



PENNSYLVANIA
Parks & Forests
FOUNDATION
It's just our nature to help!

The Outdoors is for EVERYONE!

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



This year we asked everyone to not just think outside of the box – but think outside YOUR WINDOW.

It's big, it's beautiful, and it is for EVERYONE to explore.

The Outdoors is for EVERYONE!

Mission

PPFF's mission is to promote and support the natural and cultural resources of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests through leadership in recreation, education, conservation, and volunteerism

Vision

PPFF will build the constituent voice for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests to ensure the long term sustainability of these public lands for the benefit of present and future generations

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THOUGHTS ON 2013

When we declared our theme for 2013, *The Outdoors is for Everyone*, we spoke from our hearts. We believe strongly that we all benefit from spending time in the outdoors and it is – and will become – increasingly more accessible to all of us, no matter our age, experience, or abilities. Because we have such a network of parks and forests that afford so many varied activities, with a little trial and error, we can discover our passions. *Not into sweating?* Consider plein air painting! *Not an artist?* Consider paddling, hiking, disc golf, and so much more! *Think you are too old for the outdoors?* Think again!

As I look back at 2013 – we are now half way through 2014 – I am proud of the accomplishments made by our friends, our volunteers, and our staff, all made possible by people like YOU, who support us through time, donations, feedback, expertise, and encouragement. We cannot thank you enough for everything you do to make our parks and forests for EVERYONE and to ensure that they remain for EVERYONE in years to come.

As you read through the pages, I hope that you see yourself in the work that we accomplished, and that you find inspiration—inspiration to go outdoors, introduce someone to a new activity or place, or to roll up your sleeves and jump into our work. There are ample opportunities to get involved or to continue your involvement, from being a voice for parks and forests to starting a friends group. We'll show you how.

Immerse yourself in this Annual Report. Perhaps pack a picnic lunch and head on out to your favorite state forest or park picnic area, and take in your surroundings while reading. Pat yourself on the back for a job well done, and know that your efforts are appreciated, not just by the staff here at the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, but by all who use our public lands.

Yours in the Outdoors,

Marci

PPFF President Marci Mowery joins leaders from 13 other state park foundations to share ideas and expertise.



Message from the DCNR Secretary *Ellen Ferretti*

As a child growing up in the north-east, my love of nature was nurtured during our family visits to the state parks closest to our home. This tradition was passed down when I had children; we went to our local state parks and forests to camp and experience the outdoors. To this day, our connection to the natural world is strong.



Just as they are now, our state parks and forests were an affordable opportunity to every citizen for healthy outdoor exercise. Our continued ability to conserve our public lands and provide a quality outdoor experience for all of our visitors is why we at DCNR are so excited about our work to improve facilities, expand acquisitions, and make our public lands even better.

We also believe DCNR could not have a better partner than the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation to raise much needed funds for Pennsylvania's beloved state parks and forests. Working with parks and forestry staff to identify critical infrastructure and staff training needs and then seeking funding are great ways to help our state parks and forests meet the needs of the resource and, of course, our visitors. We sincerely thank PPF for all of the great work it does.

The outdoors truly are for everyone and we hope your outdoor adventures take you to a state park or forest sometime soon.

Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge participant family shows their love of state parks and forests by hugging a tree.

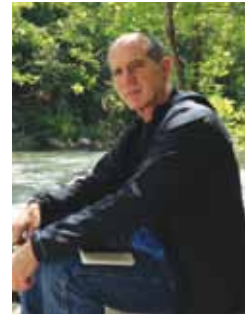


“I love this program! I enjoy the photos and the little snippets. You girls do a great job! Most of my adventures lately have been quick little jaunts to nearby trails and parks - not necessarily in the state park system. Bummer. None-the-less, I love reading the plugs for all the parks - it is a motivator!! Keep Up the Good Work!”

~ Janet Ball

Message from Chairman of PPF Board of Directors *George Asimos*

Since you are reading this Annual Report you probably share my feeling that “I’m never happier than when I am in a forest.” There are countless great moments in our lives and for many of us, a forest is involved. We make memories - yearly hiking and camping trips with the kids, taking our daughters hunting for the first time, family picnics, a summer concert or a fall festival.



Our Pennsylvania parks and forests are full of opportunity, enrichment, and inspiration. If you are a Friends group volunteer, a park manager, forester, or vendor you know that these magnificent natural assets don’t maintain themselves. And the projects and programs that make them safe and accessible take people-power and resources to accomplish.

If you are a donor or a grant funder of PPF or Friends projects, we hope you’ve seen first-hand the effects - measurable and immeasurable - of your generosity.

If you are not among these remarkable groups of individuals, would you give some thought to how you might find your spot? Volunteer for a Friends group event or work project at your favorite park. Donate to one of our “Wish List” projects or join with a friend to adopt one as your own. Our website has wish list projects for every interest and almost every park.

Thanks for all that you do to protect and enhance our natural resources. See you in the forest!



Intern Ellie joins students in the watershed education program at Nescopeck and Lackawanna state parks to talk about how Maurice K. Goddard influenced her life.

The Outdoors is for Everyone... and it's Everywhere. WE ARE TOO!

Using *The Outdoors is for Everyone* as a theme begs for more discussion. While the idea of “everyone” seems obvious, the reality is that we live in a world full of people with wildly different abilities. Inclusion is the acceptance of all people regardless of their differences.

Inclusion in recreation is more than encouraging

people of different abilities and interests to participate in the same activity. In order for the idea to translate into meaningful opportunities, inclusion must be a shared value. We believe that with appropriate training, education, and equipment, our state parks and forests can be “for everyone.” 2013 was the year of widening the circle.



Walking and bike trail at Laurel Hill State Park.



The ADA EZ launch and canoe/kayak rack at Point State Park.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation raises funds for programs and projects via grant writing, corporate donations, private donations, and in-kind partnerships.

We focused our attention on these ideas:

- A training for state park and forest staff in body mechanics...where DCNR and PPF staff and volunteers learned methods of assisting those with special needs engage in outdoor recreation.
- Organized training for park managers on the topic of working with volunteers.
- Accessible Recreation: Training DCNR and PPF staff and volunteers on techniques and assessment; purchasing equipment to increase accessibility and raising funds to update trails and docks for accessibility.
- Playgrounds in parks that need them, ensuring ADA elements.
- PPF received a convening grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania's Watersheds to host a discussion on preserving the history of the conservation movement.
- A grant from the Kline Foundation, which will be administered in 2014, provides for increased access for visitors with disabilities to Kings Gap Environmental Education Center.
- A grant from Pennsylvania American Water Company provided watershed education for students in partnership with Lackawanna and Nescopeck state parks.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation has living gifts program in which people purchase gifts of recreation, historic preservation, plants, and education through the Foundation. http://paparksandforests.org/ways_to_give.html



The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation managed a matching grant program (funded by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation and Partnership Program) from 2009 until 2013. These grants helped to leverage private sector funds for local level projects. While the funds for this program are no longer available, the Foundation hopes to secure funds to continue it in the future. Projects funded in 2013 utilizing these funds included:

- A first time archery program at both Ryerson Station and Raccoon Creek state parks. These programs are part of regular programming and special events to engage youth and adults in this growing outdoor pastime.
- The Friends of Pinchot State Park raised funds to purchase a second playground for the park, with assistance from our matching grant program, providing recreational opportunities for our young park visitors.
- Originally funded with a grant from REI, PPF provided supplemental funds to build a public amphitheater at Shawnee State Park (still under construction).
- We provided funds and assisted with raising revenue for a volunteer run project to build a nine-hole disc golf course at Sam Lewis State Park.
- The Friends of Goddard State Park host an annual pioneer frolic. Funds through our matching grant program assisted in hiring reenactors for this popular event that brings history to life for people of all ages.
- In 2013, PPF provided funding to build a canoe and kayak rack at Hills Creek State Park. Not only does the rack provide a safe place to store private paddling gear, it provides a revenue stream for the park.
- In 2013, with funds from a REI grant that PPF wrote and received, employees at the Forbes State Forest finalized the finishing touches on a new roof for a warming hut.



A new canoe and kayak rack at Hills Creek State Park was funded through the PPF living gifts program.

A new archer tries his hand at archery.

June 12, 2013
 Today I took my first archery lesson at Ryerson Station State Park! I learned how to hold the bow and I hit the target on my very first try!



Working With Veterans – Building on Success

The first (of what we plan to be many) military outdoors event was held in early September at Gifford Pinchot State Park, giving service members and their families a chance to try accessible forms of recreation, improve their skills, and enjoy a picnic lunch. Handcycling, adaptive kayaking, hiking, campfire cooking, biking, fishing, and many other outdoor activities were on tap for Pennsylvania's wounded service members, veterans and their families at PPF's Pinchot Outdoors Day - The Outdoors is for Everyone!

Experts in accessible recreation were on hand for instruction and support, and families also enjoyed presentations about outdoor safety, search and rescue dogs, and service dogs. More than 20 exhibitors took part and provided information ranging from accessible recreation opportunities to independent living and veterans' services. The event was made possible in part by support from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and through the support of local businesses.

Whether You're Plugged In – Or Not We're On Your Frequency

We are enthusiastic about our state parks and forests and we have a lot to share. On any given day there are opportunities for new activities and experiences, events to attend, new skills to learn. It's easy to become informed so this becomes a part of your life. Since we all have preferences on how we receive and communicate information, the Foundation strives to "speak your language." For those of you who prefer the printed word we offer our three times a year newsletter and annual report. And for

those of you who prefer your information electronically, we are on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and offer a weekly e-blast and our bimonthly e-zine *Explore*. We want to create a connected community while serving as a voice for your public lands. We hope you learn new skills and ideas – and hope to help you find great additions to your "bucket list."

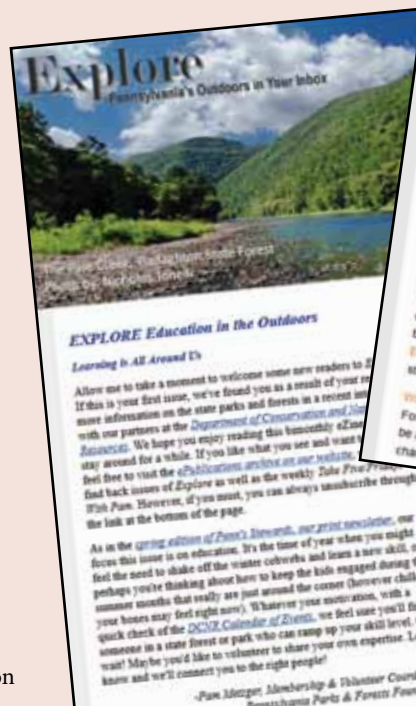
Do you have an idea? A question? Talk to us; we are an open door for your thoughts and ideas because we are here for YOU.

Let's talk! Here are the many ways we reach out to you... and provide opportunities for you to tell us what's on your mind.

Penn's Stewards – our three times a year newsletter. Our newsletters are popular and we have received requests for reprints, particularly of our features on accessible recreation. In 2013, we developed our newsletter articles around the *Outdoors is for Everyone* theme. The spring newsletter focused on environmental education, the summer on accessible recreation, and the fall on the outdoors with pets and horses. Additionally, we produced one issue of *Pets and the Outdoors*, a newsletter for dog owners. Back issues for all newsletters are available on our website.

Take Five Fridays with Pam – a weekly eBlast that continues to be popular with users and reaches an audience of 3,500 people.

EXPLORE - a bimonthly eZine that explores the world of recreation, volunteerism, and green living in Pennsylvania's parks and forests. This year, *Explore's* audience grew to nearly 100,000.



“I was impressed with the latest electronic newsletter I received in my email today. I believe our state parks are our greatest resource for all citizens in our great state. You have done a great job promoting them. I look forward to receiving more newsletters.”
 ~ T. Miller

Goal Tender – a May through November weekly electronic newsletter focused on themes relating to the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Passport. Back issues are available at www.thegpoc.org

PPFF on Facebook – We reached our goal of 3,500 Facebook fans by the end of 2013 in mid-December, a 30% increase in “page likes” since 2012. We reach approximately 2,000 people per week via Facebook, connecting our fans to PPFF initiatives, Chapter events and Facebook pages, and information on state parks and forests across Pennsylvania.

Our Website - Resources and materials are always readily available - fact sheets, newsletters, videos, photo galleries, press releases, and more are a “click” away. The Foundation website continues to be source of information for friends groups, park and forest visitors, our partners in conservation, and our interested public.

Twitter - Our Twitter base continues to grow: we have reached 700 followers over the past 6 months, a 25% increase, and we have sent out more than 1,000 “tweets” since we joined the platform.

Pinterest - Our Pinterest presence continues to grow as we expand our social media reach to that site. We launched a YouTube site with the addition of two instructional videos—choosing a bicycle and changing a tire.

PPFF received generous media attention in 2013, racking up more than 55 news stories across multiple platforms including newspaper articles, television and radio features, online news sites and blog posts. Even two out-of-state organizations (in Boston and New York) ran articles about our work to increase accessibility of state parks and forests.



With support from the Department of Community and Economic Development, we created three new banners for tabling at events—the banners focus on getting outdoors, volunteering, and the network of parks and forests in Pennsylvania. In 2013, we developed outdoor recreation fact sheets that we are co-producing with DCNR. *Look for these in 2014!*

Outdoors With Our Partners and YOU!

It would be impossible to have a goal of making the outdoors for everyone without the guidance, expertise, support, and energy of the many partners that make our work possible. Partnerships are the backbone of the Foundation and our friends groups. We thank all of our partners for helping to make our public lands even better.

Here are some of the projects and organizations we partnered with:

- Westmoreland County Sports League (Outdoor Day at Keystone State Park)
- Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (Goddard Legacy Project and Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute and sponsored CPC Conservationist of the Year Award)
- Shippensburg University (Internship program and Susquehanna River Graduate Course for Educators)
- Susquehanna River Trail Association (work on Weiser State Forest Islands)
- PA Hallowed Ground Project (co-sponsored an event to support trainings on caring for old cemeteries)
- Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (co-sponsored a presentation about Mira Lloyd Dock)
- Growing Greener Coalition (funding for public lands)



Graduate students and teachers joined PPF for a two week workshop that focused on the Susquehanna River and its natural and cultural history.



With a grant from the National Road Heritage Corridor, volunteers were recruited to help plant and maintain bioswales in the Borough of Ohiopyle in partnership with Ohiopyle State Park.

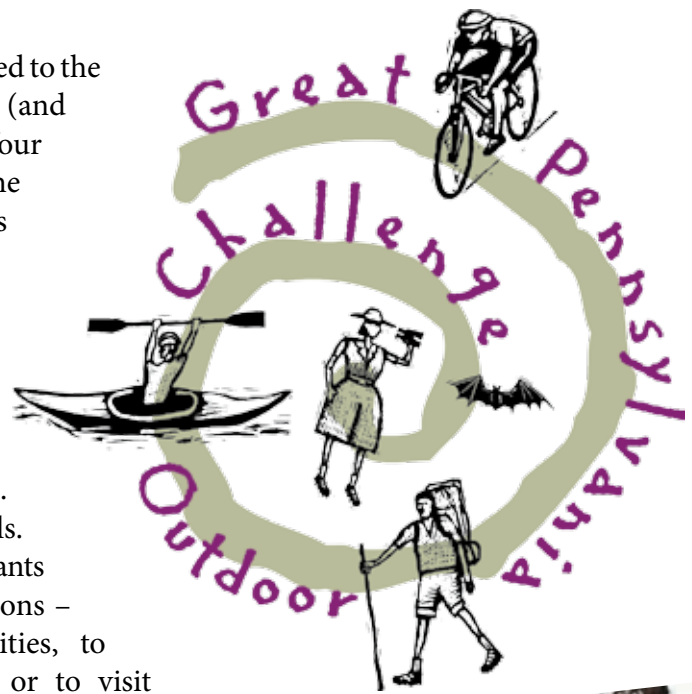
We celebrated the first annual Days in the Life of a State Forest and State Park on April 13 and May 25 respectively. These days are meant to celebrate in photographs our public places on two significant days — the Saturdays closest to the birthday of Joseph Rothrock, the father of our state forests, and the founding of our first Pennsylvania state park at Valley Forge. Park and forest visitors were invited to upload photographs taken that specific day, for what amounted to a fun, no-cost way to spread the word about our beautiful and exciting outdoor spaces.



The Great Pennsylvania Outdoors Challenge

In 2013, the GPOC took on a new form: weekly challenges tied to the themes in the PPF Passport, monthly focuses for thought (and action), prizes and encouragement. One hundred forty-four people signed up for the Challenge. At the conclusion of the 2013 program, we conducted online and telephone surveys with participants. The response was overwhelmingly positive: they spent more time outdoors with family and friends, visited new state parks and forests, exercised more, lost weight, and reconnected with themselves. Most respondents were interested in the program as a vehicle to spend more time in the outdoors, set goals to improve health and fitness, and to explore new places and activities.

The GPOC has been gratifying on two significant levels. First and foremost, we've heard great stories from our participants about how the GPOC has helped them focus their intentions – whether it's to simply make time for outdoor activities, to kick their health and wellness goals into higher gear, or to visit new places or try a new sport. Second, we discovered we are trendsetters. Several times over the course of the challenge, we'd find materials or information on challenges very similar to our GPOC such as Iowa's Department of Natural Resources' H2O challenge – Healthy & Happy Outdoors!



The Stremmel family found the perfect spot at Locust Lake State Park during the "Big Trees and Special Stands" Challenge.



To capture the perfect "Scenic Views and Vistas," Karen made it to the top of the Pole Steeple Trail at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.



Mary's always ready for a hike and took the "Boots on the Ground" Challenge at Clear Creek State Park.



Canine participant Molson Golden at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center for the "Environmental Ed" Challenge.

*July 9, 2013
Just started my first Great Pennsylvania Outdoors Challenge. Two goals: kayaking and hiking 30 miles. Turns out I like to compete...who knew?*

In addition to our work in making parks and forests for everyone, we received a number of grants for improvements to parks and forests to make them safer and attractive places to visit. These include:

- We worked with Ohiopyle State Park to receive two grants from the National Road Heritage Corridor—one for fencing repairs to the Great Allegheny Passage rail trail and the other to plant bioswales—natural structures to improve storm water runoff and quality—in Ohiopyle Borough.



- With a gift card from Lowes we purchased tools for volunteer work days at Cowans Gap State Park.
- We received a grant from the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor to improve and make accessible an amphitheater at Caledonia State Park, with a completion date of 2014.
- Working with the Friends of Laurel Hill State Park, we received a grant to make repairs to the fire tower at the park, with a 2014 completion date.

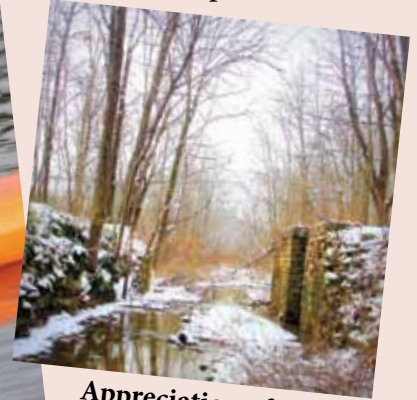


Park Manager Ryan and PPF President Marci Mowery wheeled through the aisles at Lowes purchasing tools.

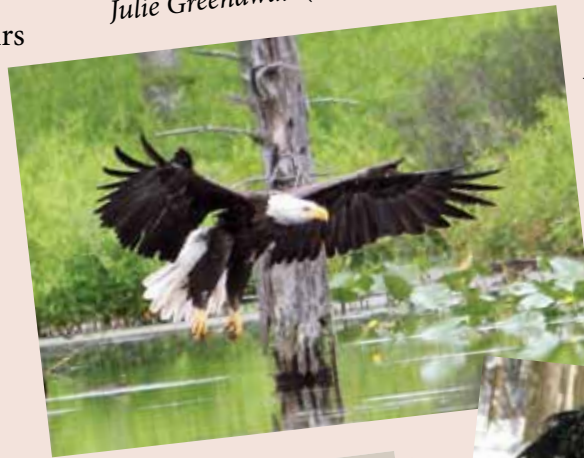
PPFF hosted our annual “Through the Seasons” photo contest for images taken in Pennsylvania’s state parks and forests. We had more than 150 admissions from across the commonwealth. Prizes were awarded in four categories: Appreciation of Beauty, Outdoor Recreation, Kids in the Outdoors, and Dogs in the Outdoors. We also awarded people’s choice and critics’ choice best of show. What categories would YOU like to see in future photo contests?



**Kids in the Outdoors:
Critics’ Choice**
Julie Greenawalt (Chapman State Park)



**Appreciation of Beauty:
First Place**
Michael Hower
(Swatara State Park)



**Best in Show:
People’s Choice**
Dot Monahan
(Maurice Goddard State Park)



**Dogs in the Outdoors:
Second Place**
Thomas Caldwell
(Ridley Creek State Park)

October 1, 2013
I had no idea how big an elk was.
But now I’VE SEEN THEM -
IN PERSON, on the Elk Scenic
Drive in the Pennsylvania Wilds!
I took about 50 photos. I can’t
believe how beautiful they are!
I’m coming back next year!!!

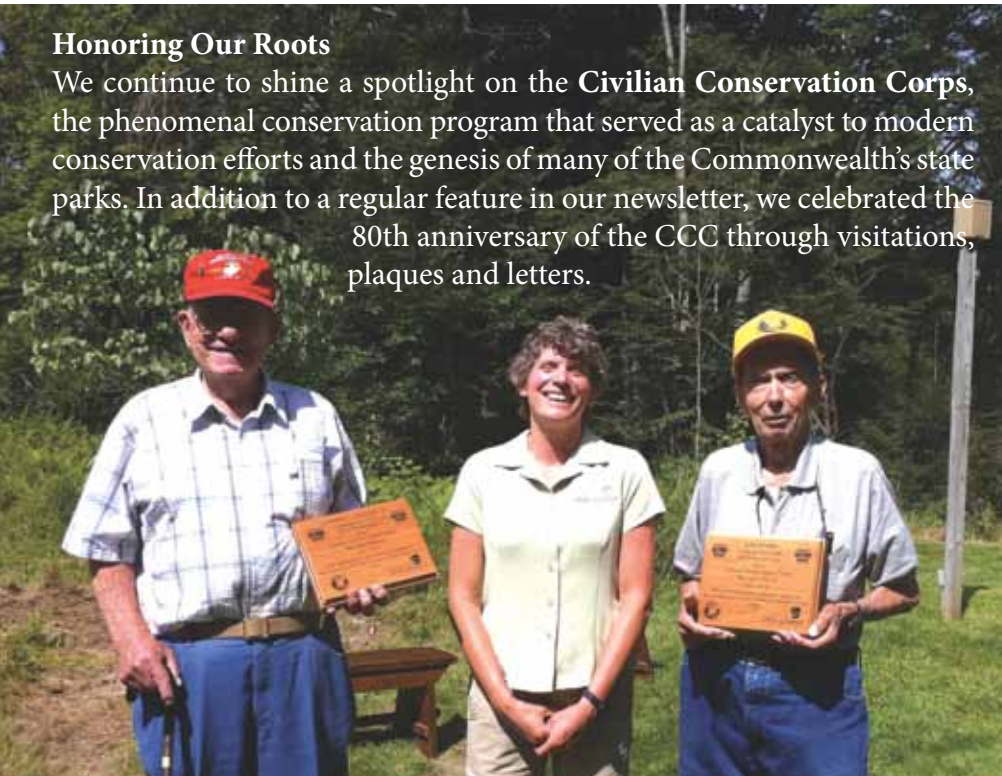
Conservation Heritage

The successful Goddard Legacy Project has expanded to a broader program of Conservation Legacy. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a remarkable history of conservation dating at least to the late 19th century when industrialization rapidly took hold and when environmental resources were impacted and, in many cases, depleted by economic growth. It is a story that largely remains untold but for a few individual histories of events, people, and organizations.

The purpose of the Conservation Legacy Project is to document and create a comprehensive history of Pennsylvania's conservation heritage. The project will: include archival research and extensive oral histories with individuals who were or are involved in conservation heritage; conduct a literature review of conservation organizations that have developed their own histories; produce a documentary; and develop educational materials. To learn more, visit paconservationheritage.org

Honoring Our Roots

We continue to shine a spotlight on the **Civilian Conservation Corps**, the phenomenal conservation program that served as a catalyst to modern conservation efforts and the genesis of many of the Commonwealth's state parks. In addition to a regular feature in our newsletter, we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the CCC through visitations, plaques and letters.



Author Ralph Harrison autographs his most recent book, *Quehanna: The Blemished Jewel Restored* after leading a tour along the elk scenic drive during the annual elk rut.



WE SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITY Staff, board members, friends groups, and volunteers are on hand to support our neighbors. It's a big state, but a small world—and as much as we'd like you to join us—we want to join you and your community as well. We presented, attended, or tabled at 55 events reaching over 14,000 people as well as had 89 PPF specific volunteers provide 588 hours of service.

Here are some of the places you could find us in 2013:

- Ad in Cedar Cliff High School Spring Musical
- Membership with the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club
- Co-sponsored PA Hallowed Ground Project Benefit Performance at Midtown Scholar Bookstore
- The Rotary Foundation, 2013 Annual Dinner
- The Keystone Active Zone Planning "KAZ Passport Program"
- Venture Outdoors Day, Pittsburgh
- National Night Out events (several locations statewide)
- River Day, Wormleysburg
- Ned Smith Day in Millerstown
- Outdoor Day at Moraine State Park
- Outdoor Day at Keystone State Park
- Civilian Conservation Corps Festival at Promised Land State Park
- Earth Day at Fort Indiantown Gap
- The Philadelphia Inquirer Travel Show
- Elk Watch in Sinnemahoning State Park

National Night Out in Ardmore, August 2013



Hi Ho, Hi Ho...

It's OUT to Work We Go

Everything we do involves people like you – people willing to jump in with both feet and make things happen. Here are some of the ways we get together to demonstrate that the *Outdoors is for Everyone*.

The More You Know...

We believe that education enables people to realize how natural resources and ecosystems affect each other and how resources can be used wisely.

Through conservation education, people develop the critical thinking skills they need to understand the complexities of ecological problems. Conservation education also encourages people to act on their own to conserve natural resources and use them in a responsible manner by making informed resource decisions.

To this end, we share what we know with interested citizens and students in every forum we can. In 2013, in addition to our regular tabling at events, we were at:

- Environmental studies and policy class at the University of Pittsburgh
- Environmental studies at Penn State Fayette, the Eberly Campus
- Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society annual conference where we presented the workshop: *Friends Groups—what you always wanted to know*
- We presented at several Rotary clubs on the history of state parks and forests
- We presented to the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club on hiking in state parks and forests

We Reached Out to the Public through Exhibitions at:

- Carlisle Sports and Outdoors Nationals
- Private Forest Landowners Conference: the Future of Penn's Woods
- 2013 PA Association of Nonprofit Organizations Conference
- Susquehanna River Trails Association
- Capital Blue Cross “Healthy Pet – Healthy You”
- PA Heritage Foundation, “Holiday Marketplace”



PPFF President Marci Mowery exhibits at the Holiday Marketplace



PPFF coordinated a bicycle donation from REI to Canoe Creek and Trough Creek state parks so that rangers might do bike patrol. The benefit of this is that it reduces fuel consumption and pollution, models healthy behavior, and makes the staff more accessible to visitors.

“I love the tea! It certainly is strong and is definitely reminiscent of a campfire—I keep it in its own jar so the smoke flavor doesn’t go into my other teas. I also bought the elderberry one, which I’m steeping right now since I just got back from taking my dog for a walk in the snow through the field.”
~ Karen



The office was brightened by the presence of three summer interns. One worked in expanding our marketing and communications and two, shared with the Susquehanna River Trail Association, worked to build the volunteer base. In the fall, we had one intern who assisted with research.

PPFF worked with graduating college students entering the world of conservation through mock interviews, internships, and career fairs and hosted a week-long workshop on conservation history for graduate students. PPFF participated in internship fairs at Penn State University and Shippensburg University, and continues to expand our relationships with Millersville and Messiah Colleges.

Not forgetting the adult learners among us, we developed a fact sheet and conducted a Twitter conference on greening your office space and acted as opening speaker at the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations' annual conference.



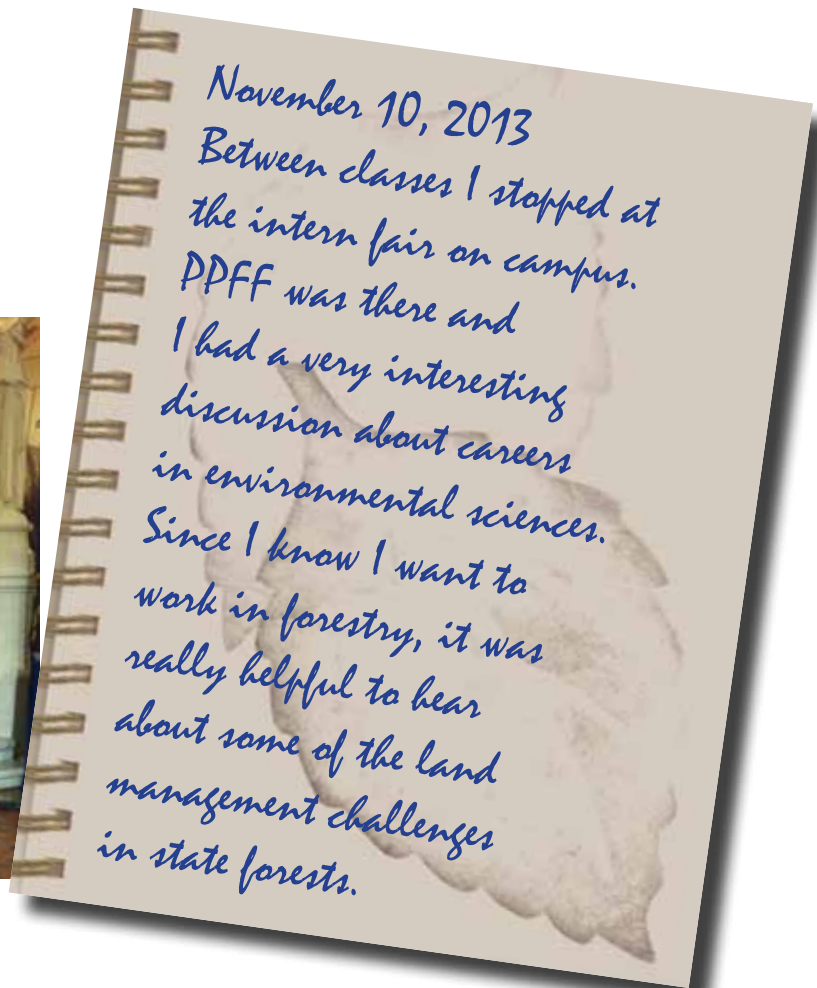
Here are some of the communities we reached out to highlight our mission and plans:

Our Elected Officials

- We reached out to the Pa General Assembly by creating “record bowls” pressed out of vinyl records that included the message, “For the record, the Keystone Fund Works.” Bowls were delivered to all elected officials.
- We co-hosted a legislative reception with the Growing Greener Coalition and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society.



PPFF President Marci Mowery joins members of the Growing Greener Coalition to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Keystone Fund.



PPFF Friends Say "Hey!! Take It Outside!"

PPFF's Friends Groups are the very picture of what "Everybody" looks like. Because they care and they can, these dedicated volunteers make our parks and forests better to use and visit.

We now have 36 chapters of the Foundation. Some sample programs and activities from the chapters included:

MUSIC FESTIVALS & EVENTS:

- Friends of Shikellamy presented concerts at the overlook, Sunday brunches at the Marina and drum circles throughout the year
- Friends of Weiser hosted a barn dance
- Friends of Kings Gap presented four "Music on the Mountain" concerts
- Friends of Goddard held a two-day "Music at the Marina" festival
- Friends of Colonel Denning hosted three "Music in the Park" evening programs
- Friends of Laurel Hill organized the now huge Bluegrass Festival
- Friends of Prince Gallitzin hosted campground extravaganzas
- Halloween parties included the "Spooktacular" at Lyman Run, the "Boo Crew" at Pymatuning, Pinchotween at Gifford Pinchot, and a hayride at Parker Dam.
- Annual square dance at Mt. Pisgah State Park.
- Youth fishing derbies brought out families at Ohiopyle, Keystone and Lyman Run
- Car shows and holiday open houses
- Trail work and playground builds rounded out the Chapters' schedules

HISTORICAL EVENTS:

- Friends of Pine Grove assisted in the 100 year celebration of the park
- Friends of Goddard presented their very popular Pioneer Frolic
- Friends of Greenwood Furnace showcased Old Home Days
- Friends of White Clay Creek honored Mason-Dixon and the place where three states come together



Photo credit: Stephanie Miller

Music on the Mountain with Friends of Kings Gap State Park



Friends of Varden State Park

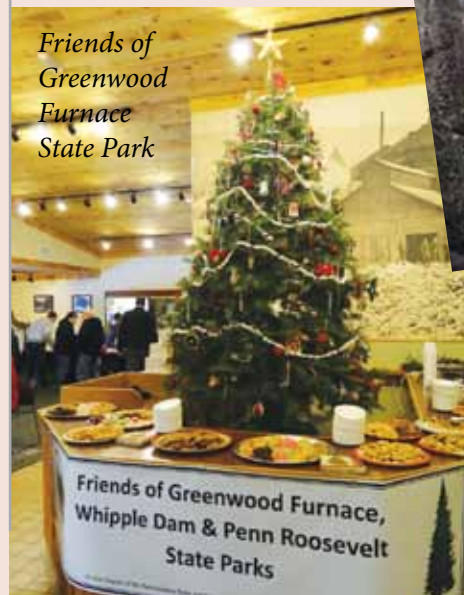


Friends of Parker Dam State Park held a Pumpkin Float Day

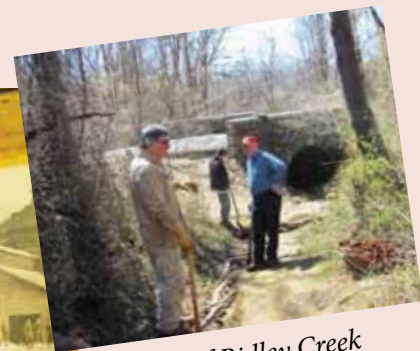


Photo credit: Mike Lepay

Friends of Keystone State Park



Friends of Greenwood Furnace State Park



Friends of Ridley Creek State Park hold monthly trail days

Friends of
Mont Alto
State Park



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

Friends of
Yellow Creek
State Park
build a puddle
duck hatch



Photo credit: Ken Sherwood

Friends of
Nockamixon
State Park
trail care.



Photo credit: Mike Quinn



Friends of Pinchot State Park

To support the work of our Friends Groups, the Foundation sponsors monthly “Chapter Chats,” a conference call for chapter leaders to ask questions, share successes, and to network with other chapters; annual chapter retreats for training and information sharing; and regular electronic communications “Tidbits from Marci” in which we share knowledge gained, answer questions, etc. In addition, we offer ongoing support through which we address concerns, provide research and legal analysis, develop fact sheets and best practices, funnel questions and make connections, assist in grant writing, and overall provide moral support.

In the areas of fundraising, in addition to grants mentioned earlier in this report, we worked with:

- The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace to submit a grant which was awarded from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to repair the furnace stack to prevent farther deterioration.
- The Friends of Nockamixon State Park received a general operating grant from the Community Foundation of the Lehigh Valley and they received a grant from the Philadelphia Foundation to apply towards an ADA EZ Dock.

THE NUMBERS TELL THE STORY

2013 By The Numbers

(All Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation Chapters)

Money Raised
for Parks
and Forests
Projects:
\$240,163

Special
Events
Hosted:
132

Attendance
at
Events:
66,046

Number
of
Volunteers:
2,628

Value of
Donated
Hours*:
\$1,001,671

Hours
Donated by
Volunteers:
44,420

* The Bureau of Labor Statistics put a value of \$22.55/hour on volunteer labor in 2013

December 2, 2013
I did it! I joined a state park Friends Group! I am very excited about the activities planned for this year. The people are great and I can't wait to start trail maintenance in a few weeks and then on to a list of other plans, events, and projects!

EVERYONE Likes Winning!

Banquet and Awards

We hosted our annual awards banquet in May 2013 at a new venue, the West Shore Country Club. We had very good attendance and organized the first annual PPFF silent auction as part of the event, raising funds towards our accessible playground work.



We'd like to thank our 2013 Banquet Sponsors:

- REI**—Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award
- Chesapeake Energy**—Government Award
- Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce**—Presidents Award
- Saul Ewing**—Park of the Year Award
- Dominion**—Forest of the Year Award
- PPL**—Volunteerism Award

Table Sponsors:
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, REI, SAP America

Program and Invitation Design:
Graphics and Design

Program Printing:
Advanced Color Graphics

**And all of our
silent auction donors**



Hand turned bowls make for unique awards.



Keystone Legacy Award

Pictured L to R: Tina Molski, Award Sponsor REI; Genny McIntyre and Matthew Marusiak, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy; PPFF President Marci Mowery



Park of the Year

Pictured L to R: James Wassell and James Twardy, French Creek State Park; PPFF President Marci Mowery; George Asimos, Award Sponsor Saul Ewing, LLC



Government Award

Pictured L to R: Barbara Sexton, Award Sponsor Chesapeake Energy; Representative William Adolph; PPFF President Marci Mowery



President's Award

Pictured L to R: PPFF President Marci Mowery; Jan Halter, John Halter; Robert Wonderling, Award Sponsor Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Chair, PPFF Board of Directors



Volunteerism Award

Pictured L to R: Jen Park, Nockamixon State Park; PPF President Marci Mowery; Nockamixon Trail Group: Robert Phillips, Mike Quinn and Ellen Philips; Helen Wall, Nockamixon State Park; Nockamixon Trail Group: Michael Goldberg, Stanley Hniedziejko and Robert White; Beth Clark, Nockamixon State Park



Forest of the Year

Pictured L to R: Ben Gamble, Tiadaghton State Forest; PPF President Marci Mowery; Tom Casilio and Rich Hill, Tiadaghton State Forest; Donald Houser, Award Sponsor Dominion



Improvement Award

Pictured L to R: PPF Board Member Joanne Raphael; PPF President Marci Mowery; Friends of Milton: Brian Auman, Paul Yost, Tom Deans, Kathy McKibbin and Myron Messinger



Education Award

Pictured L to R: PPF President Marci Mowery; Representative Stephen Bloom; award winners Pat and Carl Leinbach, and Gina Padilla of Kings Gap



Young Volunteer Award

Pictured L to R: PPF President Marci Mowery; Hailey Freeman



We all win when a friends group forms at a park or forest. These local level partnerships accomplish programs and projects that may not otherwise have been completed, making for a better experience for all park and forests visitors.

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 & Clear Creek
- 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 Swatara State Park
- Friends of Varden Conservation Area
- Friends of Weiser
- Friends of White Clay Creek
- Friends of Yellow Creek
- Laurel Mountain Volunteers



AND SPEAKING OF WINNING...

YAY US! We thought you might like to know that our Goddard Legacy Project won a national award. The goal was to celebrate the accomplishments of Maurice K. Goddard and to rededicate all Pennsylvanians to his vision and values for the conservation of our natural resources. Last year, the National Association of State Park Directors honored us with their President's Award as a project of statewide significance. They lauded the project as having made an extraordinary contribution to the state's conservation heritage, public awareness, and support for public resources through the documentation of the history and legacy of PA's state park system.

When we say the Outdoors is for Everyone...

we mean EVERY-one/kid/family/dog!

“What a joy it is to feel the soft, springy earth under my feet once more, to follow grassy roads that lead to ferny brooks where I can bathe my fingers in a cataract of rippling notes, or to clamber over a stone wall into green fields that tumble and roll and climb in riotous gladness!”

~ Helen Keller

We think the above quote by Helen Keller is a fitting way to end our year of the *Outdoors is for Everyone*. Who best to speak about overcoming perceived limitations to find your passions and strengths than this amazing woman. We all have days when we think we ‘can’t’ do something, whether it’s lack of time, skill, or physical limitation. Yet all around us are role models showing us otherwise.

We thank you for supporting our work to ensure there is a place and an experience for everyone in the outdoors. While we can’t create more time in the day, we can help you learn to prioritize your time so that you can enjoy the health benefits and well being imparted by time outdoors. While we can’t personally teach you all a new skill, we can connect you to where you can learn one and offer opportunities for new experiences. And while we all have our own physical limitations to varied degrees, we can work together to minimize the impediments to outdoor recreation.

Please know that we thank each and every one of you - our donors - for your support. While we may not list every name in the annual report, you are the backbone of the Foundation, the pillar upon which we build our work. *Thank you.*

Lisa Salvatore and son Mike



Pam Metzger and husband Bill



Marci Mowery (far right) with the whole family, dogs included!



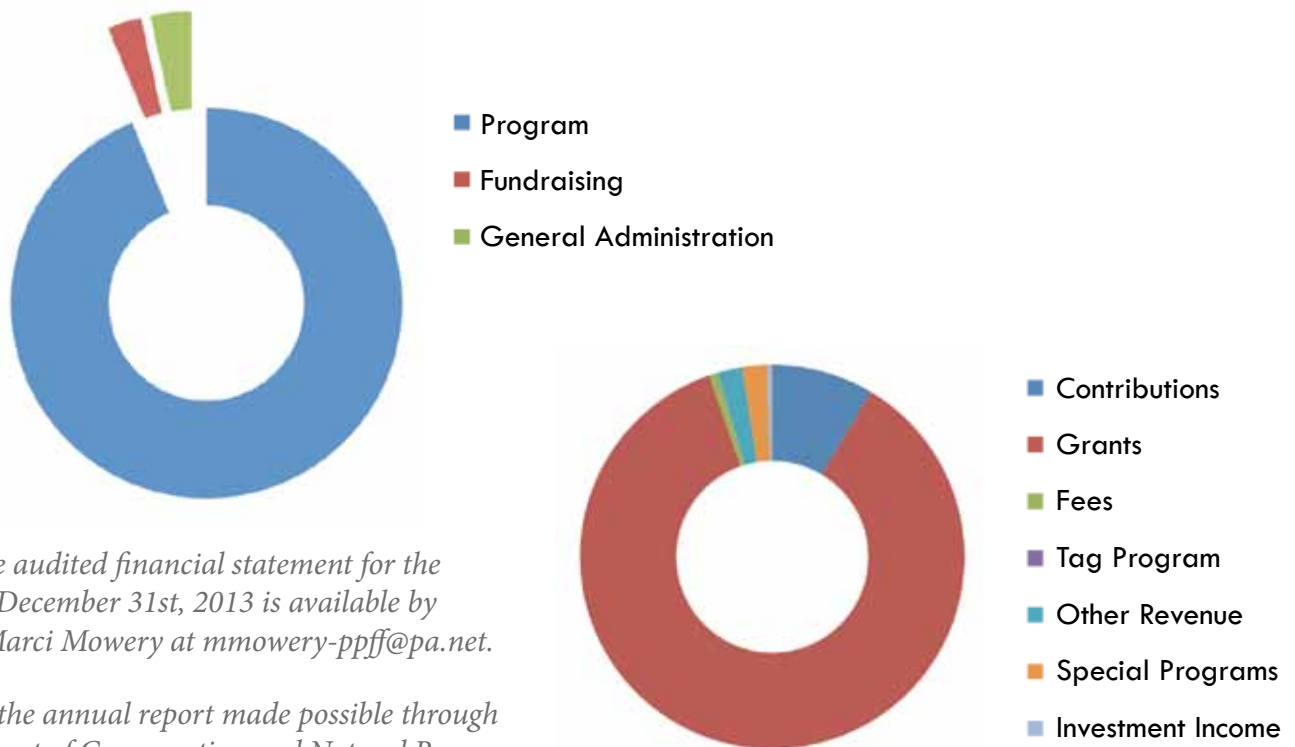
Jen Rehill and daughter Lorelei and son Luke



Financial Overview

As of December 31st, 2013, our total assets and liabilities, which includes funds from the 162 accounts managed by the Foundation, were \$1,079,370.00

The expenses pie chart represents both Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) operating budget as well as temporarily restricted funds for specific projects and programs. The income chart represents PPFF operating budget and does not reflect the temporarily restricted project and program income.



The complete audited financial statement for the year ending December 31st, 2013 is available by contacting Marci Mowery at mmowery-ppff@pa.net.

Funding for the annual report made possible through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation and Partnerships Program.

We respect and support your preference to use paper judiciously. We strive to minimize the page count and print run of the annual reports we share with you and other important constituencies. That said, we also believe it is important to publicly recognize our donors, as they make the fulfillment of our mission possible.

In every newsletter, eBlast, or blog, you may read about where we came from:

...landmark conservation work through the WPA's Civilians Conservation Corps, fascinating histories of our state parks and forests, and the experiences of our friends and volunteers

And where we are going:

...strengthening our commitment to a living legacy by offering opportunities such as Memorial or Honorary Gifts. You can honor the memory of a special person or joyous occasion while supporting our work in conservation, recreation, education, and volunteerism in our state parks and forests.

We encourage our members, partners and friends to continue the legacy of conservation of our state parks and forests for future generations through a bequest or life income as well.



PENNSYLVANIA Parks & Forests FOUNDATION

It's just our nature to help!

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

www.PaParksAndForests.org



Participants in the watershed education program pose for a group shot.

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PENNSYLVANIA
Parks & Forests
FOUNDATION

Front Cover credits: (clockwise from upper left) Marci Mowery, Gwen Wills, Lisa Salvatore, Megan Shusko, Friends of Black Moshannon, Dot Monahan
Back Cover credits: (clockwise from top center) George Asimos, Dot Monahan, DCNR