

The Pinchot Eagle

Friends of Pinchot State Park



July 2023



To all Gifford Pinchot State Park
Friends ~ Volunteers ~ Visitors ~ Staff...
Thank you for your stewardship!

There is so much regenerative power in Nature.
-Emily Gilmore Rhodes



1960s Suitcase Decal

(Note: Stickers were put on suitcases back then... because laptops & water bottles weren't a thing!)

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The Friends of Pinchot Advisory Board is looking for a Treasurer.

If interested, please contact us at friendsofpinchot@gmail.com and more information will be provided.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Firewood Revisions

Friends and volunteers pulled together this spring to build two new woodsheds, which will provide **additional campground locations for purchasing firewood**, supplementing the main woodshed located at the campground entrance.



NEW Self-Serve Woodsheds
Located in Campground Loops A & B



Painting Shed Components



FIREWOOD FOR SALE

SELF-SERVE/CASH ONLY/\$5 FOR 7 PIECES

(3) WOODSHED LOCATIONS:

CAMPGROUND ENTRANCE/OFFICE [SAM-SUNSET]

A-LOOP: ACROSS FROM HOST SITE #139/BATHHOUSE #1 [7PM-10PM]

B-LOOP: ACROSS FROM HOST SITE #152/BATHHOUSE #4 [7PM-10PM]

Firewood sales provide funding for park programs, projects, and improvements!



Main Woodshed
Located at Campground Entrance



Splitting & Stacking



And as always, wood team folks continue their huge efforts in processing wood to fill the sheds—an ongoing task!

Kudos to all that helped...

to plan, to create, to assemble, and to stock the new woodsheds—
in order to facilitate a most enjoyable 2023 camping season for all!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Vernal Pool Monitoring

Citizen Science Wetland Monitoring Project Completed

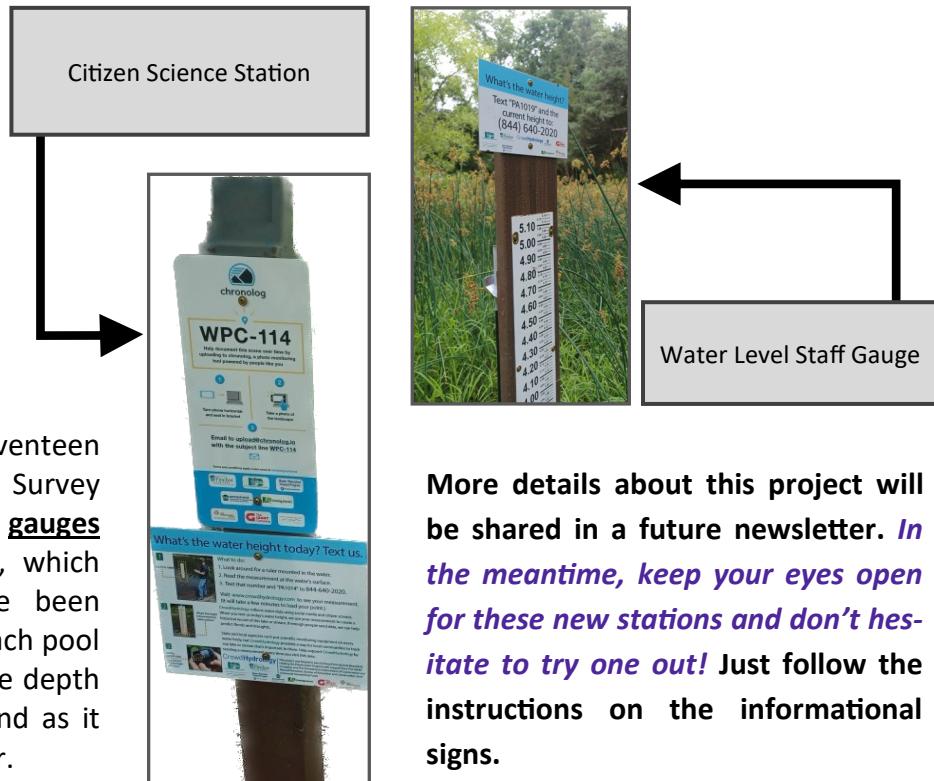
By Betsy Leppo

The Friends of Pinchot State Park (FOPSP) recently completed a project in partnership with the York County Master Watershed Stewards (MWS) to expand opportunities for citizen science monitoring of small vernal pool wetlands in the park. Trained volunteers and park staff will continue to monitor the

health of these wetlands as they have in the past, but their efforts will be enhanced with contributions from the new citizen science stations. **Any park visitor now has the opportunity to help care for these wetlands by interacting with the trailside monitoring stations as they explore the trails of the park!**

Eight citizen science stations were installed next to vernal pools located near hiking trails in the park. Each station consists of a wooden post with two informational signs explaining how to take a landscape photo and a water depth reading of the pool and submit them to our monitoring projects via text or email.

Additionally, a total of seventeen United States Geological Survey (USGS) water level staff gauges were installed; the gauges, which look like big rulers, have been placed in the deep end of each pool and will help to measure the depth of the water in each wetland as it changes throughout the year.



More details about this project will be shared in a future newsletter. *In the meantime, keep your eyes open for these new stations and don't hesitate to try one out! Just follow the instructions on the informational signs.*

AMAZING STATS... & MANY THANKS...

We would like to acknowledge our esteemed volunteers and partners who made this project possible...

Over the last six months, volunteers have contributed the following to the Gifford Pinchot State Park vernal pool monitoring and citizen science station projects:

- 131 volunteer equivalents (28 volunteers participating across 27 work days)
- 314 hours of effort and 1,777 miles of travel, donated through participation in work days at the park—a contribution valued at \$11,136.79!
- 2 community vernal pool walks—providing outdoor, hands-on education for 29 people

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Vernal Pools (continued)...



– MWS Crew –
Vernal pool located near Cabin #9
(in the Pinchot Park cabin complex)



Citizen Science Station
located at the
Environmental Learning Center
– Conewago Day Use Area –

FOPSP & MWS Crews



Special thanks to:

- Bureau of State Parks—for supporting the development and implementation of this project
- Friends of Pinchot State Park—for the longtime support of this project and other environmental projects in the park
- Volunteers with the Penn State Master Watershed Steward program of York County—a hard-working, dedicated, caring group of people!
- Jim Hugar, Wendy Seifert, and Jodi Sulpizio—for outstanding organization, leadership, and support of this project
- Shawnna Lockwood—for serving as honorary project photographer

This project was funded in part by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Healing the Planet Grant Program with support from The GIANT Company, and by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Environmental Stewardship Fund.

TRIBUTES

Remembering Jim Merlino, Founding FOPSP Board Member

We are saddened to announce the unexpected passing of Jim Merlino, a founding member of the Friends of Pinchot State Park. Jim served as our chairman for nine years from 2009 to 2017. After a one-year hiatus, he returned as a regular board member for an additional three years from 2019 to 2021.

During his years at the helm of the FOPSP, Jim worked with park management to install four new playgrounds, add new park benches, and replace aging picnic tables. He faithfully helped with a variety of FOPSP fundraisers and workdays, especially preparing firewood for sale in the campground. Jim helped organize and implement projects to improve trails



for hikers and habitats for wildlife. He supported the park's environmental education programming, our first native plant sale, and Pinchotween, the much-anticipated park event of the fall season.

In addition to his commitment to the local community, we remember Jim for his love and devotion to his family. Volunteerism in the park was often a Merlino family affair. Jim and his wife, Kim spent many summers hosting in the campground from campsite #293. Jim's older son, Kevin also served on the Friends of Pinchot board.

We will dearly miss Jim's sense of humor and the effortless way he had of putting people at ease! It was an honor to work with Jim and we are grateful for his contributions to the park, which will continue to enrich the lives of visitors for years to come.

As a veteran who served in the Vietnam War, Jim was laid to rest in the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

We thank Jim for his service—to our country and to the Friends of Pinchot.

Wild Pinchot

Wild Geranium and Its Personal Bee

By Betsy Leppo

As the heady rush of early spring wildflowers fade, the next wave of blooms arrives with the lush green of late spring and early summer. Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) is a late spring flower that is commonly encountered in the woodlands of Gifford

Pinchot State Park. It is easily recognized by its showy pink flowers and palmate leaves with five deeply cleft lobes. This wildflower attracts a variety of native bees, flies, butterflies, moths, beetles, and true bugs, which are nourished by its nectar, pollen, or foliage.



Geranium maculatum (wild geranium)
by Betsy Leppo



Andrena distans miner bee
by Heather Holmes iNaturalist photo

The life of one native bee in particular is closely bound to wild geranium. The miner bee known by its scientific name *Andrena distans*, is a specialist pollinator that almost exclusively visits wild

geranium to gather nectar and pollen to feed itself and its young. **This uncommon bee is currently known from seven counties in Pennsylvania, but has not yet been reported for York County.**

So, if you see a little fuzzy black bee with white stripes on its abdomen visiting a wild geranium flower, get a close-up picture and share it with us, or post it on a site like iNaturalist!

To see a video of a hardworking female *Andrena distans* gathering pollen, check out this post by Heather Holms: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2090602397822911>. For more on specialist bees and the plants they need, visit the Pollen Specialist Bees of the Eastern United States at: https://jarrodfowler.com/specialist_bees-april.html.

PARK UPGRADES

Cabin Curtains



Membership contributions and donations along with sales from firewood and Friends of Pinchot merchandise have provided funding for these improvements.

Thank you—to all who have contributed!



One of the many Pinchot Park amenities requiring constant upkeep is the cabin complex—10 modern cabins, available for visitor rentals year-round. Upgrades over the last several years have included new furniture, new flooring, and new, refurbished porch benches. **2023 cabin improvements include new curtains—installed this past spring.**



Beach Accommodations

Adaptive provisions/equipment are now available at the campground beach located in Loop A. The **Mobi-Chair (floating wheelchair)** and **Mobi-Mat (rollout pathway)** were provided through grants and donations from Dawood Engineers, Hoover Charitable Organization, York County Community Foundation, and Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation (PPFF). **Many thanks!!!**



Mobi-Mat®
Beach Access Mat—Rollout Pathway



Mobi-Chair®
Floating Beach Wheelchair

Campground Beach—Loop A

Use of the Mobi-Chair is free of charge and can be arranged by calling either of Pinchot's two office locations:

-Park Office 717.432.5011
-Campground Office 717.292.4112

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Wildflower Walks

By Jim Hugar

The Friends of Pinchot hosted several wildflower walks this past April and May. The 1-1/2 hour woodland strolls started at the Sunnyside Pavilion, located in Conewago Day Use Area, and continued along neighboring trails. (**Actual route is noted on the next page!**) Attendees were provided with a wildflower checklist for personal notes. Hike guides (Friends/volunteers) helped to identify wildflowers and also shared interesting information (fun facts!) helpful in the identification of Pinchot's wildflowers, trees, and plants.

It was a gorgeous day for the first spring wildflower walk at GPSP for 2023. Early arrivals were greeted by the graceful flyover of a bald eagle whose white feathers glowed as the early morning sunlight highlighted them. Twelve visitors were presented with a wonderful display of colorful blooms. This year's first walk had a significant variety of flowers blooming, including the tail end of blooms of spicebush, bloodroot, and round-lobed hepatica. The full array of

blossoms were just starting and included spring beauties, early saxifrages, redbuds, rue anemones, Virginia bluebells, yellow trout lily, yellow/white/blue violets, pussytoes, Bluets (Quaker ladies), marsh marigolds, buttercups, Dutchmen's breeches, and trillium—including one dark red and one light red/pink. Along with these, we were greeted by some early emergence of wild pinks, field chickweed, Jacks-in-the-pulpit, and several different ferns

pushing their fronds. Our walk would not have been complete without the appearance of the only skunk cabbage on the walk. The Virginia bluebells were hosting a wide array of native pollinators including several bumble bees and European honey bees. We also observed some very active digger bees and several turtles sunning themselves on the turtle platforms in the cove at Boat Mooring #3.

April 12th Walk
Hosts & Guests



Christmas Fern
FUN FACT: Named for the frond's similarity to a Christmas stocking and its winterlong green hue.



Yellow Trout Lily

FUN FACT: Named for the mottled leaves which resemble the markings on brook trout.



Dutchman's Breeches
FUN FACT: Named for the flower's resemblance to (upside-down!) white trousers/pantaloons.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Wildflower Walks (continued)...



Bloodroot

FUN FACT: Named for the blood-red sap found in the roots.



Trillium

FUN FACT: Named for 3 sets of 3: petals/sepal (petal-supports)/leaves.

The typical “Wildflower Walk” spring route starts in Conewago Day Use Area at the Sunny-side Pavilion and continues to Alpine Trail, follows east to Midland Trail, turns right onto Fern Trail and follows to the intersection with Lakeside Trail and heads northeast (left) to the junction with Boulder Point Trail and returns to Lakeside

Trail and heads west, back to Conewago Day Use Area. While traversing these trails in the spring, be sure to watch for “Blacky” the black snake at the top of the hill near the intersection of Midland and Fern Trails. “Blacky” has been spotted at this site during at least one wildflower walk for three consecutive years!

Souvenir Patch Contest

In 2021, the Friends added souvenir patches to the park merchandise available for purchase, to be redesigned annually for collectors. The Friends enlist community help in designing the yearly patch by hosting an annual photo contest.

Presented here is Pinchot's 2023 collector's patch, created from Gretchen Galbraith's original photo. Thank you, Gretchen!

Submitted by
Gretchen Galbraith



*Keep on snapping photos—
and keep your eyes open for information on this
year's competition for next year's 2024 patch!*

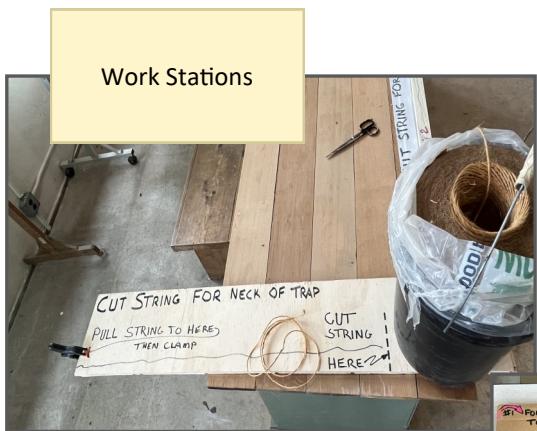
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Spotted Lanternfly Workshop

The Friends of Pinchot conducted a Spotted Lanternfly Circle-Trap Workshop the 1st weekend in June at Pinchot's Environmental Learning Center. Attendees made their way through step-by-step workstations to assemble a working trap to take home. In total, 23 traps were made!



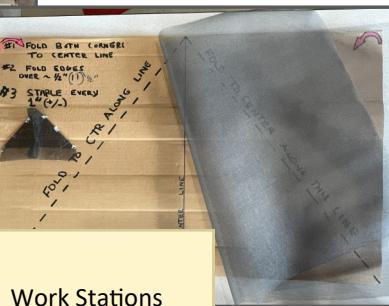
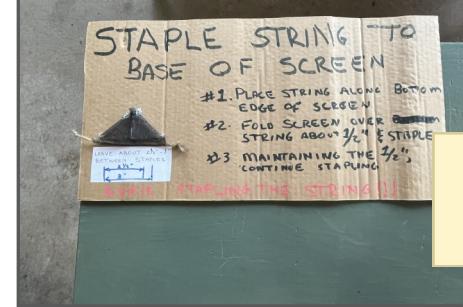
Workshop Host & Guests



Extensive information on this invasive and damaging insect is available in the January 2021 issue of *The Pinchot Eagle*, which can be accessed from the Friends of Pinchot State Park website.
www.friendsofpinchot.org
From the Home Page, select **Newsletters** and then select **Winter 2021**.



Completed Trap



Work Stations



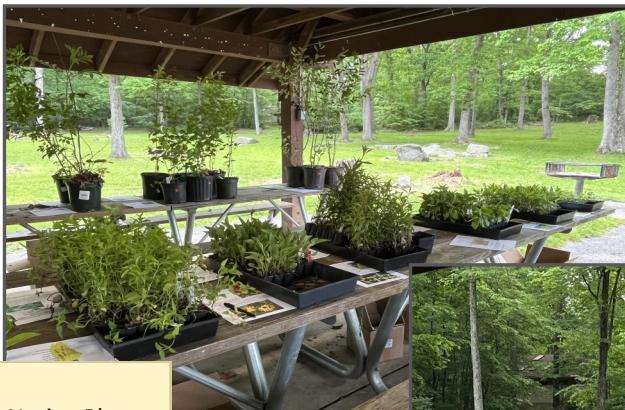
Another Workshop Visitor...

Snapping Turtle outside of the Environmental Learning Center!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Sale

The Friends of Pinchot held their annual Native Plant Sale in May and it proved to be another very successful event. Native plants/shrubs/flowers were sold as well as Friends group merchandise—the proceeds of which will fund park projects and improvements! Many thanks to all of the Friends and volunteers who worked SO HARD in putting together this stellar event. And huge thanks to all of the patrons and visitors who came out as well! See you again next year!



Native Plants

Friends of Pinchot
Merch/Info Table



"Behind the Scenes"—



Some SERIOUS looks from
The Pinchot Eagle's editing assistants, Blanche and Belva...

Have **YOU** renewed your annual
Friends of Pinchot membership???

Memberships run from June 1
through May 31...



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Meetings & Merch



INFO!



Assorted T-shirt colors available!

Board meetings take place on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM, excluding the month of December. Winter meetings are conducted via Zoom during November, January, and February; spring, summer and fall meetings take place at Conewago Day Use Area, Sunnyside Pavilion. **The public is welcome to attend!**

Look for the vertical banner!
Please join us!



T-Shirts.....\$15
Tote Bags.....\$15
Ball Caps.....\$15
Beanies.....\$10
PA Passports.....\$10
Souvenir Patches....\$5
GIPI Stickers.....\$2

CASH or CHECK* only, please!

*Check made payable to PPFF or Friends of Pinchot

Merchandise is available
at the Campground Office (during the spring-summer-fall camping season)
and at the Park Office (year-round).
Please stop by!

Memorials at Pinchot



Memorial Bench/Plaque Program

The memorial bench program is one way of providing a caring tribute to those who cherished Pinchot...

Donations allow for the installation of a weather-proof six-foot bench, which includes an affixed personalized metal remembrance placard.

PLAQUE



For more information, please contact
the Park Office at (717) 432-5011.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Goings-On...



**Mark your calendars for
these upcoming fall events!**

Time to gear up for this fall's **Trail Care Day**—a collaborative effort between Friends of Pinchot, Mason-Dixon Trail System, Keystone Trails Association, and Pinchot staff. The Friends' board recently approved the purchase of honeycomb trail-paving material for use in this year's trail-system improvement project... an ongoing effort and annual event—for over ten years!

**Trail Care Day is Saturday,
October 7, 2023**



**PINCHOTWEEN is Saturday,
October 21, 2023**

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

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—Be well!



Conservation is the foresighted utilization, preservation and/or renewal of forests, waters, lands and minerals, for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time.

-Gifford Pinchot

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!



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

ADVISORY BOARD

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Terry Christopher
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Betsy Leppo
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Newsletter Editor
Flo Spangenberg

Membership Coordinator
Karen Tynes

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Dean Gibbons
Jim Grove
Jim Hugar

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

2023-24 Annual Membership Application

Make checks payable to: PPFF
(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 "GIP" (Gifford Pinchot) bumper sticker.

___ Senior (age 62+)	\$10.00	___ Purchase the annual GPSP
___ Individual	\$15.00	souvenir patch: Add \$5.00
___ Family	\$30.00	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.



Gifford Pinchot...
Newsletter in hand!



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