



PENN'S STEWARDS

News from the Pennsylvania Parks
and Forests Foundation

Spring 2008

Connecting the Positives: 'Governor's Outdoor Conference' Set the Tone—Others are Setting the Pace —Terry Brady, DCNR

It's the goal of every good environmental educator to present an interesting program that draws a heavy public turnout. Problem was, the crew at Jennings Environmental Education Center had too much of a good thing.

When the last of 150 listeners filed into the center's meeting room, the last of 90 seats were long gone. Was it cabin fever? The topic? Organizers would like to think there was more drawing all those visitors out of their homes on a frigid Sunday in late February to attend a workshop on Eastern bluebirds and their habitat. Swelling the audience, to be sure, was the silver-haired birding set, but another group was conspicuous that day as the crowd gathered outside Slippery Rock, Butler County. *Young people were there in force.*

Teens stopped texting and talking long enough to listen. Others, 8-, 10-, 12-years old, broke away from their computer games and TV shows. A strong showing of young faces was good news to the educators; better news for the future of the bluebird—for with education comes awareness, and from there, action. *Sometimes.*

Larry Schweiger likes to take his listeners back to a recent unsettling jetliner ride: very few clouds, the morning sun rising at just the right angle, and a friendly, knowledgeable pilot—a stage set for a spectacular air show. And yet Schweiger couldn't take his eyes off one very disinterested member of the viewing audience. Nearby, like a giant spider wrapped around a tiny web, a teen-aged youth furiously worked over his "Game Boy" controls, never looking up as the pilot's voice came over the inter-com: "Folks, if you look out the nearest window you'll see one of most spectacular views of the Grand Canyon that I've ever seen in all my years of flying."

One passenger could care less. "His eyes never left that Game Boy, not for a single second," Schweiger told some 300 listeners gathered in March 2007 at the start of the Governors Outdoor Conference. *Why?* There are no easy answers, the president and chief executive officer of the National Wildlife Federation told his audience, just a host of reasons for the

growing disconnect of young people from a love of the outdoors that Schweiger said was instilled in him by his father long ago.

"We only save what we love and we only love what we know," Schweiger said.

If hunters have emerged as a primary tool in managing white-tailed deer numbers and aiding in forest regeneration, what happens when the young no longer hunt?



DCNR Geologist Bill Kochanov unlocks fossil mysteries at Beltzville State Park, Carbon County, for Oil City High School Students Kyle Lindey (left) and Jaren Schwab.

If anglers and boaters long have led the charge for cleaner, safer waters, what happens when youngsters no longer delight in watching a bobber dance on the lake's surface, or look forward to a boat ride with a loved one?

And, what happens to our hiking and biking trails, natural preserves and wild areas when more and more young people on weekends reach for the TV remote and computer mouse rather than walking sticks, helmets, bird identification manuals and "topo" maps?

It's called disconnect. It's happening in Pennsylvania's very small towns and very large

cities. It's being documented across the nation, and transcending state borders and all age and economic levels. *Simply, fewer people are seeking outdoors enjoyment.*

From an environmental perspective, we know participation leads to stewardship. Thinning ranks of the outdoorsmen and women mean more holes in an environmental defense; less license income to fund department services and land acquisitions; and fewer volunteers to help tackle costly projects. And, for state merchants and businesses from Ambler to Zelienople, it means loss of a very lucrative business.

What to do? Gov. Edward G. Rendell took a very big first step, calling together those 300, including the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, to address critical issues surrounding Pennsylvanians' connection to the outdoors. Participants left the conference energized and enthusiastic about reconnecting people to Pennsylvania's outdoors.

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From the President—*Marci Mowery*

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Marci Mowery

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It is with open arms that I welcome spring back to Pennsylvania. While I enjoy winter and the outdoor sports, it seems that our winters are less snow and more gray than they were when

I was a child. I remember sledding for hours at the neighbor's house and building snow people and igloos. And truth be told, winter still finds me engaged in these activities when conditions are appropriate—I make incredible snow angels. But spring brings a whole new set of outdoor pursuits like bike riding, hiking and paddling.

My memories of a childhood spent outdoors shaped the adult that I became. I find peace and contentment when hiking a trail, paddling a stretch of water, or gazing at the stars. I also find my inspiration in nature. I forged lifelong friendships over campfires as a Girl Scout and became a shadow to my grandfather as we explored trails in the northern part of the state.

Yet research shows that children today spend less

time outdoors than my age cohorts (which wasn't that long ago, thank you very much.) More and more, we find children attached to an electrical outlet via a game, television or computer. When they are outdoors, it is often through organized sports as opposed to free



play. At the same time, the diagnosis of Attention Deficit Disorder and childhood obesity continue to rise. Does a connection exist? New research might lead us to believe so.

This issue of our newsletter shares

some ways in which you can explore Pennsylvania.

We are fortunate in Pennsylvania to have a park located within 25 miles of nearly every citizen—a mere gallon of gas away. We have 2.1 million acres of

state forests, and countless other acreage of county and municipal parks. These free venues for outdoor exploration await us—if only we make the time. Challenge yourself to get outdoors, and to take a child with you. Create a memory. Forge a friendship. Be.

Yours in the Outdoors —Marci



Above Right: Preparing to spend the day splashing in the water of the Bennet's Branch at the family camp near Driftwood, PA.

Above: My passion for my Big Wheel grew into a passion for bicycles as I grew older. Photos: Marci Mowery

New Board Members for PPF



Ken Gaudi serves as State Government Affairs Manager with Dominion Resources Inc., headquartered in Richmond, VA. He is primarily responsible for all lobbying activities for the company in Harrisburg and maintains constant communication with key members of the General Assembly and Pennsylvania government agencies regarding legislation of interest to the Dominion family (Peoples Gas, Transmission, Generation, Storage, and Retail), other gas utilities and the business community as a whole.

Prior to joining Peoples Gas (now Dominion), Ken was Director of Regulatory and Committee Affairs for the Pennsylvania Electric Association. All totaled, Ken has 35 years of lobbying experience in the Pennsylvania General Assembly which has helped him build and earn an amicable reputation with the Legislature. During the

past two decades, he has helped with the passage of several important pieces of legislation.

He is very active in promoting the business community in Pennsylvania; Ken is a member of the Government Affairs Committee of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry and was past Chairman of the Committee's Subcommittee on Taxes. He is also a member of the Government Affairs Committees of the Pennsylvania Business Council, the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, and the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce.

A strong proponent of quality higher education, Ken was a member of the Board of Trustees of Clarion University for 8 years, where he earned his Bachelors Degree.

His past professional activities include Chairman of the American Gas Association's State and Local Subcommittee, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Gas Association Government

The President's Picks column features a place or point of interest you may want to explore.

When I thought about where I wanted to recommend for this issue of "President's Picks," the first thing that came to mind was canoeing. Joe and I introduced his boys to canoeing on the Susquehanna River last year, during a day trip from Marysville to West Fairview, in the Harrisburg area. During our leisurely paddle we saw a myriad of bird

life, including Great Egrets, Black Crowned Night Herons and Osprey. We watched a water snake swim with a baby cat fish gripped in its powerful jaws. When an unexpected storm forced us onto one of the river islands, we delighted in watching the boys use their imagination to build forts from downed branches and Japanese knotweed, an invasive plant that grows on many of the river islands. Dirty from head to toe, three boys, ranging in age from 11-13, grinning from ear to ear, used their creativity to make a fortress.



With 83,000 miles of rivers and streams in the state, there are many opportunities for canoeing and camping on our waterways.

Chose a river that fits your skill level and time available. To learn about river trails of Pennsylvania visit www.fish.state.pa.us/watertrails/trailindex.htm or susquehannarivertrail.org.

Other good resources are local canoe or paddling clubs that offer lessons and lead trips.



Left, Canoeing along the Susquehanna. Photo: Joe Frassetta. Above, paddling on the Allegheny River. Photo: Marci Mowery

New Board Members—continued

Affairs Committee, and a past member of the Jeannette School Board, the Jeannette Jaycees, and the Camp Hill Jaycees. Ken received a citation for meritorious service while serving as a member of the East Pennsboro Industrial and Commercial Development Authority in 1985.



Dave Spigelmyer has invested a 20-year career in the natural gas industry building bridges between government officials, community leaders, philanthropic organizations and the natural gas industry.

Dave began his career working in customer accounting and consumer business in 1983. He moved quickly into his government relations role by serving the industry through a two-year loan program with the American Gas Association in Washington, DC. He has an extensive background in pipeline and production operations and served key leadership roles in natural gas utility opera-

tions. Dave serves as a primary government liaison in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky and Virginia for Equitable Resources and has served a similar role in both Ohio and New York.

Beyond his work in Government Relations, Dave leads the External Communications function for Equitable Resources and has served as a primary media spokesperson.

Dave is Vice-President of Public Affairs for the Equitable Resources Foundation Operating Committee, serves on the Board of the Moraine Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America, serves as President of the Board of Directors for the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association, is the Board Secretary for Energize West Virginia and he is the past Gas Executive Committee Chairman for the Energy Association of Pennsylvania.

Dave and his wife Francie have two children and reside north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Farewell Cliff Jones

It is with much sadness that we share with you the passing of one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Parks and



Forests Foundation, Cliff Jones. Cliff's enthusiasm and drive helped build the organization, as he recruited board members, shaped the vision, hired staff and encouraged interns to come to the foundation.

Cliff will be remembered for many things. He had a long career of public service in Pennsylvania, serving six governors in cabinet positions as Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Labor and Industry, and Secretary of Environmental Resources. He also served as Chairman and member of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. He was President of Pennsylvania's for Effective Government and retired as President of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

His passion for conservation and nature was reflected in his many volunteer activities. He served on the boards of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, The Nature Conservancy of PA, the Wild Resources Conservation Fund, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation, Pennsylvania Audubon Society and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. Throughout his life he received numerous accolades and honors.

Cliff lived his life to the fullest, and touched many people with his positive attitude and can-do approach to any task. Some of the things he taught me is that all problems are solvable, sometimes you just need to take a look from a different angle. He also taught me that ego often stands in the way of reaching our goals.

We will miss Cliff, but know that he has created a legacy and his memory will live on.

—Marci Mowery

Friends of Prince Gallitzen

Prince Gallitzen State Park

Prince Gallitzen State Park was named for Father Demetrius Augustus Gallitzen, son of Russian nobility, who came to this country in 1792 and played an important role in the settling of central northern Cambria County.



Summer Fun at Prince Gallitzen State Park.
Photo: Prince Gallitzen State Park

Located in Cambria County, the 6,249-acre park is in the Allegheny Plateau Region of Pennsylvania. The 1,600-acre Glendale Lake is a major attraction with its nine public boat launching areas, three public mooring facilities, two marinas that offer slips, and a watercraft concession that offers boat rentals, repairs and fuel sales.

For outdoor fun, visitors can picnic at one of five pavilions, and over 1,000 picnic tables. Enjoy the horseback riding area, biking on park roads, mountain biking and hiking on the 20-mile snowmobile trail network, or fishing for bass, pike and muskellunge on Lake Glendale. Two major feeder streams to the Lake are also stocked with trout.

If you plan to come for an overnight stay, a 399-site tent and trailer campground complete with camp store, laundry facilities, showers and flush toilets, a swimming beach, boat mooring area, boat rental and playground area should suit you just fine!

Families can enjoy the environmental education and interpretive programs that take place from spring through autumn. Wildlife watching opportunities also abound—visitors can enjoy migratory waterfowl on the lake, ducks, herons and rails in the wetland areas, warblers and vireos in the forested areas, and butterflies in the fields. Perhaps you will catch a glimpse of one of the Osprey on the lake—the park has been reintroducing them to the area. You can find more information about Prince Gallitzen State Park at visitPaParks.com.

It all started in 2006, when a group of local business owners who wanted to resurrect an event that had taken place in past years called *Mountain Days* approached then Park Manager Barry Wolfe, about forming an alliance with PPF. Representatives from the local businesses, the park, and PPF all got together to discuss the possibility of a friends group and the Friends of Prince Gallitzen State Park began. Twelve directors form the core of the group with additional volunteers assisting with fundraising and special events.

Mountain Days

The Friends of Prince Gallitzen now have a lead role in the *Mountain Days* event which draws upwards of 60,000 people over three days in August. Although activities take place inside and outside the park, the friends manage the activities inside the park which includes craft vendors, helicopter rides, food vendors, hay rides, a boat regatta and fireworks. The committee that was running the event in the past will be joining forces with the friends—"this will allow us to promote the park and local businesses around the park and make the event even larger than it is," says chapter President, Terri Coccia.

Getting Families Outdoors

All our events are family-focused, says Terri. But the chapter programs revolve around kids—from educational fishing events and Easter Egg Hunts to ice skating, the group entices families out to the park for fun and to enjoy recreational activities. Future plans include bird watching, ice skating and sled riding. Stay tuned.

A Picture is Worth...

Last year marked the first year for what is becoming an annual photo contest. For a \$5 entry fee, the public was invited to submit photos which were displayed in the park office. The public was then invited to vote on their favorites. The group received 131 entries and the top 13 were selected for what became a 2008 calendar. The grand prize was the photo on the calendar cover and a free weekend cabin rental at the park. Next year, the group plans to have a panel of judges vote on the entries

and is working to obtain sponsors to help offset costs. The calendars are also sold at the park and events to help raise money for additional projects.

Bringing Back the Osprey

When the group isn't busy planning major events, they assist park staff with other projects like the Osprey Reintroduction Program. Volunteers helped to construct the special "hacking" tower and provide fish to feed the birds. They also promote the project by educating the public about the process of reintroducing species like the Osprey. The birds are making a comeback and the chapter sited their involvement in this project as one of their greatest accomplishments in 2007.



Park Manager Dan Bickel with the Easter Bunny. Photo: Friends of Prince Gallitzen.

Plans for the Future

The group put in a butterfly garden at the park this spring and are working on additional marketing campaigns to promote themselves and to attract new members who can help manage trails or are interested in working on other projects. The friends are also raising funds for a new playground at the campground. Last year, the group formed a partnership with the Coast Guard who had already been helping out with the boat regatta during *Mountain Days*. The plan is to work together to do some additional educational events in the future.

You Can Help

- ◆ **Volunteer** your time and expertise—join the Friends!
- ◆ **Join the Friends**—annual membership is just \$15 per household.
- ◆ **Support** the Friends by making a financial contribution.

To Make a Contribution

Make checks payable to PPF/FOPGSP and mail to: Friends of Prince Gallitzen State Park, 966 Marina Road, Patton, PA 16686.

For more information: Contact the park office (814) 674-1000 or Terri Coccia, chapter president, (814) 931-4269 or terrimcoccia@aol.com

Formed only in June of 2007, the Friends of Shikellamy State Park immediately went to work to make their presence known. Fifteen members volunteered 350 hours of their time from June—December to get the group started.

The group decided to launch into a series of events to entice area residents to come out and enjoy the park, and to introduce themselves.

Sunday Brunch in the Park

What could be better—good food, music and fellowship on a Sunday in the park along the Susquehanna River? In June and September 2007, the Friends hosted two brunches in the park. The first event in



June attracted 75 curious people who were interested in learning more about just who these “Friends” were and what they were up to. The word must have gotten out, as by the time the September brunch rolled around, the attendance nearly doubled to 140!

The popularity of the brunches translated into even better attendance at the Fall Harvest Festival in October where 200 people turned out to enjoy food, fun, music. A variety of activities took place including hay rides, pumpkin painting and scavenger hunts for kids, stage coach rides and more. Area food growers were also on hand promoting “buy fresh, buy local,” while three chefs cooked up and served samples of the food. According to the Friends Co-Chair Julia Marano, “the group was pleased with the consistent growth in attendance at the events and felt it clearly demonstrated the resident’s interest in participating and the need for the Friends Group.”

New Year, More Fun Planned

This year, the group has big plans. More Sunday brunches are planned in June, July,

August and September, featuring food prepared by area restaurants. Local musicians will once again perform. With a different group for each brunch, you will be able to enjoy everything from jazz and blues to folk guitarists to trios, while dining along the Susquehanna.

A series of Thursday evening Community Concerts is also planned throughout the summer and will take place at the newly constructed natural amphitheater at Shikellamy Overlook.

Visitors are invited to welcome summer at the first Summer Solstice event. A day of activities are planned at the Shikellamy Overlook. Visit the website (listed below) for more information.

Other events planned include a Barbeque Cook-Off and Fall Equinox celebration in September, another Local Fall Harvest Festival in October, and to round out the year, Community Caroling in December.

Photos: At left, families enjoy Sunday Brunch in the park. Below, stage coach and hay rides were popular at the Fall Harvest Festival last October. Top Right, Boating at the confluence of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River. Photos: Julia Marano, Friends of Shikellamy.



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 Friends of Shikellamy State Park and mail to:
254 Orange Street
Northumberland, PA 17857

To find out more about volunteer opportunities, contact Julia Marano at: jjmarano@ptd.net or visit: friendsofshikellamy.org

Shikellamy State Park

Named in honor of the famous Iroquois Chief Shikellamy, Shikellamy State Park spans Union and Northumberland counties and is a park with two distinct areas. One is Packer’s Island—with its large



marina which provides boating access to Lake Augusta, and the other is Shikellamy Overlook—providing panoramic views of Packer’s Island and the confluence of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River.

Picnicking is available in both areas of the park. Pavilions are available by reservation or on a first-come, first-served basis. Shikellamy Overlook has hiking trails, while the Shikellamy Marina offers paved trails.

One of the biggest attractions is the 3,060-acre Lake Augusta—formed by “the world’s largest” inflatable dam. Boaters can utilize the 23 marina slips offered on seasonal leases, or there is a boat launching area for day-use boaters. There are also two sets of courtesy docks for temporary boat docking.

Besides boating, fishing for bass and walleye on the lake is popular as is hiking along the two miles of paved trails that encircle the marina. Visitors might enjoy viewing deer, songbirds, wildflowers and butterflies while strolling along the one-mile nature trail.

Enjoy spectacular views of the Susquehanna River and towns of Sunbury and Northumberland from the Shikellamy Overlook. Different forest stages are evident from scrub to mature hardwood and unique geologic formations can be found along the eastern boundary cliff trail extension.

You can find more information about Shikellamy State Park visitPaParks.com. Visit the calendar of events page for information on upcoming activities at the park.

Connecting the Positives—Continued from Page 1



A Beltville State Park fossil find delights ECO Camper Yonis Santamella of Nazareth.

“These camps are a worthy investment in the future of our youth and our natural resources, and DCNR staffers proudly support them. Canoe with these young campers, or join them in a breakfast conversation and you know instantly they represent a unique pool of intelligence, spirit and commitment to environmental improvement.”

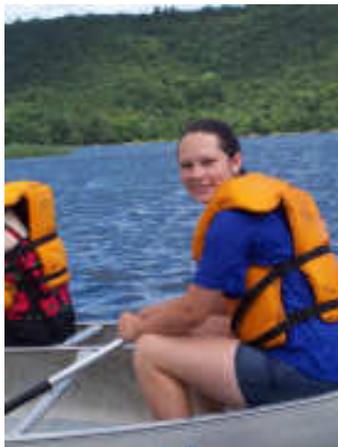
—DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis

DCNR employees and other participants realized that many innovative programs already exist like those detailed below.

ECO Camp Opens Doors to New Adventure, Career Opportunities in the Great Outdoors

Molly Dendas may have been a tad hesitant two years ago when she accepted DCNR Secretary DiBerardinis’ annual invitation for young people across the state to apply for DCNR’s summer residential camps for high-school students interested in pursuing environmental careers. Then she was an 18-year-old Nazareth high school student; now she’s a college student majoring in geology—and Environmental Careers Outdoors (ECO) Camps showed the way.

“Coming to ECO Camp as a first-time student, I quickly learned the DCNR staff and counselors truly are amazing,” said Dendas. “You know they’re not doing it for the money, they’re not here to just get paid. They are here because they want to help guide the next generation to oversee the environment.”



ECO camper Ashley Wilmont of Unionville takes a breather after participating in a stage capsized canoe rescue at Beltville State Park.

“The camps are among DCNR’s strongest success stories and we again are committed to providing camps in both south central and northeastern Pennsylvania,” Secretary DiBerardinis said. “As the program enters its seventh

year, we now are seeing past campers emerging as future stewards of this state’s bountiful natural resources. We know we have been successful in honing an awareness of the natural world and the variety of careers found there.”

The week-long camps are offered in June at the Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center, near Carlisle, Cumberland County; and in July at the Kirby Episcopal House and Chapel, Glen Summit, Luzerne County.

The ultimate goal of each camp is to introduce 25 students to conservation and environmental careers, and encourage their pursuit. From stream sampling of fish and aquatic life, to forestry skills, daily activities are planned to get students out in the field to meet and observe environmental professionals.

Offered without charge, the instruction and daily activities are overseen by specialists and officials of DCNR’s bureaus of state parks, forestry, and topographic and geologic survey. Selected students in grades 10 -12 are provided a hands-on, team-building learning experience in an outdoor setting.

After the camps, attendees have a chance to seek internships, mentoring and job-shadowing positions, and return as future camp leaders.

New Partnerships Encourage City Teens to Explore the World of State Parks

Last summer it was Harrisburg and Philadelphia. This summer the arena is broadening to include six more cities where DCNR and urban recreation staff will partner to introduce young people to the adventure, beauty and learning opportunities found in nearby state parks.

Its second year of operation will see DCNR Adventure Camp extended into Pittsburgh, Erie, Scranton, York, Williamsport and the Lehigh Valley.

A return to Harrisburg is welcome news for Rick Hicks, who last year watched teens—many of whom he knew—file off a van for a day of hiking at Kings Gap Environmental Education Center near Carlisle, Cumberland County. The experience “opens up a whole new world” to his young charges, said the sports and special program coordinator for Harrisburg’s Parks and Recreation Department.



Lunch is always a favorite activity of Adventure Campers gathered at Kings Gap.

“You know it’s working when a kid who lives to play basketball every day tells you, ‘I really had fun,’” Hicks said. “And that could have been fishing for the first time, or looking for fossils. One kid actually had the confidence to start swimming lessons.”



Adventure Campers enjoy fishing at Gifford Pinchot State Park in York County.

Another city, another endorsement from a Philadelphia Parks and Recreation official: “Many of these kids do not see their future beyond next week. They do not venture out of their immediate neighborhood,” said Kathi Muller. “I believe that a seed has been planted that will become an opportunity for them to reach beyond their current world. We may never fully know the impact of the experience, but rest assured that each young person has been touched in some way.”

In unveiling the Adventure Camps last summer, DiBerardinis noted many state parks are in rural areas while populations are concentrated in urban areas. Partnerships with the cities “open the door to a new opportunity to connect our state parks with urban youth,” he said.

“We hope an exciting outdoor adventure will not only make them repeat visitors, but will teach them about diversity in the natural world so as citizens they are lifelong stewards and make wise decisions about what our world looks like,” DiBerardinis said.

Participants, ranging in age from 12 to 15, are already involved in recreational programs in the various cities. Activities include team-building, compass use/orienteering, nature photography, fishing, paddling, climbing and rappelling, camping basics and free time for personal outdoors adventures.

“One of the most rewarding parts of spearheading this effort was being able to create a true win-win situation,” said Heather Bennett, DCNR’s outdoor recreation man-

ager. “Our state parks and forests have amazing outdoor recreation opportunities, yet we have struggled with engaging a more urban audience in our programs.

“City park and recreation departments have amazing kids coming to their facilities, yet struggle with providing outdoor recreation and nature-based programming. These camps maximized strengths in a way that created unforgettable experiences for everyone involved.”

Keystone Active Zones Encouraging Use of Our Local Parks and Trails



ECO Camp contacts and friendships are treasured by Chad Barclay of Indiana.

With childhood obesity and sedentary lifestyles on the rise, health officials are looking for creative ways to encourage people to adopt healthy living practices. One such innovative program was launched in May 2006 when DCNR joined officials from the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (PANA) and others in Chambersburg to kick-off Keystone Active Zones (KAZ), a new program designed to help counties promote physical activity for their residents at parks and trails close to home.

The campaign is designed to provide an opportunity to develop community partnerships among recreation, education, health advocates and other non-profit partners, and build support for local parks and trails. KAZs feature a web-based inventory to help residents find

Opportunities for Outdoor Experiences in State Parks

- ◆ Environmental Careers Outdoor (ECO) Camps—week long summer residential camps for high school students. For ECO Camp enrollment applications and information, telephone (717) 783-4356; or send an email to: ECO_Camp@state.pa.us. **YOU** can sponsor a camper or send a donation to help send a youth to ECO Camp. Contact the numbers listed above for more information.
- ◆ Keystone Active Zones—Community recreation and health programs in partnership with county recreation departments and other local partners across the commonwealth: keystoneactivezone.com
- ◆ Get Outdoors PA—outdoor recreation programs to help people rediscover Pennsylvania state parks and forests: getoutdoorspa.state.pa.com
- ◆ iConserve—new website to inspire conservation, protection and enjoyment of natural resources: iConservePA.org
- ◆ State Parks and Forests Environmental Education Programs—Naturalists and educators at 117 state parks and forests provide many outstanding programs throughout the year. Visit: dcnr.state.pa.us or call 800-PA-PARKS.
- ◆ Visit the following link for more information on water trails, rail trails, and all the outdoor opportunities for you and your family at our state parks and forests: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp?intDivisionID=3>

Connecting the Positives—Continued from Page 7

“The lifestyles of all Pennsylvanians are enhanced daily by the tremendous amount of recreational and leisure activities provided by the commonwealth’s parks and forests. The more people connect to their parks and forests, the better appreciation they will have for our natural world. We hope people not only take from these experiences great memories, but also lasting impressions of how they play a role in the future of our natural resources.”
—DCNR Secretary
Michael DiBerardinis

information about activities at nearby parks and trails, county maps and a passport incentive program to encourage their use.

“Many people would find it convenient to get some exercise and fresh air if they only had to take a five or 10 minute trip or could even



It's a race to see what Adventure Camp 2007 team gets its tent up first at Tyler State Park.

walk to an activity or place, but they have to know what opportunities are available and where they are,” DCNR Special Advisor Larry Williamson said. “KAZs are the tool to get them plugged into close-to-home parks and trails as great places for physical activity, improved health and family fun.”

KAZ partners in addition to DCNR and PANA are the state Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS). All counties throughout Pennsylvania are being encouraged to implement the program.

Established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, PANA is a statewide coalition of more than 500 public, private, academic, professionals and volunteer groups.

Awareness in the Wild: DCNR Parks and Forests at the Head of their Class

You may have heard them bring to life the mysteries of the night forest, or trace stars burning bright in the inky void above you. They may have led your children in pursuit of Pennsylvania’s bugling bull elk, a rare relic prairie flower or a glimpse at a lifestyle of yesteryear.

They are the men and women who wear the emblem of DCNR. They are the backbone of environmental awareness in counties where verdant ridges stretch into the horizon, and in others where development gobbles up fertile farmland. Many programs offered at the Bureau of State Parks 117 state parks and forest districts and four education centers are outlined at DCNR’s website:

www.dcnr.state.pa.us. For details, telephone 1-888-PA-PARKS, or email parkinfo@dcnr.state.pa.us.

—Terry Brady, Deputy Press Secretary
for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

All photos in this article are courtesy of Terry Brady.

Did You Know?

- ◆ Children today spend less time playing outside than in any previous generation.
- ◆ Nature is important to children’s development in every major way—intellectually, emotionally, socially, spiritually and physically. Play in nature is especially important for developing capacities for creativity, problem-solving and intellectual development.
- ◆ Obesity in children has increased from about 4% in the 1960s, to close to 20% in 2004.
- ◆ Contact with the natural world can significantly reduce symptoms of attention-deficit disorder in children as young as five years old.
- ◆ 62% of children do not participate in any organized physical activity and 23% do not participate in any free-time physical activity.
- ◆ Positive direct experiences in the out-of-doors and being taken outdoors by someone close to the child—a parent, grandparent or other guardian—are the two factors that most contribute to individuals choosing to take action to benefit the environment as adults.
- ◆ Children at eight years old can identify 25% more Pokemon characters than wildlife species.
- ◆ Children will be smarter, better able to get along with others and healthier and happier when they have regular opportunities for free and unstructured play in the out-of-doors.

Source: *The Children in Nature Network*, cnaturenet.org

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation's chapter friends groups are helping to connect children and their families to nature through special events, programs and other activities offered in conjunction with state parks and forests.

The now 20 chapters of PPFF offer young and old alike, the opportunity to explore their state parks and forests through fairs, festivals, and educational programs, not to mention taking part in a wide variety of volunteer opportunities.

Members of the Friends group range in age from 12—92 and they are always looking for new volunteers to help

with the many projects they are involved in during the year from trail maintenance, to star gazing parties, to summer festivals—there is something for everyone.



Families arrive to build a blue bird nest box with members of the Laurel Hill State Park Friends group. The group holds an annual bluebird festival in July. Photo: Friends of Laurel Hill.

Last year, Friends groups organized 145 events and programs, logged 30,000 hours of volunteer time, drew tens of thousands of visitors to their events, and raised over \$191,000—all benefiting state parks and forests!

To learn more about how friends group activities, and to see

if there is a chapter in your area, visit our website: PaParksAndForests.org

Lake Habitat Management

What could be better than floating in your boat, casting a line and hooking a nice bass? Not too much, in the opinion of many an angler. Yet, since many of the reservoirs in Pennsylvania were constructed by clearing the beds of trees and brush prior to impoundment, we in essence created a barren and featureless environment for fish and anglers alike.

Enter the Lake Habitat Management program, a cooperative endeavor between the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Pa Fish and Boat Commission, the Wild Resource Conservation Program, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers, The Pa Bass Federation, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In the Lake Habitat Management program, artificial habitats address the need for year-round cover. Physical objects found in impoundments are either “native” (there

originally) or “artificial” (constructed) habitats. Since an impoundment requires management in many forms (aquatic vegetation, boating, angling, access, water levels, etc.), habitat management is a logical method to help achieve fishery production potential.

The PPFF has been involved with the above partners at four parks—Nockamixon, Prince Gallitzin, Pymatuning and Bald Eagle, to create and place artificial structures that enhance habitat, cover and spawning of a variety of fish species. As part of the project, the four parks will be receiving interpretive panels explaining the structures. We are also working to create maps for angler use.

Depending on the water level, you may see these artificial fish habitats poking out of the lake. They are here to create a healthier lake and improve fish populations. **Please don't disturb these manmade fish homes!**



Photos above and left: Constructing porcupine cribs. Photos: PA Fish and Boat Commission

Mission: Green PA

Calling all youth across the commonwealth! Become secret agents and solve the mystery of our natural world. The 20-page *Mission Green PA* booklet guides the user



through a series of activities—both at home and in our state parks and forests—designed to foster stewardship and appreciation of our resources. Those who complete the book earn a special certificate and pin. To receive your copy of *Mission Green PA*, send a SASE to: PPFF, 105 North Front St, Suite 305, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

What if the PA Parks and Forests Foundation had a penny for every time You 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!**

2nd Annual Park and Forest Awards Banquet a Success!

Award winners are shown with sponsor representatives and PPF President Marci Mowery. All photos on this page: Joe Frassetta



Roy Siefert, District Forester for Tioga State Forest, 3rd from right, and members of his staff accepted the Forest of the Year Award.



Obie Derr, Park Manager for Moraine State Park (2nd from right), accepted the Park of the Year Award.



Susan Taylor, Executive Director of the Friends of the Delaware Canal (2nd from right), accepted the Friends Group Improvement Award.



President of the Friends of Laurel Hill (4th from right) and Sue Bittner, Park Volunteer Coordinator (2nd from right) accepted the Friends Group Education Award.

On May 6, one hundred conservation and business leaders and invited guests joined the Pennsylvania Park and Forests Foundation at the Country Club of Harrisburg to honor this year's recipients of the Foundation's annual awards.



Keystone Legacy Award winner Rose Chase, 2nd from left along with Marci Mowery, PPF President (left), Bruce Heggenstaller, Woolrich, award sponsor, and PPF Board Chair, Wendy McLean.

The top honor, the Keystone Legacy Award, was presented to Rose Chase, who in 1979, helped to champion the protection of the Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens in Chester County.

"Rose to this day, refuses to take full credit for the success of the project," said Marci Mowery, Foundation President. "It was her energy, drive and charm that paved the way for others to rally in support of the Barrens and resulted in its ultimate protection."

The Government Award, sponsored by Mr. Joseph Ibberson, is given to a person or department at any level of government to recognize their work in the stewardship of Pennsylvania's state park and forest system. Jerry Walls, who retired in 2007 after thirty years of service as the Executive Director and CEO of the Lycoming Planning Commission, was given this year's award for his work to implement



Jerry Walls and PPF Board Chair, Wendy McLean.

large landscape projects that connect numerous state parks and forests, raising their value and accessibility for recreation and community revitalization.

The other awards presented included:

- ◆ *Forest of the Year (sponsored by Dominion) — Tioga State Forest*, spanning Bradford and Tioga Counties, for its role in the development of the Pine Creek Rail Trail and their diverse efforts in recreation and forests management.
- ◆ *Park of the Year (sponsored by PPL Corporation) — Moraine State Park*, Butler County, for their exemplary role in working with diverse user groups, park improvements, commitment to recreation, and volunteerism.
- ◆ *Friends Group Volunteerism Award (sponsored by Pa Parks and Recreation Society) — Mountaineer Search and Rescue*, Elk State Forest, for their outstanding work assisting in, or managing, search and rescue efforts as well as construction and maintenance of hiking trails.



Five of the 24-member Mountaineer Search and Rescue Team were on hand to receive their award.

- ◆ *Friends Group Improvement Award (sponsored by Lentz, Cantor & Massey, Ltd.) — Friends of the Delaware Canal, Delaware Canal State Park*, Bucks County, for their outstanding restoration and stewardship work to maintain and improve the Delaware Canal and its surroundings.
- ◆ *Friends Group Education Award (sponsored by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania) — Friends of Laurel Hill State Park*, Somerset County, for their outstanding stewardship and educational efforts at Laurel Hill State Park.

Normally by the end of summer, the trees in the forests of North Central Pennsylvania are in stiff competition for a drink of water. Raindrops falling from hit-or-miss thunderstorms have little chance of passing through the gauntlet of thirsty roots and puckered soil. Consequently, the watersheds of the Susquehanna are able to contribute very little to the passions of paddlers.

But sometimes seasons shift from the norm, and an unusual spree of downpours can keep our soils saturated, trees content, and streams swollen through much of the summer.



Canoeing Adventures on Pine Creek. Photo: Hal Korber, Pennsylvania Game Commission.

On Labor Day weekend a few seasons back, Pine Creek at Slate Run, Lycoming County, held just enough water to allow a rare August passage of our five-person flotilla: my 10-year-old son and friend in solo kayaks, my wife and I in a canoe, and my nine-year-old daughter bobbing happily along in an old truck inner tube tethered to the canoe's stern. Our destination was the mouth of Ross Run--a leisurely 3-mile float.

The water was refreshingly cool and clear. Transparent beneath the boats, it perfectly reflected the mountain scenery unfolding ahead. The breeze smelled of bugs and muck, wildflowers and pine. We moved along silently, the children too absorbed to think about talking.

Above and below the boats, the creek was alive. I struggled to identify fish before calling and pointing them out to the kids. "There's a smallmouth bass...and another!" "There's a channel catfish!" Groups of carp passed by in formation like tiny submarines, and trout shot out from under shadowy ledges and disappeared upstream with a flick and a flash.

As we passed the mouth of Riffle Run, a Bald Eagle watched us from a prominent

white pine. Well over 150 feet above us, the bird still looked massive, fierce, and indescribably wild; a fitting symbol of our nation.

Pine Creek spreads out wide and shallow between the mouths of Bonnell and Wolf Runs, and the keel of the canoe began to create the algae on the flat rocks of the streambed.

Ten feet in front of the boat, I noticed an odd looking elongated grayish blob squeezed between some creek stones. The blob was only noticeable because it didn't match the surrounding rocks, looking a lot like a piece of waterlogged liver.

Passing directly over it, a horseshoe shaped head, beady eyes, and stubby feet became apparent. It was a hellbender, one of the world's largest salamanders!

I barked to the kids to bring the boats around and paddle hard against the current...I wanted them to be able to enjoy this creature rarely seen by humans. The hellbender was about 20 inches long from slimy head to tail--a beautiful specimen. As expected, their first responses ranged from "oh yuk!" to "cool!", and after looking over the creature for a few seconds, they began to devise a plan to capture it. I told them that it was probably not a good idea to disturb his routine or and risk injuring his sensitive skin. Plus, I had no experience in the hellbender department.

Hellbenders, also known as water devils, water dogs, mud dogs, and mud devils, might be likened to vampires, as they hate light and are considered by many people to be some kind of monster. Predominantly nocturnal, hellbenders squirt out from beneath a rock at night to feast on crayfish.

They prefer swift, clean water, and their presence indicates good water quality.

Late summer is hellbender breeding season, and that's the time of year when it's possible to see them during daylight hours as they venture out to do what hellbenders might do when they make little hellbenders (very little is known about their reproductive habits).

Nearing the mouth of Ross Run we paddled toward the left shore and skidded our boats onto the gravel bar, thus ending our brief journey. We had been on the water for just under two hours.

For me, the float on the creek was infinitely better than any amusement park log flume ride, and we didn't need tickets. Maybe the kids felt the same way or maybe not, but I know that they had been exposed to something real, something worth remembering, and a resource worth saving. It was certainly two hours well spent.

—Jim Hyland, Forest Program Specialist

"When I told a fisherman friend that I had seen a hellbender, he responded, 'Ya know, if they bite you, they won't let go until the full moon!' He was joking, but there are many myths surrounding these neat creatures."



Eastern Hellbender. Photo: PA Fish Commission



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The Prowl the Sproul Hiking weekend is planned for July 18-20! To register please contact: Becky Schreiber, Program Administrator, Keystone Trails Association, (717) 238-7017, ktadmin@verizon.net, www.kta-hike.org

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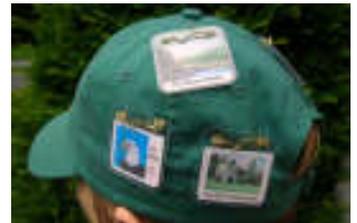


Black Moshannon State Park,
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www.PaParksAndForests.org
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Where to Purchase Your Tag

Tags are for sale at most state parks and through PPF. The PA Wilds tags are also available at Forest Districts located in the PA Wilds. For more information, visit:

PaParksAndForests.org
or call the PPF office at (717) 236-7644.



What's a tag? Tags are collector pins featuring the artwork of Pennsylvania artists. The original artwork is donated to PPF, a high resolution scan is made which allows the image to be reduced down to the pin's 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" size. Regional businesses sponsor each separate tag and only a limited edition is produced for each, making them collector items. The pins can go on hats, jackets or backpacks. You will be showing your support for Pennsylvania's natural resources when you purchase and wear a tag!

Contributions to the tag program (\$5 donation suggested) go to support programs and improvements in state parks and forests making Pennsylvania a better place to live, work and recreate!

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