boasting a comprehensive set of beautifully designed and executed all-weather maps, a companion digital app for use on the go, an engaging social media presence, and, as a long-time supporter of 1% for the Planet, a demonstrated commitment to sustainability, PLM is a great partner for recreation and conservation.

Please see the reverse for more award categories—

◇ **Park of the Year Award—\$1,250**

Sponsor: Available

Recognizes a park for exemplary or innovative work in customer service; education, programming, or recreation; stewardship of the natural, cultural, or historic assets; and/or accommodation of needs of visitors

Award winner: Neshaminy State Park

Neshaminy is very popular with the residents of southeast Pennsylvania. High attendance means capacity is reached multiple times each summer. Aging infrastructure, including a popular but problematic swimming pool, causes extra work. The maintenance crew works to stay ahead of fussy equipment and clean up; rangers are on their toes with traffic and crowd control; support staff works to keep smiles on visitor faces even when closures are required. In spite of these significant challenges, this small number of hands consistently creates a welcoming and safe atmosphere for these many visitors, drawing people back time and again.

◇ **Forest of the Year Award—\$1,250**

Sponsor: Available

Recognizes a forest district for their innovative and exemplary work in both forest management and in providing opportunities for healthful, low-density recreation compatible with the integrity of forest ecosystems; customer service; and the effective use of volunteers

Award winner: William Penn State Forest

Pennsylvania's smallest and most urban forest district is also home to strikingly diverse habitats. Goat Hill Wild Plant Sanctuary is the most ecologically significant tract within the entire State Forest system with two globally rare plants, 19 state-listed plants, two PA Endangered reptiles, and 14 state-listed insect species. If this parcel were the Forest's only priority, the specialized skills needed would be task enough. But staff also stewards Little Tinicum Island in the Delaware, cares for several undeveloped forested parcels such as Gibraltar Hill, and works constantly to connect the culturally diverse citizens of southeastern Pennsylvania to their neighborhood public lands.

◇ **Volunteerism Awards—\$1,000 each for each of the following awards:**

◇ **Volunteer: Individual**

Sponsor: REI

Recognizes outstanding volunteer efforts for a special project for a state park or forest

Award winner: Margarita Caicedo

PPFF's first Latina ambassador has worked tirelessly since coming on board to connect the Spanish-speaking community to Pennsylvania's public lands. Margarita volunteers monthly on Spanish language radio programs focused on the outdoors, has spoken through webinars and media appearances on the important connections between the outdoors and health, and rarely turns down a request to attend an outdoor event to share her personal story of learning the value of being outdoors to her own life. She forges connections through the truth of her own experiences and the force of her own personality.

◇ **Volunteer: Group**

Sponsor: Available

Recognizes outstanding volunteer efforts for a special project for a state park or forest

Award winner: Lackawanna State Park Trail Care Crew

As the name implies, the LSPTCC is all about the trail system at Lackawanna. The 26 miles of existing trail (and adjoining lands of the Countryside Conservancy) are improved and restored through their efforts with

comprehensive long-term plans for expanding the system. The Crew have purchased mowers, blowers, saws, and other tools and are experts in the trail construction arena. Heavy rains in December tried to wash out a bridge restored only hours before. It held!

◇ **Education: Individual Award**

Sponsor: Available

Recognizes the planning and initiation of an outstanding program or ongoing event in a state park or forest

Award winner: Mike Teeter

Is there a big event coming up? A chance to reach hundreds, if not thousands, of outdoor enthusiasts, foodies, beer lovers? If so, Mike (and his family) hop in the car, take PPF materials and the Big Prize Wheel, and devote all needed hours to sharing his untiring enthusiasm for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. He sits in the hot sun, huddles under the tent in steady rain, and always offers a welcome to all who happen by. He helps thank PPF donors by telephone, and is ever looking to share stories of how to create a well-lived life outdoors.

◇ **Education: Group Award**

Sponsor: Available

Award winner: French & Indian War Officers' Corps

2024 marks the 20th year of the Cook Forest French & Indian War Encampment, arguably the finest living history event in the PA State Park system, and the Officers' Corps is the event's key coordinating group. The event resembles a military operation drawing 200-300 high quality re-enactors portraying French, British, Colonial, and Woodland Indians. Most live hours away, but like the 6,000 to 8,000 visitors who attend annually they wouldn't miss it. Cumulatively they often surpass 4,800 volunteer hours in creating outdoor connections to our historical and cultural resources drawing the public into an often-overlooked part of history that played a large role in forming our country.

◇ **Improvement: Individual Award**

Sponsor: Available

Recognizes an effort which has resulted in the physical improvement of facilities

Award winner: Gary Kirk, Friends of White Clay Creek

For many years while the state budget was limited for maintenance staff at the Preserve Gary was the primary caretaker of the Preserve itself. He has spent countless hours clearing downed trees, maintaining sapling fields, creating signage, mowing trails, clearing drainage paths, leveling trails, and building trail bridges. He inspires others to join him in maintaining the trails, enforcing team safety protocols, and rewarding hard work with an annual pizza party. His community spirit, dedication, and character are superlative, and the Preserve would suffer without his leadership and sweat equity.

◇ **Improvement: Group Award**

Sponsor: Available

Recognizes an effort which has resulted in the physical improvement of facilities

Award winner: Friends of Michaux

Hiking, mountain biking, climbing paddling, horses, ATVs—all modes of recreation can be enjoyed in the Michaux State Forest, and the Friends boast an equally impressive array of partnerships and volunteerism opportunities directed to each of these opportunities including an individually-focused trail stewardship program. Their trailer full of tools can be seen out with everyone from the South Central PA Climbers to the Susquehanna Area Mountain Bikers Association ensure a place for every volunteer and trail user in the Michaux.

◇ **Young Volunteer**

Sponsor: Available

Recognizes a significant contribution to a park or forest by a person under the age of 25 through volunteer hours, a significant project, an innovative idea, or more

Award winner: Hung Pham

A junior at Susquehanna Township High School, Hung is a founding member of the Hiking and the Environment club started in Spring 2022. In addition to leading recycling efforts at the school, Hung created flyers and videos to advertise the new club and helped develop a list where the group could hike. His efforts grew the club from a few walkers every Monday to two vans of students visiting state parks and forests, finishing 2023 with a Ricketts Glen trip. Most students in the club had never been in the woods before and now they plan a group camping trip to Worlds End!

Sponsorship in Support of the 2024 Award Winners

Indicate your choice of award sponsorship below.
Please make your check payable to PPF and mail it with this form to
Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation, 704 Lisburn Road, Suite 102, Camp Hill, PA 17011
Credit card payment may be made at <https://ppff.events/2024-banquet-sponsorship>

- \$2,500 Reception Sponsor
- \$1,500 Dessert Table Sponsor
- \$1,500 Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award—PA Forestry Assn
- \$1,500 Joseph Ibberson Government Award—Wayne Kober
- \$1,500 Chair’s Award—Barbara Barksdale

President’s Award—Purple Lizard Maps
Stahl Sheaffer Engineering

- \$1,250 Park of the Year—Neshaminy State Park
- \$1,250 Forest of the Year—William Penn State Forest

Volunteer—Margarita Caicedo—REI

- \$1,000 Volunteer—Lackawanna SP Trail Care Crew
- \$1,000 Education—Mike Teeter
- \$1,000 Education—F&I War Officers’ Corps
- \$1,000 Improvement—Gary Kirk
- \$1,000 Improvement—Friends of Michaux
- \$1,000 Young Volunteer—Hung Pham
- \$600 Full Table \$300 Half Table

Thanks to New Trail Brewing, our 2024 Beer Sponsor

Please complete exactly how you would like to be listed in promotional materials.

Company or Organization Name

Contact Name

Address

Phone

Email

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Table Sponsors: Stahl Sheaffer Engineering