

Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Fall 2018

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It Takes A Village

Working Together to Ensure the Future

By Marci Mowery,
PPFF President

"We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together."

~ Bill Richardson, American politician, author, and diplomat

If you have ever attended a presentation where I am speaking, you may have heard me say, "It takes a village to ensure the success of our state parks and forests." With 121 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forest land, constant needs exist for investments of time, talent, and capital from not just park and forest staff, but the public at large.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation was founded to address some of these needs. In 2019, we'll celebrate our 20th anniversary! How quickly time flies!

Over the next few pages, I'd like to share with you some ways that your investments in PPFF are working and how collectively we are addressing needs in our state parks and forests.

continued on page 3

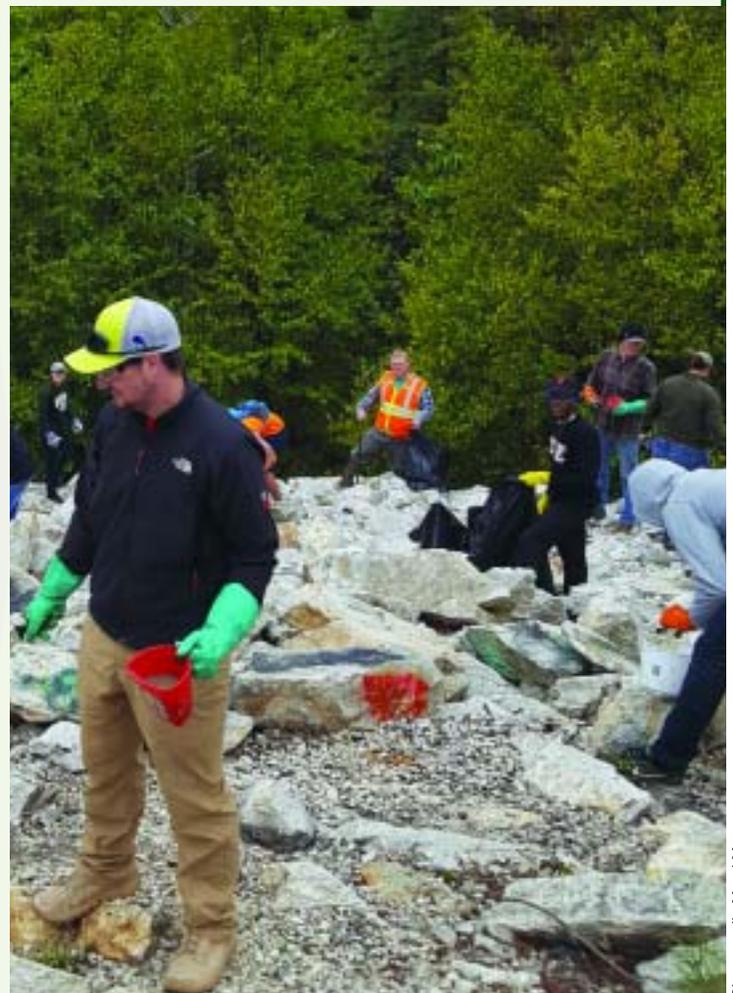


Photo credit: Marci Mowery



Photo credits: Mary Soderberg

Pennsylvania state parks and forests offer fun activities year round for all ages.

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President's Message

Marci Mowery



I've been staring at the screen for the better part of an hour, starting and stopping my piece as nothing felt "right." I take a break to walk the dog, hoping a little movement and change of scenery will inspire. I'm surprised by the sun, a rare occurrence these days, and I squint into it hoping I don't create more wrinkles around my eyes. This makes me laugh, as wrinkles are the least of my worries these days, as heavy rains wash away roads, erode stream banks, and alter our park and forest landscapes.

Two major projects consumed time this summer at the PPF office. The first—putting the finishing touches on the infrastructure report. The statistics lay fresh in my mind—a billion-dollar need for repairs and upgrades in our state parks and forests. How will these heavy rains and flooding influence this number, I wonder as I walk.

The second—how to reach the goal of funding 125 needs list projects over the course of the next five years in honor of the 125th anniversary of our state parks and forests. We want to address accessibility, historic preservation, and conservation, just to name a few of the categories on the list. But we can't do it without you.

As we begin to develop our plan, I reach out to you today to ask: Do you like fundraising? Do you have a passion for parks and forests? Would you be willing to introduce PPF staff to

"We are building a committee for the goal of 125 projects over the next five years, and there could be a slot for you!"

potential donors—be they corporate, individual, or foundation? Would you like to be involved?

We are building a committee for the goal of 125 projects over the next five years, and there could be a slot for you! Drop me a note at mmowery-ppff@pa.net and let's talk.

In the interim, I hope that you enjoy reading about those projects you already made happen, about the people who are working on the ground to make things happen, and about ways to support our work.

Obviously, the dog and I are back at my desk now, she's content with a bone smeared with a bit of peanut butter, preparing for her afternoon nap, where I can see her running in her sleep, exploring some trail in a state park or forest. I take a cue from her and slow down to live in the moment, planning for the future, but being present today.

*Yours in the outdoors,
Marci*

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT!

The hard work of volunteers, supporters, and staff to restore Hammonds Rocks after years of being impacted by graffiti was recognized by Gov. Tom Wolf with a *Governor's Environmental Excellence Award*.



Your support enabled the restoration of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail shelter areas, a project which was recognized as one of several through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's annual *Western Pennsylvania Environmental Excellence Awards*.



It Takes A Village continued from front cover

Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps

What if we had a way to both break the cycle of youth unemployment AND foster a more meaningful connection for our young people to the outdoors? Actually, we do. The Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps program hires teams of adolescents and young adults to improve local green spaces and recreational areas. By completing projects that protect natural places and increase access to nature for others, members make tangible and lasting contributions to



the community while increasing their connection to nature, building job skills, developing communication skills, and learning about conservation.

Photo credit: Bill Walliser

Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps members building a bridge at Goddard State Park.

Program Components: The Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps has two components: 1) A 7-week summer program for youth between the ages of 15 to 18, and 2) A 10-month program for young adults ages 18 to 25. With your support and a generous grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, for the second year, an investment was made in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources program. In 2018, crews in Meadville, St. Mary's, and Uniontown accomplished the following:

- The Meadville Crew helped protect the environment and improve visitor experiences with the trail improvements at Maurice K. Goddard and Pymatuning state parks, invasive species removal and streambank stabilization.
- Visitors to the Kinzua, Sizerville and Parker Dam state parks benefited from improved trails and campgrounds, while habitat improvement projects were the focus of the St. Mary's crew at Elk State Forest.
- A crew from Uniontown advanced the restoration of the Laurel Highland Hiking Trail by building four firewood storage shelters along the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, while at Laurel Hill State Park they rehabilitated three Civilian Conservation Corps-era shelters, built three Adirondack-style shelters, and rehabilitated over one mile of trail. This crew, which worked for 10 months as opposed to the 7-week summer crew, also addressed storm damage at Ohiopyle State Park by replacing bridges and rehabilitating trails. Habitat improvement included invasive species suppression at Ryerson Station and urban tree inventories in Connellsville.

Establishment of Friends Groups and Volunteerism

The PPF family continues to grow with the establishment of additional Friends groups, including the Friends of Rothrock State Forest, Weiser State Forest Roaring Creek Tract, and the Lackawanna State Park Trail Care Crew. Friends groups across the state are making a difference through stewardship days, financial investments, and events. Visit page 10 to see some recent projects.

Stewards of Penn's Woods Volunteers steward pre-agreed upon places on a schedule that works for them. These volunteers monitor restored areas to ensure graffiti does not reappear, clean vistas and trailheads, and remove litter.

continued on page 4



It Takes A Village continued from page 3

The Needs List

At the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, one of the contributions donors can make is the investment in what we call "The Needs List." This list, maintained on our website at www.PaParksAndForests.org/support/parks-forests-needs-list outlines projects, materials, equipment, and repairs that need donor support. Items range from the large—placing a CXT restroom at a trailhead or day use area (\$100,000), to the small—an iPad for educational programming.

Over the years, your support enabled items on the needs list to be check marked as "Finished!" Such examples include when Hammonds Rocks was restored to its natural beauty or

when children could explore streams to learn about aquatic life. Yet the list remains active, and in this 125th anniversary of our parks and forests, we reach out to you, park and forest fans, to help us fund 125 projects on the list over the next five years.

Below are a few examples of projects on the list. Have extra craft supplies laying around that you'd like to donate? Great! Want to purchase an item with a donation earmarked for the project? We can make it happen! Interested in a project but can't fund it all—a donation towards that project will move it forward or we can work with you to establish a peer-to-peer fundraising event!



The popular dog walking parks at Boyd Big Tree and Ibberson Conservation areas need a pet fountain to keep our furry friends hydrated on those hot summer days. Weighing in at \$4,000 each, these fountains also serve the humans that accompany them.



The investment of native plants (trees, shrubs, and perennials) not only reduces the negative impact that invasive species and torrential rains have on vegetation and streambanks, they shade waterways, provide buffers between campsites and beautify an area. With over \$400,000 needed for projects across the state, a fund has been established at <http://bit.ly/parkandforestneedsnativeplants>



Duties of the campground hosts at French Creek State Park could be facilitated with the acquisition or donation of a golf cart.



Photo credit: Mary Soderberg



Playground improvements and additions foster a child's social skills, imagination and creativity, thinking and problem solving, competence and confidence, and physical and mental health. <http://bit.ly/pastateparkplaygrounds>

NEEDS

It Takes A Village



Photo credit: DCNR

Stream study would become a bit less messy and expand to more seasons with the donation of 20 pairs of waders for use at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center.

Vernal pond protection may be as simple as acquiring a gate in the Michaux State Forest for \$2,000.

Photo credit: Michaux State Forest



NEEDS

Benches in Gallitzin State Forest would enable tired hikers and visitors to rest their legs.

DCNR staff install a bench at the Babcock Picnic Area of Gallitzin State Forest.

Photo credit: Jocelyn Brumbaugh, The Tribune-Democrat



NEEDS

Photo credit: Pam Metzger



Cyclists at Tobyhanna State Park would benefit from a bike repair station/bike parking for \$1,500.

Be a Part of Our Village!

These are but a few of the items found on the needs list. Visit our website to learn more or give us a call about your favorite park or forest and we'll help find the project that best meets your goals. There is no question that "it takes a village to ensure the success of our state parks and forests," and we want that village to include YOU!



The history of your state parks and forests is at your fingertips with the production of a story map outlining the development of our public land system. Working with the Center for Land Use and Sustainability at Shippensburg University, through a grant from the William Penn Foundation, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and the Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project released "Pennsylvania Parks and Forests, 125 Years of Preservation and Investment" in celebration of the Quasiquicentennial. View it at: <http://paconservationheritage.org/story-map/?preview=true>

Looking for a Unique Holiday Gift? Consider a Living Gift.

A Living Gift is a way to honor a person you care about by giving a gift that supports a great cause or organization. For example, you could mark a special occasion or holiday with a donation to PPF... this gift of support from you, or in a friend or family member's name, helps us to continue our work across the state.

Another great example would be donating a native plant, which is truly a living gift! Your contribution would help to purchase native plants, flowers, and shrubs planted in state parks and forests, enhancing habitat, creating plant screens, controlling erosion, educating visitors, and cleaning air. Visit the native plant garden at Loyalsock State Forest to see a project supported by Living Gifts.

Visit www.PaParksAndForests.org/support/ways-to-give for more examples of Living Gifts

Impact of Tax Reform on Charitable Donations

By Matthew Fox, CPA,
Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz

After passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) on December 22, 2017, many nonprofits have been left wondering what the impact will be on charitable donations received and individuals are trying to determine how to maximize their tax benefit from donations.

Impact of Changes to Standard and Itemized Deductions

Each tax year individuals are allowed to reduce their Adjusted Gross Income by the greater of their itemized deductions or the standard deduction. TCJA nearly doubled the standard deduction starting in 2018—\$12,000 for single filers; \$24,000 for married filing joint; \$18,000 for head of household. At the same time TCJA made changes to the itemized deductions, which may limit these deductions for some individuals.

The combination of these changes will mean that some individuals that had previously itemized deductions will now be taking the standard deduction. Tax Policy Center is projecting that about 11% of households will be itemizing deductions on their individual tax return under the new tax law, which is down from approximately 26% under prior law.

This means that one of the potential side effects under the tax reform is that some individuals may choose to reduce donations to charities because they are no longer receiving a tax benefit. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that individuals may reduce charitable giving by \$13 billion annually as a result of this tax law change.

“Bunching” as a Strategy to Receive Tax Benefits from Charitable Donations

With proper tax planning some individuals may be able to continue receiving a tax benefit for the donations they make through a technique called “bunching.” An individual that uses this technique will combine and make multiple

years of normal annual charitable donations in a single year in order to increase the likelihood that itemized deductions will exceed the standard deduction and provide additional tax savings.

Let's look at the following example to put this into perspective: Betty is a single filer and she typically donates \$3,000 per year to PPF. Her other annual itemized deductions total \$8,000. Without bunching donations, Betty's itemized deductions (\$11,000) would be lower than her \$12,000 standard deduction so she would take the standard deduction each year. If Betty were to bunch 3 years' worth of annual donations (\$9,000) into Year 1 her itemized deductions would be \$17,000 which exceeds the standard deduction in Year 1 by \$5,000 resulting in a tax benefit for the donations. Then in Year 2 and 3 Betty would reduce her donations to a lower level and would take the standard deduction.

Donor-Advised Funds as a Method of Receiving Tax Benefits from Donations

Another method for achieving this same result is through the use of a donor-advised fund (DAF). A DAF is essentially a charitable savings account that allows donors to make a charitable donation, receive an immediate tax deduction and then recommend grants from the fund over time. At any time the individual may direct funds to be granted from the account to their favorite qualified charity.

Using the previous example, in Year 1 Betty could establish a DAF and decide to contribute the \$9,000 (3 years of annual donations) in order to receive the immediate tax deduction in Year 1 even if she only distributes \$3,000 to PPF through the DAF in the first year. In Year 2 and 3 Betty could continue to distribute \$3,000 from the DAF in order to even out her donations to PPF while still receiving the tax benefit in Year 1.

Please discuss these tax and investment planning opportunities with your tax and investment advisors in order to determine the impact on your specific facts and circumstances.

Curious about the great things your contributions made possible in 2017?

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation annual report is available now for download on the website.

Click on [About Us](#) to find the Publications tab for the annual report and newsletters.



A Dedicated Crew!

By Jessica Aiello

Did you know that within the bureaus of state parks and state forests there are more than 80 different careers in conservation, recreation, and environmental protection? Without these positions, our public lands would not be as safe, would not be able to accommodate the needs of all users, nor would these lands provide as many ecosystem services as they do.



Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators manage and rehabilitate state park and forest sewage treatment plants, which includes operating and maintaining motors, chemical feeders, flow recorders and related equipment used in

sewage treatment. State parks and forests operate 172 public drinking water supplies and 70 wastewater treatment plants.



Landscape Architects develop aesthetic site designs and manage construction for state park and forest building sites and trail projects with a focus on sustainable native landscape plantings, water quality and runoff-sensitive stormwater management.



Engineers – Mechanical engineers design and manage the construction of the plumbing, heating, and ventilation systems that serve state park and forest buildings, while electrical engineers design and manage the construction of the electrical and

lighting systems serving all buildings, campgrounds, and water and wastewater treatment plants, along with solar arrays and electric vehicle charge stations. DCNR also employs bridge engineers, civil engineers, and environmental engineers.

New Pennsylvania State Forester Hired

Ellen M. Shultzabarger, who has worked for 14 years in various positions in the Bureau of Forestry, was recently appointed state forester and will serve as director of the bureau, which manages 2.2 million acres of state forestland, conserves native wild plants, and promotes stewardship of all of the commonwealth's forest resources. Shultzabarger is the first woman to hold the position of state forester and bureau director since the creation about 125 years ago of what is now the DCNR Bureau of Forestry.



Many visitors to state parks and forests may not realize the specialized technical skills and professional training required to design, construct, operate, maintain, and upgrade all the diverse buildings and infrastructure. The following is a brief sample of the diverse positions necessary to operate a state park or forest:



Geologists assist engineers with drilling investigations at bridge and culvert construction sites and provide on-site recommendations for productive drinking water well locations. They also write technical manuals and educational materials for the public.



Rangers ensure people are following the rules and creating a safe environment for all visitors. They may also be one of the first responders to an emergency.



Service Foresters help guide landowners and residents to practice sustainable forestry. They can help with writing and reviewing forest stewardship plans, provide urban tree planting tips, and provide guidance on hiring a professional forester.

TEN MORE JOBS!

Jobs at DCNR range from law enforcement to computer science to administrative.

- Web Specialist
- Carpenter
- Environmental Education Specialist
- Surveyor
- Life Guard
- Purchasing Agent
- Application Developer
- Cartographic Drafter
- Park Manager
- Real Estate Specialist
- Equipment Operator



To learn about EVEN MORE careers at DCNR, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov/JobsatDCNR

Investing for the Future of Outdoor Recreation Tourism

POE PADDY TUNNEL

By PPF Intern Casey Schneck



Poe Paddy State Park in Bald Eagle State Forest is a hotspot of outdoor recreation with its popular trails, waters, and renown fishing. But all of that was put in jeopardy when century-old infrastructure began to degrade.

History

In 1880 a rail road tunnel was blasted through West Paddy Mountain. The rail bed was later converted into a hiking trail in the 1970s. While the tunnel was a bit rough and bare, it grew quite popular for its easy access to premier trout waters, convenient shortcut for tubers, and easy passage along the Mid State Trail. It was much preferred to a hike around the mountain or up and over. But time took its toll and the tunnel became unstable.

With a collapse imminent, the tunnel was closed in 2013 for reconstruction. The project was both ambitious and necessary, as the trail became dangerous and a cave-in could threaten to close the tunnel permanently.

Project Overview

The Poe Paddy tunnel is an essential feature of the region's recreation tourism. As an important thoroughfare, it was repaired and upgraded to ensure the safety of the many hikers, tubers, and anglers who walk this path each year. Smooth concrete and metal replaced the rough stone surfaces.



Impacts

Construction led to a temporary drop-off in attendance, partly mitigated by a detour trail over the mountain. But the years following the renovation saw significant growth in trail use, increasing vital tourism to the region and making it well worth the \$1.5 million price tag. Poe Paddy was shown to have nearly a \$700,000 impact from tourism spending in 2008, and visitors to the park have increased four times over since then, thanks to this project and other investments in the nearby parks and forests.

Left: Original tunnel

Right: Reconstructed tunnel



Meet our Newest Intern! Casey Schneck, a recent graduate from Penn State University who majored in Community, Environment, and Development, will be interning with PPF until the end of 2018. Casey will provide programmatic, administrative, and research support for several programs, including infrastructure needs in state parks and forests, the 125th anniversary of parks and forests, and volunteerism in parks and forests.

Making Memories

“When I was young my parents didn't have a lot of money and we didn't go on vacations, but what we did was drive from Pittsburgh to the state parks on the weekends to picnic, swim, and fish—Shawnee, Prince Gallitzen, Moraine, Keystone—we went all over Western Pennsylvania. These are some of my fondest childhood memories.”

~ Mary Ann Pike

12-Month Calendar 2019

Pennsylvania State Parks

Once again featuring a breathtaking look at some of your favorite and soon-to-be favorite state parks. Hang it on your wall and dream of your next outdoor getaway.

Visit the PPF online store at <http://bit.ly/PPFFOnlineStore> and pick up your copy for \$9 plus shipping and tax.

Little Pine State Park. Photo by Bernadette Chiaramonte-Brown.

VISIT: <http://bit.ly/PPFFOnlineStore>

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS www.PaParksAndForests.org/events

OCTOBER

- Thru PPF is part of SECA: Make PPF Your Charity of Choice
- 10/26 by Choosing #9200-0046
- 10/12 Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Trunk of Treats Halloween Weekend
- 10/13 Friends of Black Moshannon: Cranberry Festival
- 10/13 Friends of Mount Pisgah: Apple Butter Day
- 10/13 Sinnemahoning State Park: Van Wagner Celebrates 125 years of Pennsylvania State Parks
- 10/14 Friends of Beltzville: Wild Creek Hike
- 10/14 Frances Slocum State Park: Van Wagner Celebrates 125 years of Pennsylvania State Parks
- 10/19 Friends of Parker Dam: Monsters on the Mountain
- 10/20-10/21 Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Fall Furnace Fest
- 10/20 Friends of Cowans Gap: Harvest Day
- 10/24 Friends of White Clay Creek: Historic Haunting
- 10/25 Meet PPF and Jake Weiland, Manager of Point State Park, at Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr in Pittsburgh for an informal reception. *RSVP required for building security to BArtz@PAParksAndForests.org*
- 10/27 Friends of Kings Gap: Ghoulish Gallop

NOVEMBER

- 11/2 Friends of Kings Gap: Jazz in the Mansion
- 11/11 Friends of Beltzville: Trinity Gorge Hike
- 11/16 PPF is Again Participating in the EXTRA Ordinary Give

DECEMBER

- 12/2 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House at the Cameron Mansion
- 12/7 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Coffee House at the Cameron Mansion
- 12/9 Friends of Kings Gap: Holiday Open House at the Cameron Mansion

ANNUAL FOUNDATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

**Deadline
DEC. 14!**

Nominate a park, forest, Friends group, or person for their good works!

Send nominations to mmowery-ppff@pa.net.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet in May 2019.

Seen 'Em All!

“Our adventure started when we bought the Passport Book at Sinnemahoning State Park in October 2012, a month after we got married. We thought it would be fun to travel across Pennsylvania and visit all the state parks and forests. The Passport Book gave us the opportunity to explore nature and wildlife in other areas of the state. Our adventure ended at Ryerson Station State Park in June 2018. It took us six long years to complete the Passport Book, but it was worth it.”

Jan and Alan Thoms are our latest couple to complete their visits to all 121 state parks and 20 state forests, posing with their new “Seen ‘Em All” bandana.



Plan Ahead

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



Did You Know?

PPFF is able to accept your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donations of stock to support our work and/or projects in state parks and forests.

For more information visit www.PaParksAndForests.org



PPFF FRIENDS GROUPS

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association

Friends of Beltzville

Friends of Big Pocono

Friends of Black Moshannon

Friends of Buchanan

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-Haldeman/Greenland Tracts

Friends of Weiser-Roaring Creek Tract

Friends of Weiser State Forest

Friends of White Clay Creek

Friends of Worlds End

Friends of Yellow Creek

Lackawana State Park Trail/Care Crew

Laurel Mountain Volunteers

Your Friends In Action: *Friends of Little Buffalo State Park*

Little Buffalo State Park, 923 acres in Centre and Juniata townships, Perry County, is a historical and recreational destination. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it includes a covered bridge, a restored, operating grist mill, an old farmhouse built on the site of a colonial-era tavern, and a narrow-gauge railroad track that features an original railcar. The park has extensive picnic areas, hiking trails, and a lake for fishing and boating, as well as a swimming pool.

In 2014, a small group of locals, many of whom live close to the park, formed the Friends of Little Buffalo State Park, a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. They formed to keep the traditions and appreciation of the park alive, but the group's efforts have grown to include a lot more.

Each year the Friends of Little Buffalo work with the park staff on the hugely popular (and free!) Old Fashioned Apple Festival, Halloween Haunted Hayrides, and the Christmas Trail events. The group maintains and puts up the decorations, finds volunteers, and provides hot dogs and marshmallows for each event.

In addition to helping with the events, the Friends of Little Buffalo fundraise for projects by selling stickers and firewood at the park. The stickers feature activities that "Buff State Park" visitors enjoy like camping, hiking, and kayaking.



Photo credits: Friends of Little Buffalo State Park

The Friends group sells firewood to raise funds for various events including their Christmas Trail event.

The group's fundraising efforts helped the park place two new playgrounds in less than two years. The first, located near the Entertainment Pavilion, was dedicated in the summer of 2017. The second playground, near the campground, was unveiled for the 2018 season.

Each spring and fall the Friends of Little Buffalo participate in the park's Volunteer Days to help clean up areas in the park and the grist mill. Some of the members even fill in to help operate the grist mill!



Photo credit: Friends of Little Buffalo State Park

Check the Friends of Little Buffalo's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/LittleBuffalo to learn more about the group and upcoming meetings.

More Friends In Action:



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

The **Friends of Caledonia** hosted the 36th Annual Craft Fair in July.



Photo credit: Friends of Pymatuning

The **Friends of Pymatuning's** big clean-up event brought out volunteers of all ages.



Photo credit: Friends of Goddard

The **Friends of Goddard** followed up another Pioneer Frolic in June with Music at the Marina in August featuring fireworks, a car cruise, lots of music, and a very special visitor.

The **Friends of Milton** are not the only group whose efforts were hampered by too much water. They'll be grateful for help in restoring trails when all is said and done.



Photo credit: Friends of Milton



Photo credit: Friends of Ohioptyle

Honoring our veterans with some outdoor time, the **Friends of Ohioptyle** had a rainy day for a paddle but there were smiles all around and a "when can we go again?"

The **Friends of Kings Gap** found a way to help visitors breath easier—with yoga on the terrace.



Photo credit: Marci Mowery



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

The **Friends of Nockamixon** reached a long-term goal when they unveiled their Accessible Recreation Area at the park. The area includes an accessible canoe and kayak launch, movable storage units, and a collection of accessible picnic tables. Future plans include running accessible recreation programming.

YOU Made it Happen

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of our Parks and Forests

The celebration of the 125th anniversary of Pennsylvania's parks and forests kicked in to full swing with a Gubernatorial Proclamation declaring May 23-30 Pennsylvania State Park and Forest Week and the passing of resolutions in both the house and senate commemorating the quasiqucentennial. A special thank you to Governor Wolf, lead sponsors Representatives Kate Harper and Mark Longietti in the house and Senators Lisa Baker and Judy Schwank in the Senate. www.PaParksAndForests.org/get-involved/125-years-parksandforests



Photo credit: Jessica Aiello

Celebrating our Park System

Pennsylvania park and forest 125-year anniversary celebrations continued at Washington Crossing State Park where PPF President Marci Mowery joined Secretary Dunn and State Park Director John Hallas and other dignitaries at the most recent addition to our park system.



Photo credit: Marci Mowery



Photo credit: Casey Schneck

Graffiti Clean Up!

Volunteers flocked to Buzzards Rock to remove graffiti that had been placed after our 2017 stewardship day. View a video of the day's events at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWmGqnIXJFY



Rain or Shine! Our Dedicated Highmark Walkers

Wet weather and large puddles couldn't stop our Highmark Walkers from supporting this fundraising effort.

YOU Made it Happen

PPFF's Friends Are Growing!

Welcome Friends of Weiser State Forest Roaring Creek Tract and Friends of Rothrock State Forest.



Photo credit: Marci Mowery



Addressing Park and Forest Needs

PPFF President Marci Mowery joined staff from McConnells Mill State Park to look at some of the needs at the park. If you would be interested in joining a committee to see how we address these needs, email Beth Artz at bartz@paparksandforests.org

History Lesson

PPFF President Marci Mowery presented to members of the Pennsylvania Association of Retired State Employees—one of the largest groups of its kind—about the history of our park and forest system and ways to get involved.

2018 PPFF Photo Contest Results

We had some amazing submissions for our 2018 "Through the Season" Photo Contest and can't wait to share the results with you in our Spring 2019 Newsletter and on our web site!



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

In the meantime, the 2017 photo gallery tour continues to travel around the state, building awareness about our park and forest

system and celebrating 125 years of opportunities for healthy outdoor living and resource conservation.

Let's Work Together to Get Little Buffalo an ADA Dock!

Our efforts to place an ADA dock at Little Buffalo State Park took a step backwards when we were not awarded a grant that we were seeking. With more than 10 parks seeking ADA docks, and parks and forests seeking ADA improvements across the state, this area of focus continues to be a high priority for the foundation. We are regrouping and hope to have a dock at Little Buff in 2019! To support ADA work, visit: <http://bit.ly/ppffoutdoorsforeveryone>



LHHT Workday and Rededication

Friends and volunteers gathered for a workday and trail rededication on the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail on National Trails Day. Now that all of the shelters have been restored, volunteers began working on tent area improvements, while staff built shelters for firewood.



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Board Retreat Puts Plan in Place to Fund Park and Forest Needs

PPFF Board of Directors met to plan for 2019 and develop their goal for funding 125 projects from the Needs List (see cover story) over the course of the next five years. Your support will continue to help 'check off' these items from the list.



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Friends of Caledonia Get Fundraising Boost

The Chambersburg chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star chose the Friends of Caledonia as a recipient of their fundraising efforts in 2018. Marci joined the chapter at Caledonia to talk about the history of parks and forests.



The Stories that Rocks Can Tell

By Brian Kavalukas,
PPFF's newest Board Member

Hiking in Pennsylvania is famous for rolling hills and mountains, temperate climate AND rocks! Although rocks might cause wear and tear on our boots and legs, they can also provide charming views, a place to rest or a helpful boost. But most importantly, they often provide a history lesson. So, the next time you step over a rock in one of Pennsylvania's state parks or forests, look down and give it a closer inspection—it may contain part of the Pennsylvania fossil record.

In Western Pennsylvania, there are two distinct fossil records that can be observed at the surface. Older marine fossils exist, but more commonly you will find fossilized plants if you know how to recognize them. Pennsylvania's fossilized plants are from the Carboniferous period, about 300 to 360 million years ago. During the Carboniferous period, lush forests thrived under elevated levels of carbon dioxide, temperatures and humidity. These forests of course formed today's coal seams, but also ended up trapped in layers of silt and mud deposited by oceanic tides. An ocean extended westward across the Commonwealth from roughly Harrisburg.

Most of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail passes through fragments of limestone and sandstone that have broken away from bedrock through water erosion and continental buckling. The Laurel Highlands, contrary to popular impression, is NOT rocky because of glacial deposits. This means that rocks found here are generally from here; including for some, a depiction of ancient life.

Here are examples of a common fossilized tree called *Sigillaria*, which achieved a height of about 100 feet and required only a few years to mature:



This impression of a leaf is found on a set of steps that assist hikers up a hillside.



This leaf impression is found trailside and has provided a lot of hikers with a place to take a break!

What kinds of fossils have you seen or found?

Send us your pictures and we might share them on the LHHT Facebook page. If you are interested in learning more, check out “Common Fossils of Pennsylvania” at www.dcnr.pa.gov/Education/GeologyEducation.

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME



Zulene Mayfield (1961 -)

Zulene Mayfield was the driving force behind the Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living and their goal to make sure families in Chester live their lives free from polluting industries.

Zulene was featured in the 1996 documentary, “Laid to Waste,” which tells the story of a waste processing facility through the eyes of the residents, local leaders, politicians, and environmental officials involved. Zulene lived near the largest trash incinerator in the state and fought hard to bring environmental justice to her family and all those living within the shadow of the plant. Through court testimony, letter writing, and other advocacy actions, Zulene and other members of the Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living brought to light the discriminatory practice of locating polluting industries in areas of poverty and color.

Zulene believes that part of the issue of environmental injustice stems from institutional racism. She was brought up in a non-prejudiced household, but found that many of the people she worked with and around did not share the same background and ideals. She worked to overcome racial biases through hard work and education.

Because of Zulene's dedication to quality of life in Chester, she received several awards, including the NAACP Sojourner Truth Award and one from the city of Chester related to her work on childhood lead poisoning issues.

See for Yourself: The Power of Grassroots Efforts

To better understand the power of grassroots efforts to affect positive change, watch the new documentary, “Justice in Chester,” in the Conservation Heritage series by WITF-TV (<http://paconservationheritage.org/documentaries>), which tells the story of the campaign against environmental racism and injustice by the CRCQL in the 1990s.

PPFF Welcomes New Board Member



Brian Kavalukas

Director of Finance, Sales, and Commercial Business Partner with Direct Energy, Brian will bring significant financial planning and budgeting experience to the board. Brian grew up camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing Pennsylvania's mountains, valleys, and ridges. He learned at a young age to appreciate, support, and care for our public lands. These days Brian is active with the Ridge Runners of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail and Edgewood Borough's Street Tree Planning Committee.

Meet the Rest of the Board!



Brad Mallory and his family have always enjoyed our state parks and forests for hiking, canoeing, and relaxing and knows we must invest in this incredible resource to continue to enjoy it.



Nancy Ball is very interested in engaging college students in outdoor recreation and volunteerism. Nancy can be found regularly at Nockamixon State Park, walking her dog.



Tina Molski is passionate about getting outside and enjoys taking advantage of our beautiful state parks and forests with her husband by hiking, paddling and backpacking through them.



George Fernandez recently discovered the fun of the outdoors and is enjoying exploring our state parks and forests.



Mark Longiotti was born and raised in Mercer County, Pennsylvania and recalls church outings to Cook Forest, spending his after-prom at Goddard State Park and family picnics at McConells Mill State Park.



Gus Frederick doesn't believe in standing still—he's always looking for the next outdoor adventure!



George Asimos believes the best place for him and his family is hiking, camping, canoeing, hunting—you name it—if it's in a park or forest that's where they spend their free time.

We Will Miss



Harvey Wright
(4/13/1938-11/29/2016)

Twila Wright
(12/28/1937-7/22/2018)

Harvey and Twila were the first campground hosts in Prince Gallitzin's

Crooked Run campground, and were early and devoted friends of the park and all her visitors.



Jim Olsen
(11/22/1949-2/14/2018)

Jim was a long-time member of and volunteer for the Friends of Goddard. Fishing and woodworking were his passions.



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/support/ways-to-give



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

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

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