

The Pinchot Eagle



Friends of Pinchot State Park

July 2021

Friends—



Volunteers—



Park Staff—

Community Members—

THANK YOU...

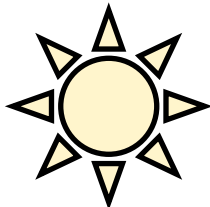
For your continued interest & support —



For the hard work & the easy fun —



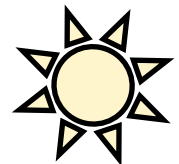
And for a successful group effort in stewardship!!!



What decade is this... 1950's?

In this issue:

- Volunteer Corner..... Page 2
 - Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers
 - Turtle Platform Project
- Events & Activities..... Page 5
 - Park Improvements:
 - Lake Drawdown Projects
 - Park Events/Activities:
 - Cicadas!
 - Earth Day Celebration
 - Wood Bundling
 - Summer/Fall Events
- Native Plant Preservation..... Page 7
- Memorabilia Page 8
- Membership Information Page 9



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Adopt-A-Trail Program

Highlighted below are a few of our dedicated **Adopt-A-Trail** volunteers. The commitment entails maintaining an assigned section of trail—removing invasive plants, trimming branches, repairing wash-outs, collecting trash, and reporting downed trees—**every month, year-round.**

Optional training on **chainsaw certification** (required for operating a chainsaw in state parks and forests) allows volunteers to remove downed trees as well. Certification requires completion of a two-day US Forest Service/DCNR-approved workshop.

Meet some of our trail care volunteers...

JADY & BILL CONROY

Jady and Bill have been part of the Adopt-A-Trail program for almost four years and last year obtained their chainsaw certification.



“I guess what we enjoy most about the park are the excellent opportunities for enjoying a variety of

habitats along the trails and campground roads. We are quite fond of birdwatching and have spent many happy hours in the park discovering dozens of different species. It just makes us feel awake and alive to spend time outdoors and Pinchot is our local resource for that!”

THE THOMPSON FAMILY

Aubrey & Chris, along with their children, Avalyn and Owen, have been caring for their trail for more than three years, recently increasing their assigned section from two to three miles.



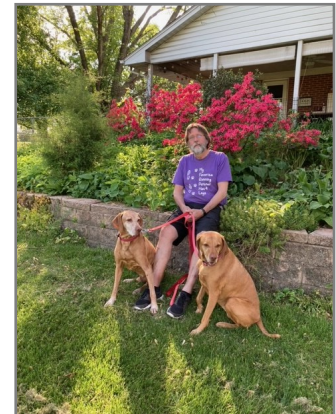
“My family and I live near Gifford Pinchot State Park. Since we spend a significant amount of time there, we decided to ‘adopt a trail’. We thought it would be a great way for us to teach the kids about volunteering and helping the community. Our favorite things to do at Pinchot include kayaking and taking a picnic lunch on a hike.”

JOHN HEYCOCK

[Co-founder of Gulliver’s Run, an annual 5K trail run at Pinchot that raises funds for the fight against canine cancer.]

John (and his dogs!) have been maintaining almost six miles of trails for more than two years. John also recently completed this year’s chainsaw training workshop.

“Gifford Pinchot State Park has a great trails system. There are variations in elevation and trail surface which are ideal for good workouts of multiple distances and challenges. The tree variations also contribute to beautiful



scenery and color contrasts through all four seasons. And there are small feeder streams running abundantly through the landscape which allow for frequent cool downs and ‘mud sloughs’, which the dogs love. Pinchot is well maintained and cared for by a great staff component. It is a truly refreshing spot to go and relax. I feel so fortunate to have Pinchot almost as close as my back door.”

Thanks to all of you for working so hard to help us preserve the precious trails in the park!

Turtle Basking Platform Replacement

By Jim Hugar

If your first question is “What is a turtle basking platform?” you are not alone! A basking platform is a “floating island” just above water level, that provides a safe location for turtles to “bask” in the sun. Due to the clearing process typically used when building man-made lakes, turtles seldom have appropriate areas to safely get out of the water. Basking is essential for many turtle species to stay healthy. Turtles need UV-A and UV-B rays from the sun so they can produce Vitamin D3, which is needed to keep their shells and bones healthy. Turtles can’t self-regulate their body temperature like warm blooded animals, so basking allows turtles to increase their body temperature. These basking platforms further promote improved overall health by reducing susceptibility to diseases, aiding digestion, and providing opportunities for resting.



MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE

With Pinchot Lake in a draw-down condition, it became obvious that many of the turtle basking platforms were in poor condition.

With the approval of and guidance from the park staff and the Fish and Boat Commission’s Lake Habitat Division, the Friends de-



veloped a plan to recover damaged platforms, salvage components, rebuild, and install the newly-built platforms. In addition, the Friends provided the funding for the materials needed to rebuild the platforms.

The platform is a 4’ X 4’ structure with 1” X 8” yellow poplar rough cut, true-dimensional boards comprising the surface. These boards are mounted on three four-foot long 4” X 4” timbers. The entire platform is kept afloat by two 3” X 5’ PVC pontoons or floats. The structures are held in place with stainless steel cable on opposite corners attached to concrete block anchors. The majority of the existing platforms were installed in 2011. Many of these were at the end of their design life.



Reclaiming platform materials...



A fun, yet very dirty job—

SALVAGE SUCCESS!



Turtle Basking Platform Replacement

Continued...

Several platforms were assessed in order to determine what components were salvageable. Based on the assessment, a bill of materials with associated costs was developed and presented to the Friends, who approved the purchases and made funding available. The Friends of Pinchot teamed up with the York County Master Watershed Stewards and recovered accessible, nonfunctional turtle basking platforms, salvaged reusable components, acquired new materials necessary to complete assembly, rebuilt and installed refurbished platforms. The initial recovery began on March 13th and was completed on March 20th with the recovery of enough compo-

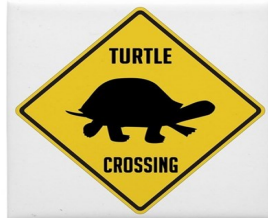
nents to reassemble fourteen platforms. Accessibility was severely limited due to the depth of the accumulated sediment in many areas. As the recovery progressed, material requirements were confirmed and ordered. Lumber was picked up on April 8th; platforms were assembled on April 14th. Placement started on April 17th and was completed on May 3rd.

Early on in the assessment of the turtle platforms, it was also noted that a number of the channel catfish spawning boxes were in precarious positions, sitting on rock rubble. With guidance from the Fish and Boat Commission's Lake Habitat Division, the boxes

were repositioned to be stable and level, with the openings now properly facing the lake.

Many thanks to everyone who supported this project!

Special thanks to the park management for their guidance and to the Fish and Boat Commission's Lake Habitat Division for their approval and technical support. Thanks also to the Friends of Pinchot for funding this project. In closing, this project would not have been possible without the hands-on support of volunteers from the Master Watershed Stewards and the Friends of Pinchot State Park.



Assembling new platforms...

Placing new platforms in lake—

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

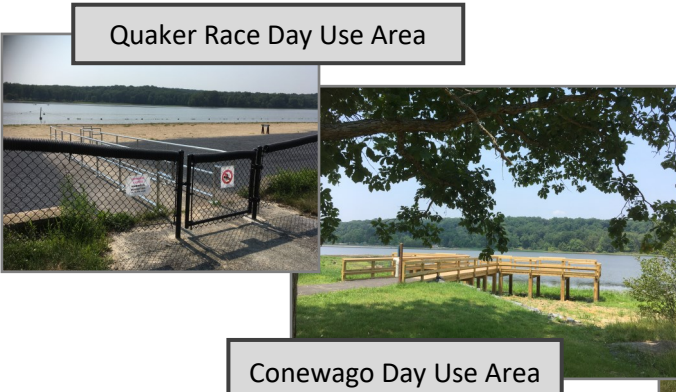
Park Improvements

Pinchot Lake Drawdown Projects

Quaker Race Day Use Area

By Gavin Smith

The fence spanning the seawall water entry at Quaker Race swimming area, which serves to deter geese from entering the grassy beach area (and the waste they leave behind), was replaced with a more robust fence system. The floor of the swimming area was replenished with a fine gravel, bringing the floor of the swimming area closer to the top of the seawall, thereby improving the step-down into the lake. A railing and new gate were added to the ADA entry ramp at the center of the beach.



Quaker Race Day Use Area

Conewago Day Use Area

Conewago Day Use Area

The crumbled retaining wall at the fishing point was replaced with a new wall. A new ADA fishing pier, an actual wooden pier structure that reaches out over the water, replaced the crumbled seawall of the old fishing pier.

Boat Mooring Area #2

The stationery dock where visitors board the park's pontoon boat tour is being replaced with a floating dock system. A few historically hazardous rocks were turned on their side to help prevent boat strikes.

Boat Mooring Area #3

A new concrete walkway was constructed to connect the parking lot to the boat dock.



Boat Mooring Area #2

Boat Mooring Area #3

And now...



Park Events

Brood X Cicada Phenomenon

These 17-year periodical cicadas emerged in full force across Central PA this past spring and had quite a large presence at Pinchot! Their presence (and singing!) were evident through mid-June—and then gone by July... until 2038, when folks will hear the sound reminiscent of Star Trek phasers once again!



Inflating wings...

Shedding skin...

Ready to fly and sing!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Park Activities



Earth Day Celebration

Park staff and community volunteers joined together in April to celebrate Earth Day by planting Dogwood, Oak, and Catalpa trees in the parking loop areas on both sides of the lake. **Thank you to all who participated!!!**



Tree-planting!



Firewood Bundling

Camp hosts, Friends of Pinchot members, boy scouts, and community volunteers all worked hard throughout the spring and summer, bundling LOTS of firewood for campground visitors. **Thank you so much to all of our wood team volunteers!!!**



Upcoming Park Events & Volunteer Opportunities

Please join us for these annual summer/fall park events:

Native Plant Sale [fundraiser]— September 11th & 18th

Pinchotween [family-fun!]— October 16th

Gulliver's Run [5K run/walk!]— November 7th

Upcoming volunteer opportunities:

Trail Care Days* [hiking area improvements]

Habitat Work* [meadow restoration]

Firewood Prep* [splitting & bundling]

*Kindly reference our website [www.friendsofpinchot.org] or visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/] for more information!

NATIVE PLANT PRESERVATION

Fencing Project

By Betsy Leppo

As you hike Lakeside Trail on the east side of the lake from the campground to the dam, you may notice a series of small fence plots in various stages of completion. Friends of Pinchot volunteers are working on fencing patches of plants that grow along the trail in order to protect them from accidental trampling and from deer looking for a little snack. These fences are focused around plants that are uncommon in the park

and are most vulnerable to damage. Please remember that all plants and wildlife are protected in the park, and plants may not be dug up or picked. The only exception to this rule is the removal of invasive species, which is conducted under park guidance. We need everyone's help in protecting the park's native plants so that they remain a part of Pinchot's natural ecosystem—and for the continued enjoyment of all park visitors.



PHOTO BY BETSY LEPPA


Thank you to our Friends of Pinchot members whose financial support helps us purchase supplies for environmental projects and to the volunteers who make the work happen!




PHOTO BY BETSY LEPPA

Why Plant Natives?


Native plants are adapted to local conditions, requiring less fertilizer and pesticides.


Native plants require less watering to thrive and can help control stormwater runoff.


Native plants can help with air quality by reducing area for mowing and sequestering carbon.


Native plants provide food and shelter for wildlife, and support pollinators.



MEMORABILIA

"Behind the Scenes"—

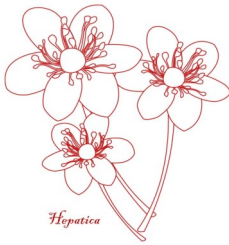
An update on *The Pinchot Eagle's* editing assistants, Blanche and Belva...



Taking a break from editing, the girls are currently busy with fundraising—helping to promote the sale of Friends' memorabilia!



Friends of Pinchot State Park



Lewisberry, PA
www.friendsofpinchot.org

Tote Bag Graphic



Souvenir Patch



★ Items are available at the campground host sites listed below! ★

- T-Shirts** A \$15
- Ball Caps** A \$10
- Tote Bags** A \$15
- PA Passports** B \$10
- GIPI Stickers** B \$2
- Patches** A B \$5

A Loop: Site 37
B Loop: Site 152

- Firewood** A Loop: Sites 37 & 139 \$5
(available at all 5 campground host sites) B Loop: Sites 152, 190, & 293

~ PROCEEDS HELP TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PARK ~

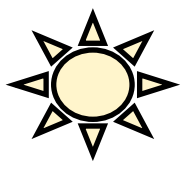
★ THANK YOU! ★

Membership drive in progress...
Please join or renew today!!!
(See next page for application or apply online!)

For general information, please email FriendsofPinchot@gmail.com,
 visit our website at www.friendsofpinchot.org,
 or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/.
 You may also call the Gifford Pinchot State Park office at (717) 432-5011.



Happy summer!
 Be safe!



Gifford Pinchot State Park continues to be more essential to our community than ever...
 providing healthy outdoor activity & much needed respite for ALL!
 Please... consider becoming a Friend of Pinchot!

FRIENDS OF Pinchot
 STATE PARK
 Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

2200 Rosstown Road
 Lewisberry, PA 17339
 (717) 432-5011
FriendsofPinchot@gmail.com

ADVISORY BOARD

Chair
 Terry Christopher

Co-Chair
 Betsy Leppo

Treasurer
 Courtney Snyder

Secretary
 Tammy Klunk

Newsletter Editor
 Flo Spangenberg

Membership Coordinator
 Karen Tynes

Board Members
 Phyllis Crooks
 Dean Gibbons
 Jim Grove
 Jim Hugar
 Jim Merlino
 Ted Prindle

Park Representative
 Beth Kepley-McNutt

This volunteer advisory board is dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the natural and recreational resources of Gifford Pinchot State Park for present and future generations.

Friends of Pinchot State Park is a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). The PPFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

FRIENDS OF PINCHOT STATE PARK

2021-22 Annual Membership Application

Make checks payable to: PPF
 (include FOPSP on the memo line)

Mail form with payment to: Friends of Pinchot State Park,
 2200 Rosstown Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339

NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would like to receive the newsletter via email.
 I would like to receive a printed copy of the newsletter in the mail.
 I am interested in volunteering.

All members receive a FOPSP membership card, a newsletter subscription to *The Pinchot Eagle*, and discounts on various FOPSP apparel. New members receive a complimentary 4" x 6" oval "GIPI" (Gifford Pinchot) bumper sticker.

___ Senior (age 62+)	\$10.00	___ Purchase the annual GPSP
___ Individual	\$15.00	souvenir patch: Add \$5.00
___ Family	\$25.00	___ Additional tax-deductible
___ Damselfly Sponsor	\$50.00	contribution of \$_____
___ Dragonfly Sponsor	\$100.00	
___ Corporate	\$250.00+	TOTAL \$ _____

Friends of Pinchot State Park was formed in March 2009 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). The PPFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to PPFF are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Memberships are for one year, June 1 through May 31.

Unless we practice conservation, those who come after us will have to pay the price of misery, degradation, and failure for the progress and prosperity of our day.

-Gifford Pinchot


Find us on Twitter at:
[Friends of Pinchot](https://twitter.com/FriendsofPinchot)


Find us on Facebook at:
[Friends of Pinchot](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot)