I have fond memories of spending hours of time as a child coloring pictures of nature and animals in my coloring books. I particularly enjoyed coloring flowers, and I still do like to draw flowers when I doodle. Much like spending time in our parks and forests, coloring reduces stress and frees the mind. Perhaps that is why we’ve seen a resurgence of coloring books for would-be artists of all ages!

Just as crayons are the medium for turning the blank page of a coloring book into something vibrant, members of and donors to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation are the medium by which good things happen in our parks and forests. Your support empowers a vast array of projects and programs across the Commonwealth.

As you page through the annual report, you’ll see a cross-section of those projects and programs. Our plates are as full as our hearts; we hope you know how much we appreciate your support. Without you, our parks and forests would be much less colorful.

Yours in the Outdoors,
Marci, PPFF President
Conserving, protecting, and enhancing our state parks and forests is a hallmark of PPFF and certainly part of the culture of our Commonwealth residents as evidenced by our State’s Constitutional Environmental Rights Amendment which was passed in 1971 by a four to one margin of our voters. I am thankful for the many protections afforded to our parks and forests and for your support and belief in our PPFF mission to inspire stewardship, volunteerism, education, and recreation in one of our greatest assets.

**Pennsylvania’s Environmental Rights Amendment of 1971 (Article 1, Section 27 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania):** The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all.

~ Maria Montero, PPFF Chairwoman

What an honor! Seeing PPFF and DCNR officials, and four state lawmakers come together May 22, 2018 at the state capitol to mark the 125th anniversary of Pennsylvania having a state system of rich and divergent public lands. In hand was a proclamation from Governor Wolf designating May 23-30, 2018 as the first-ever “State Park and Forest Week.”

As its officials and staff have done so often in the past, PPFF saw the need for this recognition, and acted. Its support always is there, as we, the stewards of Penn’s Woods, strive to provide parks that inspire; forests that support jobs and wildlife; and technical know-how that will create a greener Pennsylvania.

The three pillars of our agency’s mission — Stewardship, Partnership, and Service — remain standing very tall and straight. They rise on a solid foundation that is its dedicated employees and partners, all committed to protecting our public lands for the future of all Pennsylvanians. They are supported by new DCNR endeavors that see us grappling with climate change, engaging young people in the outdoors, improving the diversity of the people we serve and employ, and enhancing sustainability in our buildings, our parks, and in our forests.

PPFF is a shining example of what a public-private partnership can accomplish. Working together, our staff and PPFF’s cadre of dedicated volunteers, have accomplished so much in service of our mission to protect and enhance these wonderful lands entrusted to us. Our new initiatives, coupled with PPFF commitment, will empower us to do even more.

I look forward to another year of rewarding work with PPFF. We have the work plan, the tools, and the coworkers to accomplish so much!

~ Cindy Dunn, DCNR Secretary
In 2015, you helped us to set five overarching goals that are serving as guidelines to our success. Keep turning the pages to see how we are working together to reach those goals.

"This world is but a canvas to our imagination."
— Henry David Thoreau

GUIDED BY OUR GOALS

In 2017, PPFF & OUR FRIENDS
BY THE NUMBERS

Thanks to 2,968 PPFF volunteers who donated 66,081 hours valued at $1,631,539*. (The Bureau of Labor Statistics put a value of $24.69 on volunteer labor in 2017.)

And reached 134,379 people

PPFF & Friends coordinated 204 service projects

PPFF tabled at or spoke at 24 events

PPFF & Friends combined hosted 173 special events

2017

PPFF Launches Fun, New Marketing Campaign in 2017
You may have noticed some new faces around our newsletter beginning in 2017. They are a part of PPFF’s new marketing campaign that whimsically highlights the work that we and our fellow park and forest advocates do behind the scenes to beautify, protect, fund, and most importantly, enjoy the many parks and forests across the state. The campaign is used in print and digital ads, social media, and in our communications.

OUR OPERATING VALUES

• Integrity
• Conservation
• Excellence
• Diversity
• Innovation
• Inclusion
• Collaboration
• Sustainability

EXPAND THE MESSAGE

Goal 1:
Expand the message on the value of and ways to engage in parks, forests, and recreation to increase participation, inform the public and decision makers, and build relationships with diverse partners.

ENGAGE THE PUBLIC

Goal 2:
Engage the public in meaningful outdoor recreation to improve physical, emotional, and mental health.

INCREASE VOLUNTEERISM

Goal 3:
Increase volunteerism in Pennsylvania state parks and forests to 50 Friends groups and 1,200 PPFF and Friends chapter volunteers by 2020.

INVEST IN PROJECTS

Goal 4:
Invest in transformative projects and events to enhance the state park and forest visitor experience.

BUILD CAPACITY

Goal 5:
Strengthen the capacity of PPFF and the Friends chapters through strategic investment of time, talent, and revenue.
From Mailbox to Inbox to Newsfeed – PPFF Keeps You Informed!

Three times a year our print newsletter, Penn’s Stewards, is delivered to over 3,000 actual mailboxes and 2,000 virtual ones, and has a reach of over 100,000 through links and shares. Our theme for the newsletter in 2017 was the built environment of our parks and forests: beaches, bridges, and back roads.

Six times a year our bimonthly emailed newsletter, Explore PA, entertains nearly 31,000 people with stories from our chapters, DCNR, the Foundation itself — anywhere an exploration might take you. In 2017, Explore PA got a refreshed look.

Are you one of our 2,000 weekly Take Five/Fridays with Pam readers? This e-publication focuses on events and up-to-the-minute reporting of news across the parks and forests (and from PPFF), as well as behind-the-scene ideas on how to explore your state parks and forests. If you are not a subscriber visit www.PAParksAndForests.org and sign up soon!

We ended 2017 with over 15,000 Facebook followers, 4,700 Twitter followers, and over 200 Instagram followers. Are you one of them?

A Voice for Clean Water

In 2017, PPFF participated in and presented at a rally for clean water, while also calling for investments in our state parks and forests. To view a compilation of the presentations, visit www.facebook.com/pg/PaGGC/videos/?ref=page_internal

PPFF Wins Award for “Advancing a Sustainable Future”

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was awarded the Spirit of South Mountain Award by the South Mountain Partnership for its significant contributions to advancing a sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape.

Board Retreat and Training Focuses on Park and Forest Needs

To better address the needs of Pennsylvania’s parks and forests, the PPFF board of directors took part in development training. They are eager to use their newly-developed or refreshed skills to raise support for projects on the needs list.

Working with Interns is a Win-Win!

Frank Grumbine, our 2017 spring intern, got hands-on experience at PPFF. A graduate of Shippensburg University, Frank plans to work with government agencies to protect both environmental and historical resources. Interested in being an intern? Call us!

"Our family moved to Lewistown in 1960, and we soon discovered Greenwood Furnace State Park. Our mom was a Holocaust survivor and she found the beauty and serenity of Greenwood her haven for the next 55 years. I promised my mother that every summer I would go to Greenwood and have a picnic. My family, including my husband, three of my four children and their spouses, enjoyed a wonderful day there in August." ~ Heller Kreshtool
**Spring Is In the Air — The Bridges of Pennsylvania’s Parks and Forests**

Our spring newsletter’s lead story connected readers with the history of bridges in Pennsylvania, as well as the fact that our state parks and forests offer one of the most interesting collections of bridges of any state – from historic covered bridges to foot bridges to the remnants and landmarks of bridges that once were.

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**Partnering with Health Care Providers to Promote Outdoor Recreation**

A recent Penn State study found that more than 70 percent of Pennsylvania residents consider parks, trails, and open space to be a critical part of the health care system. Inspired by that news, PPFF with support from DCNR, and in partnership with the Department of Health, the South Mountain Partnership, and the Partnership for Better Health, organized “The South Mountain Health Summit – The Benefits of Being Active Outdoors.” Held at the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau in Carlisle, the event brought together health care providers from across south central Pennsylvania to learn more about the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor recreation and to find ways to encourage their patients to spend time in nature.

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**Ski Equipment Purchase**

Did you hear the sound of cross country skis swishing on the freshly fallen snow last winter? With your support and proceeds from our annual silent auction, ski equipment was purchased for Susquehannock State Forest for use in school programming and to introduce visitors to the sport of cross country skiing.

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**Making a BIG Impact with Infographics**

Telling a story using few words is the essence of an infographic, and in 2017, the Foundation produced three such stories to assist us in our advocacy and educational outreach. The economics infographic focused on the value our parks, forests, and protected lands. The reuses of water bottles addressed one of the largest sources of pollution in our stewardship days — single use plastic. Lastly, we translated the tick/Lyme disease infographic into Spanish to help spread the information to a larger population of Pennsylvanians.

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**Training Time!**

Representatives from six chapters, including board member Mary Soderberg of the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace, gathered at Shawnee State Park for a three-part day of training that included fundraising, a look ahead to state park strategic planning, and a Penn State Extension volunteer food safety course.

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**Team Up to Clean Up!**

Thank you to Liberty Travel/Flight Centre for working with PPFF to organize a volunteer work day at Neshaminy State Park. Participants pose with some of their unusual trash finds for the “Most Unique Find” competition.

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PPFF Friends Groups
Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association
Friends of Beltzville
Friends of Big Pocono
Friends of Black Moshannon
Friends of Buchanan State Forest
Friends of Caledonia
Friends of Canoe Creek
Friends of Colonel Denning
Friends of Cook Forest
Friends of Cowans Gap
Friends of Goddard
Friends of Greenwood Furnace
Friends of Keystone
Friends of Kings Gap
Friends of Laurel Hill
Friends of Little Buffalo
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 Pymatuning
Friends of Ridley Creek
Friends of Rothrock State Forest
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 Worlds End
Friends of Yellow Creek
Lackawanna State Park Trail/Care Crew
Laurel Mountain Volunteers

“The new WaterWheels adaptive beach chair purchased by Friends of Prince Gallitzin brought such joy back to my husband and our family. He hadn’t been able to be in the water with the children in over two years. We have seen the amazing results that sharing our photos has had as we have been contacted by other people with disabilities who were thrilled to find out about the chair.”
~ Jeannie Frontz Norris

Great Work
Keeping Trails Clear!
Friends of Buchanan are always busy clearing, blazing, and signing multi-use trails, including this intersection of the Bald Hill Trail and aptly-named Friends Trail. In this year’s chapter annual reports, for the first time, we asked our Friends to report on the specifics of their trail work. We always knew they work hard but we were amazed to learn that 283 miles of trails were built or maintained in 2017, along with a staggering 34 trail bridges built. Happy trails!

Ski Swap Success
While kicking off another year of cross country ski grooming, Friends of Oil Creek also hosted their annual and highly anticipated ski swap.

Adding to Our Friends
The Friends of Pymatuning officially joined the PPFF family in 2017. With an expansive park to steward and big things planned, we’re excited to see this group develop and thrive.

Playground Goals
Revenue from firewood sales, donations, and events enabled the Friends of Little Buffalo to dedicate a new playground. It was so popular that the Friends are making plans to build another one. Other state parks have also made updates to their playground equipment including Black Moshannon, Mount Pisgah and Pinchot.

#Friends
Helping to create and foster cohesive chapters is a big part of what PPFF does. The 40 chapters operating under our nonprofit umbrella are ambassadors and change agents for the park and forest system and helping them succeed is important for them, for us, and for our public lands. PPFF works with the chapters to:
• Create annual work plans and goals
• Promote their work through our online and print media, the calendar of events, and press releases
• Create their own online presence through establishment of Facebook pages and other social media, and providing suggested content for their social media
• Manage their members, volunteers, and donors
• Adhere to best practices to provide a well-managed vehicle for those members, volunteers, and donors to confidently continue involvement with the chapter and
• Access the best information available for continued success — the expertise and support of each other!
Summer Inspiration — The Beaches of Pennsylvania’s Parks and Forests
In our summer 2017 newsletter, the lead story highlighted a few of the more than 50 lakes and beaches within our state parks and forests — whether you’re looking for a dip in the crisp waters of a mountain lake, a fun family afternoon building sandcastles, some solitude while exploring a sandy shoreline, or time to connect with friends over a picnic.

Advocating for Our State Parks and Forests
Acting as a voice for our state parks and forests is an important role that PPFF plays in the stewardship of our public lands. From monitoring the budget and voicing support for stronger investments in state parks and forests (both budget and staff), to protecting key special funding programs such as the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, the Growing Greener Fund, and the Keystone Fund, to advocating for a renewed investment in a Growing Greener 3 program, PPFF organized grassroots efforts and added their voice to the halls of the capitol. In 2017, the Foundation also joined forces with the National Parks and Conservation Association to advocate on behalf of investments in the infrastructure needs in our national parks. Follow our advocacy work on the News section of our webpage.

The Foundation also attended regular conservation/ environmental stakeholder meetings with Governor Wolf’s environmental team. These meetings provided venues to express concerns or support for environmental initiatives or legislation impacting our state parks and forests.

Conservation Heritage Showings
The Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage project reconnects Pennsylvanians to their rich conservation legacy. Through your support, 13 showings with more than 420 attendees were hosted across the state, capturing stories from individuals like you about local conservation efforts. Visit the website at www.paconservationheritage.org to learn more about the project.

Equipment Purchase
Through your support and the Richard King Mellon Foundation, volunteers of the Forbes State Forests are finding their trail work a bit easier with the purchase of two new Stihl extended hedge trimmers.

And the DCNR Group Volunteer Award Goes to …
In recognition of their work connecting portions of the Mountain Creek Trail through the placement of a 55-foot fiberglass bridge, Friends of Pine Grove Furnace received the DCNR Group Volunteer Award.

Brewing Company Helps Restore Rare Vernal Pools in Michaux State Forest
Poorly placed ATV trails in the Michaux State Forest threatened to impact rare vernal pool communities in this heavily used Pennsylvania forest, but a grant from Colorado-based New Belgium Brewing Company to PPFF helped offset costs to restore these important pools. Following this restoration project, Michaux State Forest staff will continue to monitor the ponds closely to ensure re-colonization of the site with the diversity of plants and wildlife that characterize these unique ecosystems.

Photo credit: Michaux State Forest
Foundation Gathering

State park foundations from across the nation gathered in Pennsylvania in October to share knowledge and ideas, network, and offer guidance in the fifth annual gathering of state park foundations. Started through an initiative between California and Pennsylvania, the annual gathering rotates around the country, providing valuable insight into challenges and solutions faced in these unique partnerships. Abe Lincoln joined the group to share some leadership lessons he discovered during his lifetime.

Second Plein Air Art Day

Artists of all ages joined PPFF for its second Plein Air Art Day at Hammonds Rocks, Michaux State Forest. The day also brought out writers and spectators to watch the artists at work. All enjoyed the scenery and some time to climb on the rocks!

CCC Structures Get Upgrades

Made possible by your donations and support from Allegheny Foundation, the maintenance staff at Laurel Hill State Park have been able to show off their craftsmanship through the restoration of Civilian Conservation Corps structures at the park.

Graffiti Removal Success Stories

Graffiti is still a problem in our state lands all across the Commonwealth, but with your support and lots of volunteer help, more locations have been tackled. Volunteers at Boulder Field in Hickory Run State Park and Buzzard Rocks in the Michaux State Forest, as well as spots in Lehigh Gorge, Pymatuning, and McConnells Mill state parks now have the knowledge and skills to keep our public lands graffiti free.

Supporting the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail Restoration Fund

A “before and after” comparison of the restoration of the chimney and firebox at one of the shelter areas along the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail was the perfect vehicle for PPFF to begin a comprehensive fundraising campaign to complete the restoration of all eight. In 2017, the campaign to raise the necessary funds to restore the chimneys and fireboxes got a boost thanks to an additional grant from REI, as well as from the artistic talents of writer and hiker Dane Cramer who designed a trail map T-shirt with a portion of sale proceeds going to the Shelters Fund, and from Dale Yohe who came up with the idea of giving donors a durable sticker and patch as a ‘Thank You.’

Still Time to Buy a Calendar!

In 2018, The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation assumed responsibility for creating the annual state park calendar to showcase the many wonderful parks. The 2019 calendars are available on our website for $9, plus shipping and handling. To order visit www.PaParksAndForests.org.

“Thank you for a very memorable trip to Pennsylvania. You hosted three days of great conversation, beautiful vistas and yummy food from your beloved state. Many thanks for all your hard work … I learned so much.”

~ Sarah Alberghini Winters, Vermont Parks Forever

Celebrating Earth Day

Friends of Ridley Creek welcomed more than 100 guests at its free Earth Day event, with educational activities, hikes, plantings and meet-and-greets with park staff.
Fall Exploration — The Back Roads of Pennsylvania’s Parks and Forests

Inspired by Ralph Waldo Emerson’s quote, “It’s not the destination, it’s the journey,” our Fall 2017 newsletter’s lead story encouraged readers to explore one of the many scenic routes through our state parks and forests where the views range from majestic vistas to dense forests to meandering waterways.

Infrastructure Requires Routine Rehabilitation and Upgrades

With the significant amount of buildings, roads, bridges, dams, and other structures within our state parks and state forests, routine maintenance is a daily task. Water and sewer lines, as well as treatment facilities, need to be upgraded to meet new regulations, roofs worn by time need to be repaired or replaced, roads need to be resurfaced, campsites need to be mowed, and fences need to be mended or removed.

To better understand the depth of this need, the Foundation launched an initiative, funded by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, to document the infrastructure needs in our state parks and forests, with a long-term goal of advocating for funding to address these needs. The full report is set to release in summer of 2018.

Back to Basics YouTube Videos

When it comes to the outdoors, some people need a little extra guidance. Thanks to you, they got it. The Back to Basics video series gave viewers the knowledge they needed to get them into the outdoors and improve their experience. The videos featured tips and techniques on how to set up a tent, pack a backpack, stay safe in a lightning storm, not get lost, and dress to stay warm in cold weather.

The videos can be viewed at www.youtube.com/users/PAParksandForests/videos

Penn’s Stewards

The Commonwealth is a bit cleaner thanks to some Stewards of Penn’s Woods volunteers. They take time each season to tackle anything from litter pick up and graffiti removal to trail work.

New and Improved Calendar of Events

It just shouldn’t be “that hard” to figure out where to go to have fun in our state parks and forests but with 40 chapters holding any number of events (not to mention the ones the Foundation itself hosts), managing a cogent events calendar can be a challenge. So in 2017, PPF contracted with Localist, the same vendor responsible for hosting DCNR’s calendar. Attractive and easy to use, this online calendar allows users to easily search for a place, a chapter, or an event type AND includes a button users can click to volunteer to help with the event, too.

#TrailRelocation

In 2017, a relocation of a small part of the 2.5-mile southern portion of the rail-trail at Pymatuning State Park was required to satisfy an agreement with an adjacent landowner. Thanks to the hard work of the park’s maintenance crew along with able assistance by the PPF-funded (via a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation) crew of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps and funds for the materials, the relocation took the trail out of the sun and into the woods where shorebirds may be observed by park visitors from the shade and quiet of a peaceful lakeside setting.
Engaging Youth in the Outdoors

Established in 2016, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps offers young people the opportunity to serve on a team completing conservation projects within Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests, while at the same time gaining work experience, job training and skills to become successful stewards of our natural resources. With support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was able to partner with DCNR to partially support two crews, one out of St. Mary’s and one out of Meadville. The crews supported a variety of projects, which included creating turtle basking platforms, performing trail repair and upgrades, and removing invasive species. PPFF had the pleasure of spending a day with the corps at Pymatuning State Park, where they assisted with graffiti removal. To learn more about the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps visit www.dcnr.pa.gov/outdoorcorps.

Members of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps St. Mary’s group build steps at Kinzua Bridge State Park.
If a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words, What is a Video Worth?
Did you know that there are more than 80 different job titles in the Bureaus of state parks and forests. To help the public better understand the various roles these positions play, Amanda and Intern Cameron created videos about the positions. From wastewater treatment plant operators to engineers to rangers to service foresters, it takes a host of people to keep our parks and forests safe and clean for the public. Additionally, PPFF worked with Cross and Crown to produce two videos about volunteerism and the foundation. All can be found on our youtube channel at: www.youtube.com/user/PAParksandForests

Closer to Every Park Having an Accessible Dock
Playing a part in PPFF’s mission to have an accessible dock in every park, Friends of Laurel Hill dedicated their kayak launch in 2017. The EZ Dock is not just for people with mobility issues, they are great for all paddlers. Visit http://bit.ly/ppffoutdoorsforeveryone to deposit a few dollars toward that “every park should have one” dream.

Forest Bathing
Surrounding yourself in the beauty of the forest in the practice of Shinrin-yoku or forest bathing is a different way to experience the health benefits of the outdoors. Our fact sheet encourages readers to engage all their senses… and bask.

Reaching Out
“Many hands make light work” applies to the work that we do at PPFF. In 2017, we reached out to build relationships with the Chambers of Commerce across the state, as we understand the important role parks and forests play in attracting and retaining businesses and employees to the commonwealth. Again in 2017, the Foundation participated in the annual gathering of Chamber Executives.
AND THE WINNERS ARE:

2017 PPFF Banquet Winners

- **Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award** • **Paul Felton**
  Being raised in the woods in the Pocono Mountains Paul knew by age 12 that he wanted to become a forester. He did that and much more. At age 97, Paul is still leading hikes and overseeing tree plantings in the retirement community he now calls home. The life well lead is truly a Keystone Legacy.

- **Joseph E. Ibberson Government Award** • **Maryann Haladay-Bierly**
  From 1982 (as a seasonal educator at Shikellamy State Park) through 27 more years at R.B. Winter State Park until her retirement in 2017, Maryann inspired and informed the public, including her fellow educators, through widely diverse programming, mentoring, and fun.

- **President’s Award** • **The Graffiti Busters**
  While removing graffiti in Michaux State Forest was a PPFF initiative, the true heroes of this story are the many partners and volunteers who took it from idea to reality, with more than 530 hours of volunteer time dedicated to restoring these 500 million-year-old rocks. Thanks to the Graffiti Busters, there has been very little new graffiti, no new fire rings, less trash, and the area feels safe and family friendly again.

- **Park of the Year Award** • **Shawnee State Park**
  Shawnee State Park is the dream park package: a beautiful lake, rolling hills, numerous amenities and programs, as well as an innovative, knowledgeable, and a caring park staff that concentrates on maintaining the beauty and wellness of their park while establishing strong relationships with local volunteer groups and continually inviting new volunteers for projects.

- **Forest of the Year** • **Weiser State Forest**
  The staff of the Weiser has placed an active emphasis on the connection between visitor access and improving habitat conditions in this large (nearly 30,000 acres and 50 Susquehanna River islands) and busy forest. Environmental education and community partnerships are also important, multiplying the impact of the staff and appreciation for the Weiser.

- **Volunteerism Award** • **Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve**
  In just their first year as a chapter of the Foundation, they organized nature programs, performed two park clean-up and dump site removal events, and started planning for a very special new four-mile trail. The Tri-State Marker Trail travels to that point where Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania come together as surveyed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon.

- **Education Award** • **Friends of Mount Pisgah**
  The Friends recognize the need to invest in projects that support education, as well as helping to provide the programs themselves. Recent projects include upgrading the Nature Center with new LED lights, tile flooring, and environmental education supplies. They built an amphitheater near the Nature Center, and purchased a pavilion near the playground, aptly named “Friends Pavilion.”

- **Improvement Award** • **Boy Scout Troop 345**
  The departure of one long-time volunteer left a void in the picnic-tabling building program at the park. But Troop 345 more than filled the void, constructing 15 tables their first year, five more the second, and planting trees that might eventually become more wood for more tables.

- **Young Volunteer Award** • **Katie Gustafson**
  During the summer of 2016, Katie set out to reroute two washed out sections of the Adam’s Run trail in Chapman State Park, totaling more than 400 feet. Katie scouted, GPS’d, and mapped the proposed reroutes, ran PA Natural Diversity Inventory surveys, and replaced or installed new culverts, all by hand. She volunteered over 120 hours while also continuing a full-time job with a local landscaping company.

We Asked and You Supplied

We had so many amazing photo entries to the annual “Through the Season” photo contest. The award-winning entries served as ambassadors of our parks and forests as they traveled the state, with an opening reception at the Community Arts Center of Cambria County.
IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT:

Conserving and continuing the legacy of our state parks and forests depends upon the time, talent, and financial support of people like you — YOU make it happen.

The depth of our gratitude cannot be expressed. We applaud your commitment to future generations of park and forest users. We are proud to work with you, shoulder to shoulder, on volunteer projects, at events, and on the trail.

We don’t list individual donors in our annual report. Instead we choose to express our appreciation through our donor thank you calls, our letters, and our commitment to being responsive to your requests and our financial management to ensure your donations and memberships are doing great work for parks and forests — whether it be for projects or the staff person leading a team of volunteers.

We would like to recognize the following foundations, government grants, and corporate supporters:

**Foundation/Grants**
- Community Foundation for the Alleghenies
- PNC Bank
- Recreation Equipment Incorporated, REI
- Richard King Mellon
- ShopRite/Wakefern Food
- Stackpole Hall Foundation
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

**Government**
- Department of Community and Economic Development
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Business/Corporate Donors**
- Advanced Communication Systems
- AFSCME Council 13
- AT&T
- Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
- Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia
- CLIF Bar
- CRA, Inc.
- Creative Pultrusions
- Dawood Engineering, Inc.
- Dominion
- Eastern Mountain Sports
- Eddie Bauer
- Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park
- George Ely Associates
- Graphics & Design
- Harrisburg Civic Club
- Inside Track
- Langan Engineering & Environmental Services
- Latino Connection
- Lindt Chocolate Factory Outlet of Carlisle
- McKonly & Asbury LLP
- Recreation Equipment Incorporated, REI
- S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie
- Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr
- Stahl Sheaffer Engineering
- SWELL
- The H&K Group
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Williams

As well as all of our wonderful silent auction donors.

**Building Relationships, Raising Revenue**

When it comes to supporting projects in our parks and forests, sometimes you have to think outside of the box. In 2017, PPFf partnered with two local businesses to build relationships and to raise funds.

• A happy hour event at the Café Fresco in Harrisburg supported PPFf through celebrity bartenders and opportunities to win prizes. Over 100 people attended the event, making new friends and reacquainting with old.

• In October, we partnered with Tattered Flag Brewery and Distillery to co-brand a gin made from Pennsylvania Juniper berries. A portion of the sale of the gin goes to PPFf.

• Board member George Asimos hosted a get-to-know you event at the office of Saul Ewing LLC in Philadelphia. Two more are planned for 2018, one in Pittsburgh and one in Harrisburg.

• The Foundation was so excited to be accepted into the State Employees Combined appeal for 2017...AND we learned that we are again accepted for 2018! This is an easy way for state employees to support the foundation through payroll deduction.

**Educational Improvement Tax Credit**

We would like to thank our 2017 Educational Income Tax Credit donors for their support of engaging youth in science and environmental learning in our parks and forests. With gratitude to Troegs Brewing Company, Mid Penn Bank, and Waste Management.

**Planned Giving**

To invest in the long-term sustainability of PPFf and our parks and forests, the Foundation launched a planned giving initiative. Planned giving, also referred to as gift planning and planned gifts or legacy giving/gifts, are designated through the assets of a person’s estate. Some allow the donor to receive immediate tax benefits now — and even a recurring income for life. Others provide a way to include PPFf as a beneficiary. We’ve created the PPFf Conservation Legacy Society to thank supporters who further PPFf’s mission through legacy gifts.
Support and Revenue 2017 for PPFF, Friends Groups, and Park/Forest Projects

- Contributions (restricted and unrestricted) ........................................ $950,973
- Grant Income (project restricted) ...................................................... $155,701
- Friends Group Fees .......................................................................... $4,341
- Passport Sales ................................................................................... $9,495
- Project Administration ....................................................................... $10,808
- Programs .......................................................................................... $3,950
- Investment Income ........................................................................... $25,299
- Net Realized Gain on Stock ............................................................... $54
- Other Revenue .................................................................................. $4,669
- **Total** .......................................................................................... $1,165,290

EXPENSES

- Program Services ............................................................................... $985,846
  - Friends Groups
  - Park and Forest Needs List
  - Photo Contest
  - Stewards of Penn's Woods
  - Outreach/Education/Events
  - Constituent Programs
  - Conservation Heritage Project
  - Education and Training
  - Accessibility/Barriers Removal
- Fundraising ........................................................................................ $67,848
- General and Administration .............................................................. $34,295
- **Total Expenses** ............................................................................ $1,087,989

The complete audited financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2017 is available by contacting Marci Mowery at mmowery-ppff@pa.net.

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In 2017, interpretive panels completed the restoration effort of Wharton Iron Furnace.

Friends of Goddard State Park
Sheakleyville Homecoming Parade.

The Friends of Kings Gap hosted their annual Ghoulish Gallop one-mile fun run for kids.
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