



# PENN'S STEWARDS

News from the Pennsylvania  
Parks and Forests Foundation

Spring 2007

## Civilian Conservation Corps Honored at PPF Awards Banquet



### Keystone Legacy Award Honors Civilian Conservation Corps

Five members of the Corps were in attendance to receive their awards. Left to right: Bruce Heggenstaller, Woolrich, Inc., (Award Sponsor), Robert Overkott, Marci Mowery, (PPFF President), Adolph Semich, Edward Semich, Leonard Parucha, and Edward Huszar.

On April 24, PPF and 140 conservation and business leaders along with other invited guests, assembled at the Harrisburg Country Club to recognize seven groups, facilities and individuals for exemplary service, programs and work to protect and enhance Pennsylvania's state park and forest system.

The top honor, the Keystone Legacy Award, sponsored by Woolrich, Inc., was presented to members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who from 1933-1942, were the workforce reclaiming Pennsylvania's ravaged lands and making improvements to state parks and forests.

"Special recognition goes to the members of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Their hard work and sacrifices decades ago live on in the beautiful and well-constructed structures that continue to grace our parks and the stately forests that they helped establish," said Marci Mowery, President of PPF.

—See page 5 for more award winners.

## Prevention is the Key when Dealing with Invasive Species

As recently as a few years ago, hiking was a thoroughly pleasant experience for me. I could look around at what I thought to be native plants and animals and feel content. The beauty of Pennsylvania's forests, fields, and rivers seemed unrivalled and enduring. However, through my job as Natural Resource Program Specialist for DCNR's Office of Conservation Science, I learned of the science fiction-like story that is "invasive species," and would never again be able to look at a landscape without thinking, "What doesn't belong?" Invasive species had compromised my outdoor experience.

### Defining the Problem

Invasive species are those non-native plants, animals, and pathogens that cause, or are likely to cause, harm to human health, the environment, and the economy. Why should you, as friends of

Pennsylvania's state parks and forests, care about invasive species? Many invasive plants grow so densely and quickly that native plants can no longer grow. Native plants provide food and shelter for native wildlife, whereas most invasive plants provide little to no wildlife benefits. When invasive plants move in, the habitat quality may be compromised! In addition, densely growing invasives can block trails and waterways, making recreational opportunities difficult, if not impossible. Plus it's usually much more interesting to hike through a diverse and attractive landscape, rather than through a monoculture of invasives.



Japanese stilt grass at Cowans Gap State Park.  
Photo: Jessica Sprajcar

From the lush forests of Sproul State Forest, to the urban setting of Ridley Creek State Park, invasive species are spreading at an alarming rate. Backyards, school

—Continued on Page 6

## From the President—*Marci Mowery*

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Marci Mowery

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Time passes quickly these days (my Mom always warned me about that!), and already we are moving into summer, with its myriad of sports, outdoor adventures and family vacations.

As you travel across Pennsylvania this year, take time to stop and visit the award winning parks and forests, recognized by the Foundation in this year's first annual awards banquet (see related picture story.) The staff and volunteers at these, and many other locations are working hard to create a quality outdoor experience for you, the visitor.

In your travels you may also want to stop and reflect upon the work done by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during their nine

years of activity in Pennsylvania. These young men launched the reforestation and recreational development that we now enjoy.

To honor these men, we will now feature a regular corner about the CCC and their experiences in Pennsylvania. We hope that you enjoy this new feature. If you are a CCC alumnus and have a story to share, please send it to us and we'll be happy to feature it.

When you are looking for outdoor activities, please take a minute to visit our website: [www.PaParksAndForests.org](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org) and take a look at all the events that Friends groups are holding at parks and forests this year!

Happy Trails!

—*Marci*

## CCC Reflections



Adolph Semich, along with his brother Ed, and several other CCC members, still volunteer at Laurel Hill State Park—the park they helped build during the 1930's. Photo: Laurel Hill State Park

Construction of the large lake at Laurel Hill started after the Jones Mill Dam was finished. My first job on the large lake was clearing trees and brush and burning it. The creek was diverted away from its original flow and the spillway was built where the creek normally ran. Along with the spillway, a gate was also built. Then the creek was made to flow in its original path and through the gate while the rest of the dam was built. I was driving a truck then and we hauled a lot of clay and stones to build up the dam. Layer after layer of clay was dumped and large rollers packed it down. Then when the dam was completed, the gate was closed and the water slowly filled the dam.

The CCC accomplished a lot of good. It made

men out of boys. I was a better person when I left. It prepared me to live with others. The point of the CCC was to get young men off the streets. I went to the CCC to make money and help my family. I am most proud that I could help my family and I enjoyed the CCC.

I never thought our work would last this long. Our daughters have families now and they rent cabins at Kooser State Park and enjoy the park the CCC boys built over 60 years ago. The Corps benefited a lot of people in the time of the world's greatest depression. I am proud of what I did and what I continue to do by volunteering where I spent two very happy years of my life.

—*Adolph Semich, CCC Member*



Bruce Heggenstaller (Woolrich, Inc., Award Sponsor) presents Adolph with the Keystone Legacy Award. Photo: Joe Frassetta

The President's Picks column features a place or point of interest you may want to explore and a recipe you can enjoy while camping or hiking.

## Prowl the Sproul

"What is a Sproul and why would I want to prowl it?" you may be asking yourself. Well, Sproul State Forest is one of 20 forest districts in Pennsylvania and is home to the first track of land that launched the forest program in Pennsylvania, Young Woman's Creek watershed. Encompassing more than 300,000 acres, this land holds many wonders for those adventure seekers wishing to explore Pennsylvania's great places.

The fourth annual Prowl the Sproul takes place July 20-22, 2007, and is a cooperative venture among several non-profits and the Bureau of Forestry. Several years ago I ventured north to participate in this event and found myself in wonderment of the beauty of the area. Birds-eye views of the west branch of the Susquehanna River from Hyner View State Park, miles of trails in the state forest, canoeing on the river, small towns, homemade meals, and enthusiastic and knowledgeable hike leaders all made, and continue to make, this an amazing event.

I'll be back this year (PPFF is a cosponsor) and have been challenged to take on one of the boot buster hikes. But fear not, there are all levels of hikes available. To learn more about the event, visit our website at:

[www.PaParksAndForests.org](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org) or go to [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org) to register for the event. There is a small fee, but it is well worth the money.

## President's Picks-Recipe

### Camping Apple Crisp

I enjoy making this during wilderness canoe trips—it's a pleasant treat after several days of paddling.

Serves 3

At home, place the following in one zip-lock bag:

¼ pound dried apples

½ tsp cinnamon

dash of nutmeg

dash of brown sugar

In a second bag place:

1 cup rolled oats

2 T butter

2 teaspoons honey or sugar

dash of salt

At camp:

Soak the apple mixture in 1 1/2 –2 cups of water for about 10 minutes. After ten minutes, place on stove and begin to simmer. Squeeze the oat mixture to mix all ingredients into a crumb, then sprinkle on top of apples. Simmer slowly until apples are cooked and topping is set, about 15-20 minutes. Enjoy!

*Have a good camping or backpacking recipe to share? Send it our way and we'll include it in a future newsletter. Email: [mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net)*



Cookout at days end. Photo: Jim Nevins



Pancake breakfast has become a tradition at Prowl the Sproul weekend! Photo: Jim Nevins

## Exhibit Wins "Best in Education" Award at 2007 Garden Expo



The exhibit won the "Best in Education" award for the second year in a row.

Once again, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, along with other sponsors, helped DCNR to organize an educational exhibit utilizing native plants at the

annual Garden Expo held in March in Harrisburg. The 65' x 70' exhibit—Pennsylvania's Native Elegance"—featured the beauty of Pennsylvania's indigenous plants in a formal backyard setting.

The design included various conservation concepts including rain gardens, rain barrels, and composters. Every item used in the exhibit—from the shed to the table settings—were made in Pennsylvania, many utilizing sustainable materials and practices.

Over 18,000 people attended the 3-day event. At the close of the show, PPFF donated \$12,000 worth of native plants and trees used in the exhibit to a number of state parks and forests.



Garden vignettes like this one featuring a hand-made bench along a winding stream, were spread throughout the exhibit.

# Friends of Goddard State Park

## M. K. Goddard State Park

Tucked away in the northwestern part of Pennsylvania in Mercer County, M. K. Goddard State Park encompasses 2856 acres of diverse habitat including the 1860 acre Lake Wilhelm, wetlands, fields, and mature forests. Boating, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities



The park's namesake, Maurice K. Goddard, known to most as "Doc" Goddard, set a goal of having a state park within 25 miles of every resident of Pennsylvania. During his 24-year tenure, first as Secretary of Forests and Waters (1955-1970), and then Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources (1970-1979), he added 45 state parks and an additional 130,000 acres of state park land. Photo: DCNR

about. Many species of birds can be seen throughout the year, including rebounding populations of bald eagles and osprey, as well as thousands of migrating waterfowl that stop at the lake during spring and fall migration. The old fields and mature forest habitats are also perfect for bluebirds, purple martins, American woodcock, common snipe, common nighthawk and many species of warblers, as well as other wildlife.

Visitors can take advantage of a 241-slip marina, rent canoes, kayaks and pontoon boats; enjoy hiking, biking or cross-country skiing the 14 miles of trails; or enjoy a picnic in one of the many pavilions throughout the park.

The park is adjacent to the 2,027-acre State Game Land 270, as well as near the McKeever Environmental Center where group programs are held. Plan to visit M. K. Goddard State Park next time you are in northwestern PA!

Last year, the Friends of Goddard State Park (or 'FROG' as they call themselves), were awarded DCNR's *Group Volunteer of the Year Award for 2005*. Certainly, a great achievement, but more impressive because the friends are a small group of about ten core volunteers. One of the first groups to form as a PPF chapter in 2002, they work closely with park staff to assist with programs that promote the conservation of the natural, historic and environmental resources of the park—of which there are many!

## Pioneer Days

Led by the group's President, Becky Piccolin, the friends are the primary organizers of the annual *Pioneer Frolic* held the last weekend in June. Last year, 3,500 visitors attended the two-day event which includes a re-enactor encampment, demonstrations, wagon rides, live music, crafts, children's games and of course, food! The festival honors the past by focusing on what life was like for pioneers who lived along the Sandy Creek Valley between the years of 1750-1840 and features artisan and craft demonstrations from the time period. The festival is the primary fundraising event of the year for the friends and they use these funds for other projects such as purchasing playground equipment for the park.



The annual *Pioneer Frolic*, held the last weekend of June, includes demonstrations of pioneer life in the Sandy Creek Valley. Photo: Friends of Goddard State Park

Although organizing a two-day festival occupies most of the group's time, they are also involved with many other projects in the park. These activities include wildlife enhancement projects, a Youth Learning Series picnic and program during the summer months, an electrical upgrade to the Marina pavilion, and setting up and staffing booths at area events and festivals. In conjunction with PA Cleanways, they also organize several park cleanups a year involving over 500 hours of volunteer time!

## Our Feathered Friends

The friends work closely with park staff and service groups, such as the boy scouts, on a number of wildlife enhancement projects. One such project has been the re-establishment of a purple martin colony at the park.



A nesting box program to re-establish the Purple Martin population was established at the park. Photo: Friends of Goddard State Park

The largest member of the swallow family, the purple martin is enjoying a rebounding population at the park due to the efforts of the friends and

other volunteers. In 1972, Hurricane Agnes decimated the bird's primary insect prey and the population plummeted. Purple martins are a colony nester and the friends have helped by purchasing nesting gourds. Volunteers maintain the nesting racks (two rows of twelve gourds) and now visitors to the park can once again enjoy these beautiful birds!

## Award Winners

As we were going to press, we learned that on June 13, the Friends of Goddard were presented with the *Bill Knecht Community Award* from the Mercer County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The award was given to the friends for helping to promote tourism in the county! Congratulations!

## You Can Help

- ◆ **Volunteer** your time and expertise—join the Friends!
- ◆ **Support** the Friends by making a financial contribution.

### To Make a Contribution:

Make checks payable to PA Parks and Forests Foundation and mail to:

Friends of Goddard State Park  
684 Lake Wilhelm Road  
Sandy Lake, PA 16145-8715  
(724)253-4833

Website:

[www.friendsofgoddard.org](http://www.friendsofgoddard.org)

To find out more about volunteer opportunities, contact the group's President, Becky Piccolin, at: [piccolin@verizon.net](mailto:piccolin@verizon.net)

[visitPaParks.com](http://visitPaParks.com) – visit the calendar of events page for more information on upcoming activities at the park.



**Government Award—Michael DiBerardinis**  
**Award Sponsor: Mr. Joseph Ibberson**  
Secretary Michael DiBerardinis (at podium) accepting his award. Joe Ibberson, who sponsored the award, is to the left.



**Park of the Year—Pymatuning State Park**  
**Award Sponsor: PPL Corporation**  
In addition to the PPF award, Senator Robert Robbins (at podium) presented a special Senate citation to Pymatuning State Park. Left to right: Mark Arbogast, PPL, Asst. Park Manager Dennis Miller, Park Manager Pete Houghton.



**Forest of the Year—Forbes State Forest**  
**Award Sponsor: Aqua America**  
Ed Callahan, District Forester for Forbes State Forest, accepted the award on behalf of his staff. Also pictured here are Wendy McLean, PPF Board Chair (left) and Marci Mowery, PPF President (right).



**Friends Group Volunteerism Award—Friends of Codorus State Park**  
**Award Sponsor: Pa Recreation and Park Society**  
Left to right: Richard Stoner, Elaine Stoner, Park Manager Warren Wertz, Elaine Klinedinst, Becky Miller, David Carbaugh, Marci Mowery (PPF President), and Bob Griffith, Pa Recreation and Park Society.



**Friends Group Improvement Award—Miller Family, Greenwood Furnace State Park**  
**Award Sponsor: Anonymous in honor of William C. Forrey**  
Bob and Edna Miller accepted the award on behalf of their family. Also pictured on the right is Dan Bickel, Park Manager, Greenwood Furnace State Park.



**Friends Group Education Award—Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund**  
**Award Sponsor: Delta Development Group**  
Left to right, Ron Kunkle, Dark Sky Fund Advisory Board member; Chris Johnston, Delta Development Group, Inc.; Maxine Harrison, Director, Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund; and Barb Geigle, Dark Sky Fund Advisory Board member.

For a complete write-up of all the award winners, please visit our website: [www.PaParksAndForests.org](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org)

To submit a nomination for the 2008 awards, please visit our website or contact Marci Mowery: (717) 236-7644 or [mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net).

## Quick Prevention Steps

- ◆ Clean off clothing, shoes, pets, vehicles and equipment before going to a new area in order to remove hitchhiking seeds and invasive critters (bag the material and throw it in the trash).
- ◆ Stick to designated trails, especially in areas where you suspect invasives.
- ◆ Don't release leftover bait into the water and NEVER move crayfish from one body of water to another.
- ◆ Wash boats with a high-pressure, hot water spray and/or a 100% vinegar solution, or let the boat dry for 5 days before going to a new body of water.
- ◆ Don't move firewood. This could spread pests like emerald ash borer. Buy firewood locally.
- ◆ Don't release unwanted pets into the wild.
- ◆ Know how to identify the most common species in your area. The resources provided on the next page can help.
- ◆ If you see an invasive plant starting to enter an area, get rid of it before it spreads too much. Small populations are much easier and cheaper to control than large ones!



Garlic Mustard at Fort Hunter Park. Photo: Jessica Sprajcar

yards, highways and beaches: none are safe from these unwanted guests. In Pennsylvania alone, there are more than 50 species of invasive plants, a handful of invasive insects and diseases, and even a few invasive birds and mammals. No matter where you look, it is likely that you will encounter an invasive species. These unwanted species could chase out native species, alter soil and water quality, or negatively impact agriculture and recreation.

### Meet Some of the Culprits

Most invasive species come from countries outside the U.S., such as England, Japan, and China. In those areas the species remain under control because diseases and predators keep populations in check. However, when these species reach the United States, they find a habitat free from predation because



We need to keep emerald ash borer out of PA. Photo: Sven-Erik Spichiger

our native insects and animals have not evolved alongside these new species. Consumers of large quantities of plant material do not typically eat invasive plants, which further strengthens these plants' hold over the habitat.

Hikers that frequent the Appalachian Trail have probably seen Japanese stilt grass (*Microstigium vimineum*), although they might not have known it was an outsider. Japanese stilt grass probably arrived in the U.S. in Tennessee in the early 1900s as pack-

ing material. From there it spread to stream banks, woodlands, roadsides, and yards in more than a dozen eastern states. Japanese stilt grass resembles tiny bamboo and can be identified by its lime green color and silvery vein that splits the leaf into two slightly unequal parts.

Another very common invasive plant along trails is garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Garlic mustard was brought to the U.S. by settlers for use in food and as a medicine. Garlic mustard is typically found in disturbed habitats like roadsides, forest edges, and floodplains. You can identify this plant by its small white flowers, skinny seedpods, and leaves that smell like garlic when crushed.



Zebra mussels are taking over the Great Lakes. Photo: USGS, [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)

An invasive insect of concern to Pennsylvania is the emerald ash borer. This insect, originally from several Asian countries, is not yet in Pennsylvania, but can be found nearby in Ohio and Maryland. EAB, as it is commonly called, could wipe out all ash trees in Pennsylvania if we are not careful. Michigan has already lost more than 10 million of their ash trees.

Not all invasive species live on land, however. Some call Pennsylvania's streams, ponds, and lakes their home. For instance, zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are small, fingernail-sized mussels from the Caspian Sea that now live in the Great Lakes and many U.S. rivers and streams. They arrived into this country in the late 1980s within ship ballast water and are now frequently spread via recreational boats and fishing tackle.

### How You Can Help

With all the different invasive species, it may seem like an overwhelming task to prevent and control them. Luckily, there are

numerous quick steps you can take, whether you are hiking, biking, boating, or enjoying other recreational and outdoor activities. Follow one or more of the suggestions below and in the box on page 6 to help prevent invasive species from spreading any farther.



Using a Weed Wrench to remove invasive shrubs.  
Photo: Jessica Sprajcar

Many invasive plant seeds and roots can be spread by shoes, clothing, vehicles, pets, and equipment. When hikers go from one trail to another, for instance, the seeds may fall off their boots into the dirt and sprout. The same can happen on the wheels of an ATV or the hooves of a horse. One of the best ways to prevent invasive plants from spreading, therefore, is to clean everything before you go to a new area. There are various brushes you can use on boots and pets to remove seeds. Removed material should be bagged and then properly disposed. Vehicles can be washed with a high-pressure water spray, or at a minimum, have any visible plant parts picked off by hand.

Aquatic invasive species can also hitch a ride on boats, fishing tackle, and just about anything else that goes into the water. Therefore, it is important to wash all vehicles and equipment before going to a new water body. You can use hot water, a 100 percent vinegar solution, or a high-pressure water spray to clean everything, or at a minimum, allow every-

thing to dry off for at least five days before going back in the water. This will kill any attached larvae, seeds, or plant parts.

After fishing, it is important to not only clean your tackle, but also to properly dispose of any leftover bait. (Do not, under any circumstances, release bait into the water, even if you think it is dead). This bait could potentially live, reproduce and become invasive, or it might be contaminated with an invasive disease that could harm native species in the water. Throw leftover bait into the trash, not into the water.

One way to stop the spread of invasive insects is to buy firewood locally. When you transport firewood from one place to another, you might be spreading invasive insects like emerald ash borer and gypsy moth. These insects are responsible for killing millions of trees across the country. Let's keep Pennsylvania EAB free by not moving firewood!

These are just a few of the ways you can prevent the spread of invasive species. Other methods include: 1) using native plants for landscaping and trail maintenance instead of exotic plants that could become invasive; 2) not releasing pets into the wild; 3) not traveling through known infestations of invasive plants; and 4) minimizing disturbance of soil by vehicles and equipment, as invasive plants can quickly colonize bare soil. Any steps you take will help to prevent the spread of invasives.

### ***When Prevention is not Enough***

In those cases when it's too late for prevention, there are still ways that you can

help control and minimize the damage. Prevention may be best, but control and management are also very important in the battle against invasives.

Control methods are almost as numerous as the number of invasive species. Choosing the right method(s) will depend on the time of year, the invasive that you want to control, and the resources available. Some of the websites listed below can help you pick the appropriate controls for your situation. Regardless of the control method chosen, it is important to try and remove the invasives early and not wait until their population is large. It is easiest and cheapest to control an invasive when there are few of them. Once they become established it may be too late.

### ***A Call to Action***

DCNR is committed to dealing with invasive species, whether it involves control projects within state parks and forests, identification training sessions for our field staff, or environmental education projects for the general public. We want to ensure the health and beauty of public and private lands throughout the state for generations to come. As recreationists and nature enthusiasts you can play a major role in monitoring for, preventing, and managing invasive alien species. There may be many invasives out there, but it is possible to do something about them.

—*Jessica Sprajcar, Natural Resource Program Specialist, DCNR*



## ***Invasive Resources***

**Here are a few sources of information on identifying, preventing, and controlling invasive species:**

DCNR Invasive Exotic Plant Tutorial for Natural Lands Managers, [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivetutorial/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivetutorial/index.htm)

DCNR Forest Pest Management, [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/fpm.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/fpm.aspx)

National Invasive Species Information Center, [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov)

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic)

## Hiking: A Simple Pleasure—Jim Hyland, DCNR Forest Program Specialist

*Take advantage of the many hiking opportunities available in your area—from rail trails and greenways, to your local and county parks as well as state parks and forests!*

### Don't Pick up Hitchhikers!

DCNR has produced a series of single page fact sheets that are designed to help recreational enthusiasts learn how they can play a critical role in minimizing the spread of invasive species while participating in recreational activities.

The following fact sheets are available: Hiking, Horseback Riding, ATV Riding, Biking, Birding, Boating, Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Watching, Trail Maintenance, Camping and Leased Campsites.

You may download the fact sheets and reprint them in newsletters and other publications and on your organization's website as long as credit is given to DCNR.

The fact sheets are available on their website at the following link:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivefactsheets/index.aspx>

Source: DCNR website

One of the traits Thomas Jefferson loved about his young Virginia neighbor Meriwether Lewis was his love for “rambling”, or walking long distances. Although he owned horses, Jefferson thought that people in his day had become too dependent on them, much the way people need to drive automobiles everywhere in today's society, even really short distances. Jefferson noted that young Lewis pursued game for long distances barefoot, even in the snow, and through his constant close physical contact with the natural world, developed extraordinary skills as a woodsman.

Lewis, from time to time, walked from Virginia to Georgia to visit relatives, all the while navigating by the sun, stars and his internal compass. By 1804, the leather footed, thirty year old Lewis was leading the greatest expedition in the United States history; he, with his partner William Clark, would find his way from St. Louis Missouri, across the Rockies, then on to the Pacific Ocean and back. His orders were to live to tell about it.

I think it's the raw simplicity of the sport that makes it so attractive. Although nowadays you can find ways to complicate it with matching high tech “trekking poles” or other “essential” gear, all you really need to enjoy hiking is the feet you were born with. Just pick a destination, put one foot in front of the other, and you've got it mastered.

Back in Jefferson's time, hiking trails were the best routes from point A to point B, and were located specifically because they offered the quickest or safest route. Today's hiking trails, reflecting the relaxed nature of the sport, are more meandering and scenic than those of yesteryear.

Three of the world's longest and greatest hiking trails are here in the United States.

The Pacific Crest Trail, which runs from Mexico to Canada along the rugged spine of California's Sierra Nevadas and Oregon and Washington's North Cascades, is 2,645 miles long, and the worlds longest.



Hikers in the Tiadaghton State Forest enjoying one of the spectacular mountain vistas found along hiking trails in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. Photo: Jim Hyland

Perhaps the future champion (and a real bear) is the Continental Divide Trail, now about 70% complete, which travels the length of the Great Divide from Mexico to Canada and will be about 3,100 miles when complete.

Closer to home is our beloved Appalachian Trail. The 2,168 miles from Springer Mountain Georgia to Mount Katahdin, Maine is on the “must do before dying” list of many people, including mine.

For regular people, hiking the shortest of trails is at least a four-month commitment. Averaging about 15 miles per day, the Appalachian Trail can be completed in about 5 months. The fastest it has ever been done is just under 49 days (44 miles per day), but that's obviously running, not hiking. But consider “Flyin” Brian Robinson of California: at age 40, he hiked all three trails in one calendar year, a total distance of 7,371 miles in just 300 days!

Fortunately for us, there are over 700 miles of designated hiking trails in Pennsylvania's public owned forests. In addition to that, there are many more hundreds of miles of local trails in our state parks and criss-crossing our beloved public forests. For more information about hiking trails in Pennsylvania, visit the DCNR website at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us).



Support State Parks and Forests Through PPF

Yes, I want to help conserve, protect and enhance over 3.4 million acres of Pennsylvania's parks and forests. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other

Name:

Address:

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- Yes, I'd like to receive PPF's newsletter. Enclosed is my \$25 donation. Please add me to the list.
Yes, I would like to receive the PPF e-newsletter at the email address listed above.
I'm interested in learning more about a friends group for park/forest.

Mail this form with your check to: PPF, 105 N. Front Street, Suite 305 Harrisburg, PA 17101

The official registration and financial information of the PA Parks and Forests Foundation may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

What if the PA Parks and Forests Foundation had a penny for every time I searched the internet... Now it can!



GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue—about a penny a search—to the charity of your choice. You use it as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results. Just go to GoodSearch.com, register Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation as the charity of your choice, and search the internet using the GoodSearch.com search engine. It's that easy!

Featured In



# Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens

—Greg Podniesinski, PA Natural Heritage Program

—The term “serpentine” refers to a type of bedrock formed hundreds of millions of years ago when ocean floor bedrock was squeezed by the collision of North America and Africa.



Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens supports a diversity of wildflowers. Photo: Joe Frassetta, DCNR Bureau of Forestry

The Goat Hill Public Wild Plant Sanctuary, part of the Valley Forge Forest District, lies in the southeast corner of Chester County, along the Maryland state line. It is one of a number of serpentine barrens that form an arc from southeastern Pennsylvania through eastern Maryland. The term “serpentine” refers to a type of bedrock formed hundreds of millions of years ago when ocean floor bedrock was squeezed by the collision of North America and Africa. The resulting serpentine bedrock has a unique composition with high levels of magnesium and heavy metals, especially chromium and nickel. The Goat Hill area was mined for magnesite (a magnesium-rich mineral) and chromite (a chromium-rich mineral) and many pits, small quarries and filled mined shafts can be seen scattered across the site, though most are now overgrown.



An undergrowth of briars makes movement through the forested area challenging. Future plans include a trail system to make passage easier for the hiker. Photo: Joe Frassetta, DCNR Bureau of Forestry

### Unique Habitat

The odd chemical composition influences the plant species that call Goat Hill home. Dominant forest species consist of a mixture of pitch pine and oaks, including blackjack oak (*Quercus marilandica*) and post oak (*Quercus stellata*), two oak species that typically occur along the Atlantic coast. A tangle of catbrier, sometimes referred to by those trying to walk through it as “living barbed wire” covers much of the forest floor. The forest and catbrier opens up where the soil becomes thin, such as along ridges, trails, powerline right-of-ways and old quarries. Here prairie grasses, small shrubs and scattered, often stunted trees, dominate. The thin and rocky soil, with patches of gravel and bare ground, provides habitat for a number of the 14 Pennsylvania rare plant species found at the site, including the very hairy chickweed, which is only known from Goat Hill. Shrubs associated with these open areas, such as New Jersey tea and

wild false indigo, and scrub oaks (bear oak and chinquapin oak) serve as larval food plants for many of the 38 species of rare butterflies and moths known to occur at the Goat Hill Barrens. Goat Hill is also home to one Pennsylvania rare snake species.

### Adapted to Fire

While some of the unique plants at Goat Hill may be present due to the chemical make-up of the serpentine bedrock, nearly all of the plant species are adapted to drought and fire. Historically, Goat Hill and many of the other Pennsylvania serpentine barrens, with their thin, dry soils were prone to drought conditions favoring frequent wild-fires. Serpentine tree species, especially pitch pines, blackjack and post oaks, as well as the scrub oaks (bear oak

and dwarf chinquapin oak), survive wild-fires by sprouting from protected dormant buds under the bark or from the roots. The occasional fire reduces the accumulated litter from the forest floor, opens up new areas for grassland vegetation, and expands existing grasslands. More recent fire suppression efforts and limited wildfires at Goat Hill have allowed more organic litter to accumulate and deeper soils to develop around the grasslands. This allowed forest vegetation, including catbrier, to encroach on the grasslands. Over time, many of the grassland areas will convert to serpentine forest, and with it the loss of many rare serpentine grassland plants and the animals that rely on them.

The DCNR Bureau of Forestry, with assistance from the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program and local serpentine experts, began work on a management plan for the Goat Hill Public Wild Plant Sanctuary. The plan protects and restores many of the grassland openings and strives to develop a

healthy mosaic of serpentine forest, shrub lands and grasslands. As a first step, some of the grassland openings currently under threat from forest succession will be “opened up” by selectively removing encroaching trees. The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program will assist by collecting data on the grasslands before the tree removal and monitoring the response of the vegetation over time. In this way, the Bureau of Forestry can assess the effectiveness of its management plan and adjust it as needed.

### Recreational Abuse

Another major concern for the Goat Hill Public Wild Plant Sanctuary is unrestricted recreational four-wheel drive and ATV use. Many of the grassland openings have been damaged, sometimes severely, by improvised vehicle trails and recreational activities (e.g., circular ATV tracks that have obliterated much of the vegetation in some grasslands.) The Goat Hill and other serpentine barrens have been treated as dumping grounds for trash, or sites for impromptu parties where piles of litter are

left behind. As a result the Bureau of Forestry is considering options for preventing motorized vehicle access and increased public safety monitoring and enforcement.

### New Friends Group

Plans for a friends group emerged as part of the management efforts of the Barrens. Initial goals of the group may include trail development and maintenance, monitoring, education, interpretation, and clean up. Interested individuals may contact Marci Mowery at [mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net) for more information and to be placed on a mailing list for the organizational meeting.

Goat Hill stands alone as one of the most unique environments in all of Pennsylvania. It also has one of the most diversified plant communities making Goat Hill a true gem in the State Forest system. There is a lot of work to be done to protect and restore Goat Hill and the Serpentine Barren environment. The Bureau of Forestry is prepared to do what it takes to return Goat Hill to its spectacular show of nature’s bounty...wildflowers!



Photo: Joe Frassetta, DCNR Bureau of Forestry

## Support Our Great Outdoors!

PPFF’s collector pin program expanded in 2007 with the release of five new tags—one for each of the four park regions and a second PA Wilds tag.

For about the cost of a medium popcorn at the movies, a fast food “value” meal, or a movie rental, you can purchase the tag and show your support for Pennsylvania’s natural resources!

The regional images used this year include an original painting of the boulder field at Hickory Run State Park by Nancy Mendes; a photograph of the view of the Linn Run Valley from Wolf Rocks in the Forbes State Forest; a historical photo of the “CCC boys” from 1936 at Parker Dam State Park; and a colored-pencil sketch of Lake Marburg at Codorus Creek State Park (still in production). Dave Pirazzi donated the original painting of the American Bald Eagle for the 2007 PA Wilds tag.

PPFF thanks our sponsors including Woolrich, Inc. (2nd PA Wilds tag); Somerset Trust (Linn Run and Forbes State Forest tag); Pocono Mountains Visitor’s Bureau (Hickory Run Boulder Field tag); and Dominion (Parker Dam State Park “CCC” tag).

Contributions to the tag program go to support programs and improvements in state parks and forests making Pennsylvania a better place to live, work and recreate.

### Where to Purchase Your Tag

Tags are for sale at most state parks and through PPFF. The PA Wilds tags are also available at Forest Districts located in the PA Wilds. For more information, visit our website: [PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org) or call the PPFF office (717) 236-7644.

<p><b>PA Wilds</b></p>	<p>THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT PA Parks &amp; Forests Foundation PA Department of Conservation &amp; Natural Resources</p> <p>PA Wilds Tag sponsored by <b>WOOLRICH</b> EST. 1828</p> <p>Original artwork by Dave Pirazzi <a href="http://www.PaParksAndForests.org">www.PaParksAndForests.org</a> 2nd in a Limited Edition Series</p>
<p><b>Pa State Parks</b></p>	<p>THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT PA Parks and Forests Foundation PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</p> <p>Tag sponsor: <b>Somerset Trust</b></p> <p>Linn Run State Park &amp; Forbes State Forest, Westmoreland County Photo: Linn Run Valley from Wolf Rocks PA Bureau of Forestry <a href="http://www.PaParksAndForests.org">www.PaParksAndForests.org</a> 3rd in a Limited Edition Series</p>
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<p><b>Pa CCC 1933 - 1942</b> <b>Pa State Parks</b></p>	<p>THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT PA Parks &amp; Forests Foundation PA Department of Conservation &amp; Natural Resources</p> <p>Tag sponsor: <b>Dominion</b></p> <p>Parker Dam State Park—Clearfield County Photo: Parker Dam State Park Archives PA CCC boys from Camp S-118, Huntley, PA, 1936, during park construction. <a href="http://www.PaParksAndForests.org">www.PaParksAndForests.org</a> 2nd in a Limited Edition Series</p>

2007 tags released so far this year.



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## Summer Events

### Prowl the Sproul IV—July 20-22, 2007

The Sproul Forest is “The Crown Jewel” of the entire State Forest System and those with a love of hiking, wildlife and breathtaking vistas will not want to miss this exciting hike. Western Clinton Sportsmen’s Camping Association will host the 2007 event at their sportsmen’s complex in Hyner. Once again a pancake breakfast will be featured on Saturday morning and additional entertainment is planned for the weekend.

**Pre-registration is required** in order to determine numbers who are to be fed, but the actual hiking is open to all who wish to participate. As in past years, all hikes will be guided by District 10 employees. A special Friday afternoon hike is being planned, and camping on WCSA property will once again be offered. For more information contact Pam Metzger at [ktaadmin@pennswoods.net](mailto:ktaadmin@pennswoods.net) or Forester Ted Liginza at [tliginza@state.pa.us](mailto:tliginza@state.pa.us).

### Oil Creek State Park Summer Biathlon—August 18, 2007

**What:** 6K Cross country run with 2 shooting stops

**Where:** Oil Creek State Park

**Time:** 7:00—9:00 a.m. registration; 8:30 a.m. safety clinic (required for first time participants). Race begins at 10:00 a.m. Prizes awarded for first three overall men and women as well

as age group awards. Open to all athletes 12 and over who complete the mandatory pre-safety clinic. First timers welcome, all equipment is provided.

**Contact:** John Sims for more information and to register. (814) 354-2802 or e-mail: [jsims@state.pa.us](mailto:jsims@state.pa.us)

### Absorb the Forbes II, September 15, 2007

The Friends of Linn Run State Park and Forbes State Forest and the Allegheny Trails Hiking Club will join with park and forestry personnel to give a grand tour of this beautiful state forest which includes the ‘PA High Point.’ There will be hikes suitable for beginners as well as more challenging hikes for trail veterans. No reservations are necessary, but camping reservations for Linn Run cabins MUST be made through DCNR’s State Parks Reservation System: 888-PA-PARKS. For more information, contact Pam Metzger [ktaadmin@pennswoods.net](mailto:ktaadmin@pennswoods.net) or call Keystone Trails Association at (814) 395-9696.

For more information on events taking place in state parks and forests, visit [PaParksAndForests.org](http://PaParksAndForests.org). For a calendar of all events taking place in state parks, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/calendar/](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/calendar/)