

# Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation • Summer 2012



Volunteers  
with Friends  
of Laurel Hill

helping kids to make bluebird boxes  
at Laurel Hill State Park.

## In This Issue

- PG: 1 The FUNdamentals of the Playful Life
- PG: 2 President's Message  
Lace Up For Leah
- PG: 3 FUNdamentals *continued*
- PG: 4 FUNdamentals *continued*  
In the News—Budget
- PG: 5 Mission Accomplished  
Take Five
- PG: 6 Focus on Friends-  
Cherry Springs
- PG: 7 Pymatuning State Park
- PG: 8 CCC Reflections
- PG: 9 Happy Birthday to  
Doc Goddard  
In Memory Of
- PG: 10 AMERICORPS
- PG: 11 PPF Awards Banquet  
Welcome Brittany
- PG: 12 Mobile App

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## The FUNdamentals of the Playful Life

In our spring newsletter, we announced 2012 as “the Year of Living Playfully” and promised to talk more about how this relates to our shared love of the outdoors as the year progresses. Our lead story featured interesting information and research on WHY we need to play more and now as summer is in ‘full swing’ (yes, the ‘playful’ pun is intended) we’d like to give you ideas on HOW to play. Not that anyone needs a manual on how to have fun, but if it’s “new to you”—give it a try.

Here are activities that are great fun for families with kids or anyone looking for outdoor summer ideas – you only have to feel like a kid to have fun.

### Explore the Water

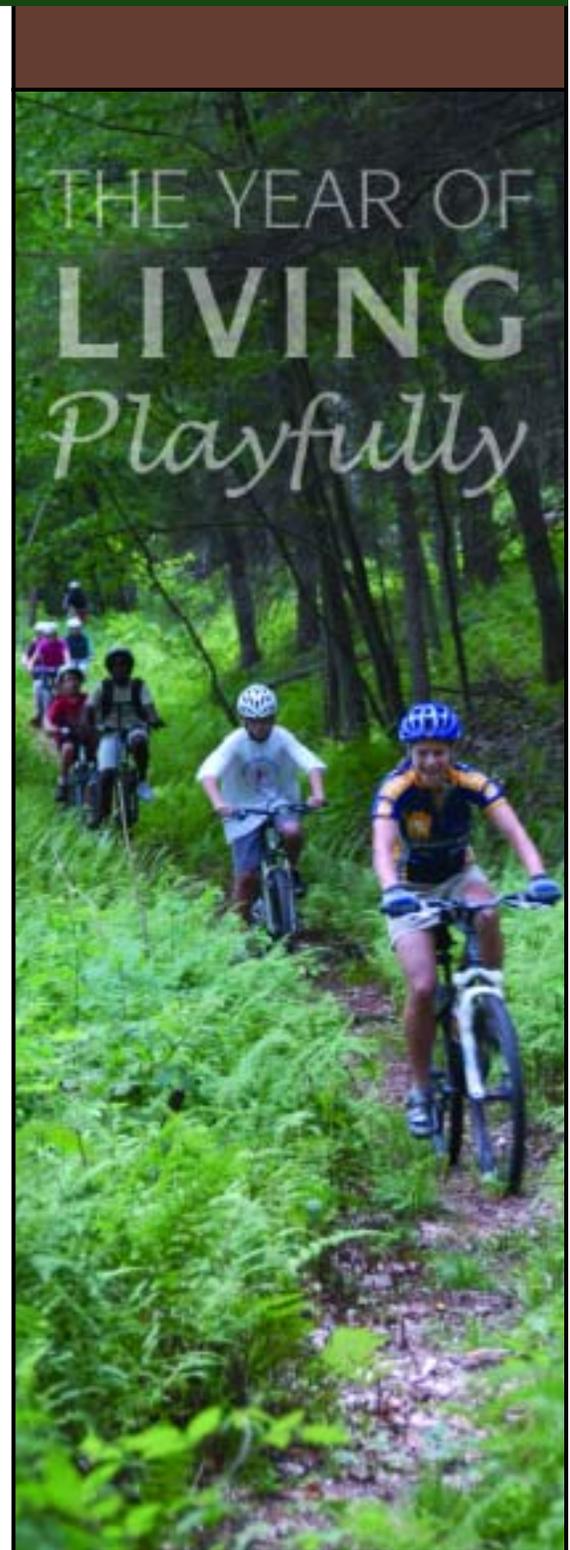
Did you know that while Pennsylvania is the thirty-third largest state – with 120 state parks and 20 state forests – only Alaska and California have more park land.

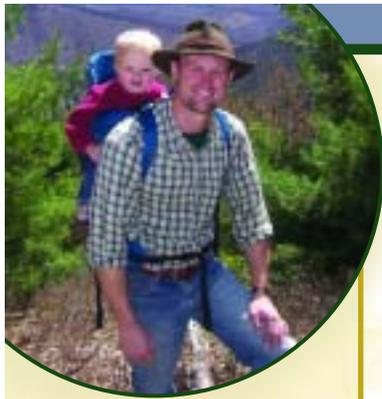
**Pennsylvania’s parks and forests have hundreds of lakes and creeks.** Not only is it a good way to stay cool, but exploring natural waterways is a surefire way to spark your love of nature. Try an organized activity like fishing or canoeing – or just enjoy the simple pleasure of exploring a shoreline.

### Camp Out in the Back Yard

Kids today spend 53 hours a week indoors using electronics, and less and less time outdoors. But how do you get your kid to experience the wonders of nature, develop creativity and learn to appreciate the virtues of quiet? **The outdoor vacation is making a comeback!**

*continued on page 3*





Pennsylvanian Seth Cassell makes hiking a family affair with his young son in tow.

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# President's Message

Marci Mowery



I'm fresh back from a family vacation to Colorado where we explored various forms of outdoor recreation. During one of our outings, we met a young man, Matt, traveling by himself on what he called a 'me-cation,' an extended weekend away from family obligations to reconnect with himself. What a great concept! And it fits so well with our theme of *Living Playfully*.

What intrigued me most about the 'me-cation' was the focus on getting away to indulge in...me. While too much self indulgence is rarely good, a little self indulgence can be the much needed panacea for what 'ails ya.' How often do we put goals on the back burner until the 'right time' comes along, only to find that the right time slips through our fingers?

We met Matt taking a mountain biking lesson—learning a new skill and challenging himself. We met Sarah, on a month-long me-cation via Amtrack, exploring parts of the country new to her.

*“Me-cations don't need to be far-flung in order to breath new life into your day.”*

Me-cations don't need to be far-flung in order to breath new life into your day. They could be as simple as taking that bike ride that you have been promising yourself, exploring that new park, or learning a new skill in a state forest. Go ahead, indulge yourself. Be playful. You'll thank me later.

*Yours in the Outdoors,  
Marci*

## READY, START, PLAY

This is our Year of Living Playfully, and who understands play better than a child? This year PPF will again host the Lace-Up for Leah 5k in Samuel Lewis State Park in honor of Marci's great-niece, Leah, who passed away at the age of 2 on June 26, 2011. Leah enjoyed outdoor experiences, and PPF wants to carry on her legacy and her love of play for both the young and the young at heart.

*Profits from the September 16 race benefit the Leah Vogel Memorial Playground Fund, an effort on the behalf of the foundation to bring playgrounds to parks across the Commonwealth. The construction of the first playground at Samuel Lewis State park in Leah's memory has begun due to many generous contributions.*

# LACE UP FOR LEAH

*5K Memorial Race*

*September 16, 2012*

*Samuel Lewis State Park*

**REGISTER for the race online at [www.tinyurl.com/leahlaceup](http://www.tinyurl.com/leahlaceup) or call 717-236-7644. PPF also accepts donations to the fund at [http://PaParksAndForests.org/LeahVogel\\_donate.html](http://PaParksAndForests.org/LeahVogel_donate.html).**

# The FUNdamentals of the Playful Life *continued*

A great way to introduce your child to the wonders of the outdoors is hiking and camping. But if your family's not quite ready for wilderness camping, organize a campout in your own backyard! It's cheap, fun and easier than you think. Next stop – try one of DCNR's first time camper programs <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/first-time-camper/>

## Watch Wildlife

Another opportunity to start local and then make a day – or week of it. Your own neighborhood offers sights, sounds—even smells—to engage and recharge the senses.

Turn your wildlife expedition into a “photo safari,” or guide your child (or yourself) in the creation of a nature notebook. **Once you're hooked you can take your notebook to your closest state forest and try to identify the birds and animal you spot.**

## Go on a Treasure Hunt

**Ever try geocaching?** It involves hunting for objects or landmarks in the outdoors. Another idea: Have your kids make a nature map of the neighborhood, so they learn to define their own special natural places. For more information, visit [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com).

## Buddy Up with the Birds

**City, country, or anywhere in between, birds are probably the most familiar wildlife we see each day.** Invite them to your own green space by making homemade feeders or nesting boxes for songbirds and hummingbirds. Or, simply enjoy their songs and calls—and see if you and your child can identify these familiar birds by sound.

## Sing (and Splash) in the Rain

**Why wait for the rain to go away, just to come again another day?** Pull on a pair of rubber boots and a raincoat and explore the rainy-day world of squishy yards and splashy mud puddles.

## Get Dirty!

**Kids love dirt!** Let your kids get dirty: A growing number of researchers believe that good old-fashioned dirt play exposes children to a myriad of bacteria, viruses and microbes that strengthen their immune systems.



Courtesy of Carlele Sentinel

## Fast Facts About Outdoor Time and Children

**Children are spending half as much time outdoors as they did 20 years ago.<sup>1</sup>**

▶ Today, kids 8-18 years old devote an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes using entertainment media in a typical day (more than 53 hours a week).<sup>2</sup>

▶ In a typical week, only 6% of children ages 9-13 play outside on their own.<sup>3</sup>

▶ Children who play outside are more physically active, more creative in their play, less aggressive and show better concentration.<sup>4</sup>

▶ Sixty minutes of daily unstructured free play is essential to children's physical and mental health.<sup>5</sup>

▶ The most direct route to caring for the environment as an adult is participating in “wild nature activities” before the age of 11.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Juster et al 2004; Burdette & Whitaker 2005; Kuo & Sullivan 2001

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>; Kaiser Family Foundation

<sup>3</sup> Children & Nature Network, 2008

<sup>4</sup> Burdette and Whitaker, 2005; Ginsburg et al., 2007

<sup>5</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics, 2008

<sup>6</sup> Wells and Lekies, 2006

These boys aren't afraid to get dirty! Rain helped turn this backyard barbeque into a giant mudslide!



# The FUNdamentals of the Playful Life *continued*

## Take a Night Hike

Exploring nature doesn't have to stop when the sun goes down. Spend some time with the moon, the stars and all the animals that like to be active at night. Go for a moon walk, trace the constellations of stars, learn to identify nocturnal insects and keep a moon journal to track the phases of the moon. For a real dark sky adventure, visit Cherry Springs State Park (see page 6 for more details).

## Build a Fort

Bushes, trees, cardboard boxes, old blankets—you may have turned them into a secret play space when you were a child; don't let your kids miss the chance to exercise their imaginations and build a fort of their own. **Let your child's imagination run wild!**

## Watch the Clouds

You need no supplies or special expertise for this one. Picking out shapes in the clouds is a classic childhood moment – and a great way to engage a visual learner. All that's needed is a sky filled with big fluffy marshmallow clouds (a.k.a. cumulus clouds) – and a whole lot of imagination.

## Go Climb a Tree!

Tree climbing is a rite of passage. Tree climbing can teach kids about assessing risk and building self-confidence while exercising their bodies. Take time to review some safety tips and go find your inner-squirrel!

## Go for a Bike Ride

Biking is a great way to explore your community with your friends, family or just clear your head on your own. Pack a picnic, do some bird watching and explore a new “neck of the woods.” Our parks and forests have hundreds of miles of trails for you to explore.

## Rock On! (With a Rock Collection)

Smooth pebbles, jagged limestone rocks, shimmering quartz crystals... turn loose your rock hounds to find specimens of every size, shape, color, texture, and sheen imaginable. **Fossils of interest—our parks and forests have those, too.**



# IN THE NEWS

## Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund Restored to Budget

In this “Year of Living Playfully” we are happy to report that our elected officials recognized the importance of outdoor recreation and worked tirelessly to restore the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key 93) to the 2012-13 budget. As you may recall from our last newsletter, the original budget proposal not only zeroed out the fund for the next fiscal year, it permanently eliminated the fund.

Passed in 1993 with overwhelming support by the General Assembly, the Keystone Fund allocates a small portion (15%) of the state's real estate transfer tax to recreation, conservation, and open space. Later that same year, 67% of the Pennsylvania's voters resoundingly endorsed the action taken by the General Assembly and supplemented the Keystone Fund with an additional \$50 million in bond revenues.

Since its inception, these monies have been invested in Pennsylvania at the local, county and state levels to improve outdoor recreation opportunities, enhance health, and stimulate local economies.

Thank you to all who contacted their elected officials. Please make one more call - and thank your state house and senate member for protecting this important fund.

## Congratulations and Thanks to Eagle Scout

Life Scout Evan Mongeau of BSA Troop 35 from Columbia, PA, recently completed his Eagle Scout requirements by building and placing park benches in the scenic overlooks of Sam Lewis State Park and the Urey Overlook for people to sit, relax and enjoy the breathtaking views. He received a small grant from PPF to match other funds he had earned. Here he is with Park Manager Andy St. John at the completion of his project. *Congratulations Evan!*



## Mission Accomplished!

### Couple completes Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests Passport!

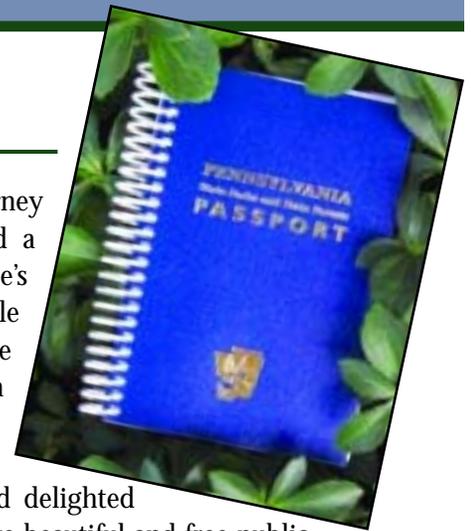
Check, Check, Check. No, they were not trying to get a server's attention for their restaurant bill. Louise and Daniel Kauffman steadily checked off all 120 state parks and 20 state forests in their Pennsylvania state parks and state forests passport. Not only did they visit 140 state owned public lands, but they also completed their adventure in only five months!

Park Manager Angel Croll suggested the passport challenge to this retired couple seeking an outdoor venture. The Kauffmans bought their passport at Greenwood Furnace State Park and proceeded to steadily add visitation stamps to it. Sometimes they visited seven parks in one day! Prior to this expedition, the Kauffmans had only been to about 10 of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

Along the way they met many park and forest rangers, managers, and maintenance workers. Each staffer greeted the Kauffmans with a smile and answered their questions. "Sometimes they were a little bit too helpful," Louise said with a chuckle. "You could tell that they loved their jobs and were eager to tell you about their park or forest."

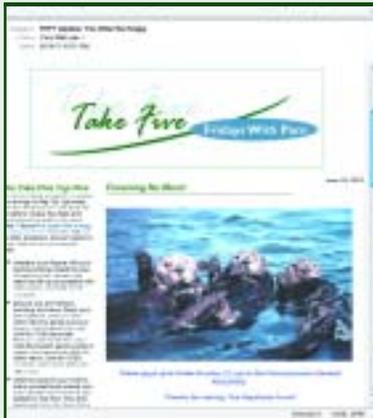
Through their journey the Kauffmans learned a lot about the state's public lands and a little about themselves. "I have more energy now from all of the extra walking we've been doing," said Daniel. He shared delighted surprise at the expansive beautiful and free public landscapes in the state. "You can stay right in Pennsylvania and have a wonderful time relaxing by the lake!"

Now that the Kauffmans have completed the passport challenge, they plan to return to the parks and forests that they enjoyed the most. They can plan new adventures by looking through their binders filled with maps and notes from each place they visited. Perhaps you'll meet them on a trail, proudly sporting their PPF champion tag.



For more information on ordering a passport visit the PPF website [www.PaParksAndForests.org](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org).

## Take Five in the Outdoors with Hershey and RuffWear



Do you read our Take Five/Fridays with Pam eblast? (No? Then you should visit the website and subscribe!) Luckily for us, one of our Friends does read it and reminded us earlier this year that Hershey has a Take Five candy bar. That reminder was the start of beautiful relationship with

the Hershey Company, who generously provided a supply of these yummy confections for us to use in promoting not only our work but everything that's fun about Taking Five in the Outdoors.

Our launch was Cinco de Mayo – with regional volunteer events at Ohiopyle, Swatara, Greenwood Furnace, Friends of Delaware State Forest/Promised Land State Park and Ridley Creek. Streams were cleaned, trees were planted, roadway trash eliminated and trails cleared. Then in early June, we launched our 'Take Five in the Outdoors Photo Contest.'

Incorporating our popular annual 'Dogs in the Outdoors' photo contest (with doggie prizes provided by RuffWear,

the canine outfitter), photographers are encouraged to submit their best pictures in the categories of Appreciation of Beauty, Kids in the Outdoors, Outdoor Recreation and Volunteers in Action (as well as Dogs in the Outdoors) for a chance to win a carton of Take Five bars, state park gift cards, or a RuffWear packable water bowl or dog bed. Visit the PPF website for the rules and how to submit your photos. Submissions are welcome through September 3rd, with voting to begin on our Facebook page on September 5th.

We're always looking for new and different ways to challenge our readers. So on July 12th we'll launch our Take Five (Lines) Cinquain Poetry Contest. What's cinquain? It's a very simple, very structured five-line poem. For example:

Chocolate  
Rich, Dark  
Melting, Munching, Satisfying  
There's no better treat.  
Cocoa

Of course, we're sending you outside to do your creating. Let the summer breezes inspire you. And, yes, there'll be chocolate.

# FOCUS ON FRIENDS – CHERRY SPRINGS DARK SKY FUND AND ASSOCIATION

# DID

Cherry Springs State Park is nationally acclaimed for its dark sky viewing. It attracts astronomers and families alike, both eager to gaze at the starry sky. In addition to the dark skies, Cherry Springs is home to the Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund and Association.

The members of the Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association take their role of educating the public very seriously. They sponsored an outdoor lighting workshop for Potter County officials and the general public explaining how light can and should be directed downward with the proper fixtures. These fixtures preserve the integrity of the dark sky as well as reduce lighting costs. The Association also supplied a lighting guide to the surrounding townships and public libraries (a copy of which is also at the PPF main office). The group was pleased when the borough of Galeton asked them for lighting advice in the redevelopment of Main Street. Thanks to the education efforts of the Association, the borough replaced their old light fixtures with full cut-off night-sky lighting on Main Street and beyond. Many other businesses in Galeton have followed their example and installed or retrofitted existing light with non-light-polluting fixtures.

The members of Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association have researched the best ways to reduce light pollution. All visitors arriving after dark are asked to park in a distant lot to minimize light and noise disturbance. They replaced the white light fixtures in the park to red lights, including the bathroom. These red lights created a challenge—visitors would have been unable to see the restroom walls with the current paint color. “So, the planners working on the project actually went into a dark closet with some paint chips and a flashlight with a red lens just to see what colors would work,” said chapter leader Maxine Harrison.

Cherry Springs State Park’s remote location is great for sky viewing, but not for internet service. Funding raised by the Association along with a Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation grant made it possible to install wireless internet service for the astronomers. Electric pedestals have also been installed on the Astronomy

Observation Field so that viewers can plug in their computers and equipment. In addition, all overhead electric lines have been replaced with underground service.

The Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association hosts many night-time events at the park. Thom Bemus, a volunteer and educator with the National Public Observatory, leads a program called “Stars-n-Parks” a stargazing program that uses naked eye “star-hopping,” binocular viewing and telescope viewing of the stars. Thom weaves astrophysics with folklore and legends to present, for many people, their first astronomy lesson. Star and lunar programs occur almost every weekend from May through October. As many as 300 people have attended the weekend programs at Cherry Springs State Park. Gracious volunteers often give impromptu week night tours as well.

Currently the Association and park staff are planning to install shadow box fencing around Route 44 to reduce the intrusion of headlights. Also in the works - a new road around the field so that visitors may arrive at the viewing area with fewer disturbances to settled visitors. Park Manager, Chip Harrison, said that “The Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association helps in almost every program that the park presents.”

## To learn more visit: [www.csspdarkskyfund.org](http://www.csspdarkskyfund.org)

To donate, go directly to the PPF site or mail a check to:

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

1845 Market St, Suite 202

Camp Hill, PA 17011

Please make your check out to: PPF write ‘CSSP Dark Sky Fund’ in the memo line



# YOU KNOW...

Cherry Springs State Park is nearly as remote and wild today as it was two centuries ago. Named for the large stands of black cherry trees in the park, the 48-acre state park is surrounded by the 262,000-acre Susquehannock State Forest. The Susquehanna Trail passes nearby and offers 85 miles of backpacking and hiking.

In 1818, Jonathan Edgcomb made his second try at settling in the wilderness of Potter County. Along the Jersey Shore Pike, Edgcomb constructed a log house that became known as the Cherry Springs Hotel. The hotel was in an extremely remote spot and for years the only visitors, other than travelers on the pike, were wandering American Indians. Over the years, the pine and hemlock in the Cherry Springs area was lumbered off and in their place grew hardwood trees like sugar maple and the park's namesake, black cherry.

A single-track mountain bike trail runs 15 miles from the state forest district office at Denton Hill to Patterson State Park and continues to Cherry Springs State Park. Trail maps are available at the Bureau of Forestry and Lyman Run State Park offices.

There are 30 campsites and a sanitary dump station. All sites include a picnic table, lantern hanger and fire ring. Reservations are not accepted. The campground is open from the second Friday in April and closes in December.



## “BOO CREW” HELPS BRING NEW PLAYGROUND TO PYMATUNING STATE PARK

In 2009, a unique friends group formed at Pymatuning State Park with affiliation through the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, which was focused on featuring a two weekend Halloween event at Pymatuning's Jamestown Campground. Park staff was receptive to this new idea in hopes that it would attract campers to the campground in October, which historically has been a month with low campground attendance.

In its third year, the Halloween Spooktacular has in many ways exceeded park expectations by attracting hundreds of campers and outside patrons to the Jamestown Campground for hayrides, crafts, costume contests, games, and a dance. Proceeds from the event since its inception have been set aside to purchase a new playground for the Jamestown Campground. At the conclusion of the 2011 event, the Pymatuning “Boo Crew” was able to contribute \$14,000, with an additional \$1,000 graciously donated by PNC Financial and Charitable Trusts.

It goes without saying that the Halloween event at Pymatuning benefits the Bureau of State Parks and the surrounding community in numerous ways. The Jamestown Campground has practically sold out of campsites each weekend that the event has been held and, as a result, we estimate that the Bureau has collected more than \$30,000 in camping revenues.

In order to show appreciation and continued support for this event, an in-kind match of \$15,000 was contributed by the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks to help fund this \$30,000 playground unit.

The new playground has replaced an outdated wooden structure at the campground beach. This summer the park is already receiving positive feedback from the campground patrons about the new playground. Future fundraising goals of the Pymatuning ‘Boo Crew’ include a planned phase two which will include a climbing wall, an additional slide, and new swings.

# CCC Reflections — The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Pine Creek Valley

By John Eastlake

During the CCC era (1933-1942) there were 11 camps on the Pine Creek Watershed, each with the 'S' designation indicating PA Department of Forests and Water camps. The Army provided the necessities for the camps - shelter, clothing, food, medical supplies and equipment. Forests and Water (now the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) planned the work projects and supervised the CCC boys in the completion of these projects—which included tree planting, building fire towers, fire trails, forest fire fighting, etc.

The S-88 Lyman Run Camp developed many of the roads and trails in that area and started Lyman Run State Park. After the CCC program and during World War II, the former camp became a prisoner of war camp, interring captured Germans. The S-136 Cherry Springs Camp mission was similar to the S-88 camp. They developed Cherry Springs State Park. The log pavilion there is a real work of art as is the log structure that was rebuilt to commemorate the original hotel along the Coudersport Pike. The park is very popular now with Woodmen's Weekend in August and the summer dark sky star shows. Both of these camps were on the Susquehannock State Forest.

There were five CCC camps on the Tioga State Forest. The work of the S-92 Asaph Camp included the erection of a fire tower, the standard CCC projects, and the development of a fish hatchery. Unfortunately, a fire caused the camp to be moved and was renamed the S-155 Darling Run Camp. Darling Run Camp was directly on Pine Creek and accessible by the New York Central Railroad, now the Pine Creek Rail Trail. The boys of this camp developed the two Pennsylvania Grand Canyon State Parks - Leonard Harrison and Colton Point. The S-91 Watrous Camp built the Thompson Hollow Road that made Colton Point State Park accessible from the west and built numerous roads in conjunction with the S-90 Leetonia camp.

The layout of the S-90 camp was unique. Several buildings, accessible by elaborate wooden steps, were erected on the hillside on a former logging railroad grade. The S-91 and 90 camps cut vistas along their roads. The Leetoni Camp was located in a former logging town. These camps built many fire trails and the West Rim Hiking Trail. The S-138 Dixie Run camp was located between Morris and Blackwell. They built roads and trails in the lower Pine Creek Gorge and the CCC boys often threw mini Kellogg's cereal boxes to the Blackwell kids on their way to their work projects.

The S-81 Slate Run Camp was located along the Francis Branch of the Slate Run stream and had a medical facility called the "Walter Reed Junior Hospital." They built a splash dam swimming area patterned after the dams used to move logs during the logging era. The S-124 Cammal Camp, like Darling Run, was also located on the wrong side of the creek. After several bridges were wiped out by ice jams and high water, the camp was moved to Maryland. The S-82 Tiadaghton Camp had several names during its history: Waterville, then Haneyville, and finally Tiadoghton Camp.

It is fitting that the last camp in the Pine Creek watershed was the S-129 Gifford Pinchot Camp and Little Pine State Park. Gifford Pinchot started the U.S. Forest Service and was a friend of Franklin D. Roosevelt the "Father of the CCCs." He was also the governor of Pennsylvania when the CCC program was started. The tremendous legacy created from this relationship continues to be a great benefit for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.



*Darling Run Camp (S-155) The Pine Creek Rail Trail passes the former site. The Tioga State Forest has a sign designating the former camp location.*



## The Great PA Outdoor Challenge

This fall marks the 5th year for the Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge, which we're transitioning for 2013 into a series of scavenger hunts, contests and events. The Goddard Challenge (next page), Lace Up for Leah 5k (p. 2) and Take Five in the Outdoors competitions (p. 5) are just a few of the ways we'll offer you inspiration and variety in the outdoors.

*There'll be no season and no reason to stay inside!*

# Happy Birthday to Doc Goddard!

This September marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Maurice K. (“Doc”) Goddard, recognized by many as the Father of Pennsylvania’s state parks. If you’ve been reading Penn’s Stewards and our other communications over the last few years, you know that PPF has been a key partner in the Goddard Legacy Project, celebrating Doc’s life and accomplishments. We couldn’t let something as momentous as a 100th birthday pass without special recognition!

**First up, launching this month, is The Goddard Challenge** – PPF’s very own version of the classic Bingo game with your chance to win prizes by completing a column, diagonal or row on your Goddard Challenge Card with visits to seven Goddard-centric sites across the commonwealth.

The Challenge Card is a 7x7 chart, with 49 spaces representing a variety of items—from parks started under Goddard’s tenure to viewing the documentary.

Visit the website to download your Challenge Card; then pick the column, diagonal or row you want to complete. Take your photo with the sign for the state park in each of your spaces, with one of the historical markers or with a sign from one of the Wild & Natural Areas – whatever constitutes your chosen column, diagonal or row.

Once you complete a column, diagonal or row, submit your card and the photographs to the PPF office for a chance to win prizes awarded through random drawings throughout the summer. Or shoot to complete the whole card for a special prize drawing!



*Sandy Creek State Park was renamed as Maurice K. Goddard State Park in 1969 (over Goddard’s objections as he did not like personal tributes).*

**Also on tap for the celebration, we’ll host a birthday party on September 13th at Camp Hill United Methodist church to celebrate Doc Goddard’s remarkable life.** We’ll show the documentary so if you still have that space left on your Challenge Card, this will be another chance to complete the Challenge and be eligible for the final drawing. Join us for cake, visit with exhibitors, and catch an update on the Legacy Project’s accomplishments.

And later, join us for a **metric century bike ride from Pinchot State Park to Codorus State Park and back**, followed by refreshments. The ride will take place on October 13th and be led by PPF Treasurer and former DCNR State Parks Regional Manager Gary Smith, an avid cyclist and trip leader. Watch the website for details on the ride and how to participate.

Like our Goddard Legacy Project Facebook page to stay connected with Legacy activities. 



## ***In Memory Of..***

**James C. Nelson** (10/21/30 - 3/10/12)

*It is with sadness that we join the Forestry community in saying goodbye to Dr. James Nelson, who died at age 81 in March. Jim served the Bureau of Forestry for 42 years, including his tenure as the State Forester from 1989 to 1993. Much as Doc Goddard is known as the Father of the State Parks, Jim Nelson is the Father of the Wild and Natural Areas, those special spaces in our state forests left to management by nature with little human intervention. He espoused sustainable forestry practices long before anyone really understood their significance. He wrote the first State Forest Resource Management Plan asking his fellow foresters to look to the future of the gift of the forests.*

*A simple glance at his photo should be sufficient to illustrate that Jim had a great appreciation of ‘The Playful Life.’ For him, the forests were a place of joy and strength. It seems that we have lost our Lorax. He has “hoisted himself and took leave of this place.” We shall miss him.*



**Eugene J. Comoss** (4/23/47 - 3/31/12)

*March brought another sad day as we lost another long-time friend of the state parks and forests - Gene Comoss. Gene was Director and Chief Engineer at the Bureau of Facility Design and Construction for almost 20 years prior to his April 2011 retirement. The position afforded him a ready platform from which to advocate for the structures and facilities that give our parks and forests their character, like the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge at Tyler State Park and Kinzua Viaduct. He was dedicated to seeing that these unique structures held special places in our parks system, even when they seemed forever lost. They may have burned or felled by a twister, but if they were part of the Pennsylvania state parks, then they belonged to all of us and his office was going to put them to rights.*

*For a fascinating look at Gene and the work he did, check out the video <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/tags/kinzua-viaduct> from Open University about the collapse of the Kinzua Viaduct. Gene makes his first appearance at the 3:50 minute mark but the entire three-part lesson on bridge engineering is amazing.*

*We all wish he had had more time to walk golf courses he enjoyed, and more time with family and friends.*

**Memorial or Honorary Gifts** You can honor the memory of a special person or joyous occasion while supporting PPF’s work in conservation, recreation, education, and volunteerism in our state parks and forests. Send gifts to: PPF, 1845 Market St, Suite 202, Camp Hill, PA 17011 or download a form at [www.PaParksAndForests.org](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org)

# AMERICORPS TAKES TO THE PARKS

## *Increased Volunteerism Follows*

*Brittanie Smith and  
other volunteers planting  
new shrubs at the  
Moraine/McConnells  
Mill Complex.*



In 2010, the Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan recommended several ways the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (and its partners – among them PPF) could increase participation in outdoor recreation like reaching out to younger people, older people, and corporations and small businesses. Encouraging volunteerism in our public lands is at the core of this aspiration.

Enter AmeriCorps. With a grant from the Community Conservation and Partnership Program, PPF reached out to Keystone SMILES AmeriCorps to pilot a collaborative program to develop youth outdoor programs/volunteer projects, engage seniors, and to promote the parks through inclusive recreation.

Two AmeriCorps volunteers were recruited—Brittanie Smith and Alyssa McGinniss. Brittanie is working at the Moraine/McConnells Mill Complex, which is the perfect fit for her. She grew up with Moraine as her backyard, so her experience and genuine love of the park makes her an invaluable asset. Meanwhile, over at Cook Forest and Clear Creek, Alyssa says that after six years of working summer jobs in the outdoors she's finding her time there to be her best personal experience. "Every day the towering old growth forest asks me to stretch and grow with it, and the river reminds me to go with the flow."

If your travels this season should take you to either place, be sure to say hello!



*Alyssa did a great job recruiting volunteers for the annual Cook Forest French & Indian War Encampment. Pictured here, left to right are Laura Isacco, Kiyomi Knox and Melia White.*

## Congratulations to all of the award winners at our sixth annual Awards Banquet held

at the Country Club of Harrisburg on May 1.



**Joseph Ibberson Government Award, sponsored by Chesapeake Energy: Dr. James Grace**  
(Left to Right: Barbara Sexton, Chesapeake Energy; Dr. James Grace; PPF President Marci Mowery)



**Volunteerism Award sponsored by Recreation Equipment Inc. (REI): Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy** (Left to right: Chris Joyce, REI-Bedford; Kerry Speelman, MAKC; Andrew Rentzel, MAKC; PPF President Marci Mowery; MAKC's Tom Metzgar, Kim Metzgar, Aron Schmid and Katherine Schmid)



DCNR staff enjoy the reception.  
Left to right: Seth Cassell, Amy Cassell, Ellen Ferretti, Gretchen Leslie



**Forest of the Year Award, sponsored by Dominion: Elk State Forest**  
(Left to right: John Frith, Dominion; Jeanne Wambaugh, District Forester, Elk State Forest; PPF President Marci Mowery)



**Improvement Award: Friends of State Line Serpentine Barrens**  
(Left to right: Mike Bertram, Henry Whitesel, PPF President Marci Mowery, Jim Dudley and Emery Abdel-Latif of the Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens)



**Education Award: Bud and Gwen Wills**  
(Left to right: PPF President Marci Mowery, Gwen Wills, Bud Wills)



**Park of the Year Award, sponsored by Talisman Energy: Kinzua Bridge State Park** (Left to right: PPF President Marci Mowery; Jason Heasley, Kinzua Bridge State Park Manager; Lisa Walker, Kinzua Bridge State Park; Amy Gilbert, Talisman Energy; Jim Reinsburrow, Kinzua Bridge State Park)



**President's Award, sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce: Yellow Creek State Park**  
(Left to right: Denise Sickon, Yellow Creek State Park; Kenneth Bisbee, Yellow Creek State Park Manager; PPF President Marci Mowery)



**Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award, sponsored by Woolrich, Inc.: Franklin L. Kury**  
(Left to right: The Honorable Franklin L. Kury, PPF President Marci Mowery)

**Young Volunteer Award, sponsored by PPL Electric Utilities: Paul Mickle**  
(Left to right: Paul Mickle, PPF President Marci Mowery)



## PPFF Welcomes New Staff



Brittany Howell joins PPFF as the new Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator. Her passion for conservation was sparked at an early age reading "National Geographic-Kids" magazine. While completing her bachelor's degree in communications from Penn State University, she served as an extern at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This summer, she and her new husband, Steve, plan to add many parks and forests to their Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests Passport.

## Summer Sale [www.PaParksAndForests.org](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org)

Check out the summer sale in the PPFF Online Store! Pam and her husband are celebrating their 15th anniversary this summer and we're congratulating them with a 15% off sale on PPFF embroidered tees and denim shirts in the online store. PPFF members receive 10% off everything every day but from now until the end of October, these items are priced to sell at an even bigger discount. Also in the store, a free printable index you can insert into your Pennsylvania State Parks and State Forests Passport and a page of Champion Tag forms to print and submit to complete your challenges.



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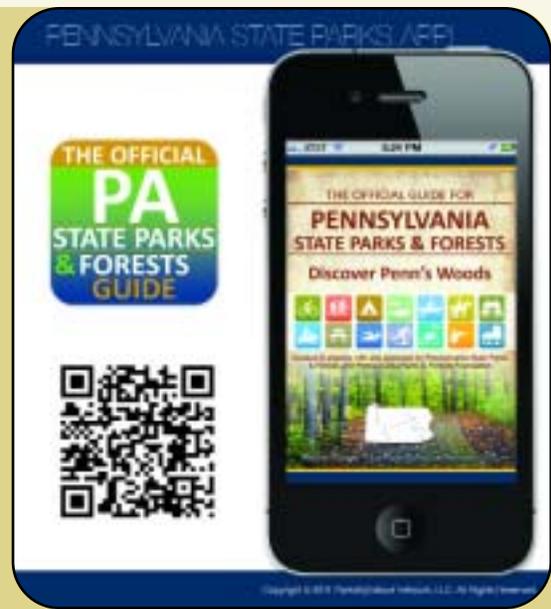
## Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests Pocket Ranger® Mobile App ranked #53 in downloads on iTunes Apple store!

As we've featured this interactive mobile app in ebasts, newsletters and Take Five - we know many of you have had the opportunity to take advantage of the Pocket Ranger's® **advanced interactive GPS and GIS Map technology for tracking trails, marking waypoints, and locating landmarks in the great outdoors.**

Other favorite features that make this app award winning include **Friend Finder** and the ability to cache park maps in advance to ensure that navigation remains possible in the event of lost mobile reception, and planning features like secure overnight reservations in a state park.

**The Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests Pocket Ranger® app is now available on iTunes, Android Market and PocketRanger.com.** Don't have an Android or Apple phone? The Pocket Ranger® is also formatted as a Mobile Website for ease of use for all Blackberry and feature phone users.

*The Pocket Ranger Mobile Tour Guide tutorial is available at [www.youtube.com/user/PocketRangerApp](http://www.youtube.com/user/PocketRangerApp).*



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