



# Pine Creek Preservation Association

P.O. Box 11

Waterville, PA 17776

Pine Creek Valley

2024

Spring Newsletter

*Property Owners and concerned citizens dedicated to preserving the natural and rural character of Pine Creek Valley.*

## Officers

*President:* Mary Bennett

*Vice-President:* Jeff Campbell

*Secretary:* Lou Anne Gasperine

*Treasurer:* Donna Pearson

## 2024 Meeting Dates / Guest Speakers

*April 15 - Annual Meeting @ 7 PM – John Pastorek speaker -Watson Township Bldg*

*May 20 - Meeting @ 7 PM – DCNR – Jim Weaver – PC Watershed Council*

*June 17 - Meeting @ 7 PM – DCNR -*

*July 15 - Meeting @ 7 PM – DCNR -*

*Aug 3 - Picnic – Barn on Rte 44 @ 12 Noon*

*Sept. 16 - Meeting @ 7 PM – DCNR -*

*Oct. 16 – Meeting - Election of Officers @ 7 PM- Watson Township*

**Meeting Location** - Scheduled Meetings are usually held at the DCNR Facility just north of Waterville. The first and last meetings are held at the Watson Township Building. If connections are available, a Zoom component is available. All members are welcome. Send an email to [lgasperine@verizon.net](mailto:lgasperine@verizon.net) for a Zoom invite.

*The Pine Creek Preservation Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. The official registration and financial information for the PCPA may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

## President's Message

Spring is finally here! I am relieved to have winter behind us as I look forward to all things new again, including PCPA activities. Last year PCPA was busy with many activities that we plan to repeat this year. We have funded two additional bike repair stations, both to be installed this year courtesy of DCNR. We hosted a picnic lunch for the JSHS Senior Outdoor Club, and plan to do so again this year with the addition of the newly founded Junior Outdoor Club, for their work days at Little Pine State Park in April. We will again participate in the Sawdust Festival on May 4th. Another activity back by popular demand is our 2nd annual Bob Webber Memorial Hike. We will return to the Webber homestead but visit new vistas as well. This will be held Sunday April 28th. Although not an activity, PCPA earnestly continues to support the PEDF with annual donations. Their efforts in Harrisburg are imperative to the preservation of our pristine valley.

New activities this year include a rain barrel assembly class for all who are interested. A \$20 fee will be required for registration; PCPA will provide all materials. We are also planning an 'invasive species' seminar with a hands-on presentation. More information will follow for all of these activities.

Last year we initiated an annual Environmentalist of the Year Award to recognize an outstanding individual within PCPA who has gone above and beyond on behalf of the Pine Creek Valley. We proudly presented the first award to Dr. George Durrwachter whose work goes unmatched in the area, and for which there is not enough room to write about! We look forward to continuing to honor deserving individuals in the years to come.

Our monthly meetings will continue to be held the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm at the Watson Township Building for the April and October meetings, with all others to be held at the DCNR Building in Waterville. We have lined up some guest speakers and I encourage you to join us when you can.

Mary Bennett, President

## 2023 New Life Members

We are pleased to introduce the new Life Members. They will be proudly added to our Life Membership Plaque.

**Peter and Tanya Fitzkey**

**Richard and Linda Bater**

**Millie and Bill Dukmen**

**John and Diane Pastorek**

### 2023 Friends of Pine Creek

*We want to recognize the generosity of the following individuals who went beyond their regular membership level in 2023.*

Katie Artz  
Barbara Bierly Family  
James Bonnell  
Cindy Bower  
Dan and Chris Brennan  
Kelly and Tom Butzler  
Cummings Township  
Reed and Janet Diem  
Druck Family  
Steve and Deb Eck  
Sara Ely and Larry Converse  
Dawn to Dusk Hunting Club  
George and Linda Druck  
Bebe Evansky  
Jane Falck  
Jeffrey and Diane Gable  
John and Lou Anne Gasperine  
Mark and Denise Hagan  
Deb and Al Harakel  
Michael and Julie Haussener  
Phil and Mary Jane Hawkins  
Russell and Dianna Helt  
Dan and Norm Heming  
Ralph and Denise Hershberger  
Clinton and Deb Ivins  
Rachel Kagan & Michael Galey  
Mark and Tonya Kauffman  
The Kellenberger Family



#### **2023 PCPA Financial Support Given To:**

Black Forest Volunteer Fire Co.  
Brown Township Volunteer Fire Co.  
Haneyville Volunteer Fire Co.  
Waterville Volunteer Fire Co.  
Pine Creek Council of Governments  
PA Lumbermans Museum  
Northcentral Pa Conservancy  
Clinton County CleanScapes  
Pennsylvania Environmental Defense  
Foundation  
Jersey Shore Middle School Outdoor  
Club  
Pine Creek Headwaters Group

**2023 Total \$ 13,513.36**

Eugene and Sally Kelley  
Cam and Jen Kephart  
Carol and Jim LaRegina  
Marjorie Larson  
Steven Liddic  
McConnell's Country Store  
Bill and Judy McConnell  
Bill and Jane McMinn  
Robin Miller  
John and Anna Moyer  
Dorian Myers  
Chris and Catherine Nolan  
Katie Ombalski  
Donna Pearson  
Thomas Phillips  
Pitney-Manning Families  
Bruce and Catherine Platusich  
Beverly, Chris & Abbey Porter  
Jim and Kathy Rankin  
Kevin Reed  
Dave and Peggy Reeder  
Ronald and Christine Rohrer  
Matthew and Michele Rugh  
James ad Sheila Russo  
Richard and Suzanne Ruth  
Bill and Deb Shanbarger  
Waterville Tavern  
Torbert Development  
Wayd Wolgemuth  
Bernard and Janet Zbicki

#### **2023 Memorial Memberships**

*This special category is for individuals who would like to honor the name and memory of a loved one.*

We received memorial memberships in loving memory of:

**Jim Stine and Eleanor and  
George Krapf**

**Carl Poffenberger**

Their names will be proudly added to the Memorial Membership Plaque.

#### **2023 PCPA INCOME**

**Total Income: \$ 17,801.00**

Individual Memberships - **32**

Family Memberships - **125**

Camp/Organization Memberships  
- **65**

Friends of Pine Creek - **58**

Memorial Memberships - **2**

New Life Memberships - **4**

## PCPA Special Activities

### **Hike the Bob Webber trail!**

Please join us on Sunday, April 28th for our second annual hike to Bob and Dottie Webber's homestead. We will again be joined by Jim Hyland, retired district forester, and Jack Duerer, lifelong friend of Bob's, who will provide a history of the Webbers' life on the mountain. This is an easy 5-mile hike that all ages can enjoy. Registration will be at the parking area prior to the hike. Water and trail snacks will be provided. Please email Mary Bennett at [mvuccola@gmail.com](mailto:mvuccola@gmail.com) for more information.



Meet at the Pump Station parking area on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 10:00 am. Directions to the parking: Follow Rt. 44 North from Rt. 220 for 33 miles; parking is on the right; there will be a sign to turn off Rt 44, approximately 2 miles before the Black Forest Inn.

The first annual Bob Webber Memorial Hike occurred on May 6, 2023. The hike went from the pump station to the Webber homestead and visited several vistas along the way. The history of the homestead and Bob and Dottie Webber's life on the mountain was discussed.

**Sawdust Festival.** PCPA will attend the Sawdust Festival the weekend of May 4 – 5 at the Waterville Fire Department. Stop by our table to see what the PCPA is up to!

**Membership Plaques.** All membership plaques noting the Memorials and Life Members are now on display and may be viewed at the Cammal Community Building in Cammal, PA.

**Supporting the Jersey Shore High School and Middle School Outdoor Club.** The Outdoor Club at Jersey Shore High School includes students in grades 9–12 and the Middle School Club includes grades 6-8. Students participate in many activities from trail work with DCNR in October, float trips on Pine Creek, assisting with trout stocking in April / May and educating the young adults in outdoor etiquette and conservation. The club also helps Little Pine State Park employees with park clean-up in April getting ready for the summer season.

The high school advisors were awarded a PA Fish and Boat Commission grant to teach students about fly fishing, tying flies and learning how to be safe when boating on the waterways of Pennsylvania. The high school members work with middle school students at the 7th Grade Environmental Field Trip at Little Pine State Park teaching them how to tie simple flies and how to cast a fly rod.

Both groups are planning a park clean up excursion to Little Pine State Park to get the park ready for the summer season. The trips are designed to groom trails, pick up trash and stock fish. Some park personnel work alongside the students and decide what tasks need to be accomplished. The students provide the additional personnel to help keep the park in tip top shape for the summer season.

**Environmentalist of the Year Award.** PCPA has instituted an annual award to be presented to an individual who has played an integral part in the preservation and conservation of the Pine Creek Valley. The 2023 award recipient demonstrates the commitment and involvement in various groups operating within the confines of the area. We are pleased to announce Dr. George Durrwachter is our initial recipient of this award. Dr. Durrwachter has been involved with the PCPA since its inception and has served on many boards / groups in the valley. PCPA is grateful for his participation in events within the valley and his valuable advice and contributions. Congratulations George!

**Bike Repair Station on the Rails to Trails.** Look for the new bike repair stations as you ride the trail this summer. In conjunction with Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, the PCPA has purchased two additional bike repair stations. DCNR will install them further up the trail near Tomb Flats and somewhere near Dry Run.  
"Look for the new bike repair stations as you ride the trail this summer."



### **New Activities Being Scheduled – Save the Dates in your Calendar!!**

**Rain Barrel Workshop** – PCPA will be hosting a Rain Barrel Workshop on July 27 at Cummings Township parking lot to assist participants in making their own rain barrel which may be installed at their camp or home. For the past two years, the month of June has been very dry in the Pine Creek Valley. Homeowners can reduce stormwater runoff on their property by installing rain barrels under downspouts. The captured water can be used in various ways around the landscape.



PCPA will supply the materials to assemble 10 rain barrels for a minimal cost of \$20 for each participant. Instructors will supply the tools needed to construct a finished rain barrel. Information will be distributed about the effective use of the rain barrels. We will need 5 individuals for the class to be held.

To register, please email Dr. Lou Anne Gasperine ([lgasperine@verizon.net](mailto:lgasperine@verizon.net)). To finish your registration, send a check for \$20 to PCPA, PO Box 11, Waterville, PA 17776 and you will receive additional information. Hope to see you there!

**Invasive Species Workshop.** We are looking to schedule a Saturday workshop on Invasive Species in the Pine Creek Valley. We hope to have potted plants of invasive species for identification purposes. Date: TBD

**Litter Pick-up** – There will be a litter pick up with Clinton County Cleanscapes on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>. Meet at 'Up the Crick' store at 9 am. The group will be working on Rte 44 and will return to the store after pick up for lunch and snacks provided by PCPA. Contact person for additional information is Mary Bennett at [mvuccola@gmail.com](mailto:mvuccola@gmail.com).

### **Links for Additional Organizations in the Valley**

[Brown Township](#)

[McHenry Township](#)

[Watson Township](#)

[Cummings Township](#)

**PCPA** is a local non-profit keeping an eye on the health of the Pine Creek Valley. We are not the only organization interested in the recreational and conservation measures up the creek. Here are additional links for local organizations:

[Slate Run Brown Trout Club](#)

#### **Trout Unlimited Chapters:**

[Tiadaghton Chapter](#)

[Susquehanna Chapter](#)

[Slate Run Sportsmen](#)

[Middle Susquehanna River Keeper](#)

[Pine Creek Watershed Council](#)

**Tiadaghton State Forest** – Vinny Curtis is the environmental educator at the Tiadaghton State Forest Office and offers environmental education programs. Contact Vinny Curtis at [vicurtis@pa.gov](mailto:vicurtis@pa.gov) to receive an email outlining the current activities.

**PCPA Picnic! Save the Date !!**

**PCPA 2024 Picnic - Saturday, August 3 – Noon at the Barn on Rte 44!**



Please patronize the following businesses or say thank you to those organizations & individuals who generously donated food and door prizes for our 2023 picnic.

- |                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Black Forest Inn</b>         | <b>Mike Engle</b>                       | <b>Bonner Sports &amp; RV</b>           |
| <b>The Hotel Manor</b>          | <b>Oak Grove Tavern</b>                 | <b>Jersey Shore State Bank</b>          |
| <b>Wolfe General Store</b>      | <b>Muncy Bank &amp; Trust</b>           | <b>Durdach Bros Beer Distributor</b>    |
| <b>The Sparrows Nest</b>        | <b>Jiffy Market, Jersey Shore</b>       | <b>Freas Farm Winery (Up the Crick)</b> |
| <b>Woodlands Bank</b>           | <b>McConnell’s General Store</b>        | <b>Ludwig’s Trailside B &amp; B</b>     |
| <b>Miller’s Store</b>           | <b>Pat Reeder’s Tavern</b>              | <b>PNC Bank, Williamsport</b>           |
| <b>Ruby Tuesday</b>             | <b>Wolfe General Store, Rte 44</b>      | <b>Tractor Supply, Lock Haven</b>       |
| <b>Walmart, Mill Hall</b>       | <b>The Waterville Hotel</b>             | <b>Mary Bennett</b>                     |
| <b>Jack and Bonnie Deuer</b>    | <b>Michael and Julie Haussener</b>      | <b>Bob Groff and Lisa Linn</b>          |
| <b>Sam Shaheen</b>              | <b>PCPA Wearables</b>                   | <b>Tim and Cami Mahaffy</b>             |
| <b>Santino’s Pine Creek Inn</b> | <b>Jersey Shore Lions Club</b>          | <b>Jiffy Market &amp; Deli</b>          |
| <b>Venture Inn</b>              | <b>Up the Crick Wine &amp; Antiques</b> | <b>Wise Foods</b>                       |
| <b>Jersey Shore BPO Elks</b>    | <b>Weis Markets, JS</b>                 | <b>Wegman’s</b>                         |
| <b>Dairy Queen</b>              | <b>Grand Central Beer Distributor</b>   | <b>Cedar Run General Store</b>          |
| <b>Janey’s Restaurant</b>       | <b>Judy McConnell</b>                   |   |

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2024**

**MEMBER INFO:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Camp/Cottage:**  
 Camp Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address or \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to PCPA**  
**Mail to: PCPA Secretary**  
**P.O. Box 11, Waterville, PA 17776**

**Note:** Unless the Friends of PC box is checked, we assume that any additional donation of \$100 or more is meant to be anonymous.

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE (check one):**

- Individual Membership - \$5
- Family Membership - \$10
- Camp/Organ. Membership - \$20
- Friends of Pine Creek - \$100
- Memorial Membership - \$250  
 In Memory or Honor of (below):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donated By (below):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acknowledgement To (below):  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Life Membership - \$500
- Other Donation - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## PCPA Wearables

Show your PCPA pride by ordering one of our many wearable items. We've updated our available items with better sizing and quality of men's and women's tee shirts, and ladies' polo shirts.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

List below what items you would like to order. List item, color, and size, and total dollar amount. Paid by cash\_\_\_, check\_\_\_, Venmo \_\_. Total dollar amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ Long sleeve tees, add \$5.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Colors Available:  
Black, White, Athletic Grey, Red, Royal Blue, Forest Green\*, Sangria Pink\*\*  
\*Kelly Green for Ladies V-Neck Tees  
\*\*New Pink for Ladies Long Sleeve V-Neck  
T-Shirts & Long Sleeve Tees are Screen Printed  
Sweatshirts, Polos, & Hats are Embroidered



The items can be ordered using the simple order form above. Payment can be by check (made out to **Jeff Campbell**), or by Venmo at @Jeff-Campbell-106. Fill out the order form below and either snail mail or email to me, so I know who you are and what you ordered. I will then contact you and we'll arrange for delivery. My address is: 1208 Sylvania Cir., Folsom, PA 19033.



Any questions, feel free to call or email me at 610-513-2633, [jcc1208@aol.com](mailto:jcc1208@aol.com). Show your pride for our great organization, and our love of the valley.



----- Jeff Campbell – Vice President

## **Legal Updates from Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Fund (PEDF)**

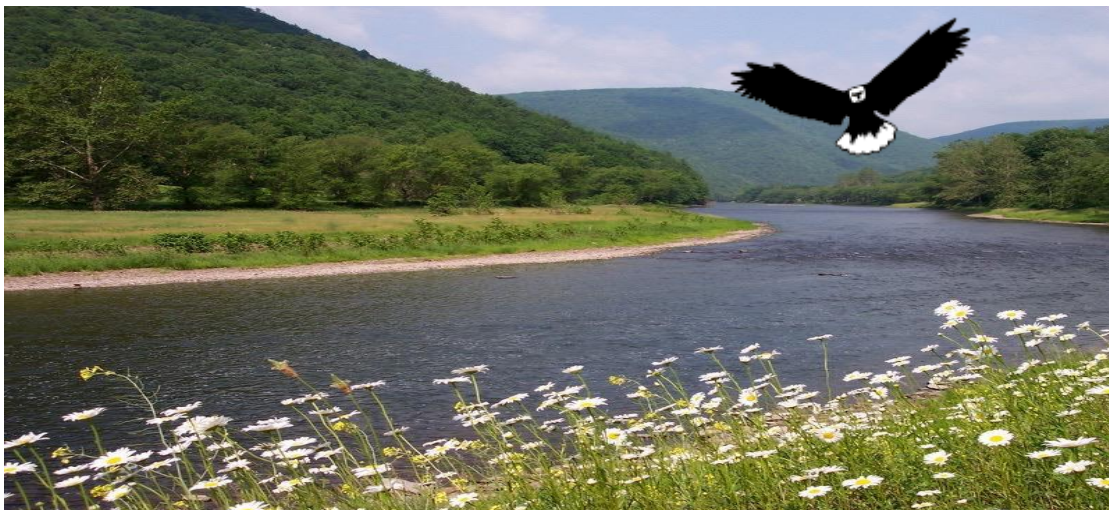
### **Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation January 5, 2024**

*PCPA reached out to Attorney John Childs of the PEDF for a summary of the latest information concerning the legal activities concerning the Pine Creek Valley and surrounding areas. PCPA supports the PEDF each year. This year the PCPA voted to donate \$5,000 to support their legal defense of our state forests and lands. For more detailed information concerning the ongoing environmental legal issues, check out the PEDF website at <http://www.PEDF.org>.*

You have asked for me to provide a brief summary of the actions PEDF proposes for 2024. There are two primary new petitions that PEDF will file. The Supreme Court has rejected PEDF's prior requests to find the 2017-2018 Appropriations Act and the 2018-2020 Fiscal Code Requirements that DCNR increase ATV-UTV trails in the State Forest to be unconstitutional on their face, i.e., the statutes themselves. We will file new petition challenges to the appropriations and the ATV amendments as they were actually applied, i.e. the actual uses of the appropriations of the oil and gas lease funds; and the actual impacts of the ATV trails on the State Forest from 1985 to the present. Below is a summary of the new petitions:

Petition 1: Challenging ALL the appropriations from 2008 to 2023 of the oil and gas lease funds as the funds were actually used, approximately 1.6 Billion Dollars. Our argument is that, since the Supreme Court has already determined that all of the revenue in the oil and gas lease fund is part of the public trust under Article I Section 27, that money can only be used to conserve and maintain the corpus of the trust. The facts are that DCNR did not actually use the trust money to maintain the trust. In fact, we argue, DCNR failed to use the money to deal with the current and future degradation to the State Forest. We are asking the Court to require the Commonwealth to return the trust money to be used to deal with the existing and future degradation, including degradation from climate change!

Petition 2: We are asking the court to find that all ATV-UTV recreational use in the State Forest is unconstitutional because ATV recreation degrades the ecology of the forest and the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the forest. We are preparing expert and factual testimony to show that, since 1985 ATV recreation has not and cannot be managed by DCNR without such degradation, including degradation to streams and the plants, to the nesting and migration of birds and mammals, degradation to the existing historical uses including hiking, fishing, biking, and simply enjoying the wildness of the forest.



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