



# PENN'S STEWARDS

News from the Pennsylvania  
Parks and Forests Foundation

## Pennsylvania's Natural Legacy

Spring 2006

I disagree with baseball legend Satchel Paige who once said "Never look back, you don't know what might be gaining on you." When looking ahead, it is helpful to know from where you came, so let's take a look back at the complex history of our state park and forest system.

William Penn recognized the value of the Pennsylvania forests and in 1681 issued his Charter of Rights to settlers, ordering the colonists to leave one acre of trees for every five acres of land cleared. This was disregarded, but the woods remained relatively intact until about the 1850s. Much of the American economy in the nineteenth century was based on a forest products industry—demands for lumber were staggering. Early rail needed 80 million crossties a year for expanding lines. Historians estimate that every iron furnace (there were 145 in 1850) needed between 20,000 and 35,000 acres of forest to sustain it. Hemlock bark was the primary source of tannin for the leather industry. Pennsylvania, abundant with hemlock forests, attracted tanneries, which in turn brought sawmills and pulp mills to use the harvested wood for lumber and paper.

Behind the loggers came uncontrolled wild fires, soil erosion, and flooding, leaving in its wake unbelievable devastation. The state's north central region became known as "Pennsylvania's Desert". Due to the efforts of visionary leaders and citizens to protect and restore the land, this area today is known as the "Pennsylvania Wilds."

### Let Protection Begin

Spurred by the 1889 flood in Johnstown that took the lives of 2200 people, Governor James Beaver recognized the need for restoring our lands. As timber companies abandoned land, they often failed to pay taxes, and formerly forested lands came up for tax sale. The state began to purchase some of these lands for watershed protection. Around this same time period, citizens were organizing to protect, study and care for forests. Out of this grew the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, a group that pushed for a state agency devoted to forestry.

A bill signed in 1893 formed the PA Forestry Commission, whose role was to extinguish forest fires and to establish a forest reserve system. The system began with the purchase of 7500 acres in Clinton County to be used to "furnish timber, protect the water supply of Young Woman's Creek, and provide recreation for citizens."

It was also at this time that Pennsylvania's first state park was purchased—Valley Forge State Park (which then became Valley Forge National Historical Park in 1976).

Joseph Rothrock, the Father of Pennsylvania Forestry, and the first President of Pennsylvania

Forestry Association, was appointed the first Commissioner of Forestry in 1895. Rothrock promoted the ideas of conservation, recreation and health. As commissioner, he began purchasing lands for a forest reserve, some of which later became state parks. The lands were used to preserve, protect and propagate forests as well as to protect watersheds. Rothrock applied his knowledge of health and healing to establish camps in forest reserves for people with lung or bronchial infections. Mont Alto was the first of these camps.

By 1900, 110,000 acres were acquired for the forest system. It was also at this time that the status of the Division of Forestry was raised to the State Department of Forestry.

*In 1921, a National Conference on State Parks led by Stephen Mather, of the National Park Service, was held to encourage a state-wide park system modeled after the NPS. At the time of the conference, four parks existed in Pennsylvania.*

Pennsylvania lacked fire wardens and lost one acre of land in five to the wildfires that plagued the landscape. Rothrock, and his successor Conklin, worked to establish a forest academy, which later became part of the Pennsylvania State University. Other steps taken to reduce the devastation of fires were to



Gifford Pinchot with President Roosevelt Photo: DCNR

enact campfire laws and to follow Oregon's lead in developing public camping areas—or campgrounds. By managing and containing campfires, forest fires were greatly reduced.

### A New Department

Gifford Pinchot became the governor of Pennsylvania in 1922. Pinchot was well known as the "Father of Conservation" movement for his work while in the

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## From the President—Marci Mowery

### President

Marci Mowery

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As I read the various publications regarding the history of our state park and forest system in preparation for writing the opening story for this newsletter, I was struck with the concept of our personal histories with the outdoors. My

guess is that if you are reading this newsletter, you understand that concept...Who took you on your first nature hike? Where did you run in the grasses or climb trees? History, for me, is made up by the everyday lives of people, yet we often read history from the perspective of great battles, accomplishments, or obstacles.

#### What is YOUR personal history with nature?

My fascination with Mother Nature began as a child on our annual family treks to the "cabin" on the Bennett Branch of the Sinnemahoning Creek. My grandfather would load us into his Jeep Wrangler—my parents and my two siblings—and drive north for a week of exploration and play in the section of state we now call the "PA Wilds." The creek became our pool, its rocks our skipping stones, its current supplying endless hours of tubing in mere inches of water. The creek at that time held little life, a victim of the byproducts of mining, but my young mind was too immature to understand the significance of this lifelessness.

The cabin sits on the edge of the Quehanna Wild Area, where wildlife abounds. Our youthful

forays into the woods in search of deer later became adult forays in search of elk. Views of bear, rattlesnakes, and other wildlife rewarded the quiet and patient hiker, as did vast patches of blueberries and raspberries (although no need to be quiet here—noise was more the order so as to discourage any face-to-face bear encounters!)

This legacy of connection to the lands of Pennsylvania continues as my family still visits the cabin annually, taking with us not one but two new generations to float in the creek and run pell-mell through the fields. The creek now supports life, a testament to nature's resilience (and perhaps a testament to the fact that I have aged, but we won't go there!) Five generations have enjoyed the lands and waters surrounding the cabin; a cabin that was once part of a lumbering camp that had previously denuded the forests of the "Wilds." Our personal histories intertwine with this piece of land and the surrounding acreage—our lives shaped by the memories.

It is my hope, that as spring spreads her warm breath across the land, that we will load our cars, mount our bicycles, or put on our walking shoes, and head out into nature, be it an abandoned field, a greenway or trail, a family or rented cabin, a city or county park, or one of our many public lands, and create another season of memories in our personal histories with nature.

*Yours in the outdoors —Marci*

*Do to space limitations, we were unable to put in Marci's "President's Pick" column—please visit our website to read about the Great Allegheny Passage.*

## Welcome New Board Members

### Pennsylvania State Senator Rob Wonderling



Senator Wonderling represents the 24<sup>th</sup> district which includes parts of Northampton, Lehigh, Bucks and Montgomery counties. He is Chairman of the Communications and Technology Committee and is working on numerous legislative initiatives to reduce business and property taxes, lower health care costs, and promote economic development and job growth in the Commonwealth.

Prior to becoming a Senator, he served in the Ridge Administration as Deputy Secretary of Transportation. He also worked in the private sector for the Allentown-based Air Products and Chemicals, and headed up a tri-state business association called the PENJERDEL Council. He presently works for Bentley Systems, an engineering and software company based in Pennsylvania.

Senator Wonderling received his B.A. from Allegheny College and has a Masters Degree in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. He resides in Lower Salford Township with his wife Kristin and their three sons.

### Bruce Heggenstaller



Bruce Heggenstaller is Vice President of Operations for Woolrich, Inc., located in Woolrich Pennsylvania. His areas of responsibility include catalog and internet, distribution, MIS, production control, marketing, bottled spring water and all customer services departments.

An avid outdoorsman, Bruce has a strong appreciation of our Commonwealth's natural assets. Bruce also serves on the Board of Directors for Jersey Shore Hospital and Larry's Creek Fish and Game.

# Collector Pin Program to Raise Money for State Parks and Forests

**M**arci Mowery, President of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) is an out of the box thinker. Always looking for new and innovative ways to support state parks and forests, she came up with the PA State Park Tag Program idea last summer.

Modeled after successful programs underway at the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (between Washington D.C. and Cumberland, Maryland) and the Cuyahoga National Recreation Area in Ohio, PPFF partnered with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and launched the program at the Harrisburg Garden Expo in March.

The goal of the program is to generate revenue for improvements in, and raise awareness of, Pennsylvania's 117 state parks and more than 2 million acres of state forests. "Our state parks and forests are jewels that belong to each of us," says Mowery. "Through the state parks tag program, we are giving people an opportunity to show their support for our shared natural resources."

The first in what will be a series of limited edition collectors tags, this year's tag features the artwork of Harrisburg area artist David Lenker. Lenker donated an original watercolor depicting a scene at Pine Grove Furnace State

Park in Cumberland County. The tags are being sold at select state parks and state parks friends groups. *Visit our website for locations—[PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org)*

The 2006 Tag is sponsored by AGRA Biofuels, Pennsylvania's first commercial biodiesel producer in Middletown, near Harrisburg. AGRA Biofuels offers consumers a clean and green alternative fuel for home heating, off-road and on-road vehicles that is a renewable "home grown" energy source, reducing our reliance on foreign oil.

Tag owners can register their tag online to receive email updates about events in state parks and forests, the PPFF newsletter, and to be eligible to win a limited edition print of the Pine Grove Furnace watercolor featured on the tag.

*Limited edition prints of the original watercolor by David Lenker are available for purchase. Contact PPFF at 236-7644 to order, or visit our website: [PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org)*

*In June we will be releasing a 2nd tag in the series to help raise awareness and show support for the Pennsylvania Wilds. The tag will feature the image of a bobcat drawn by Nelson Haas.*



This image of Pine Grove State Furnace Park is what appears on the front of the park tag. The original watercolor was donated by artist David Lenker

*"Our state parks and forests are jewels that belong to each of us," says Mowery. "Through the state parks tag program, we are giving people an opportunity to show their support for our shared natural resources."*

## Garden Expo a Success

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, along with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and other partners, teamed up to create "The Canvas of the Commonwealth" exhibit at the Garden Expo held in Harrisburg in March.



Jennings Environmental Center wildflower prairie vignette Photo: Marci Mowery

The exhibit featured vignettes of five Pennsylvania State Parks. Native plantings set the scene around life-size paintings of an area of each park, inviting visitors to enjoy the feel of the actual locations. The gorge at Ricketts Glen, the boulder field at Hickory Run, the wildflower prairie at Jennings, the bog at Black Moshannon and the beach at Presque Isle were the featured places. The exhibit highlighted the diverse habitats in these parks and the native plants found there.

The four day event attracted 20,000 visitors. Many people stopped by to share memories about trips they had taken to state parks, to ask questions about parks, and to learn more about the Foundation and the work of friends groups. The exhibit won the "Best in Education" category at the Expo.



Sam and Judi Fasick with the Friends of Colonel Denning State Park helped to staff PPFF's exhibit Photo: Ellen Zeph

## Friends of Laurel Hill State Park

### Laurel Hill State Park

Located in Somerset County, Laurel Hill State Park encompasses over 3900 acres of beautiful mountainous terrain in southwestern Pennsylvania. Visitors to the park can fish



Hemlock Natural Area at Laurel Hill State Park  
Photo: DCNR

or boat in the 63-acre Laurel Hill Lake, picnic in three different areas with over 500 picnic tables, or enjoy swimming from the 1200-foot sandy beach on the lake.

Hiking and year-round wildlife viewing take place along 12 miles of trails within the park. Take a walk back in time on the Hemlock Trail amongst an old growth stand of eastern hemlock trees that escaped the logging activity of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hunting is also allowed on approximately 2100 acres during the various hunting seasons.

If you plan an extended stay, the park offers a variety of camping facilities, including 264 tent or trailer sites and eight cottages. Nestled away in a secluded area of the park, visitors can also enjoy the Laurel Hill Lodge, a rustic 2-story, 5-bedroom building with all the modern comforts of home.

While you are there, stop at the Visitor Center to view exhibits and a video on the Civilian Conservation Corps and overall history of the park. The gift shop, operated by the Friends of Laurel Hill, offers books, educational toys, clothes and park souvenirs. The proceeds from your purchases in the gift shop go to support the park's educational and recreational programs.

The Friends of Laurel Hill State Park are an enterprising group of volunteers. An impressive list of just some of the activities the group works on each year includes: Saturday night movies and concessions, firewood and ice sales during camping season, and a gift shop that they started—not to mention pie sales, bluebird box construction, park clean-ups (including a scrap metal day), and most recently, the installation of playground equipment. With 60-70 active volunteers, the Friends logged over 5800 volunteer hours last year.

All this effort doesn't run by itself, however. It takes the talents and time of Sue Bittner, the Volunteer Coordinator for Laurel Hill State Park, to pull everyone together. She's been working and volunteering in the park for nearly eight years. Bittner says the Friends are a hard working, dedicated group of volunteers who have a great fondness for the park. "They make my job a lot easier and work hard to maintain and enrich the park in many ways," she says.

There has been an active group of volunteers supporting the park's activities for over 15 years. That group formalized as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation in 2003. Like other PPF chapters, this allows the group to raise funds as a qualified non-profit organization. "We would not be where we are today," said Bob Hufman, Laurel Hill Park Manager, "without the Friends Group developing the visitor center and helping to supply funds and volunteer labor for the playgrounds and for many other park enhancements."

### Steeped in History

Laurel Hill State Park holds an interesting place in Pennsylvania's park history. In the mid-1930s, the National Park Service was charged with establishing recreational facilities on sub-marginal

agricultural and forest lands using Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor. Called 'Recreational Demonstration Areas', the goal was to establish recreational facilities near major cities so that they were accessible to all citizens. After the heavy logging activity of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the forests around Laurel Hill were denuded with the exception of a stand of old growth eastern hemlocks that still exist in the park today. In need of reforestation and restoration, and because of its proximity to Johnstown, Laurel Hill was

selected to become one of five Recreational Demonstration Areas in Pennsylvania.

In an effort to help lift the country out of the Great Depression, the CCC was just one of several federal relief programs started by President Franklin Roosevelt soon after he took

office in 1933. In 1935, two CCC camps were constructed at Laurel Hill. With approximately 200 men in each camp, the young men (ages 17-23) worked throughout the year to build the park's infrastructure including roads, waterlines, picnic areas, the beach house and 63-acre Laurel Hill Lake. After nine years, and employing over 3 million men nationwide, the onset of WW II ended the CCC in 1942. The park became an official Pennsylvania state park in October, 1945 when the Federal Government began transferring the Demonstration Areas over to the state to be developed as state parks.

Today, visitors to Laurel Hill State Park, and many other state parks in PA, can still see the CCC constructed buildings. The group of buildings which comprised the camp represent the largest collection of CCC architecture anywhere in PA state parks—some 202 structures on 1352 acres. The area was placed on the National Register of Historic places in February, 1987.

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The Visitor Center at Laurel Hill State Park

Photo: Friends of Laurel Hill State Park

**Linking the Present With the Past**

Today, many people probably do not realize the role the CCC played in helping to establish our state park system. In PA alone, there were 113 CCC camps—92 of which were in state forest and park lands. Some of the ‘CCC boys’ as they are called—men who lived at the camp and helped to build Laurel Hill State Park in 1938 & 1939—still participate in the park’s activities today.

On the first Saturday in July, the Friends of Laurel Hill State Park hold an annual Bluebird Celebration. During the celebration, several of the CCC boys, along with volunteers, help families construct bluebird boxes which they take home free of charge.



John Livengood, one of the CCC volunteers, helps children camping at the park to build a bluebird box at the annual Bluebird Festival  
Photo: Friends of Laurel Hill

Last year, over 200 people attended the celebration. Prior to the event, the Friends contact local lumber companies for donations of lumber. The CCC boys then precut all the wood pieces needed to construct the boxes. To help raise funds for park projects like the CCC Memorial, special bluebird boxes handcrafted by the CCC boys are sold in the gift shop.

**Honoring the Past**

The Friends of Laurel Hill have already put together a CCC Museum containing uniforms, tools, pictures, books and other small items. A DVD telling the story of the CCC and first-hand accounts by the CCC men who built the park, now sells in the gift shop. But the Friends want to do more and are in the midst of raising funds to build a memorial at the center of which will be a bronze statue representative of a typical CCC worker during the Depression era.

Helping to keep the legacy of the CCC alive, the plan is to place the memorial



CCC boys, clockwise from top left: Adolph Semich, Walt Walat, Ed Semich, John Livengood, Shimer Darr.  
Photo: Friends of Laurel Hill

directly across from the Visitor Center for all park visitors to see.

To date, the group has received a \$5000 donation to kick off the campaign to raise the \$35,000 needed to erect the memorial. But the Friends seem undaunted by the challenge and feel it is well worth honoring the park’s special history. The “CCC boys” are a part of this park’s history,” says Bittner. “They are a part of the Friends group and help us with so many of our projects—we want to recognize the role they played in building this park.”

When asked the significance of what this memorial to the CCC will mean to the park, Park Manager Bob Huffman replied that “It will memorialize the significant contributions the CCC made to our nation and the Pennsylvania state park system.”

Sources for this article: *Our Priceless Heritage, Pennsylvania State Parks 1893-1993*, Dan Copper; PA DCNR; Laurel Hill State Park; Friends of Laurel Hill.



The Friends received a check from WalMart to help pay for playground equipment at the park.  
Photo: Friends of Laurel Hill

*Here’s How You Can Help*

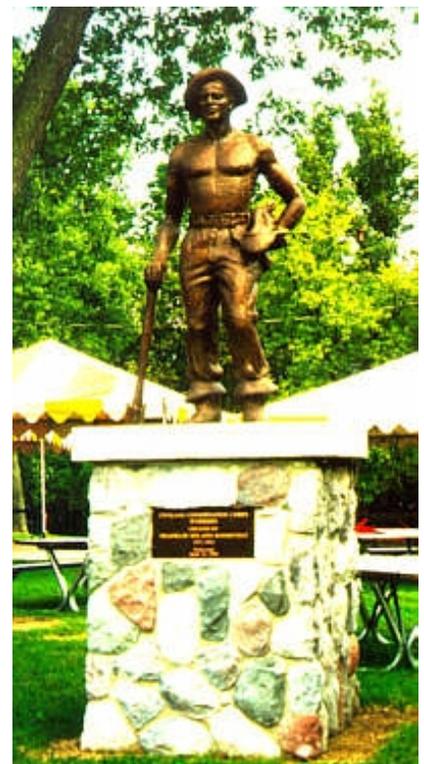
Support the Friends of Laurel Hill by making a tax-deductible contribution to the CCC memorial project.

Make checks payable to:  
Friends of Laurel Hill Chapter of the PA Parks and Forests Foundation (FLHC-PPFF) and mail to:  
Friends of Laurel Hill – CCC Memorial

c/o Laurel Hill State Park  
1454 Laurel Hill Park Road  
Somerset, PA 15501

For more information on Laurel Hill State Park or any other PA State Park, visit: [www.visitPAparks.com](http://www.visitPAparks.com)

For more information on Friends Groups visit:  
[PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org)



The Friends of Laurel Hill plan to purchase a bronze reproduction of a CCC worker during the Great Depression, similar to the one pictured above

## Did You Know?

- ◆ In response to the Earth Day Movement, the PA Constitution was amended in 1970 to include an environmental Article:
 

*“The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustees of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the people.”*
- ◆ A 1970 report stated that it is natural for people to turn to the outdoors to escape from the everyday world of crowded living conditions and the resultant mental and physical stresses and strains. The medical profession and the government warned that Americans need more exercise, more mental relaxation, and more stimulating and inspirational experiences for a happy healthy existence.

US Forest Service and had been hailed for his road program of “getting the farmer out of the mud.” Pinchot worked tirelessly to increase the forest holdings of the state.

In 1923, the Department of Forestry was renamed the Department of Forests and Waters. The Administrative Code of 1929 formed the Bureau of State Parks, which was located in this Department. Pennsylvania was a leader in public lands at this time, ranking number two behind New York with its state owned lands.

The 1930s saw a growing demand for recreation. The PA Parks Association formed to promote land acquisition and outdoor recreation. The Association developed the first statewide plan for state parks, which recognized a deficiency in quantity and distribution of land in relation to its populations, with 1.3 acres of park per 1000 residents. The report recommended 10 acres per 1000 residents, an almost 10-fold increase.

## Era of the Civilian Conservation Corps



During the time of the Great Depression, Pennsylvania was fortunate to receive assistance in park and forest restoration and development from the Civilian Conservation Corps (see story on Laurel Hill State Park.) CCC

workers, or “Roosevelt’s Tree Army” as they were called, accomplished much in the Commonwealth. Within one year, PA had 104 CCC camps, 92 of them in state forests and parks, many involved in recreation and infrastructure projects, as well as reforestation, water quality, and flood control. By 1935 Pennsylvania had 113 active CCC camps, second only to California. The CCC era lasted for nine years, ending with the onset of WWII.

## Goddard Era

The tenure of Forests and Waters Secretary Maurice K. Goddard (1955-1970, and 1970-1979 as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources), also known as the “Goddard Era of State Parks” brought huge changes to the park system. Post WWII saw much land being removed for housing, malls, industrial parks, schools, and roads. At the same time, decision makers saw an increased demand for parks and forests for recreation due to shorter work weeks, economic boom, more families with cars, improved roads, paid vacations and increasing populations.

It was thought that an open space program could help with the economic and social woes of the Commonwealth. Industry was declining, and the state saw a potential new source of revenue—tourism. Goddard enacted Pennsylvania’s open space program and set the



Dr. Maurice K. Goddard

Photo: DCNR

goal of one park within 25 miles of every Pennsylvanian. With the determination of a man on a mission, Goddard established 42 parks and 130,000 acres of land during this 15-year period!

In 1976, because of the vision and hard work of Pennsylvania’s leaders in conservation, Pennsylvania won the National Gold Medal for excellence in park and recreation administration. Pennsylvania was judged the Grand Award Winner among states nationwide. The National Gold Medal Awards program was sponsored by The Sports Foundation, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. The awards program was designed to focus national attention on communities of all sizes for their outstanding accomplishments in the development of park

### PARKS & FORESTS FACTS

#### Pennsylvania State Parks:

1955 — 8 million visitors  
 1961 — 24 million visitors  
 2004 — 35 million visitors  
 2005 — 38.8 million visitors

#### Forest Reserve:

1895 — 0 acres  
 1905 — 632,000 acres  
 1935 — 1,660,200 acres  
 1965 — 1,898,800 acres  
 1995 — 2,100,000 acres

and recreation programs. In 1976 an additional award was made to a state for outstanding achievement in park and recreation management.

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## Today

Over a century after the first lands were purchased for a parks and forest reserve system, Pennsylvania has one of largest park systems in the nation, with 117 parks, encompassing 290,000 acres of land (which equals 1% of PA's total land acreage or 1 out of 100 acres of land in PA is a state park) and 2.1 million acres of state forests. We have one of the most recognized forest systems in the US, with almost 60%—more than 17 million acres of the Commonwealth—consisting of quality hardwood forests. These lands are home to numerous rare plants and endangered species, while also protecting 25,000 miles of streams and rivers.

It is difficult to sum up the complex history of our park and forest system in a few paragraphs, but it is important to become acquainted with a least the essence of this history and the role of both visionary leaders and Pennsylvania citizens. The current Action Agenda of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) provides ample opportunity for citizen involvement in the continued protection of all our natural resources, not just those that are publicly owned. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation strives to create this constituency for natural resource protection by connecting

people to the land, through the activities of friends groups, events and opportunities, and through public education.

The next time you stroll along your favorite trail, paddle a stretch of river, or simply lay on your back and gaze at the stars, remember that we all have a role in continuing the legacy of our conservation minded forbearers, so that Pennsylvania can continue to be a great place to live, work and play.

### Sources for this article:

History of State Parks by William Forrey, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1984.

Outdoor Recreation Horizons. PA Department of Forests and Waters, 1970.

Our Priceless Heritage: Pennsylvania State Parks by Dan Cupper, Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, 1993.

Powerpoint presentation prepared by Joe Frassetta

The following articles from the DCNR website—[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/):

- State Forest Management Plan
- The Legacy of Penn's Woods—1895-1995

## Outdoor Recreation

The concept of outdoor recreation as a legitimate use of time is fairly recent. During most of the nation's history, moralists tended to frown on those who employed their leisure



Boating — Pine Grove Furnace State Park  
Photo: DCNR

time for outdoor play, often viewing it somewhere on the continuum from sinful to frivolous. The notion of leisure time for outdoor recreation was alien—early pioneers were kept alive by an ex-

hausting routine of physical labor from dawn to dusk.

Not that recreation as such was a priority—the early settlers had few of the stressors common to modern life. But early settlers spent the entire day raising their own food, doing chores, “maintaining” their lives which really precluded any idle time—unless you were a person of means. This all changed with the Industrial Revolution, which brought with it urbanization of citizenry and a population explosion. By 1950, more than half of American people lived in urban areas. Today, 75% of American people live in urban areas. Most work indoors, doing jobs that require little to no physical labor. Studies have linked this sedentary lifestyle to a decline in health and a variety of maladies—including the current nationwide obesity epidemic!

# Recreation Leader Remembered — Tim Keptner, Vanyla Tierney-DCNR



Family, friends and colleagues will all miss Don Gephart who passed away on January 9, 2006 after a valiant battle with cancer.

Don was best known for

leading the recreational movement in his hometown area as the Parks and Recreation Director for Loyalsock Township from 1988 to 1999.

One of Don's proudest efforts was his work in helping to secure the acquisition of land for the Loyalsock Township Riverfront Park along the Susquehanna River and the development of the Riverfront Park Master Plan.

In 1999, Don came to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as the Recreation and Parks Advisor for the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation's Southeast Regional Office, headquartered in Philadelphia. In August of 2002, Don was promoted to Supervisor of the Southeast Regional Office. It was not long after this that Don was diagnosed with cancer.

Don was a friend, mentor, and inspiration to many throughout the state. A colleague in DCNR summed it up in the following way: “He was a true Recreation, Parks and Conservation Professional of very high character. There are many of us who lived and breathed the life of Community Recreation and Parks just as Don did in Loyalsock, but he had a tremendous vision and passion for conservation as well. I believe it was Don's intensity and life experiences that made him the solid professional he was.”

## A Living Tribute

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was designated a recipient of contributions given in memory of Don Gephart Jr.

All contributions given in memory of Don will be used to continue our work in partnership with state parks and forests establishing friends groups and engaging people in outdoor recreation, education and volunteerism. Gifts to this memorial fund will help us to build a culture of stewardship for our public lands.

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation thanks Don's family for continuing his legacy by supporting the work of the Foundation.

# State Parks News



Beach at Beltzville State Park—Carbon County Photo: DCNR

## On-line Reservations for State Parks

Making a reservation at a Pennsylvania State Park just got easier. Park visitors can now use the internet to make a reservation for a state park campsite, cabin, or pavilion at any time of the day or night, and at their convenience.

### To Make a Reservation

- ◆ Visit [www.visitPAparks.com](http://www.visitPAparks.com) and click on “Reservations” on the green toolbar.
- ◆ You can access the reservation system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visitors can charge reservation on their credit cards.
- ◆ You can still call the toll-free number (888-PA-PARKS) to receive information or make a reservation Monday – Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).

## Pets in Parks

Pets are now allowed in 25 state parks in designated campgrounds and campsites. Pets include any dog or cat commonly kept in household captivity, or a caged pet that will not leave it’s cage for the duration of the stay at the state park (like birds or hamsters).

No more than two non-caged pets are allowed to stay on any one campsite and there is a \$2 charge per night for one or two pets.

To find out more information call any PA state park office or 888-PA-PARKS or on the web:

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/recreation/pets.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/recreation/pets.aspx)

## Friends of M.K. Goddard State Park Win Award



Park cleanups are just one of the many activities that Friends of Goddard members perform during the year Photo: Becky Piccolin

One of the first groups to form as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, the Friends of M.K. Goddard State Park, was awarded “2005 Group Volunteer of the Year Award” from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Since it’s formation three years ago, the Friends (commonly known as FrOG) have aided the park’s environmental interpretive programs. In 2005, the groups approximately 30 members devoted several thousand volunteer hours to many projects including running the annual Pioneer Frolic Festival. Monies raised from the festival have been a principal source of fundraising for the various other events and projects coordinated by FrOG including the purchase of several Purple Martin houses to expand an existing program, a Youth Learning Series picnic and program, \$800 electric upgrade to the Marina pavilion, as well as an Eagle Scout project in which a large bulletin board with a roof was built for the Marina bicycle trailhead.

The group also assisted in Goddard Safety Days, a joint program between the park and the PA Department of Health and spent over 500 hours involved in park cleanups.

Friends of Goddard have also been instrumental in deepening the parks interaction with the community. Through the committed service of FrOG members, the park has been able to host numerous community events and programs, and has been able to expand support for community groups such as volunteer fire companies and local scout groups.

The groups’ dedication to the park has enhanced the park’s resources and the experience offered to park visitors. Congratulations Friends of Goddard State Park!

*(Excerpted from award ceremony speech given by Roger Fickes, Director of the Bureau of State Parks)*

### Other Award Recipients Included:

#### DCNR Volunteer of the Year 20005

Individual: Karen Lippy, Codorus State Park

#### Bureau Volunteer of the Year 2005

Group: Muddy Creek Oil Field Volunteers  
Individual: Ruth Cochios, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

Keith Taylor—Bureau Award  
Ryan Dysinger/Mike Redding— Special Award

Chip Harrison—Directors Award  
William Greene—Special Award



Friends of Goddard State Park received the 2005 Volunteer Group of the Year Award. Friends members pictured here are Becky Piccolin (holding award), Dennis & Cheryl Ferguson (left), George Riedmuller (Board Chair), Gene Brenneman (Vice President), Roger Fickes (Director, Bureau of State Parks), Don Campbell (Park Manager), Ada Free (DCNR) and Gene Free Photo: Ron Powell



# PA Parks and Forests Foundation Annual Report 2005



105 N. Front Street Suite 305 Harrisburg, PA 17101 717-236-7644 www.PaParksAndForests.org

## Why PPF is a Valued Institution in Pennsylvania

**PA Parks and Forests Foundation is the premier foundation supporting Pennsylvania's parks and forests. Our mission is to "Enhance Pennsylvania's parks and forests, protect Pennsylvania's natural resources, and support conservation and environmental programs." We accomplish this by:**

- ◆ Working in partnership with state parks and forests to establish a network of friends groups who become the voice and stewards of our public lands
- ◆ Creating public/private partnerships at the local, regional and state levels
- ◆ Providing a tax-deductible vehicle to allow citizens to donate or bequeath money to Pennsylvania's state parks and forests
- ◆ Engaging people in outdoor recreation, education and volunteerism

**PPFF works to establish and assist friends groups that support their park or forest by:**

- ◆ Coordinating special events
- ◆ Providing ongoing trail maintenance
- ◆ Helping with construction projects
- ◆ Working on conservation projects
- ◆ Enhancing education and interpretation
- ◆ Providing outreach to the community
- ◆ Creating awareness about the value of their state park and forest
- ◆ Fundraising to support all of the above

By supporting their park or forest, these groups are not only making their park a better place, they are supporting the tourism economy in the Commonwealth and connecting parks and forests to their local communities.

## Creating Partnerships

**Establishing friends groups for parks and forests is one of the primary goals of PPF.**

Since its inception in 1999, PPF has formed 15 chapters with *seven of these being established in 2005*. There are an additional 14 groups that operate independently, as well as several informal groups that support state parks.

These groups collectively support 27 state parks and one forest district. Our goal is to grow the number of groups working with our state parks and forests.

**B**elieving that each generation is responsible for leaving a legacy of good stewardship, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was established in 1999 to give users and supporters of Pennsylvania's parks and forests a positive way to contribute to the conservation of our publicly owned lands.

## Raising Funds

**Like a community foundation, PPF establishes and holds accounts for different friends groups as well as individual state parks and forests.**

**Funds raised by PPF chapters go directly into these accounts and are used exclusively to support projects within the state park or forest.**

**Monies raised come from private contributions, member dues, sales, special events and foundation grants. In 2005:**

- ◆ PPF secured a grant from the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, as well as a grant from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- ◆ \$157,697 was raised for state park and forest accounts and \$105,052 was spent in project funds

## Engaging People

*By creating friends groups, PPFf helps to engage volunteers of all ages by connecting them to their state park or forest.*

*In 2005, friends groups have each engaged anywhere from 10 to 200 volunteers who worked on a variety of projects:*

- ◆ Built a handicapped accessible fishing pier at Colonel Denning State Park
- ◆ Cleaned up a large area of discarded junk at Laurel Hill State Park and sold the scrap metal to raise over \$11,000 for park projects
- ◆ Held numerous park clean ups and provided monthly trail maintenance
- ◆ Coordinated numerous annual events such as the Holiday House Tour and 3rd Annual photo contest at Ridley Creek State Park, the first annual Outdoor Craft Show at Colonel Denning State Park or the Old Home Days at Greenwood Furnace State Park

*In 2005, the then nine chapters of PPFf logged over 30,000 volunteer hours supporting state parks and forests and attracted over 80,000 visitors to events that they held.*



Charcoal Demonstration at Greenwood Furnace State Park's Old Home Days  
Photo: Friends of Greenwood State Park

## Acquiring New Lands

*Working in partnership with land conservancies and private land owners, PPFf helps to facilitate land acquisitions that are eventually added to our public lands.*

In 2005, PPFf consulted on a number of land acquisitions and potential easements with various partners including the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Conservation Foundation.

## Building Capacity

*In 2005, PPFf worked to build the capacity of friends groups:*

- ◆ Launched 7 new friends groups and met with many additional people interested in forming chapters
- ◆ Provided consulting sessions for friends groups on a variety of topics including: fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and board management
- ◆ Conducted workshops at conferences on how to form a friends group as well as presentations at professional meetings on the work of the Foundation and nature tourism
- ◆ Developed the first PA State Parks Tag Program to raise funds for state parks through the sale of a collector's pin

*In 2005 we also worked hard to build organizational capacity:*

- ◆ Developed regular communications including a newsletter, annual report and an updated website
- ◆ Conducted a strategic planning session that resulted in a plan that will guide our work over the next three years
- ◆ Raised funds through the organizations first ever mail appeal—reaching out to citizens across the Commonwealth to help create a culture of stewardship for our public lands
- ◆ Recruited two new board members, Senator Rob Wonderling and Bruce Heggenstaller who bring additional business and organizational skills, as well as a commitment to making Pennsylvania a great place to live, work and visit
- ◆ Established an internship program

*PPFf, in working toward our goal of stewardship of Pennsylvania's public lands, now sits on the following committees or organizations:*

Pennsylvania Habitat Council  
DCNR Recreation Advisory Committee  
DCNR Recreation Advisory Committee—Invasive Species Sub-committee



Creative Fundraising:  
Proceeds from the sale of scrap metal from a park cleanup held at Laurel Hill State park netted over \$11,000 which enabled the group to buy new playground equipment for the park

Photo: Friends of Laurel Hill

### PPFf MISSION

*To enhance Pennsylvania's Parks and Forests, protect Pennsylvania's natural resources, and support conservation and environmental programs.*

## PPFF CHAPTERS

Black Moshannon State Park  
**Friends of Black Moshannon State Park**  
 Chris Reese, Park Manager  
 (814) 342-5960

Codorus State Park  
**Friends of Codorus State Park**  
 Warren Wernitz, Park Mgr.  
 (717) 637-2816  
[www.friendsofcodorus.org](http://www.friendsofcodorus.org)

Colonel Denning State Park  
**Friends of Colonel Denning State Park**  
 Judi Fasick, Treasurer  
 (717) 567-2013  
[fasick@pa.net](mailto:fasick@pa.net)

Denton Hill State Park  
**Friends of Denton Hill State Park**  
 Molly Bovard, President  
 (215) 453-3171  
[mbovard@voicenet.com](mailto:mbovard@voicenet.com)

Greenwood Furnace State Park  
**Friends of Greenwood Furnace**  
 Denson Groenendaal  
 (814) 667-2082

Hickory Run State Park  
**Friends of Hickory Run**  
 Rob and Sally Sayre  
 (610) 298-2439  
[rsayre5615@hotmail.com](mailto:rsayre5615@hotmail.com)  
[www.friendsofhickoryrun.org](http://www.friendsofhickoryrun.org)

Keystone State Park  
**Friends of Keystone State Park**  
 Pam McQuistian, Env. Ed Specialist  
 (724) 668-2566  
[kpnature@nb.net](mailto:kpnature@nb.net)

Laurel Hill State Park  
**Friends of Laurel Hill State Park**  
 Sue Bittner, Volunteer Coordinator  
 (814) 445-6085  
[jsbittner721@yahoo.com](mailto:jsbittner721@yahoo.com)

Linn Run State Park  
**Linn Run and Forbes State Forest Outdoor Commission**  
 Butch Bellas, President

Milton State Park  
**Friends of Milton State Park**  
 Tom Deans, President  
 (570) 742-9684  
[tomdeans@jlink.net](mailto:tomdeans@jlink.net)

M.K. Goddard State Park  
**Friends of Goddard State Park**  
 Becky Piccolin, President  
 (724) 253-4833  
[piccolin@advntr.com](mailto:piccolin@advntr.com)

Ohiopyle State Park  
**Friends of Ohio pyle State Park**  
 Stacie Faust, Asst. Park Mgr.  
 (724) 329-8591  
[www.friendsofohiopyle.org](http://www.friendsofohiopyle.org)

Oil Creek State Park  
**Friends of Oil Creek State Park**  
 Holly Best, Park Manager  
 (814) 676-5915

Ridley Creek State Park  
**Friends of Ridley Creek State Park**  
 Tim Higgins, President  
 (610) 355-9208  
[timhiggins2@msn.com](mailto:timhiggins2@msn.com)  
[www.friendsofrcsp.org](http://www.friendsofrcsp.org)

Ryerson Station State Park  
**Friends of Ryerson Station State Park**  
 Lisa Bennett, Treasurer  
 (724) 852-5278  
[lbennett@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:lbennett@co.greene.pa.us)

## OTHER FRIENDS GROUPS

Caledonia State Park  
**Friends of Caledonia**  
 Edwin Bolt, President  
 (717) 352-2161  
[lebolt514@earthlink.net](mailto:lebolt514@earthlink.net)

Delaware Canal State Park  
**Friends of the Delaware Canal**  
 Susan Taylor, Executive Director  
 (215) 862-2021  
[fodc@erols.com](mailto:fodc@erols.com)  
[www.fodc.org](http://www.fodc.org)

Fort Washington State Park  
**Friends of Fort Washington State Park**  
 Marylea Klauder  
 (215) 884-2555

Jennings Environmental Education Center  
**3MJ Comission**  
 Noel Plummer, President  
 (724) 368-8084  
[nap5067@aol.com](mailto:nap5067@aol.com)

McConnell's Mill State Park  
**Friends of McConnell's Mill**  
 Doniele Andrus, President  
 (724) 284-5138  
[info@fmmsp.org](mailto:info@fmmsp.org)  
[www.fmmsp.org](http://www.fmmsp.org)

Moraine State Park  
**Moraine Preservation Fund**  
 Heather Jerry  
[hscuyler@yahoo.com](mailto:hscuyler@yahoo.com)

Nescopeck State Park  
**Friends of the Nescopeck**  
 Alan Gregory  
 (570) 788-1425  
[meg5@psu.edu](mailto:meg5@psu.edu)  
[www.friendsofthenescopeck.org](http://www.friendsofthenescopeck.org)

Presque Isle State Park – 3 groups:  
**Friends of Tom Ridge Center**  
 Ann DiTullio, Executive Director  
 (814) 833-5049  
[aditullio@state.pa.us](mailto:aditullio@state.pa.us)  
[www.friendsofthetomridgecenter.org](http://www.friendsofthetomridgecenter.org)

**Presque Isle Partnership**  
 Steve McDermott, Director  
 (814) 838-5138  
[smcdermott16509@aol.com](mailto:smcdermott16509@aol.com)  
[www.presqueisle.org](http://www.presqueisle.org)

Tom Ridge Center  
**Regional Science Consortium**  
 Jerry Covert, Executive Director  
 (814) 835-6975  
[Jbcovert1@RegSciConsort.com](mailto:Jbcovert1@RegSciConsort.com)  
[www.RegSciConsort.com](http://www.RegSciConsort.com)

Prompton State Park  
**Friends of Prompton State Park**  
 Sue Gregory, Secretary  
 (570) 937-4822  
[Sgregory7@yahoo.com](mailto:Sgregory7@yahoo.com)

Pymatuning State Park  
**Pymatuning Lake Association**  
 Dewey Forsythe, President  
 (724) 927-2276  
[pymalake@nauticom.net](mailto:pymalake@nauticom.net)  
[www.pymatuninglake.com](http://www.pymatuninglake.com)

Raccoon Creek State Park  
**Friends of Raccoon State Park**  
 Mark Christy, President  
 (724) 899-2200  
[email@freindsufraccoon.com](mailto:email@freindsufraccoon.com)  
[www.friendsofraccoon.com](http://www.friendsofraccoon.com)

Salt Springs State Park  
**Friends of Salt Springs State Park**  
 Bob Coy, President  
 (570) 967-7275  
[president@Friendsofsaltspingspark.org](mailto:president@Friendsofsaltspingspark.org)

*To learn more about forming a Friends group, contact Marci Mowery:*

(717) 236-7644  
[mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net)  
 or  
 visit our website:  
[PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org)



**PENN'S STEWARDS**  
Newsletter of the Pennsylvania  
Parks and Forests Foundation

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**2005 Annual Report Inside**

*Support your PA State Parks—purchase  
a state park tag!*

## Mark Your Calendars

### *Forever Wild-2006—Concert with Walkin' Jim Stoltz*

The 20th anniversary multi-media concert to be presented by long-distance, solo wilderness hiker Walkin' Jim Stoltz continues to gain support and momentum in our area. Walkin' Jim is a folk singer who plays guitar and harmonica and sings deep from his heart about the wild places and wild creatures he has seen on his long journeys in the backcountry. His concerts transport you to the wild places yourself, while you watch his outstanding nature images appear and disappear on the big screen. He is truly an inspiration and touches a place in our souls that allows us to feel that we, too, can make a difference in protecting our miraculous, natural world. For regularly updated information about Walkin' Jim and his 2006 tour, visit [www.foreverwild.info](http://www.foreverwild.info)

**Date:** September 23, 2006

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Mechanicsburg Middle School

**For more information call** (717) 732-5615 or  
**email:** [mitandpak@aol.com](mailto:mitandpak@aol.com)

The event is being organized by the Appalachian Audubon Society and is co-sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, The Bluebird Society of PA, Sierra Club-Governor Pinchot chapter, the Manada Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy-PA, Physicians for Social Responsibility and the *Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation*.

### *Third Annual Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend*

Bureau of Forestry's Sproul State Forest in partnership with Keystone Trails Association, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, and The Greater Renovo Area Heritage Park Vision Project present a weekend of hiking in the Sproul State Forest. There will be over 20 hikes to choose from as well as evening presentations on the Civilian Conservation Corps and outdoor equipment. Everyone is welcome. There is a registration and lodging fee.

**Date:** July 21-23, 2006

**To Register:** [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) or contact Marci Mowery:  
[mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net), (717) 236-7644

### *Absorb the Forbes*

A second hiking weekend is being organized in the Laurel Highlands. This is in partnership with Forbes State Forest, Keystone Trails Association and Linn Runn State Park.

**Date:** August 18-20, 2006

**For more information:** [PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org)

**For a listing of special events in state parks, see our website:**  
[PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org)

**For a calendar of all events being held in state parks:**  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/calendar/](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/calendar/)