

# Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

Spring 2024 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:

Solar Eclipse? What is That?	1
President's Message	2
2023 Photo Contest Winners	6
Secrets of Outdoor Photography	8
Caring for Your State Parks and Forests	9
Partnerships	11
You Don't Need a Reason to Watch Wildlife, But Here Are Some Anyway	12
Wildlife and Bird Watching	14
Comings and Goings	15
We Will Miss	15
Friends in Action	16
List of Friends	17
You Made it Happen	18

## Contact Us:

### Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

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

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



## Solar Eclipse? What is That?

*By Chris Kemerer, Chief, Education and Interpretation Section, Bureau of State Parks*

On Monday, April 8, around 2:30 in the afternoon the sky will begin to darken, eventually the Sun will disappear, and the darkness of twilight will exist; if only for a few brief minutes. Then the sun will slowly reemerge and by 4:30 it will be as if nothing happened. But something did happen. A celestial phenomenon that has brought fear and awe for thousands of years. Something worth experiencing and seeing for yourself – a Total Solar Eclipse.

All solar eclipses are caused when the Moon's path crosses between the Sun and the Earth, which casts the Moon's shadow on Earth's surface. The area of the Earth within the Moon's shadow experiences a solar eclipse.

This alignment of the Earth, Moon, and Sun that causes solar eclipses occurs every six months. However, due to the Earth's rotation and the Moon's orbit around the Earth, the location or path of these eclipses varies and are spread around the world, making them infrequent in our local communities.

*Photo by NASA*

*Continued on page 3...*

## Board of Directors

### Chairwoman

**Christine (Tina) Molski**  
*REI*

### Vice Chairwoman

**Mary Soderberg**  
*Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park*

### Treasurer

**Dr. James Grace**  
*Retired, DCNR*

### Secretary

**Jessica Lee**  
*Managing Director at CRA | Admired Leadership*

### Directors

**Brian J. Clark**  
*BCK Strategies LLC*

**Paul Fogal**  
*Owner, Pocono Outdoor*

**Kate Harper**  
*Timoney Knox, LLP*

**Mary Hirst**  
*Retired, DCNR Park Manager*

**Matt Hess**  
*Teacher, UPENN LEEAP program*

**Eric Madden**  
*Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.*

**Bradley L. Mallory**  
*Retired, PennDOT, Michael Baker Jr. Inc.*

**Maria Montero**  
*Haggerty, Goldberg, Schleifer & Kupersmith, P.C.*

**Marcus Shoffner**  
*Outdoor Inclusion Coalition*

**Rep. Jim Struzzi**  
*PA House of Representatives*

## Advisory Board

**George Asimos**  
**George Fernandez**  
**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*

What are you going to do with your extra day this year?

That was the question presented by a board member at a recent meeting. We loved the idea of filling that extra day with a new outdoor experience so much that we made it our theme. #LeapIn.

What new adventure awaits YOU in 2024? Is there a new experience you would like to have? A park or forest you have yet to visit that beckons you? We are building the toolbox of resources on the PPFF website, YouTube Channel, and social media outlets to help you to #LeapIn to new experiences. Check out our most recent upload to help you explore the state park and forest wild and natural areas!



*While the new hats look a little odd, they kept us warm during the Arctic Blast—Marci and her husband Joe. Photo by Marci Mowery*

Also new is our latest video, which explores the role of quiet in the outdoors. As one viewer commented: This is a topic we don't talk about enough. But noise has consequences, and I congratulate you for opening this discussion--overdue.

As I write this, we are experiencing an Arctic Blast. Many of you may have experienced frigid temperatures and heavy snow. While the snow provides an opportunity for enjoying winter sports, perhaps the severe cold kept you at home—a perfect day to curl up by the fire with a good book. Speaking of books, check out the 2024 virtual book club schedule and list of readings. Even if you don't participate in the discussions, I hope that you enjoy the curated list of books that may connect you closer to nature or to Pennsylvania.

My connection to nature deepened with the completion of the Level One certification in Mindful Outdoor Leadership through the Kripalu School of Mindful Outdoor Leadership. As you know, I am a firm believer in the benefits of spending time outdoors. The certification I received empowers me to lead mindful outdoor experiences to connect participants to the natural environment. Keep an eye on our calendar for pop-up opportunities near you.

While we are excited to welcome two new interns, we are saddened to say goodbye to a mentor and friend, former PPFF Chair Bruce Heggenstaller. Thank you, Bruce, for your support and guidance over many years.

Enjoy this issue of Penn's Stewards, chock full of new ideas, amazing images, and tools that you can use. As always, I hope that you take pride in the projects that you helped to make possible. Thank you for your support.

Yours in the Outdoors, Marci



*Continued from page 1...*

There are different types of solar eclipses; annular, partial, and total. The type of eclipse is determined by the Moon's distance from the Earth along its orbit. An Annular Solar Eclipse occurs when the Moon is at or near its farthest distance from Earth. Therefore, the Moon appears smaller than the Sun and does not completely obscure it resulting in an eclipse where a ring of sunlight remains visible around the dark disc that is the Moon.

A partial eclipse occurs when the Moon, Sun, and Earth do not perfectly align, resulting in only a part of the Sun being covered. The portion that is visible appears as a bright crescent.

A total solar eclipse, like we will experience on April 8, occurs when the Moon is relatively close to Earth, fully blocking the Sun's light and revealing the Sun's outer atmosphere called the corona. Locations where this occurs are said to be in the path of totality. Pennsylvanians viewing the April 8 eclipse outside the path of totality will experience a partial eclipse.

## What to Expect

Beginning around 2:00 PM on April 8, the Moon's orbit will travel in between the Sun and Earth, marking the beginning of the eclipse. The Moon will appear as a dark shadow biting into the bright sphere of the Sun. Over the next hour, the Moon will continue its forward march, continuing to block more and more of the Sun. Within the path of totality, the total eclipse phase will last from approximately 3:15 PM to 3:20 PM as the Moon completely covers the Sun's surface. The total eclipse phase is the only time during the entirety of the event when it will be safe to view the eclipse with the naked eye. For those outside of the path of totality, it will not be safe for you to view the eclipse with the naked eye.

After just a 3-4 minutes, totality will end and the Sun will begin to reappear. The eclipse will conclude around 4:30 PM.

So, what will it be like during the eclipse within the path of totality? The sky will darken much like dawn or dusk for the short duration of the total eclipse and temperatures will drop. Based on anecdotal evidence, animals active during daylight hours will become quiet, and bed down as if night was approaching. Birds will stop singing, insects will stop foraging. In contrast, nocturnal animals will become more active. You may see or hear owls, bats, crickets, or others.



## Safety

Throughout most of the eclipse, it is not safe to look directly at the sun with the naked eye nor any kind of standard sunglasses. **ONLY** within the path of totality and **ONLY** DURING the brief minutes of the total eclipse, may a person view the eclipse with the naked eye.

At all other times and in all other locations, specialized viewing protection is required to safely view the eclipse. Eclipse viewers can be divided into two categories **DIRECT** Viewers or **INDIRECT** Viewers.

Direct viewers allow the wearer to face the sun while viewing the eclipse. Examples of direct viewers are solar glasses that have ISO 12312-2 certification plus the manufacturer's name and address on them or solar filters, carrying the ISO 12312-2 certification properly fitted to binoculars or telescopes. Sunglasses are not dark enough to protect your eyes during direct viewing.

Indirect viewers create a projection of the Sun that you can view without having to look directly at it. Putting your back to the Sun and latticing your hands together can create an indirect viewer. Colanders can act as an indirect viewer or you can create your own by punching a hole into an index card. During the eclipse, put your back toward the sun and place the index card so that it's 1-2 feet from a light-colored surface. Then simply view the projection.

The main thing to remember is that **ONLY DURING** the brief 3-4 minutes of totality is it safe to view the eclipse with the naked eye.

To learn more about safe solar viewing options, visit [Safety | Eclipses – NASA Solar System Exploration](#)

*Continued on page 4...*

Continued from page 1...

## Where to View

The April 8 Total Solar Eclipse will cross North America from Texas through Arkansas moving northeast through Ohio, New York, and into Canada. The path of totality will cross through a portion of northwest Pennsylvania, including Erie, Crawford, Warren, and Mercer counties. However, most of Pennsylvania lies within the 90% coverage range, meaning most Pennsylvanians will get to experience an awe-inspiring celestial phenomenon regardless of where they are. Therefore, any location with a view of the sky has the potential to be a good viewing location for the eclipse. Local parks, backyards, and - of course - state parks and forests are all potentially good locations to see the eclipse.

Four state parks lie within the path of totality.

- Presque Isle State Park
- Erie Bluffs State Park
- Pymatuning State Park
- Maurice K. Goddard State Park

If you're unable to venture outside to view the eclipse you can also view it via one of these livestreaming events.

[Watch Live Solar Eclipse Broadcasts | Exploratorium | Exploratorium](#)

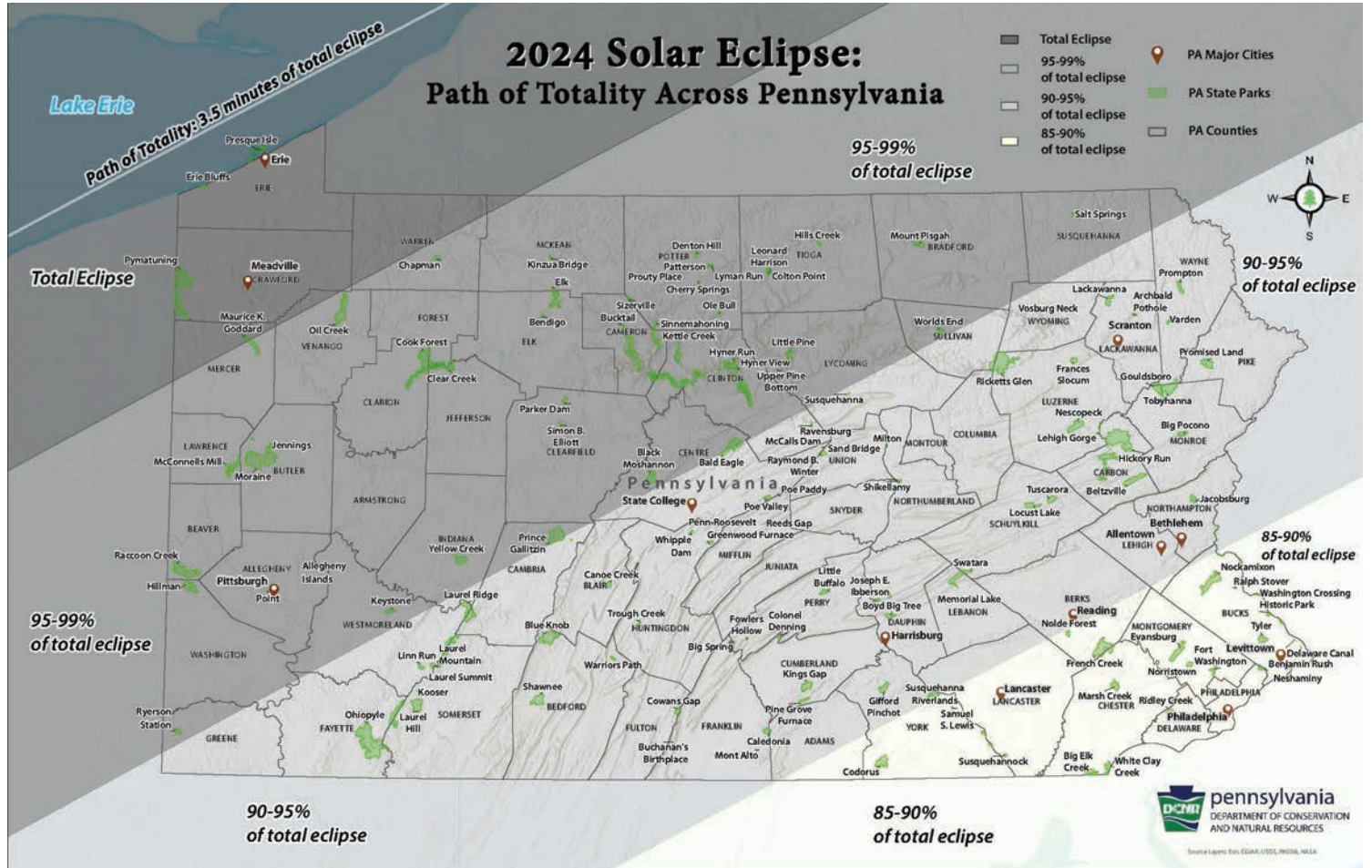
[LIVE Stream: Total Solar Eclipse April 2024 \(timeanddate.com\)](#)

## Plan Ahead

Like all outdoor pursuits, properly planning ahead is crucial to having a safe and enjoyable solar eclipse viewing experience. First, you need to decide if you are traveling to the path of totality or if you're planning to view the eclipse closer to home.

If you plan to travel, make overnight reservations early. Many overnight lodging and campground sites are already booked. If you're thinking of driving in the day of the eclipse, plan for additional time to get to your location as well as to return home. Think of the eclipse like a sporting event or festival with thousands of people attending and trying to park. During the total eclipse of 2017, travel times to locations within totality were twice as long or longer than average.

Continued on page 5...





Continued from page 1...

The second decision you'll want to make is where, exactly, do you want to view the eclipse. Will you venture to a state park? Perhaps a local park? Check the site's webpage ahead of time to see if there will be special restrictions in place.

If you do plan to visit a Pennsylvania state park on April 8, stay informed by regularly checking the alerts at the top of the webpage for the park you plan to visit. On the day of the eclipse, crowds are expected, especially in the northwest, and parks may have to close if they reach capacity.

A few tips if you're planning to visit a state park.

- Come early and stay late – large crowds are anticipated! You should plan around many other visitors sharing viewing spaces and traffic delays during arrival and departure
- Have a plan B location in mind – if a park reaches the maximum capacity identified for parking and safety, it may close entirely for the remainder of the event
- Park only in designated locations – specific parking and viewing areas may be defined
- You may not be able to connect – many parks and forests have little to no cell reception. Cell phone networks and internet service may not work properly in areas that typically do have service during the eclipse

Regardless of where you plan to view the eclipse; a backyard, local park, or a state park; you should plan to be outdoors for a minimum 2 ½ hours during the eclipse. Be prepared by doing or bringing the following things to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

- **Check the weather.** You will be outside for an extended time period so prepare for varied conditions. Weather will also greatly determine the quality of the viewing experience.
- **CRITICAL!** Your own viewing materials such as solar-safe glasses, pinhole projector, solar-safe viewing lenses for binoculars, cameras, or telescopes
- Water
- Snacks or a meal
- Appropriate layers for sunny, cold, or rainy conditions and comfortable walking shoes
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent
- Camp chairs, a blanket, or other seating
- Necessary medications

## Learn More

To learn more about Solar Eclipses, either attend one of DCNR's educational programs [https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/calendar?event\\_types%5B%5D=44684478482246](https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/calendar?event_types%5B%5D=44684478482246) or visit NASA's 2024 Solar Eclipse website: <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/>



# 1.8%

Pennsylvania's 124 make up 1.8% of the nation's nearly 7,000 state parks.

Do we only claim 1.8% of the love? No way!

Once again this year, PPFF will join the other state parks foundations across the US to celebrate *I Love My State Parks Week*.

Watch our social media for ways to show 100% of your devotion to the places that mean the most.

May 12 to May 19

**I love my state parks**

# 2023 Photo Contest Winners

## Best In Show



*Best in Show - Judges' Choice: Bruce Walkovich, Prince Gallitzin State Park (entered in the Conversations category)*



*Best in Show - People's Choice: Kody Beer, Pymatuning State Park (entered in the What Parks & Forests Mean to Me category)*

## Celebrations



*Celebrations - Judges' Choice: Corey Bires, Leonard Harrison State Park*



*Celebrations - People's Choice: Lucretia Robison, Little Pine State Park*



*Celebrations - Runner Up: Elizabeth Vanderhorst, Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center*

## Conversations



*Conversations - Judges' Choice: Matt Giambra, Francis Slocum State Park*



*Conversations - People's Choice: Liz Mickley, Michaux State Forest*



*Conversations - Runner Up: Dave Myers, French Creek State Park*



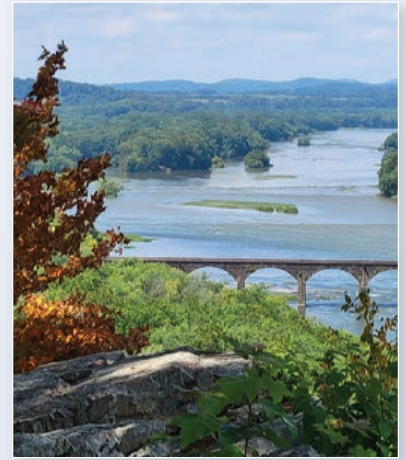
## Meditation



*Meditation - Judges' Choice: Suzanne Enos, Laurel Hill State Park*



*Meditation - People's Choice: Jessica Mitchell, Pine Grove State Park*



*Meditation - Runner Up: Sabrina Walters, Susquehanna Riverlands State Park*

## Mirror Images



*Mirror Images - Judges' Choice: Linda Stager, Elk State Forest*

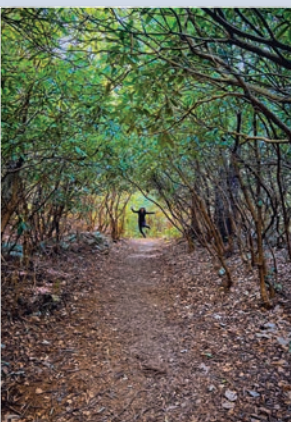


*Mirror Images - People's Choice: Sabrina Hilpert, R. B. Winter State Park*

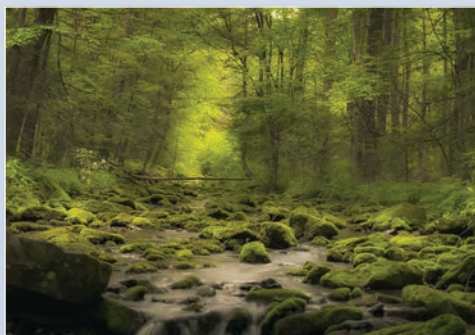


*Mirror Images - Runner Up: Jen Krauss, Nockamixon State Park*

## What State Parks and Forests Mean to Me



*What State Parks and Forests Mean to Me - Judges' Choice: Xu Weng, Hickory Run State Park*



*What State Parks and Forests Mean to Me - People's Choice: Jenna Chryszanavicz, Ravensburg State Park*



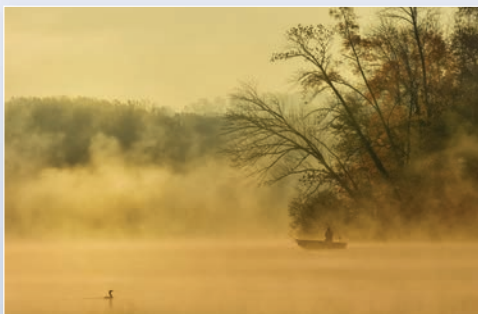
*What State Parks and Forests Mean to Me - Runner Up: Dorothy Monahan, Oil Creek State Park*



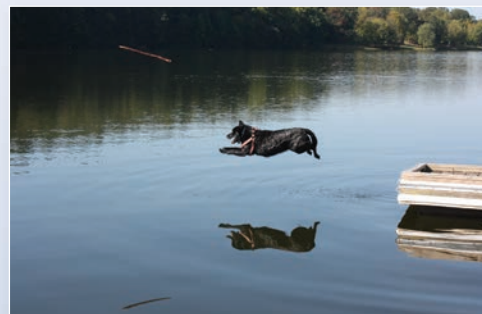
## Young Photographers



*Young Photographers - Judges' Choice: Brodie Bard, McConnells Mill State Park*



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



*Young Photographers - Runner Up: Mikayla Bond, Little Buffalo State Park*



# SECRETS OF OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY

## HINT: THEY'RE REALLY NOT SECRETS

**See the light:** Keep the sun behind you and look for unexpected light sources like water and reflections.

**Stay on the level:** Unless you're trying for an off-kilter effect, keep the horizon level. But don't let it divide your picture in the middle of the frame. It might look cut in half or you might be missing something really interesting in the foreground or sky.

**Focus:** Referring to not just the fuzziness of your view, hone in on what naturally draws the eye as you scan your subject area. Then compose the photo around that focal point.

**Follow where you're led:** "Leading lines" like a stream or trail draw the eye through the photo. Also look for more subtle lines that take you from the foreground to your focal point or some other background interest.

For more great advice, check out our Lunch & Learn with Curt Weinhold, one of the PA Wilds' most celebrated photographers.





# CARING FOR YOUR STATE PARKS AND FORESTS

Pennsylvania's parks and forests are visited by tens of millions of people each year. That is a lot of wear and tear on these precious assets. We all play a role in being good stewards of these shared resources. Below are a few tips to help ensure that Pennsylvania's parks and forests remain available for generations to come.

## PARKING

Park only in designated parking areas. If a parking area is full, look for another lot. Parking on grass can lead to erosion. Parking on tree roots compacts the roots, causing damage to the tree.

## TREES

Ouch! Carving into trees creates pathways for disease and insects and may also lead to girdling of the tree. Sign the guestbook, not trees, rocks, bathroom stalls, etc.

## STONES

Creating cairns with stones may unintentionally impact the habitat of an aquatic organism when in the water or the home of other organisms on land. Leave stones where they lay.

## TRAILS

With 11,000 miles of trails available, it is easy to find a trail to meet almost any form of recreation. With so many trails, there is no need to create new ones. Please stay on designated trails.

## REFUSE

If waste receptacles are unavailable, pack out trash. Plan by having a bag as part of the items packed for the day.

## CAMPFIRES

Campfires are great when they are built in designated fire rings, are attended at all times, and fully extinguished upon retiring or leaving. Otherwise, they are fire hazards.



# 'Leap In' to the 2024 Through the Seasons Photo Contest!

Our categories for 2024 are related to PPFF's salute to the Leap Year. We're encouraging our photographers (and everyone) to celebrate the places and experiences that bring an immersive – or new – experience.

- Awe
- Beyond the Edge
- 'Leap In' to New Experiences
- 'Leap In' to the Lesser Known
- 'Leap In' to Volunteerism
- Young Photographers (ages 12 to 17)



The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers alike. All photos must be taken in a Pennsylvania state park or forest. The submission deadline is September 30, 2024. For full contest details, please visit [PAParksAndForests.org](http://PAParksAndForests.org) or scan the QR code above.



## 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)



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

**Did You Know?** PPFF is able to accept your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donations of stock to support our work and/or projects in state parks and forests.

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



## Partnerships

### French Creek State Park Beer

In October, New Trail Brewing Company released the French Creek State Park Beer, the most recent in the beer series. The proceeds from the beer support the restoration of the Kintzer building.

*Photo by Marci Mowery*



### Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

A thank you to the Weis Markets, Troegs Brewing Company, Pennian Bank, and Mid Penn Bank for choosing PPFF as one of their education partners. Funding through the EITC program supported 155 One Bird Two Habitat programs reaching more than 2000 students, along with 180 Watershed Education programs, reaching 5600 students. Programs are delivered by state park education staff.

*Photo by DCNR*



### Trees for Water Quality Source

New Trail Brewing joined PPFF and Little Pine State Park staff and volunteers for a day of tree planting to replace lost trees which provide much needed shade, wildlife cover, and ecosystem benefits like protecting water quality.



*Photo by Marci Mowery*



## Happy Little Trees 5k An Exciting New Partnership

At the September 2023 conference for the National Association of State Park Foundations, Michigan Department of Natural Resources representative Michelle O'Kelly made attendees an offer we did not want to refuse – join Michigan in promoting a virtual 5k called “Run for the Trees.” Sponsored by the Bob Ross Foundation, the Happy Little Trees 5k takes Bob's determination to spread trees throughout the art world and puts lots of REAL trees in the ground!

Proceeds from the event go to support tree planting in the participating states.

Register prior to March 1 to receive a Happy Little Packet of Goodies including a tee-shirt, participant's bib, sticker, and a finisher's medal but registrations (and donations) can be made until April 1.

Participants can craft their own 5k event during the run's chosen week (Earth Day on April 22 through Arbor Day on April 26). We will host a few in-person 5k opportunities during the Happy Little Week. Watch them sprout on our calendar of events!

For more information on PPFF-hosted activities and to register, visit our calendar of events at <https://ppff.events/Happy-Little-5k-Event>.



# You Don't Need a Reason to Watch Wildlife, But Here Are Some Anyway

By Jessica Aiello



Photo by Matt Schenck

## How Wildlife Watching Is Good for You

Research across the globe shows that wildlife watching conveys many physical, mental, and emotional health benefits to us. Stopping and standing still in nature to observe a passing deer or watch a bluebird fly off from a nearby tree allows our minds to relax. We get to contemplate something external to our lives and just be, which can be a spiritual experience to some. If we are lucky enough, this time outdoors can also create a sense of awe, which PPFF noted in a [September 18, 2023 blog post](#), “has been shown, both anecdotally and scientifically, to have myriad health benefits.”

As Marci Mowery, President of PPFF, said in that post, “The natural world is astounding, and time spent in it can make you feel wonderful. You only need to stop, look around, and listen to experience awe for yourself.”

## How to Successfully View and Photograph Wildlife

So, if you want to reap the many benefits that come from watching wildlife, how do you begin?

“For most wildlife, humans are seen as predators, so it can be difficult to get good views without them noticing and avoiding you,” said Matt Schenck, Environmental Education Specialist at Sinnemahoning State Park in Cameron and Potter counties.

Matt recommends the use of binoculars or a spotting scope to view wildlife from afar, so they don't notice you. However, expensive equipment isn't a requirement. “A little patience can go a long way,” he adds. “Setting yourself up in an area where you anticipate wildlife being and then staying still or moving very little can be a good way to blend into the environment.”

The same stillness is a necessity when it comes to taking great wildlife photos.

“For birds, I like to locate the edges of the forest where the sun hits first thing in the morning,” said Matt. “The early morning light and warmth get insects moving and the birds are attracted to the insects. When I get there, I will stand very still and let the birds and animals get comfortable around me and this can lead to some very close views. I always try to orient myself, so the light is at my back and it's not washing out the subject.”

You don't need to go out and buy a fancy camera with many different lenses, necessarily. These days, cell phones have amazing cameras that are great for capturing smaller subjects like insects, salamanders, and snakes. However, Matt notes that some animals, such as birds, butterflies, and mammals are more skittish and may require a more specialized camera set-up. That includes an experience he had at Hammlin Lake in Smethport, where he was able to capture two male long-tailed ducks chasing each other around, vying for the attention

*Continued on page 13...*





Photo by Matt Schenck

of a single female duck. "Because the males were occupied with trying to deal with each other, I was able to observe and photograph some cool interactions," said Matt.

## Now, Get Out There!

I was going to provide a list of great places to wildlife watch, but then I was reminded of another [PPFF blog post](#) from a couple years ago, where Aura Stauffer, a Wildlife Biologist with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, was asked to provide some of her favorite places to view wildlife. Instead of calling out any one place, Aura wrote, "Go get a map, a GPS or smartphone app, and a compass (yes, a compass) and then pick a trail on the map that looks interesting. Make your own adventures while using Leave No Trace principles. Who knows what wildlife you'll discover!"

Wise words from someone who certainly knows her wildlife! However, if the thought of trudging into the woods without a bit more guidance is daunting to you, then here are a few online resources that can help:

- Type "wildlife watching" into the search bar on [www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov) and find suitable places in state parks and state forests across Pennsylvania.
- See which places [Visit PA](#) recommends.
- Learn more tips and tricks from the experts at the [Pennsylvania Game Commission](#).
- Check out past award-winning wildlife and outdoors photos from PPFF's annual photo contest to get inspired.

We set out to learn about the health and experience of a quiet environment. Watch

## "The Role of Quiet"

by scanning the QR code below or visiting our YouTube Channel



[YouTube.com/PAParksandForests](https://www.youtube.com/PAParksandForests)

14

DAY

05

MONTH

24

YEAR

WATCH THE  
WEBSITE FOR  
REGISTRATION  
INFORMATION

Plan to attend the 2024 Awards Banquet at Little Buffalo State Park as we celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of another amazing group of winners

# Wildlife and Bird Watching

## Be Mindful of Your Impacts

- Don't interfere with the natural behavior of birds or wildlife
- Practice Leave No Trace Principles
- Keep your distance
- Never feed wildlife



## Know Before You Go

Research the bird or wildlife you hope to see—learn about its habitats, habits, etc. Not only will this prepare you for the best opportunities, it helps you better understand the birds and wildlife which you view.



## Timing is Everything

Looking for owls during the middle of the day may prove challenging. Most wildlife is active at dawn and dusk, and some species, those that are nocturnal, may be most active during the night.

Ecotones—or edges of habitats—are often active places to observe wildlife.



## See, Don't be Seen

Blend in with your surroundings but remember to be visible during the hunting season. Included in this is sound—seek to be as quiet as possible to reduce disturbance and increase the likelihood of observing wildlife. Also, remember scent plays an important role for most wildlife—stand downwind and leave the body spray at home.



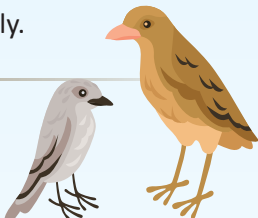
## Seek Cover

Many state parks and forests offer bird blinds for offering quiet observation points. If you are in an area without a blind, sit quietly in an unobtrusive area, but be aware if you are on a wildlife corridor or path.



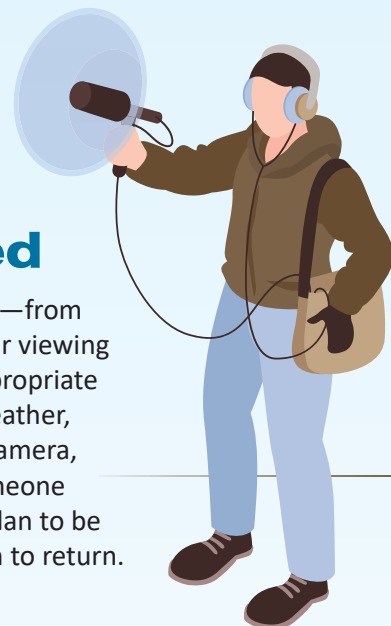
## Channel Your Inner Coyote - Be Stealthy

When we tromp through the forest or paddle loudly on the water, we diminish our chances of seeing wildlife. When you must move, move slowly and quietly.



## Be Prepared

Take the right gear—from assistive devices for viewing to food, water, appropriate clothing for the weather, a map, compass, camera, sunscreen. Let someone know where you plan to be and when you plan to return.





## Comings and Goings

### Martha Moon

Martha Moon joins PPFF as an intern working on the Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage project. Having just graduated with her Master's in Applied History focusing on Museum Studies from Shippensburg University, she is excited to utilize her passion for conservation with PPFF. She will be kicking off her focus on preserving black history stories of PA's camps in the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930's and the diversity of today's current conservation leaders.



If you have conservation stories to share or know of a PA conservationist, young or old, that deserves recognition, feel free to email [intern@paparksandforests.org](mailto:intern@paparksandforests.org). For more information on the history of PA Conservation, please visit the website at [PAConservationHeritage.org](http://PAConservationHeritage.org).

### Garrett Leonard

Garrett Leonard, a student at Shippensburg University, is joining PPFF as an intern while he pursues his degree in Geoenvironmental Science. Having graduated with an Associates Degree in Environmental Science from Bucks County Community College, he brings experience to the table with trail restoration, pollinator habitat restoration, field work in chemistry of soils and creek water, and conservation efforts, such as helping to plant native trees.



While working with PPFF, Garrett will be working on advancing the goals of Healthy Lands Week – which is a statewide initiative to strengthen volunteer activities, engage visitors, and raise awareness of stewardship of cultural and natural resources. He will also be doing writing and research for the Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage project.

## We Will Miss

### Bruce Heggenstaller

PPFF acknowledges with deep sadness the passing of Bruce Heggenstaller, former chair of the Foundation's board.

That one line can't begin to express all that Bruce was and what he meant to PPFF and Pennsylvania's state parks and forests, and especially to President Marci for whom Bruce was a mentor and guiding light in her earliest years assuming leadership of the Foundation. Retired from Woolrich, Bruce knew intimately that part of the state now known as the "Pennsylvania Wilds."

Bruce's reflections in the 2008 annual report (available on our website) give a strong sense of the man. Written as the nation was still reeling from the economic collapse in 2008, Bruce pointed out the need to support the people who work – both as paid staff and as volunteers – who devote so much of their lives to conserving the outdoors for us all. He wrote of his fondness for the PA Grand Canyon and bicycling the Pine Creek Trail, noting that "Nothing compares to suddenly spying a fledgling eagle soaring overhead while the creek meanders on my left and on my right a mountain waterfall rushes toward Pine Creek."

Bruce will be missed by many—his passion for conservation and the outdoors inspired many.



## Friends in Action

### Friends of Shawnee & Blue Knob

A cool autumn night complete with a campfire and goodies, lots of blankets, and Yogi Bear on the big screen added up to a lovely night at the Shawnee amphitheater sponsored by the **Friends of Shawnee & Blue Knob**. And that view? "Hey hey hey!"



### Friends of Colonel Denning

Hearty volunteers from the **Friends of Colonel Denning** "took advantage" of a rainy October Saturday to put in 35 native plants, shrubs, and trees near the park amphitheater, with another 15 going in later that same week. Well, at the least rain meant they wouldn't have to water the new installation quite so much that first day!



### Friends of State Line Barrens

Greenbrier cut? Check. Trees trimmed and grassland mowed? Check. Shingles installed to help with bridge traction? Check. **The Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens** were out in mid-December to continue some Rose Trail work begun by the members of the PA Outdoor Corps.



### Friends of Little Buffalo

When holiday lights and sounds are exceptionally mesmerizing it's easy to lose track of our mittens. Congratulations to the **Friends of Little Buffalo** for helping to Light Up Little Buffalo and provide such a fun community event in spite of some wet and NOT snowy weather.



### Friends of Worlds End

#### The Friends of Worlds End

set a high bar with their quarterly Vista newsletter. Available on their website ([friendsofworldsendsp.org](http://friendsofworldsendsp.org)), the Vista is highly attractive, readable, and loaded with things you need to know for your next visit to the park. In this latest (Winter) issue, you'll read about planned bridge construction in the coming year and some of the great things your support for the Friends has made possible.



Every one of our Chapters is doing amazing things! Support them financially with a membership or donation and, most of all, get involved. Check them out at [PAParksandForests.org/friends-groups/current-chapters](http://PAParksandForests.org/friends-groups/current-chapters). Or scan the QR.





## 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 & Blue Knob  
 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

### New State Park Patches available now

in the PPFF online store



## 2024 PPFF Virtual Book Club

Grab your lunch and join us at 12pm for a book discussion online at <https://paparksandforests.org/event/ppff-virtual-book-club-2/>

- Jan. 31: "Smoke to See By" by Ben Moyer  
 Feb. 28: "Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors" by Carolyn Finney  
 Mar. 27 "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy  
 Apr. 24 "Finding the Mother Tree" by Suzanne Simard  
 May 22: "Living on the Wind" by Scott Weidensaul  
 June 26: "Susquehanna, River of Dreams" by Susan Stranahan  
 July 31: "Coyote America" by Dan Flores  
 Aug. 28: "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson  
 Sept. 25: "On the Trail" by Silas Chamberlin  
 Oct. 30: "Blue Highways" by William Least Heat Moon  
 Nov. 20: "Cradle of Conservation" by Dr. Allen Dietrich-Ward  
 Dec. 18: "My Side of the Mountain" by Jean Craighead George





# You Made it Happen

## Trained Sawyers Making a Difference

When nature drops a tree on a trail, the fallen tree not only blocks the path, it forces people to walk around it creating new trails which can lead to erosion as well as creating potentially harmful conditions. Enter Sawyers and Swampers! Sawyers go through a rigorous training focusing on chainsaw safety and repair, the physics of downed trees, and limbing and bucking strategies. Swampers may also participate in the training and assist the Sawyer in ensuring a clear path of egress, stopping hikers who may walk into a zone of safety, and ensuring the Sawyers remains hydrated and rested. Thank you to those who serve in these important roles!



## Welcome to State Parks and Forests!

More than thirty volunteers, representing friends members, volunteers, and campground hosts, took part in two, two-day educational sessions to build their skills in creating welcoming environments and offering programs. Participants covered such skills as: effective communication, making connections, customer service, and interpretive opportunities.



Photo by DCNR

## Outdoors for Everyone!

Working with the Health and Wellness Director at the Bloomsburg YMCA, PPFF supported the transportation for 34 seniors to enjoy a day of programming at Nescopeck State Park. Knowing the physical, mental and emotional health benefits of spending time in the outdoors, PPFF is excited to support additional programs in 2024.



Photo by Bloomsburg YMCA

## Grit and Gravitas

PPFF President Marci appeared on the Grit and Gravitas Podcast. Anne Carnathan, President & CEO of Universal Media Inc. and Universal Sports & Entertainment (USE), and Anne Deeter Gallaher, founder & CEO of Deeter Gallaher Group, deliver a dose of authentic, straight talk with industry leaders who have forged inspiring paths to business victory! Join Marci as she explores the role of women in the outdoors. [Women in the Wild! | Grit & Gravitas \(podbean.com\)](#)





# You Made it Happen

## Hands on Learning Opportunity

Ninety students, six staff and 15 volunteers applied classroom knowledge during a field trip to Little Buffalo State Park. The Wilderness Wheels Transportation Scholarship program provided funds for the busing, enabling the students to: test the quality of the stream, create water filtration systems, exploring a watershed Enviroscope, and conduct a stormwater simulation using Penn State Extension's "Rain to Drain: Slow the Flow" lesson plan. The students also toured the grist mill, took a hike, and completed a service project, picking walnuts around the mill and stage areas in preparation for upcoming events at Little Buffalo State Park.

The students enjoyed the variety of stations and were especially eager to see the workings of the mill. "I learned that developed lands have the most runoff." – Aviana (in "Rain to Drain") "I liked how we got to use lots of different materials to try to help our watershed."

- Dominick



Photo by Newport School District

## Conserving the State Bird, the Ruffed Grouse

A snowy winter day didn't slow down a field visit to look at the progress at the Grouse Habitat Restoration Project on Shade Mountain in Bald Eagle State Forest. Support from donors, along with funds from the Degenstein Foundation and the Hamer Foundation is creating habitat above the survival line of West Nile Virus. Creating habitat in areas free of the virus will help to repopulate the Grouse whose numbers have been impacted by the virus.



## Hemlocks to Hellbenders

Join Marci Mowery and Christian Alexanderson as they explore the role of PPFF in stewarding Pennsylvania's state parks and forests on the Hemlocks to Hellbenders Podcast.



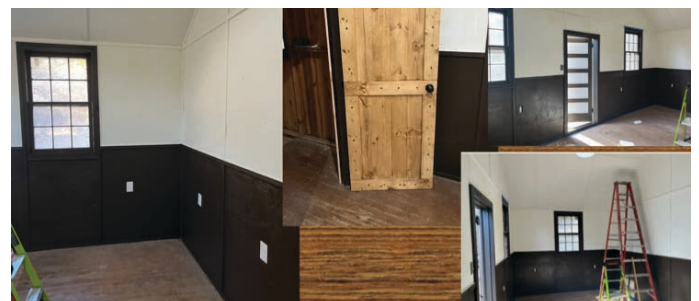
## Conserving History

Progress continues to be made on the restoration of the Kintzer building at French Creek State Park. This building is one of very few camp living quarters remaining across the country and is only one of six CCC camp SP 17 structures still in existence at French Creek State Park of the original 26 built. It is rare to have any of the camp living quarters intact as they were built as temporary buildings for recruits until more permanent structures could be built.

The young men at French Creek rebuilt Hopewell Furnace, as well as built the lakes, roads, trails, picnic areas, and camping facilities in the park that people still enjoy today.

Often, when a project was over the living quarters would be dismantled and the materials used to build something else, like a large lodge or other unique structure. Park manager, James Wassell, said, "I think it's important to save these buildings to tell the full story of the CCC; not just what they built but how and where they lived in the camps and worked in the parks."

PPFF is still raising funds for the restoration and repurpose of the Kintzer building as an education center and gathering place.





704 Lisburn Road, Suite 102  
Camp Hill, PA 17011



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



## Thank you for being on this adventure with us!

Your support during 2023 helped open up opportunities for outdoor recreation for all, advance conservation efforts, build volunteerism, and educate for the future in Pennsylvania state parks and forests.

Photo by Monica Marzani, Lackawanna State Park

## 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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

