

# Penn's Stewards

News from the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation



Summer 2014



Presque Isle State Park

Credit: Rebecca Cribbs

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PPFF/EITC

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# Plan Your Next Family Reunion in Pennsylvania

There's nothing sweeter than family time, sunshine and the great outdoors. Whether you're planning an annual event or debuting a new tradition, Pennsylvania is a great place for a family reunion.

With diverse landscapes, abundant wildlife and unparalleled beauty, Pennsylvania's 120 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forests allow families and friends to withdraw from distractions, soak in nature and spend quality time together. The picnic pavilions and park areas can host the whole gang—ideal for reunions of any nature and size, with nearby attractions to keep everyone engaged. And since many reunions now last several days—while family and friends take in the local surroundings—we thought we might offer you some suggestions.



Moraine State Park

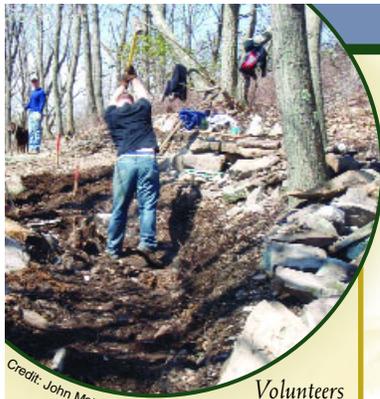
Photo credit: Jennifer Wimer

## PENNSYLVANIA REGIONS

▲ Designated a National Natural Landmark, the beautiful McConnells Mill State Park is nestled in **Pittsburgh and its Countryside**. Formed from the draining of glacial lakes thousands of years ago, the 2,546-acre park surrounding Slippery Rock Creek offers picnicking for groups of any size and a 50-person pavilion. The rolling hills and lush forests of Moraine State Park offers 7 pavilion areas (seating 60-144 people), and many opportunities (many with ADA features) for outdoor fun such as swimming, boating, hiking, fishing... even windsurfing! For more, go to [www.visitpittsburgh.com](http://www.visitpittsburgh.com)

*continued on page 3*

Photo credit: Erik Ammon



Credit: John Moitz  
Volunteers breaking rock on Scout Trail relocation at Big Pocono State Park

## President's Message

Marci Mowery



Reunions—the gathering of relatives, friends, or associations at regular intervals after a period of separation—are growing in popularity. There are magazines like [www.reunionmag.com](http://www.reunionmag.com) and [www.familytreemagazine.com](http://www.familytreemagazine.com), and websites for assisting you in organizing everything from a family gathering to a friends reunion. Pennsylvania's location makes it an ideal spot for hosting a reunion. What is your favorite state park or forest for a reunion? Do you have favorite games that you like to play? Any expert advice to share? We'd love to hear from you—the experts—on what makes a reunion flow. We've created a special board on our pinterest page for ideas and will be adding a page to our website to make reunionizing (our word) in state parks and forests as easy as 1-2-3!

Dog reunions? Why not! I was watching an *Animal Planet* special on the best family pets and caught a few words about Newfoundlands training for water rescue. Interesting! Wait, they were training at Pymatuning State Park—I want to know more! You, too, can learn more about these wonderful dogs and their work rescuing people on page 10.

Join us in the 2014 Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge—we've made it easier to participate and have added more options for fun and engagement—all that is missing is you!

Speaking of fun and engagement, the 2014 awards banquet rocked! Our award winners ranged in age from 20-88, demonstrating that no matter your age, there is a role for you in

our parks and forests. The winners shared a passion for public lands, a commitment to leaving personal agendas and egos at the door for the good of the resources, and provided an inspiration to all in attendance. Congratulations to all of our award winners and thank you to our amazing sponsors and silent auction donors.

Our photo contest kicked off with a new twist this year. Award winning photographs will be a part of a traveling exhibit on our public lands, kicking off in October in Harrisburg then traveling to Pittsburgh, Erie, Scranton, Bethlehem, Lewisburg, and Philadelphia, before returning to Harrisburg for a stint in the Capitol then the Harrisburg International Airport. Help us showcase the beauty and grandeur of our public lands by submitting your photos to the annual contest.



Photo credit: Lisa Salvatore

We're fortunate to have two students from Shippensburg University's Geoenvironmental studies program as interns this summer: Lindsay Phillips and Matt Hockenberry

We'll be on the road this summer—at events, participating in the GPOC, launching new friends groups. Hope to see you in the outdoors!

*Yours in the Outdoors,*  
Marci

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**The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is pleased to announce a partnership with PSECU, one of the nation's largest credit unions.**



PSECU member benefits include free checking with no minimum balance or monthly maintenance fees, thousands of surcharge-free ATMs across the nation, free Bill Payer service, low loan rates, outstanding member service and more.

**"Our new partnership with PSECU further expands the opportunities we're able to offer our members and chapter leaders," said PPFF President Marci Mowery.**

Once PPFF members join PSECU, their immediate family and household members can also enjoy the many benefits of credit union membership. To learn more about PSECU, contact Mary Oliveira at 800-237-7328 x 2058 or [molive@psecu.com](mailto:molive@psecu.com). To be eligible for this PPFF member benefit, you must be a Pennsylvania resident.

**To learn more about PSECU and the many benefits, visit [psecu.com](http://psecu.com).**

**Visit [paparksandforests.org](http://paparksandforests.org) to learn more about additional PPFF member benefits and programs.**

## Plan Your Next Family Reunion *in Pennsylvania* continued from front cover

▲ With 5,440 acres and a 170-acre lake, Tobyhanna State Park offers a diversity of recreational opportunities. The pavilion holds 60-70 people and is conveniently located to grills and flush toilets. For an added bonus, visit the 1,306 acres of rolling mountain terrain and magnificent views at nearby Big Pocono State Park in the **Pocono Mountains**. Outdoorsy travelers also enjoy Lehigh Gorge State Park with miles of trails for hikers and bikers to enjoy. For more, go to [www.800poconos.com](http://www.800poconos.com).

▲ Easily accessed off of Route 80, Parker Dam State Park offers something for everyone to enjoy—from fishing to hiking to lounging on the beach. Surrounded by the beautiful Moshannon State Forest, it is conveniently located to several other state parks and forests, as well as the Elk Viewing Trail, for a weekend of adventure. For stunning views and some of the darkest skies on the eastern seaboard, plan an evening visit to Cherry Springs State Park. Located in the heart of the **Pennsylvania Wilds**, this park is a haven for stargazing. For more, go to [www.Pawilds.com](http://www.Pawilds.com)

▲ Beach lovers, plan your next reunion at Presque Isle State Park in the **Great Lakes Region**. A 3,200-acre sand peninsula, the park offers a beautiful coastline with countless recreation opportunities from boating and fishing to bicycling and in-line skating. The Tom Ridge Environmental Center teaches visitors about the wildlife that inhabit the unique park, offering an unparalleled view of Presque Isle from the 75-foot observation tower. Picnic pavilions can accommodate up to 200 guests and are available for rental. For more, go to [www.pagreatlakes.com](http://www.pagreatlakes.com)

▲ The **Dutch Country Roads'** French Creek State Park offers 7,730 acres containing the largest block of contiguous forest between Washington, D.C., and New York City. From forest and lakes to wetlands and fields, many rare animals and plants call this park home. Picnic areas are located next to each lake. Gifford Pinchot State Park in York County is also a popular reunion destination. Visitors can immerse themselves in history, culture and food in nearby Gettysburg, Lancaster, and Hershey. For more, go to [www.padutchcountry.com](http://www.padutchcountry.com)



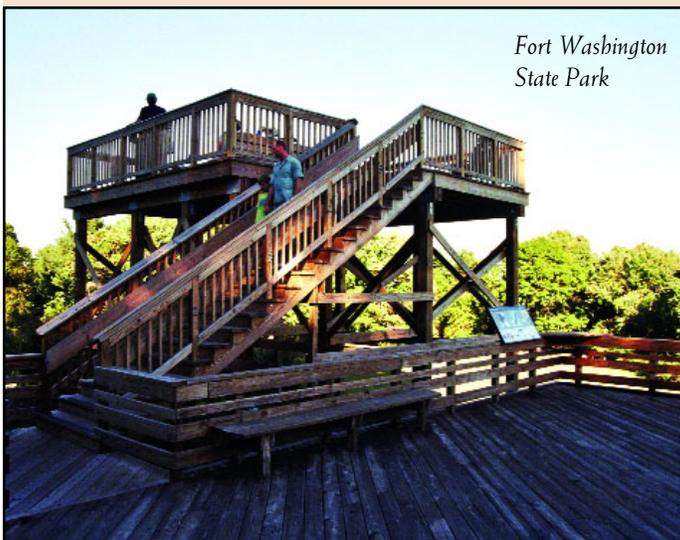
Parker Dam State Park

Photo credit: Gregg Higgins



Presque Isle State Park

Photo credit: Sam Zacour



Fort Washington State Park

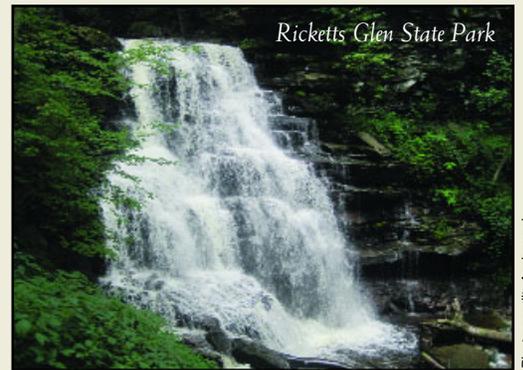
Photo credit: DCNR

▲ Rich history encompasses the entire **Philadelphia and the Countryside** region, and Fort Washington State Park is no exception. Known for the temporary fort built by George Washington's troops in 1777, the park also offers flowering dogwood in the spring and a seasonal migration of raptors. With more than 300 picnic tables and two pavilions, the park is equipped for groups of any size. Philadelphia's history continues with Valley Forge National Historic Park, The Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. For more, go to [www.visitpilly.com](http://www.visitpilly.com)

# RICH HISTORY

## Plan Your Next Family Reunion *in Pennsylvania* continued from page 3

▲ Ricketts Glen State Park in **Upstate PA** boasts a series of wild, free-flowing waterfalls through the 13,000 acres of the park. One of the most scenic areas in the commonwealth, Ricketts Glen is home to Glens Natural Area, a National Natural Landmark. Picnicking, swimming, hiking and camping can all be enjoyed by guests. Two pavilions accommodate about 50 each. While in the area, visit bustling towns like Scranton and Wilkes-Barre for quaint main streets and old steel mills that have sprung up into museums. For more, go to [www.Upstatepa.org](http://www.Upstatepa.org)



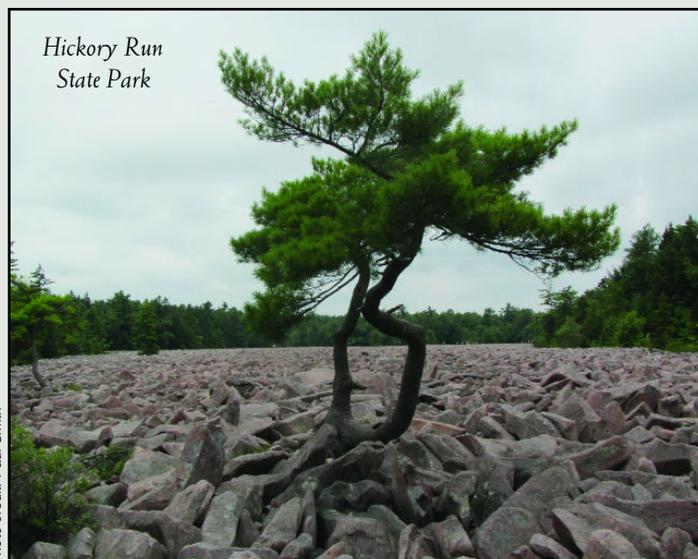
### *wild, free-flowing waterfalls*

▲ Nestled in the **Alleghenies'** forest-covered mountain ridges, Canoe Creek State Park features a 155-acre lake, wetlands, and hiking trails through the varied habitats. Three picnic pavilions are available for rental and modern cabins are also available to enjoy an overnight or extended stay. For more rustic charm, consider Trough Creek State Park, with its Civilian Conservation Corps pavilions and natural beauty. For more, go to [www.Thealleghenies.com](http://www.Thealleghenies.com)

▲ Overlooking the Susquehanna River, Shikellamy State Park offers picnic pavilions, a marina and a courtesy dock for boaters. Located in the **Valleys of the Susquehanna**, this region is home to Knoebels, America's largest free admission amusement park as well as the popular R.B. Winter State Park, surrounded by the beautiful Bald Eagle State Forest. For more, go to [www.visitcentralpa.org](http://www.visitcentralpa.org)

▲ Hickory Run State Park is home to the iconic Boulder Field, a National Natural Landmark, where guests can hike across a field of rocks. Located near the **Lehigh Valley**, the 15,990-acre park offers more than 40 miles of hiking trails and a large picnic area with a swimming beach, disc golf, and orienteering. For other recreational opportunities in the region, visitors can bike or hike along the Delaware and Lehigh National Corridor. For more, go to [www.discoverlehighvalley.com](http://www.discoverlehighvalley.com)

▲ The **Laurel Highlands** region is home to Ohiopyle State Park, a 20,500-acre park showcasing the region's rugged terrain. Natural beauty surrounds the area, with the rushing waters of the Youghiogheny River providing some of the best whitewater boating in the eastern United States. Active enthusiasts can take the ride of their lives on the Great Allegheny Passage, a 150-mile bike trail complete with panoramic views, long viaducts and waterfront paths. For more, go to [www.laurelhighlands.org](http://www.laurelhighlands.org)



## A Day in the Life

Here are two great shots sent by members celebrating "A Day in the Life of a State Forest" on April 12 and "A Day in the Life of a State Park" on May 24.

Thanks to all of you who participated in capturing special moments during a day in the life of one of Pennsylvania's 120 state parks and 20 forests. *Find all of the Day in a Life photos on our Facebook page.*



# Plan Your Next Family Reunion *in Pennsylvania*

## TRAVEL RESOURCES

The Pennsylvania Tourism Office offers many travel resources on [visitPA.com](http://visitPA.com) to help you start planning your group vacation or family reunion, such as the newest of Pennsylvania's travel resources, the Outdoor Adventure Guide and the Pennsylvania Tourism Office's new 2014 Vacation Guide. This free resource is designed to help travelers explore the state's most iconic destinations, hidden gems, regional road trips, and new events for the year. The Guide showcases a special "Made in PA" section along with attractions found "Only in PA" and a feature on "Holding the Key to the Keystone State" which showcases Pennsylvania's believe-it-or-not destinations.

With our vast resources and distinctive attractions, Pennsylvania is ready to host your next family reunion. Whether sliding down natural waterfalls or summiting a mountain, the many recreational activities offered at Pennsylvania's parks and forests help form multigenerational bonds between family members. Start planning today.

For more information on all 120 state parks and 20 forest districts, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us).

*With special thanks to the Department of Community and Economic Development for their assistance with this article.*

For more information and tips on organizing your own family reunion, check out PPF's Pinterest page "Reunions" board, take a look at a family reunion magazine at [www.reunionmag.com](http://www.reunionmag.com) - or one of these websites:

- [www.gatheredagain.com/family-reunion-picnic-planning-guide/](http://www.gatheredagain.com/family-reunion-picnic-planning-guide/)
- [www.realsimple.com/work-life/family/planning-family-reunion-0000000018674/index.html](http://www.realsimple.com/work-life/family/planning-family-reunion-0000000018674/index.html)
- [www.bhg.com/health-family/reunions/planning/plan-family-reunion/](http://www.bhg.com/health-family/reunions/planning/plan-family-reunion/)
- [www.reunions-101.com/family/](http://www.reunions-101.com/family/)
- [www.adventure.howstuffworks.com/destinations/family-reunions/5-family-reunion-games.htm](http://www.adventure.howstuffworks.com/destinations/family-reunions/5-family-reunion-games.htm)
- [www.traveltips.usatoday.com/10-ideas-great-family-reunion-52395.html](http://www.traveltips.usatoday.com/10-ideas-great-family-reunion-52395.html)
- [www.genealogy.about.com/od/family\\_reunions/a/activities.htm](http://www.genealogy.about.com/od/family_reunions/a/activities.htm)
- [www.stretcher.com/stories/980625c.cfm](http://www.stretcher.com/stories/980625c.cfm)

## Meet the Millers!

They've held yearly family reunions since 1946, mostly at Greenwood State Park. They built and dedicated a pavilion at the park so we asked them questions about their traditions and here's what they had to say:



Photo credit: Marci Mowery

**Who comes to the reunions - how are you all related?** The reunion is the William J. and Emma E. Miller family reunion, which started in 1946. William and Emma lived in Bellefonte, PA. They had seven children, and the folks who attend the reunion are all descendants of them.

**How many typically come?** Typically we get 40-60, depending on the year. The year we dedicated the pavilion at Greenwood, we had over 100 in attendance, but not all of them were immediate family.

**Is there a person or family that does the organizing or do you alternate?** The Miller family is organized by officers and "committees". An annual meeting is held following the noon meal where topics are reviewed that pertain to the reunion, including a treasurer's and secretary reports, old business (family cookbooks, t-shirts, etc.), and new business. It is also decided who will take charge of bringing beverages, tableware, sending reminder "invitations," games, etc. for the following year.

**Do you have specific activities?** Someone usually organizes the games for the afternoon. We have had all range of activities over the years, including nail driving contests, rolling pin throwing contest, sexiest leg contest (for the men!), and others. More recent games have included water balloon tosses, volleyball and egg tosses.

**Do you acknowledge individual things like "who traveled the farthest" or weddings, babies, family members who have passed?** Family members who have passed have their photo in a frame on the table. Their names and birth/death dates are recorded on an old graniteware coffee pot that sits on the table with the photos. At the beginning of the meal at the reunions, there is a time for anyone who is in attendance to make announcements regarding their family.

**Are there traditions? Certain foods you always have, or songs, stories or events that you always do at reunions?** The family meeting is the most designated tradition. Remarking upon those who have passed is always done at the prayer prior to lunch. There are several food items that are generally brought each year, including barbecued hot dogs, meatballs, particular desserts, etc. Games generally follow the meeting.

**How did the building of the pavilion happen?** Discussions arose among family members about finding an avenue to ensure a designated, secured location within the park following a year when the preferred pavilion was not secured. After discussions with the park manager and personnel, the family pledged to raise funds to assist in building a pavilion that would always be reserved on the first Saturday of August. After much discussion and arrangements, an agreement was reached with the park and the Friends of Greenwood Furnace to build the pavilion using parts of a dismantled pavilion from Valley View Haven in Belleville.

# The Great Pennsylvania Outdoor Challenge:

In Our 6th Year – Mo' Better Challenge!



Register now at [www.thegpoc.org](http://www.thegpoc.org)



## Military & Families Appreciation Day

### Returning to the Outdoors

Gifford Pinchot State Park  
Saturday, September 6, 2014 - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Adaptive Kayaking · Handcycling · Fishing · Hiking · Photography & More



Military service members, veterans and their families are invited to spend a FREE day at Gifford Pinchot State Park, reconnecting with each other and the outdoors while trying new activities. Picnic lunch included! Contact Jen Rehill at [jrehill@paparksandforests.org](mailto:jrehill@paparksandforests.org) or 717-236-7644.

Visit [tinyurl.com/mfad2014](http://tinyurl.com/mfad2014) for more information & registration.

## Parks and Forests Through the Seasons

Back by popular demand! We love that YOU love our annual "Parks and Forests Through the Seasons" photo contest. This competition gives photographers of all abilities the chance to share a personal "view" of their favorite state parks and forests.

Last year's People's Choice Winner

- |                    |                        |                      |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Categories:</b> | Appreciation of Beauty | Kids in the Outdoors |
| Outdoor Recreation | Volunteers in Action   | Dogs in the Outdoors |



Take a few shots every time you visit a state park or forest and send us your best photos!

Current sponsors of the photo contest are John Oliver and PennStrategies. Sponsorships for city showings are still available.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                     |   |                              |   |
|---------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| <b>July 2</b>       | Friends of Laurel Hill: Volunteer Work Day                        | <b>August 30-31</b>          | Friends of Oil Creek: Volunteer Work Day with KTA Trail Crew        |
| <b>July 4-6</b>     | Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Birthday Party Weekend               | <b>August 30-September 1</b> | Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Camper Appreciation Weekend            |
| <b>July 5</b>       | Friends of Ridley Creek: Volunteer Work Day                       | <b>September 6</b>           | PPFF Military & Family Appreciation Day at Gifford Pinchot          |
|                     | Friends of Ohiopyle: Volunteer Work Day                           |                              | Friends of Ridley Creek: Volunteer Work Day                         |
| <b>July 6</b>       | Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain                       | <b>September 6-7</b>         | Friends of Ohiopyle: Music in the Mountains                         |
| <b>July 12</b>      | PPFF/Cowans Gap State Park: Music in the Gap                      | <b>September 7</b>           | Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain                         |
| <b>July 18-20</b>   | Friends of Big Pocono State Park: "Winged Things" Weekend         | <b>September 13</b>          | Friends of Oil Creek: Chicks in the Sticks                          |
| <b>July 19</b>      | Friends of Big Pocono State Park: Starry Nights Astronomy Program |                              | Friends of Ryerson Station: Outdoor Heritage Festival               |
| <b>July 19-20</b>   | Friends of Black Moshannon: Summer Festival                       | <b>September 19-21</b>       | Friends of Oil Creek: Intermediate Backpacking                      |
| <b>August 2</b>     | Friends of Pine Grove Furnace: Volunteer Work Day                 | <b>September 20</b>          | Friends of Big Pocono State Park: Hawk Watch Program                |
| <b>August 2-3</b>   | Friends of Greenwood Furnace: Old Home Day                        | <b>September 27</b>          | Friends of Yellow Creek: September Fest/Monthly Mountain Bike Races |
| <b>August 3</b>     | Friends of Laurel Hill: Laurel Hill Adventure Race                |                              | National Public Lands Day (more sure to be scheduled)               |
|                     | Friends of Kings Gap: Music on the Mountain                       |                              | • Friends of Big Pocono   |
| <b>August 8-10</b>  | Friends of Prince Gallitzin: Christmas in Summer                  |                              | • Friends of Keystone   |
| <b>August 9</b>     | Friends of Oil Creek: Biathlon                                    |                              | • Friends of Laurel Hill  |
|                     | Laurel Mountain Volunteers: Volunteer Work Day                    |                              | • Little Buffalo State Park   |
|                     | PPFF/Cowans Gap: Music in the Gap                                 |                              | • Nescopeck State Park  |
| <b>August 16-17</b> | Friends of Goddard: Music at the Marina                           |                              | • Friends of Nolde Forest   |
|                     | Friends of Laurel Hill: Bluegrass Festival                        |                              | • Friends of Ohiopyle   |
|                     | Promised Land State Park: CCC Reunion/Festival                    |                              | • Friends of Oil Creek  |
| <b>August 22</b>    | Friends of Big Pocono State Park: Starry Nights Astronomy Program |                              | • Friends of Parker Dam   |
| <b>August 22-23</b> | Cherry Springs State Park: Black Forest Star Party                |                              | • Friends of Prince Gallitzin                                       |
| <b>August 24</b>    | Friends of Mt. Pisgah: Bradford County Youth Field Day            |                              | • Promised Land State Park  |
| <b>August 27</b>    | Friends of Laurel Hill: Volunteer Work Day                        |                              | • Friends of Ryerson Station  |
|                     |   |                              | • Sinnemahoning State Park  |
|                     |   |                              | • Friends of French Creek State Park                                |
|                     |   |                              | • Friends of Greenwood Parks  |
|                     |   |                              | • Friends of Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center              |
|                     |   |                              | • Friends of Jennings Environmental Education Center                |

## Focus on Friends

# Friends of Big Pocono

Cattell Cabin with new door and porch stones redone- Fall 2013



Photo credit: John Motz

On a clear day, you can see New York, New Jersey and a large part of eastern Pennsylvania from Big Pocono State Park at the apex of Camelback Mountain. But if it weren't for the Friends of Big Pocono, you'd have to stand on a picnic table to glimpse the view. Chapter President John Motz said that's what he had to do when he first met with PPF President Marci Mowery and the former park manager to discuss forming the volunteer group six years ago at the 1,300 acre park on the summit and slopes of the mountain in Monroe County.

Since that time, the Friends of Big Pocono have worked with the park and Camelback Resort to recapture the sweeping vista by clearing trees and other growth. "We've got a view, that's what Big Pocono has," says Motz. "It's not like some state parks that have a lake, or a campground. We've got the view, so that's an important focus."

But that's not all the group has done in the short time since its inception—they've also installed six interpretive panels about the park's wildlife and vistas, founded two annual festivals, created a series of educational programs for the public, built new trails, added four new park benches, a bike rack and a water fountain to visitor areas, and embarked on an ambitious restoration project of an historic cabin in the park.

Motz says one of the group's most important goals is bringing the local community up to the mountain to experience the setting first hand. "A lot of people come out to events, and then tell me they've lived here 20, 30, 40 years and looked up at the mountain every day, but this is the first time they've ever driven to the top." Motz adds that the spring Mountain Laurel Festival and a Fall Foliage Festival are helping to draw new visitors to the park every year.

### Educational Programming

Certified interpretive guide and volunteer Karen Layton spearheads the park's new environmental education programming, which the Friends group started three years ago. Since that time, memorable programs have included a visit from a DCNR geologist to discuss the rock formations, a talk with a rattlesnake

expert, and nature walks. This year's programs will include a hawk watch, a nature walk, a special weekend focused on "Winged Things" and three of the group's popular "Starry Skies" astronomy events.

A professional educator, Layton says the programs on the mountain have been personally rewarding as well, "I've had so many opportunities that I never would have had if I hadn't volunteered. I mean, who gets to hang around with a wildlife biologist all day looking for rattlesnakes, or spend time with an expert in Pennsylvania butterflies?"

### Cattell Cabin

Another major focus for the group right now is the restoration of Cattell Cabin. Built by former landowner Henry S. Cattell in 1908, the stone cabin predates the park. A nature lover, Cattell built the structure, which features walls that are two-feet thick, as a refuge for anyone who visited the mountain and needed a place to escape the elements. It was later used as a park office and nature museum, but was closed to the public in the 1980s. In the past few years, the Friends of Big Pocono have gutted the interior framing, repaired the chimney, had the porch rebuilt and reopened the cabin for public tours. Future plans include more porch improvements and developing interpretive materials about the cabin's history.

"The cabin door was always open when Cattell owned the land," Layton explains. "In restoring the cabin and reopening it to the public, I think the Friends group is honoring the legacy of Henry Cattell." Park Manager Jen Bowman says the group is a valuable resource, helping Big Pocono to gain recognition within the community. "Like most volunteer groups, the majority of the Friends of Big Pocono's success is the result of a small number of dedicated volunteers," Bowman explains. "Without the group, many of the activities and improvements at Big Pocono State Park would not have been seen. They are a great group of faithful volunteers and I appreciate their devotion to improving the park experience for all visitors."

*Learn more about the Friends of Big Pocono at*

*[www.friendsofbigpocono.org](http://www.friendsofbigpocono.org)*

## By The Numbers

### PPFF Friends Groups in 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 cites \$22.55/hour on volunteer labor in 2013.

## CCC Reflections — By John Eastlake

In every issue of our newsletter, we try and feature a little piece of history and photos from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was a public work relief program that operated from 1933 to 1942 for unemployed, unmarried men, as part of the New Deal. The CCC was designed to relieve families who had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression while at the same time implementing a general natural resource conservation program.

This summer, we encourage you to stop by one of the reunions listed below and meet some of the former CCC "boys" of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

### August 2, 10:00 AM • Cascade Park, 1928 East Washington Street, New Castle, PA 16101

Annual picnic reunion of the National Association of CCC Alumni, Chapter 125. Open to the public. Contact Chapter President Angelo Nocera for more information at (724) 652-9564.

### August 9, 11:00 AM • Leonard Harrison State Park, 4797 Pennsylvania 660, Wellsboro, PA 16901

Contact the park for details at (570) 724-3061. Open to the public. Reservations required for the lunch, which costs \$12 per person. An informal program follows the luncheon.

### August 16, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 3rd Annual CCC Reunion and Festival at Promised Land State Park, 100 Lower Lake Road, Greentown, PA 18426-9735

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/PromisedLandPA](http://www.facebook.com/PromisedLandPA), call (570) 676.0567 or email: [PromisedLandEnvEdSP@state.pa.us](mailto:PromisedLandEnvEdSP@state.pa.us)

### August 22, 10:00 AM Ceremony • Warren County Visitors Bureau, 22045 RT. 6, Warren, PA 1636

Ceremony is followed by a picnic lunch at: Chapman State Park, Pavilion #2, 4790 Chapman Dam Road, Clarendon, PA 16313-2830

Dr. Michael Schultz, author of several books about the CCC in Pennsylvania will be in attendance. The event honors former CCC boy Joe Tullio, who passed away in 2012. Open to the public. RSVP for the picnic lunch to Ed Atwood at (814) 726-2774 or [EK.Atwood@verizon.net](mailto:EK.Atwood@verizon.net).



2013 Leonard Harrison CCC Reunion

Photo credit: John Eastlake

## A SNAPSHOT IN TIME Franklin Kury and Marion Deihner Brooks



As author and chief sponsor of Pennsylvania's Environmental Bill of Rights, **Franklin Kury** helped to change the face of environmental protection in our commonwealth. His leadership, advocacy, and dedication brought many issues into a public dialogue, culminating in important legislative reform.

As a legislator in the state House, then Senate, Franklin was the author and chief sponsor of the PA's *Environmental Bill of Rights*, the State Scenic Rivers Act, the Flood Plain and Storm Water Management Acts, and the Public Utility Commission Code.

In 2011, he wrote *Clean Politics, Clean Streams: A Legislative Autobiography and Reflections*. His book provides an insightful look at the workings of the state legislature while detailing his role in the enactment of

Pennsylvania's landmark environmental legislation. From 1983 through 2003, Kury practiced law as a partner at Reed Smith LLP in their Harrisburg office.

In 1993, as the Chairman of the Environmental Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, he was honored with its first annual award in recognition of his efforts in the development, improvement, and furtherance of the profession of environmental law. Franklin has chaired the Statutory Law Committee of the State Bar Association and continues as an active member. He also currently serves on the board of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society.

In 2012, the PPF was proud to recognize Franklin Kury as our 2012 Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Winner.

**Marion Deihner Brooks**, born in Allegheny County, devoted her life to the conservation of natural wonders. In 1945, she bought property below Haystack Mountain near Medix Run in Elk County. Concern for hunter safety around her new home inspired her to form the Bennetts Valley Ambulance Association and served as a Civil Defense Policewoman.

Marion's environmental interests gave her visibility within the community. She was a fixer and a joiner. Her concerns about preventing water pollution from strip mine drainage facilitated formation of the Weedville Water Company and the Toby Alley Watershed Association. She was a member of the Elk County Soil and Water Conservation District and director of the north Central PA Economic Development District, later joining the PA Environmental Council (PEC).

Ahead of her time as the rare woman among professional conservationists, Marion proved her mettle over and over again. Marion was the first woman member of the PA Federation Sportsmen's Club and the Allegheny chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Marion's accomplishments were recognized through a number of awards and honors. In 1972, she received the Conservationist Award from PA Forestry Council and the PA Fish Commission's *White Hat* award, honoring the individual making a significant contribution to purifying and cleaning area waters.

Honoring her legacy, in 1975, the Department of Environmental Resources set aside almost 1000 acres near Quehanna, naming it: *The Marion Brooks Natural Area*, "as a reminder of her concern and for her determination to improving quality of life."

P.S. Franklin's *Clean Politics, Clean Streams: A Legislative Autobiography and Reflections* is available at our store at [paparksandforests.org](http://paparksandforests.org).



# We Made it Happen...TOGETHER

## Repairs to Historic Structure at Pine Grove State Park

In October 2013, the Friends of Pine Grove in partnership with the Foundation, was awarded a \$2400 "mini-grant" from the South Mountain Partnership to cover half the cost of the repairs to the historic iron furnace in the center of Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Financing the balance of costs, the Friends of Pine Grove Furnace made the restoration reality.

The South Mountain Partnership Mini-Grant Program (a DCNR Conservation Landscape initiative) is administered by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in an effort to engage partners in conserving the high-quality natural and cultural resources, while enhancing the South Mountain region's economic viability.

The Friends group worked with the state park to employ a contractor to pour a concrete cap across the top of the old stone stack. The iron furnace made pig iron from 1764 through 1895. Describing the condition of the furnace cap, Friends group president Andre Weltman says, "The previous cover leaked and the whole thing finally rotted and fell into the top of the furnace. It did its job for almost three decades, but it needed to be replaced. We expect



Photo credit: Andre Weltman

the new cover will be even more weather-resistant. We owe it to future generations to preserve our industrial heritage."

## Sharing What We Know

As part of our continuing commitment to ensuring a place and an experience in the outdoors for everyone, PPF facilitated a presentation for DCNR park educators about autism. About 50 people attended two sessions in State College in late April. The presentations were provided by members of the Autism Society of Greater Harrisburg.

## Point State Park Completes Wheelchair Accessible Boat Dock

Launching a canoe or kayak at Point State Park in Pittsburgh is now a whole lot easier and safer for Pennsylvanians with disabilities. A dedication ceremony in May celebrated the completion of an accessible boat dock and rack thanks to a generous grant to the PPF from the Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation. The new dock makes launching a canoe or kayak easier and safer for boaters of all abilities, and includes a platform with rollers to smoothly move boats in and out of the water, and a transfer bench for wheelchair users.

The Point State Park project provides users with access to ADA-compliant restrooms nearby, and helps create an accessible route to Pittsburgh's downtown. The new dock replaces a stop on the Three Rivers Water Trail that previously had steps leading down to the water, limiting access at that point.

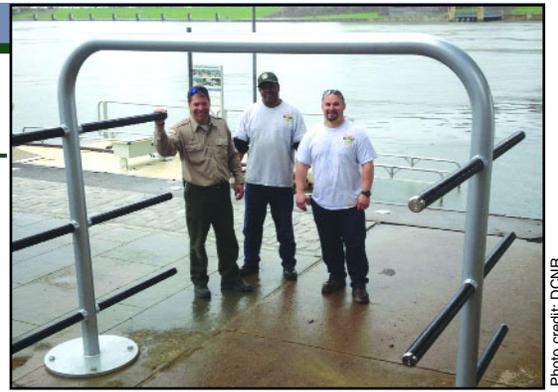


Photo credit: DCNR

## Trees At Lick Hollow

PPFF and YOU recently helped purchase 25 trees for planting in the Lick Hollow Picnic Area of Forbes State Forest. The Lick Hollow Picnic Area is in the Braddock Division of Forbes State Forest in Fayette County. Nine different species of trees were planted, including Serviceberry, Dogwood, Swamp White Oak, Red Sunset Red Maple, Sweetgum, Bur Oak, Chinkapin Oak, and Pin Oak. The trees came from Eisler Nurseries in Prospect, PA. Your support of the PPF Living Gifts program made the purchase possible. For more on this program, go to

[www.paparksandforests.org/ways\\_to\\_give.html](http://www.paparksandforests.org/ways_to_give.html)



Photo credit: Ralph Campbell



**We Will Miss... Arthur "Art" Davis**, was our great friend and a life-long inspiration to environmentalists, conservations, and nature lovers. He passed away in March, peacefully at home, surrounded by family. He launched his career with a BA in Forestry from the University of Maine, interrupted by service in the Army as a 1st Lt. in WW II and then completed a MA in Forestry from Yale in 1949.

In 1974, Art moved to Pennsylvania beginning in Pittsburgh at the Western PA Conservancy, where he worked for 10 years before being named as the first professor to hold the Goddard chair at Pennsylvania State University. He taught forestry and environmental resources and directed a university program on environmental problem solving. He held this position until being appointed Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources by Gov. Casey in 1987. One of his proudest accomplishments was establishing Pennsylvania's mandatory recycling program that is among the most progressive in the nation. On the 20th anniversary of Earth Day in 1990, he made his way to work by canoeing across the Susquehanna River.

Always a defender and advocate for our state parks, he fought for and even increased funding during difficult years. His family honored his commitment to his ideals by requesting contributions to conservation non-profit groups in lieu of flowers. He liked them best in a field, anyway.

# Wonderdogs to the Rescue!

Pymatuning State Park hosts a very special “pack” with a purpose. Beginning in 1988, Pymatuning has been the testing site for the Penn Ohio Newfoundland Club and their water rescue dogs. The club is a non-profit organization recognized by the AKC sanctioned Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) as a Regional Breed Club established to educate the public about and protect and advance the interests of the Newfoundland breed of dog.

The club gets together one day every weekend in the summer to train at Pymatuning State Park. Each owner trains his/her own dog. The goal of these trainings is for the dogs to pass the NCA Water Test. There are three levels: Junior - which when passed earns the title ‘Water Dog,’ Senior level - ‘Water Rescue Dog,’ and Excellent Level – “Water Rescue Dog Excellent.”

## HOW TO PREVENT DROWNING

Accidental drowning can happen anywhere there is water, and is the seventh leading cause of death in children under 14. Many who drown know how to swim, but may have swam beyond their means, panicked, lost control or suffered cramps. The following are some safety tips to reduce the likelihood of drowning in public waters—look on the internet to reduce risks for home pools.

- Always use the buddy system, no matter the age.
- Don’t rely on swimming lessons—they help, but they do not drown proof an adult or child.
- Don’t rely on plastic arm floats for children...wear proper personal flotation devices (PFD) for the water based activity in which you are involved. Even experienced swimmers benefit from PFDs when engaged in boating activities.
- When swimming at lakes or beaches, swim parallel to the shore so that if you become tired or develop cramps, you are close to shore.
- Know the area in which you are swimming...know the drop offs, the hazards, the water temperature (and undertows and rip currents at beaches).
- Enter the water feet first to prevent injury from diving in shallow waters.
- Avoid water during an electrical storm.
- Be prepared in case an accidental drowning occurs. Learn CPR and have a phone to call for help.

## Rescue Dog “Tales” by Tammy Brown

**Barney Means Business:** These “Newfies” are known for their natural water rescue abilities, and many owners consider the Water Rescue Training to be an all-time favorite thing to do with their dogs. NCA member Tammy Brown tells the story of her dog Barney as he trained to earn his ‘Water Rescue Dog’ title. While training with another friend and his dog, Casey, she tied Barney to a tree at the top of the hill with a professional grade tie-out to wait his turn, and left him with a wait command.

In the water, Tammy called to Casey as part of their exercise... “Help me dog! Help! Help!!” Even with encouragement from his owner, Casey was not enthusiastically entering the water, so she began to call even more frantically. Casey slowly entered the water, so she called louder, pleading “PLEASE HELP ME DOG!!!! HEEEELLLLPPPP ME DOG!!!!” Suddenly they heard a loud YELP...followed by a cracking sound...and Barney was barreling down the hill towards the water, trailing his broken tie-out and half a branch! He FLEW into the water swimming so fast that he quickly overtook Casey who was on his way to the rescue, but apparently not fast enough for Barney! Barney and Casey are both at the rainbow bridge now, but their memories are here to stay.



Dawn Hockman sending Mirada to ‘Deliver the line’ from a Stranded Boat. (WRDX)



Hope towing the boat with Bonnie Kasik. (WD)



Rio retrieving an article and bringing it to Connie Luoma. (WD)



Ron Janes sending Stella out to a stranger with a long line. (WD)



Tracy Luoma sending Hope off the boat to retrieve the paddle. (Senior Water Test - WRD)



Rider towing Perri Graf to shore while Perri holds onto the life ring Rider brought to her. (WRD)

Photo credits: Penn Ohio Newfoundland Club

# 8th Annual Awards Banquet Celebrates Leadership and Service

This was the 8th year for our Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation awards banquet. We celebrated the accomplishments of our award winners on May 6th at the West Shore Country Club in Camp Hill. This year's winners:



**Cliff Jones Keystone Legacy Award:  
Caren Glotfelty**

(PPFF President Marci Mowery, Caren Glotfelty, sponsor Joanne Raphael of PPL Electric Utilities)



**Ibberson Government Award:  
Bushkill Township**

(PPFF President Marci Mowery, Ibberson Award Winners Bushkill Twp. Manager Brian Harris and Twp. Supervisor Jason Smith, and sponsor Barb Sexton of Chesapeake Energy)



**President's Award: Ralph Harrison**

(sponsor Kevin Zink of Dominion Resources, State Rep. Matt Gabler (R-Clearfield/Elk), President's Award Winner Ralph Harrison and PPFF President Marci Mowery)



**Park of the Year:  
Prince Gallitzin State Park**

(sponsors Shari Eckman, Liz Caldwell of Jamestown Advance Products, Prince Gallitzin State Park Mgr. Dennis Miller, Park Assistant Mgr. Tim Yeager and PPFF President Marci Mowery)



**Forest of the Year:  
Gallitzin State Forest**

(PPFF President Marci Mowery, PPFF Board President and sponsor George Asimos of Saul Ewing, Gallitzin Forest District Manager Terence Stemmler and Suzanne Blough)



**Volunteer of the Year:  
Friends of Pinchot State Park**

(Steve Stroman, Gifford Pinchot State Park Asst. Mgr. Gavin Smith, Patricia Sabold, Park Mgr. Bob Deffner, Sally Ray and PPFF President Marci Mowery) Sponsored by George Ely Ass., Inc. and Play World Systems



Thank you to our other sponsors:

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Rob Wonderling, Verizon, Stell Environmental Enterprises, Inc., and Fretz RV

Additional thanks to all of our silent auction donors

All banquet photo credits:  
Joe Frassetta and Marci Mowery



**Education Volunteer of the Year:**

**Promised Land Nature Center Volunteers**  
(Promised Land State Park Nature Arts & Crafts Program Volunteers Virginia Loughlin and Rochelle Linsenbigler with PPFF President Marci Mowery) sponsored by Bravo Group



**Improvement Volunteer:  
Kathy and Gary Diegan**

(Award Sponsors Andy & Cindra Mowen, Improvement Award Winners Gary and Kathy Diegan, and PPFF President Marci Mowery)



**Young Volunteer of the Year:  
Eleanor (Ellie) Davis**

(President and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and sponsor Rob Wonderling, Young Volunteer Award Winner Eleanor Davis, and PPFF President Marci Mowery)

**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 St, Suite 202, Camp Hill, PA 17011 or download a form at [www.PaParksAndForests.org](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org)



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MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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

**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. For more information visit our website at [www.PaParksAndForests.org/ways\\_to\\_give.html](http://www.PaParksAndForests.org/ways_to_give.html).