

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Summer 2015



2014

Contest Winner:

Dogs in the Outdoors – 1st Place:

Amber Irwine, Black Moshannon State Park

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Contact us:

Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation
1845 Market Street, Suite 202,
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 236-7644
www.PaParksAndForests.org

PENNSYLVANIA'S Heritage of Conservation Activism



Looking back at the role of citizen groups in Pennsylvania's history of conservation and protection of public lands, we thank Margaret Mead for her astute observation that we should: *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

In our spring newsletter we wrote about the connection between human impacts on our natural environment and public health. We focused on shifts in public policy and milestones in legislative actions. At the heart of these efforts, there were always individuals and their like-minded friends and colleagues who formed groups, lighting the spark and inspiring action.

Our state is a different world than the one William Penn found on his arrival. In 1681, Pennsylvania's rich forests and abundant rainfall supported 83,000 miles of rivers and streams. The forests, waters, and meadows were home to a wide variety of plants, insects and animals. As Pennsylvania's industrial economy and its communities grew, the devastating changes that accompanied that growth motivated an interest in preserving the state's natural beauty and resources.

In the paragraphs below, we barely scratch the surface of the Pennsylvania conservation movement. At any given time-at any point in history-the movement is active at the local, county, regional, state, national, and international level. Our goal is to inspire you to understand the important role we all play in the conservation of our natural resources.

Activism – A New Growth Industry

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Pennsylvanians cut, mined, quarried, hunted, fished, and harvested with increasing voracity. Polluted air and waterways, denuded forests, impoverished soils, extinct and disappearing plant and animal life motivated citizens to embrace an interest in conservation that they hoped would restore the state's environmental health.

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association

No discussion of the birth of Pennsylvania's citizen conservation groups could start without Joseph Trimble Rothrock, the commonwealth's "Father of Forestry." Born in Mifflin County, he was often ill as a child and spent many hours hiking the woods of Mifflin County for exercise to combat his weakened health. It was while on these walks that Rothrock developed a love for the outdoors. He went on to become a pioneering environmentalist *continued on page 3*



2014

Contest Winner:

Kids in the Outdoors – 1st Place:
Amber Heenthal, Keystone State Park

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President's Message

Marci Mowery



As we pull together this edition of Penn's Stewards, it feels bittersweet. We want to thank all of the businesses and donors who made the banquet a success. More than 170 people turned out to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of the staff and volunteers who dedicate their time and energies to your state parks and forests. Numerous legislators joined us to read and present citations to these award winners.

Sadly, we lost several retirees and volunteers in the past few months, as well as avid outdoors enthusiasts who enjoyed recreating and sharing our state parks and forests with family and friends. We will miss these wonderful role models who inspired others to follow in their footsteps. As author Balroop Singh wrote: "Memories are those endless treasures, which we can keep exploring till eternity and bask in their glory like a slow swinging hammock!" ... *which is just how we like to remember them.*

This summer, we will be kicking off a campaign to identify the symbols we associate with our public lands. On page 6, you'll read about the "100 Icons of Summer." We hope you will take a few minutes and tell us your favorite symbol of our state parks and forests to help us reach a goal of documenting, through words and images, the 100 items we recognize and cherish.

Other ways you might get involved this summer is to host a showing of the soon-to-be released mini documentaries about famous Pennsylvania conservationists. If you belong to a conservation, civic, recreation, church, or social club and would like more information on how you might get involved, read the feature story and visit the paconservationheritage.org website or fill out the form on page 5.

As summer comes upon us, please remember to take precautions to ensure your safety when recreating in the outdoors. Let family or friends know where you plan to be. Take emergency supplies, even on a short adventure, and wear protective equipment suitable to the sport (bike helmets, PFDs, etc). Remember to remain hydrated. Travel or swim with a buddy, and participate at a level in which you are comfortable. If you are new to a sport, consider taking a class to learn more, particularly the safety tips. You are all important to us and we wish for you a safe and happy summer.



Hello and Goodbye!

PPFF believes in mentoring the next generation of conservation leaders, and to that end we have an active internship program. This spring, interns Ericka and RJ joined us. Ericka, a professional writing major with a minor in international studies, hailed from York College of Pennsylvania and worked on the Conservation Heritage Project, communication pieces, and social media. RJ, a geoenvironmental studies major from Shippensburg University, researched and wrote about conservation history for the Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project. Together, RJ and Ericka created a storymap, which can be found at paconservationheritage.org.



RJ



Ericka

Welcome Beth Artz and Intern Carla! Beth joined PPFF as our office assistant in our Camp Hill office. A resident of Camp Hill, Beth enjoys spending time recreating in state parks and forests with her family. Carla, an intern from Shippensburg University, will be assisting with our Gateway Community Project and the Conservation Heritage Project.

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

For more information visit our website at www.PaParksAndForests.org/ways_to_give.html.

in Pennsylvania, helping preserve and re-establish the forests that he loved.

In describing the forest conditions of 1915 he said, “6,400 square miles; more than 4 million acres of the state are desolated, cut and unprotected from fire.” He compared Pennsylvania’s forests to similar forest destruction in China. He worried that, “unless we reforest, Pennsylvania’s highlands will wash into the oceans.”

In July of 1886, Dr. Rothrock and 50 others joined together to form the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA). Their goal was to promote conservation and to support the creation of state forests in Pennsylvania.

Their first order of business was to formalize their intentions. Their mission was to “secure and maintain a due proportion of forest area throughout the State; to disseminate information concerning the growth, protection, and utilization of forests; to show the great evils resulting from forest destruction, in the decrease and unequal distribution of the available water supplies, the impoverishment of the soil, the injury to various industries, and the change in climate; to secure the enactment by the Legislature of such laws, and the enforcement of the same, as shall tend to increase and preserve the forests of the State.” They encouraged membership by inviting “every progressive or public spirited man or woman in the community” to join them in their efforts.

The Audubon Society

John James Audubon lived in Mill Grove near Valley Forge when he developed his spectacular and unique painting style. He embraced the philosophy that we borrow the world from our children.

The Audubon Society grew out of citizen outrage over the slaughter of birds for the millinery trade in 1896. Founding Mothers Harriet Lawrence Hemenway and Minna Hall of Massachusetts persuaded ladies of fashion to forgo the cruelly harvested plumage that adorned hats. This led to the passage of laws to protect birds. Their work quickly spread, with Pennsylvania forming the second state Audubon Society.



Audubon spearheads one of the largest citizen science movements in the world, with the 115-year old Christmas Bird Count. The count provides scientists with data to follow critical bird population trends.



Early citizens groups mobilized to address issues around deforestation and strip mining.

Izaak Walton League

Birds exist in an ecosystem, and a demise in bird populations threaten critical habitat that also supports human life. While Audubon Societies spoke for the birds, the Izaak Walton League stepped up to speak for the fish and water quality. Walton’s famous treatise on fishing, *The Compleat Angler*, is still considered a celebration of conservation ideals and the art and spirit of fishing. He wrote: “Rivers and the inhabitants of the watery element are made for wise men to contemplate, and for fools to pass by without consideration.”

“It is a Club for All” - The Alpine Club

In the spring of 1915, Pennsylvania Forestry Commission member Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker and two journalist friends were traveling to interview an elderly hunter in Snyder County to hear the story of the last bison hunt in Pennsylvania. Passing Mahoney Mountain in the distance, they agreed that it would be “a fine thing” to have an organization that focused on exploring and climbing Pennsylvania’s higher peaks to study the flora and fauna – and ultimately cultivate a wider public interest in conservation.

The Alpine Club was born with a mission “to preserve the vanishing wildlife, the birds and the animals, as well as the purity of the streams which flow from these mountains, and above all, to use every effort to prevent forest fires.” With neither dues, nor fees, the club was open to all.

The group had an active voice on such as issues as abolishing the use of poison in forests to control crows and predatory animals, since the practice impacts all species. They collected data on stream flow, pollution impacts, and fish conservation.

continued on page 4



*Tree planting in Pittsburgh,
1901*

Heritage of Conservation Activism *continued from page 3*

A Mighty Wind from the West

Three years into the Great Depression, ten Pittsburgh citizens came together to form the Greater Pittsburgh Parks Association, a non-profit

conservation organization to alleviate widespread unemployment through public works programs that would also create a positive impact on the region's natural resources. Their first project was a modest landscaping project along a park on Bigelow Boulevard.

Out of this small group of committed citizens grew the present day, 11,000+ strong Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC). As their membership grew, they continued to expand their goals to include land acquisition, public policy, science, and research and community gardening.

To date, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has protected more than 250,000 acres of lands, helped to establish ten state parks, and protected or restored more than 3,000 miles of rivers and streams. WPC also supports 135 community gardens and greenspaces that are planted with the help of 13,000 volunteers.

Statewide, more than 400,000 acres of land in Pennsylvania are protected through land trusts and easement acquisitions, by national organizations such as the Conservation Fund to local conservancies such as Natural Lands Trust and the North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy.

“As Sunshine Flows into Trees” – Pennsylvania Sierra Club

*“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature's peace will flow into you
as sunshine flows into trees.”*

~ John Muir

As early as 1889, Journalist Robert Underwood Johnson encouraged John Muir to form an “association” to help protect the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Club's first goals included establishing Glacier and Mount Rainier national parks, convincing the California legislature to give Yosemite Valley to the US federal government, and saving California's coastal redwoods.

The Sierra Club is now one of the nation's largest grassroots environmental organizations. The Pennsylvania Chapter organized in the early 1970s to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (PFSC) is one of the oldest and largest sportsmen's organizations in Pennsylvania. PFSC was established in 1932 with a meeting of five Pennsylvania conservationists: Ross L. Leffler, John M. Phillips, Judge Grover C. Ladner, Colin Reed, and John Youngman.

From the beginning the Federation was concerned with environmental issues and how sportsmen could help. Theirs was an important voice in passing Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Act in 1937. They spearheaded efforts in game land acquisition and worked to improve fish and game laws.

After World War II, Pennsylvanians returned home and found many of their favorite hunting and fishing areas devastated by heavy strip mining as coal was used to support the war effort. Beginning with the Bituminous Open Pit mining act in 1963, their conservation efforts continued with support of legislation to improve and restore Pennsylvania. They were instrumental in the establishment of Soil and Conservation Districts, and founding of the National Wildlife Federation.

To join their group, one makes this Conservation Pledge: *“I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country – its soil, air, minerals, forests, water and wildlife.”*

PPFF

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is new to the conservation scene, a mere teenager on the timeline of conservation history. Called for in the State Park 2000 report, we formed in 1999 as a way for users and visitors to Pennsylvania's state parks and forests to give back to these resources. We aspire to be meaningful participants in Pennsylvania's rich heritage of conservation. History is made day by day and we plan to be a part of it.



In the spring of 1959 the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA), along with nine other conservation agencies in the state, sponsored a contest to name a “Good Outdoor Manners Raccoon.” The PFA hoped that a friendly raccoon character, wearing a hat and a lumberjack-style plaid flannel shirt, would be an effective centerpiece for their “Good Outdoor Manners” crusade. Over 48,000 Pennsylvania school children responded to the contest. The winner was selected in May 1959. His winning name entry: “Howdy.”

Be the Change...

These are just a few examples of groups that were conceived in an environmental landscape different than the one we live in today. From small citizen groups that form to speak out to reduce lead poisoning or to develop community gardens, to the multi-national groups with Pennsylvania chapters, throughout history our citizens made inroads towards preservation and better conservation policies. If you want clean air and water, thriving forests, fertile soils, and protection of endangered plant and animal life – learn about your conservation heritage and then choose to be part of that “*small group of thoughtful, committed citizens (who) can change the world!*”

We can't possibly list all organizations in which you might become involved. A quick internet search on the issues important to you will produce opportunities for you to review. If a group doesn't exist, start your own! The Conservation Heritage's projects upcoming mini-documentaries inspire citizen engagement through stories about the lives of Pennsylvania conservationists. Look for one showing near you.

The Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project

The groups mentioned here tell the diverse history of conservation in Pennsylvania. Remarkably, these groups and many more organizations and individuals have never been comprehensively documented, until now combining academic research and interviews with individuals who were or are involved in conservation heritage from the mid-20th century to the present, we seek to create a comprehensive archive of this important story.

To learn more, visit
PaConservationHeritage.org.

Please contact me about how we can show the mini-documentaries about Pennsylvania conservationists at our club, organization, school or church.

Name _____

Organization _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Or email PaConservationHeritage@gmail.com

For more on Dr. Rothrock's accomplishments, read about his service as the first forestry commissioner to lead the newly formed Division of Forestry in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Two of his major accomplishments as commissioner were his land acquisition program and the creation of a forest academy to train foresters for state service.



DCNR to Add 17,000 Acres to Elk State Forest in the Pennsylvania Wilds

Acting DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn has announced that the department is adding more than 17,000 acres of wooded land and waterways to the adjacent Elk State Forest with the acquisition of about a 27-square mile property in Norwich and Sergeant townships near the town of Clermont in McKean County. This is the largest land addition to the state forest system in 65 years.

The state invested \$7.2 million to purchase the land. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy facilitated the purchase with additional funds from the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

“This property will be open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking and other recreational activities, expanding the tremendous recreational opportunities that attract visitors to the Pennsylvania Wilds,” Dunn said. “It will protect high quality tributaries to the East Branch Clarion River and habitat for several species of concern, such as the timber rattlesnake.”



UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

Friends of Colonel Denning: Monthly Volunteer Day 6/13/15
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Iron Run Half Marathon/
Charcoal Challenge 5k 6/13/15
Friends of Oil Creek: Chicks in the Sticks 6/13/15
Friends of Cowans Gap: Music at the Gap 6/13/15
Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association: Public Viewing Night 6/13/15
Forest Fire Warden's 100th Anniversary Celebration 6/20/15
Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Square Dance 6/20/15
Friends of Black Moshannon: PA Wilds Child 6/20/15
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 6/20/15



JULY

Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park: Birthday Party
Weekend 7/3/15
Friends of Shawnee: Fireworks on the Lake 7/3/15
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day 7/4/15
Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 7/4/15
Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain 2015 7/5/15
Friends of Cowans Gap: Music at the Gap 7/11/15
Friends of Colonel Denning: Monthly Volunteer Day 7/11/15
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 7/18/15

AUGUST

Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Old Home Days 8/1/15
Friends of Laurel Hill: Ridge Runner Work Days 8/1/15
Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 8/1/15
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day 8/1/15
PPFF Photo Gallery Showcase at Shanks Mare 6th Annual
Art & Outdoor Festival 8/1/15
Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain 2015 8/2/15
Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park: Christmas in Summer
at the Campground 8/7/15
Friends of Colonel Denning: Monthly Volunteer Day 8/8/15
Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Women of the Wilds 8/8/15
Friends of Cowans Gap: Music at the Gap 8/8/15
Friends of Kings Gap: Attack the Gap 10k 8/8/15
Friends of Keystone: 2nd Annual Car Show 8/9/15
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 8/15/15
Friends of Laurel Hill: Bluegrass Festival 8/15 and 8/16
Friends of Goddard: Music at the Marina 8/15 and 8/16
Friends of Laurel Hill: Mountain Laurel 5k 8/16
Friends of Yellow Creek: Adventure Race 8/22/15
Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Youth Field Day 8/22/15

Memorial or Honorary Gifts You can honor the memory of a special person or joyous occasion while supporting PPFF's work in conservation, recreation, education, and volunteerism in our state parks and forests. Send gifts to: PPFF, 1845 Market Street, Suite 202, Camp Hill, PA 17011 or download a form at www.PaParksAndForests.org

SEPTEMBER

Friends of Shawnee: Kids Labor Day Catfish Fishing Derby 9/4/15
Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Camper Appreciation Weekend 9/4/15
Friends of Ohiopyle: Music in the Mountains 9/5/15
Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 9/5/15
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day 9/5/15
Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain 2015 9/6/15
Friends of Colonel Denning: Monthly Volunteer Day 9/12/15
Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Patriots in the Park 9/12/15
Friends of Cowans Gap: Music at the Gap 9/12/15
Friends of Kings Gap: Hill Climb Time Trial 9/12/15
Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association: Public Viewing Night 9/12/15
Friends of Mount Pisgah: Green Career Day 9/15/15
National Public Lands Day Events 9/26/15
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 9/26/15

OCTOBER

Friends of Ridley Creek State Park: Volunteer Work Day 10/3/15
Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day 10/3/15
Friends of Kings Gap: Garden Harvest Days 2015 10/3/15
Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Apple Cider Festival & Crafts Show 10/4/15
Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park: Trunk of Treats
at the Campground 10/9/15
Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Apple Butter Day 10/10/15
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Furnace Fest 10/17/15
Friends of Cowans Gap: Volunteer Work Day 10/17/15
Friends of Parker Dam: Haunted Hayrides 10/23/15
Friends of White Clay Creek: Historic Haunting 10/23/15
Friends of Kings Gap: Ghoulish Gap Gallop 5k 10/31/15

The 100 Icons of Summer

A summer breeze blows.... you close your eyes and imagine your next visit to a Pennsylvania state park or forest. What do you see?

For you, that vision is an **ICON** (a widely known symbol) of our public lands. Join the PPFF throughout the summer as we gather and share your 100 state park and forest icons. We've already thought of a few: the falls at Ricketts Glen SP, the tower at Mount Davis in the Forbes State Forest, and the dam at Greenwood Furnace SP.

Throughout May and June we'll use our social media channels and ask you to send us your icons. A committee will review the nominations and pick the top 100. Beginning on June 21, we'll celebrate the summer solstice with our first icon of summer, posting daily until September 28. You are all invited to share images of YOUR icons through instagram and we'll compile an album on our website.

Submit your icon(s) to
100icons@PaParksAndForests.org

9th Annual PPF Awards Banquet

We celebrated the accomplishments of our award winners on May 5th at the West Shore Country Club in Camp Hill. This year's winners:

THANKS to everyone who helped make our awards banquet a success: award sponsors, table sponsors, planning committee, and silent auction donors.



Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award: Linda McKenna Boxx
PPFF President Marci Mowery, Linda McKenna Boxx, and Barb Sexton of sponsor Chesapeake Energy



Ibberson Government Award: Norm Lacasse
Linda Finley, Marc Lewis and Gene Odato of sponsor Pennsylvania Forestry Association, Norm Lacasse, PPFF President Marci Mowery, George Asimos, chair of the PPFF board, with sponsor Saul Ewing



President's Award: Deloitte LLP
PPFF President Marci Mowery, Gail Blauer and Kristen Houser of President's Award winner Deloitte LLP Sponsor: Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce



Park of the Year: Point State Park
PPFF President Marci Mowery; Environmental Educator Jessica Rohrdanz, Maintenance Supervisor Andy Pelesky, and Park Ranger Brian Lambermont from Point State Park, Brian Clark from sponsor Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney



Group Volunteer of the Year: Friends of Nolde Forest
Lisa Miller, manager at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center; Chip Karasin, Kathy Neiman, Bob Frey, Jen Stinson, Aggie Moser of the Friends of Nolde Forest; Marci Mowery, PPFF President (back right) Sponsor: Williams



Forest of the Year: Buchanan State Forest
Don Houser of sponsor Dominion Resources, PPFF President Marci Mowery, District Forester Jim Smith of Buchanan State Forest



Individual Volunteer of the Year: Helen Maurella
PPFF President Marci Mowery, Helen Maurella, Aaron Blair and Anne Allen from The Williams Companies, Jen Park from Nockamixon State Park



Education Volunteer of the Year: Friends of Black Moshannon
PPFF President Marci Mowery, Friends of Black Moshannon Chair Peggy Culp and board member Don Litten, Alisa Harris of sponsor UGI Electric Services



Improvement Volunteer: Warren Renninger
PPFF President Marci Mowery, Warren Renninger, Marc Lewis of sponsor Dwight Lewis Lumber



2014 Photo Contest Winner: Critics Choice: Stokes Clark (Outdoor Recreation/Laurel Hill State Park)



Young Volunteer of the Year: Kayce Bobnar
Kayce Bobnar and PPFF President Marci Mowery Sponsor: SAP America



2014 Photo Contest Winner: Critics Choice: Tom McCorkle (Dogs in the Outdoors/Kooser State Park)

Parks and Forests Through the Seasons PHOTO CONTEST



Go to the "Contest" tab on our home page for details and rules. visit www.PaParksAndForests.org

All photos must be submitted by noon on September 12, 2015 and must have been taken in a Pennsylvania state park or state forest.

Send photos to PPFF at ppffnewsletter@pa.net.

CCC Reflections — By John Eastlake

There were 152 Civilian Conservation Corps camps in PA from 1933 to 1942. In addition to these well-documented sites were 'side camps' located primarily on public lands but sometimes on private lands like old sawmill sites, coal towns, logging towns, abandoned farms, and at former iron furnaces.

Camps needed to be accessible, have a good water source, and be relatively open so that they could accommodate 150 to 200 young men in a hurry. A number of the first camps were located at iron furnaces. The first camp on state forest land was at Pine Grove Furnace, followed by camps at Bell Furnace, Greenwood Furnace, Paradise Furnace, etc.

In 1933, the S-131 Hicks Run CCC camp was located at the former Hicks Run logging town. The town had been in existence from 1904-1912. Ralph Harrison, PPF's Joseph Ibberson 2013 award winner, had been the Forest Foreman at the Elk State Forest/Hicks Run Headquarters located at the former town's sawmill. Ralph and I had often talked about trying to figure out the layout of the former CCC camp. Ralph knew the location



and the mess hall grease pit. Fortunately, we had access to some former Hicks Run camp photos and were able to determine some of the building's locations.

On May 7 of this year we had a Hicks Run tour. Ralph was able to talk to us about the logging history as well as the CCC history. Dr. Fred Ralston (who did his doctoral thesis on CCC education) was present and told us about the educational program. His father Bill had been a Hicks Run enrollee. Bob Marshall's father Ralph also attended. When Dr. Fred and Bob checked their fathers' discharge documents they discovered that both men were there at the same time. Bob brought his father's foot locker - complete with a lot of names and addresses from his buddies.

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME *Rosalie Edge and Larry Schweiger*



Rosalie Edge (1877-1962)

Rosalie Barrow Edge was the true champion of raptors in western Pennsylvania and responsible for the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Born to a family of wealth and position in New York City, she married a British engineer, Charles Noel Edge, and split her

time between New York and the Continent.

In 1913 Edge met Lady Rhondda, a prominent British suffragette and joined the movement promoting equal rights for women, discovering she had a skill for political debate and action. Two years after her conversion to social justice issues, she started spending part of each year on Long Island and soon became a serious birder, eventually amassing a life list of 804 species.

Edge created an Emergency Conservation Committee (the ECC), designed to reform the Audubon Association. During this period, she began her work in creating a wildlife sanctuary at Hawk Mountain, in eastern Pennsylvania. The mountain was a vital stop on a hawk migration route. In 1932, after learning that many hawks were shot, Edge wrote that hunters had not taken "into account the millions of rodents and insect pests that hawks consume" which was a very forward thinking, ecological position in 1933.

When Audubon failed to respond to her efforts to buy the land for conservation, she appealed to friends and bird lovers and raised the money and purchased the land. She was president of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary until her death.

For more on Rosalie Edge and other early Pennsylvania conservationists, go to paconservationheritage.org and www.hawkmountain.org

Larry Schweiger (1950 -)

Larry Schweiger grew up in western Pennsylvania, where he developed an early love for the outdoors during family woodland trips. He graduated from Penn State University, where he majored in forestry and was an activist for clean-air and clean-water campaigns.



Schweiger had a long and valuable career holding leadership positions at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Joint House/Senate Conservation Committee for the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and in May 2014, he retired as CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

In 2009, Schweiger published *Last Chance: Preserving Life on Earth*, a book that "breaks down the science behind global climate change" and explains "how the clean energy economy can provide the solutions we need to avert the worst consequences of global warming."

In March of that same year, Schweiger testified before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, where he emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive energy legislation to address the our climate crisis. Schweiger called on Congress to "cap global warming pollution" immediately by means of cap-and-trade legislation, and to continue mandating additional carbon reductions far into the future.

Last Chance won first prize for nonfiction in the 2011 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. The same year, Schweiger won the Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future Visionary Award for his leadership in raising awareness about the impacts of climate change and for his commitment to clean-energy solutions.

The Year of the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Warden

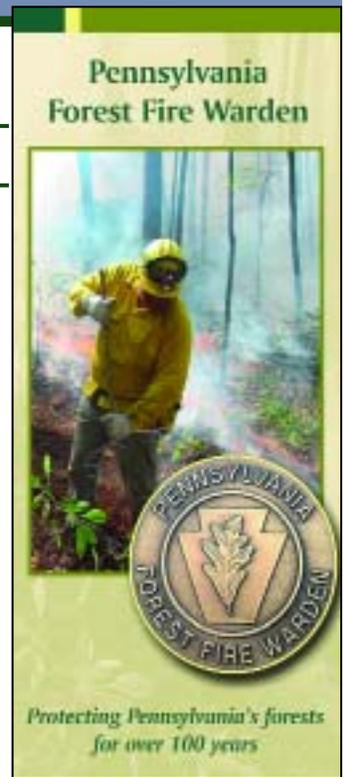
By Randy White, Chief Forest Fire Warden, Bureau of Forestry

The job of protecting the 17 million acres of Pennsylvania woodland is, of course, a tremendous one. To accomplish it successfully requires a large and efficient organization of well trained, competent personnel dedicated to the preservation and protection of a great natural resource

Ninety-eight percent of forest fires in Pennsylvania are caused by humans, so fire prevention became a big role in the fire warden's job. The Wardens Helping in Prevention (WHIP) program was started in 1990 to support and recognize wardens for their prevention efforts. In 2013, the WHIP program was awarded the Bronze Smoky Bear award by the United States Forest Service for these efforts.

Governor Tom Wolf has proclaimed 2015 the Year of the Pennsylvania Forest Fire Warden and June 3, 2015 as Pennsylvania Forest Fire Warden Day. All forest districts will be celebrating our 100th anniversary at their annual forest fire warden training. On June 20, 2015 the Bureau of Forestry will celebrate

at Hyner Run State Park with a picnic and guest speakers. For additional information and to find out how you can become one of us visit the bureau's website www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry. If you'd like additional information about the history of forest fire fighting and prevention, visit www.paforestfiremuseum.org *Pennsylvania's Forest Fire Museum is open seasonally at Caledonia State Park.*



DCNR to Expand 'Clean Air Beach Program' to Eight State Parks

After a successful two-year operation of a pilot smoke-free beach at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources plans to expand the program to include eight new state parks across Pennsylvania.

Smoking in beach and swim areas now will be restricted at the following state parks:

Black Moshannon	Moraine
Colonel Denning	Parker Dam
Keystone	Presque Isle
Locust Lake	Promised Land

The restriction includes cigarettes, pipes, cigars and the increasingly popular e-cigarettes. The parks have purchased and installed butt disposal units, installed new signage, established designated smoking areas with seating, and informed park user and support groups.

NEW Free App from the PA Game Commission

Hunters and non-hunters alike will enjoy this new app, free from the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Hunters will enjoy the up-to-date information on places to hunt, regulations, and maps. Non-hunters may find the seasons with the associated orange safety color regulations helpful. Both groups are sure to appreciate the weather, sunset/rise and SOS features.



We Will Remember...

In April, we lost two good friends. The Friends of Colonel Denning lost a stalwart with the passing of **Paul Gipe**. Park Manager Heather Bollinger noted, "Paul will be greatly missed but I know the Friends of Colonel Denning will continue to do great things for the park in his memory."

Another loss to our environmental community was former Tiadaghton forester **Bob Webber**. Bob was seemingly of a different era (we suspect he would have found John Muir quite companionable)

and the trails of the Tiadaghton will be the worse for his absence. The Black Forest Trail, the Golden Eagle Trail, the Pine Creek Trail, the Bob Webber Trail at Ross Run...all will need an extra axe now.

And in May, the Friends of Oil Creek and Oil Creek State Park lost a valuable volunteer and true friend with the passing of **Edward McMullen** at the age of 82. Ed was one of the hard-working volunteers of the Over the Hill Gang, the tireless stewards of the 36-mile Gerard Hiking Trail through and above the park.

PPFF FRIENDS GROUPS

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association
Friends of Big Pocono
Friends of Black Moshannon
Friends of Canoe Creek
Friends of Colonel Denning
Friends of Cook Forest
Friends of Cowans Gap
Friends of Delaware State Forest & Promised Land State Park
Friends of Goddard
Friends of Greenwood Furnace
Friends of Keystone
Friends of Kings Gap
Friends of Laurel Hill
Friends of Lyman Run
Friends of Milton
Friends of Mont Alto
Friends of Mt. Pisgah
Friends of Nockamixon
Friends of Nolde Forest
Friends of Ohiopyle
Friends of Oil Creek
Friends of Parker Dam
Friends of Pinchot
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace
Friends of Prince Gallitzin
Friends of Ridley Creek
Friends of Ryerson Station
Friends of Shawnee
Friends of Shikellamy
Friends of State line Serpentine Barrens
Friends of Varden Conservation Area
Friends of Weiser State Forest
Friends of White Clay Creek
Friends of Yellow Creek
Laurel Mountain Volunteers

Your Friends In Action: *Friends of Weiser State Forest*

By Ericka Mongeau, *Intern*

Weiser State Forest consists of 8 tracts of land located in northern Dauphin, Schuylkill, Carbon, and Berks counties, totaling 17,961 acres. Named after Conrad Weiser, a provincial Indian interpreter and agent who worked to maintain the friendship between the Native American tribes and the white man, the forest district provides an array of opportunities.



The view from the hang glider launch Haldeman Tract

The 2000 mile long Appalachian Trail passes through the entire length of the Weiser state forest. Other trails are multi-use- open to hikers, bikers, horses, and hunters. Other recreational opportunities include: hunting, fishing, and hang gliding. The densest woods can be reached via 65 miles of roads constructed for fire suppression and administrative use. There are two picnic areas in the Haldeman Tract, located in Dauphin County.

The Friends of Weiser State Forest, a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, are dedicated to improving and maintaining two tracts in the state forest (Haldeman and Greenland tracts) for all the trail users to enjoy and in promoting an appreciation for our woods and wildlife. "Weiser state forest is a great place to ride bikes or horses and it's a great family location, with quiet picnic spots and beautiful vistas, like the one at the hang gliding launch," said Jim Theurer, founder of the Friends of Weiser. Jim, an avid equestrian, founded the group in 2010, at the request of Weiser's recreational forester. The trails throughout the forest are heavily used by bikers and horseback riders, so this group was started in order to help preserve those trails and the recreation that they provide. Many people have come together to help keep the trails accessible for everyone.



Volunteers install a hitching post

In the past, the Friends of Weiser built a ten horse hitching post at Minnich's Hit Picnic area. The group also replaced a washed out bridge on Split Rock Trail. They used downed trees from the forest, cut and planed them to size, and rebuilt and fortified the structure to prevent soil erosion. The Friends' biggest project in 2014 was to reroute a 2.5-mile length of trail. Many people came to help with the trail including students from local high schools, such as Milton Hershey, who painted trail markers along the path.

*To learn more about the Friends of Weiser, visit them at:
www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Weiser-State-Forest*

Weiser Forest District to Receive Exhibits

This August, lobby space will be transformed into an interactive experience at the Weiser Resource Management Center, located in Aristes. Visitors will learn about the forest history of Pennsylvania, the unique forest habitat, forest pests, forest products, recreation opportunities, and how the Bureau of Forestry works to conserve the commonwealth's forests and native plants.



More Friends In Action:



The Friends of Milton State Park are going native...plants, that is. After successfully battling invasive plants to reopen the park trails to the public, the friends are now working to install a native plant demonstration garden. Here friends Brent Kline and Paul Yost begin the planting process.



Photo by Carley Smith

Over 240 runners and walkers braved the chill of a late March morning for the first annual Friends of Cowans Gap 5k. Young and old, boys and girls – it was a great day!

2014 By the Numbers – PPF Chapters at Work

Money Raised for Park and Forest Projects: \$390,337

Number of Volunteers: 2,260

Special Events Hosted and Joined: 133

Attendance at Events: 96,959

Number of Service and Other Projects: 206

Hours Donated by Volunteers: 44,018

Value* of Hours Donated by Volunteers: \$1,015,495

* The Bureau of Labor Statistics puts a value of \$23.07/hour on volunteer labor in 2014.

YOU Made it Happen

There are so many projects, events, and plans brought to completion by all of you, we could probably write an entire book, every year. For a bird's eye view, check out these recent ventures that YOU made happen:



(Left) Engaging visitors to Benjamin Rush State Park gained support with the development of five interpretive panels funded through your support and a grant from the McLean Contributionship.



With the support of donors such as yourself, photographers, and sponsors— John Oliver, Saul Ewing, and Penn Strategies — the photo gallery showcase traveled Pennsylvania, making eight stops, including a month stay in the state capitol, complete with a legislative reception. The stories told by the pictures and captions inspire all who see them.

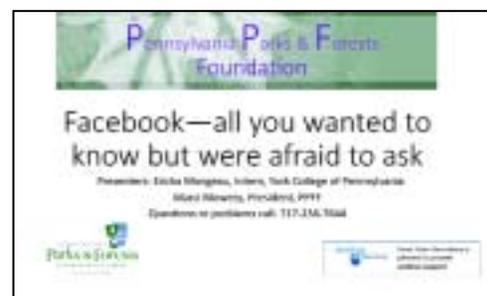


Photo by Bill Metzger

Visitors to the Ohiopyle State Park section of the Great Allegheny Passage will soon have more opportunities for resting and contemplating with the placement of new benches, generously supported by a donation from Wendy and Jim Homerosky.



Thank you to all of our silent auction donors and buyers. With your support, we raised another \$2000 towards the purchase of adaptive recreation equipment for use in state parks and forests.



Savvy friends groups engage in social media to promote their work and the parks and forests they represent. With appreciation to our intern Ericka, Penn State Harrisburg, and donors like you for helping us to prepare our first webinar training on social media. The training can be found on our website at: www.PaParksAndForests.org/training.html

1845 Market Street,
Suite 202,
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 236-7644
www.PaParksAndForests.org

conserve enhance enjoy

MEMBERSHIP

If your current membership has expired, visit our website today www.PaParksAndForests.org and click on *Be a Member-Join* to renew or use our form below. New members, complete the form and become a supporter of your parks and forests!

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

- \$25 Single Membership I'd like to donate extra money to support the work of PPF!
 \$35 Family Membership \$ _____

PA Parks & Forests Foundation
1845 Market Street, Suite 202
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____



Tax Credit Program

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation has been included as an educational improvement organization under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. As a member of this list we are among the organizations from which businesses can choose to make contributions and be considered for Educational Improvement Tax Credits from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Learn more at www.NewPA.com/eitc or on our website at www.PaParksAndForests.org/eitc.html.



A special thank you to Weis Markets and Aqua Pennsylvania for their donations to PPF through the Education Income Tax Credit program. Their donations support hands on education through watershed education and One Bird, Two Habits programs.