

Pine Creek Preservation Association

P.O. Box 11

Waterville, PA 17776

Pine Creek Valley

2021

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

2021 Meeting Dates

April 19.....Annual Meeting @ 7 PM –

May 17.....Meeting @ 7 PM

June 21.....Meeting @ 7 PM

July 19Meeting @ 7 PM

*Aug. 7.....Picnic – Barn on Rte 44 @ 12
Noon – A little Pine Creek Comedy
entertainment*

Sept. 20...Meeting @ 7 PM

Oct. 18.....Election of Officers @ 7 PM

Dec.20.....Optional Meeting @ 7 PM

Meeting Location - All Scheduled Meetings are held at the DCNR Facility just north of Waterville. If restrictions are still in effect, we will hold meetings on Zoom. All members are welcome.

All Members, Valley Residents, Property Owners, and Interested Parties are Welcome

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 right around the corner, and we are busy getting ready for another season of PCPA meetings and projects. Covid has forced us to continue with Zoom meetings this year rather than in person. Although this is not an ideal situation, it has allowed out of town members to participate. Please watch for Zoom meeting invitations and plan to attend, if possible.

2020 was a busy year in spite of restrictions. We sponsored the June children's tent at the Second Sunday Maker's Market, a craft festival held monthly at "Up The Crick". We partnered with Cummings Township to install a bench in memory of Toner Hollick, a charter member of PCPA, as well as an active member of the Waterville community. We participated in a craft festival at Mountain Top and Provisions, which netted many new members and orders for wearables. We designed and ordered Life Member stickers for those members who no longer receive yearly stickers. We expanded our 'wearables' selection to include new items and colors. One of our most important activities is to donate yearly to the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation (PEDF) which follows environmental infractions and issues in the state.

As we know, last year's annual PCPA picnic was cancelled due to Covid. We are planning, optimistically, to hold this year's picnic on August 7th. Tim and Cami Mahaffey have again generously offered the free use of their venue facility, The Barn at Pine Creek. This allows us plenty of easy parking, indoor restrooms, and we can hold the picnic there rain or shine.

My hope for this year is that we stay connected throughout the coming months, and that we can meet and greet in person at the annual PCPA picnic.

Mary Bennett (I got married this year!)

President

*Mary Bennett
President*

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP CATAGORIES

If you would like to remember PCPA through one of our special membership categories, please refer to the Membership Application on page 7 of the newsletter.

2020 New Life Member

We are pleased to introduce the new Life Member **Donald and Linda Bierly**. They will be proudly added to our Life Membership Plaque.

2020 Friends of Pine Creek

It is especially important to recognize that the revenue from our Friends of Pine Creek Memberships is vital to our mission, as it goes directly to our "Legal Defense Fund", which is used to support actions such as the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation (PEDF) lawsuit, and not our day-to-day operations. We want to recognize the generosity of the following individuals who went beyond their regular membership level in 2019.

Anonymous donor
Kathy Asper and Ray and Susan Sipe
Ronald and Barb Bierly
Gretta Bierly
Susan Brantley and Andrew Nyblade
Daniel and Chris Brennan
Robert and Norma Camerer
Dawn to Dusk Hunting Campe
Steve and Deb Eck
Sara Ely and Larry Converse
Jane and Dave Fennelly
Jeffrey and Diane Gable
John and Lou Anne Gasperine
Mark and Denise Hagan
Al and Debra Harakel
Phil and Mary Jane Hawkins
Ralph and Denise Hershberger Michael
and Julie Haussener
Paul and Barb Hoffmaster
Tom and Kim Kozlowski
Loretta Kreider
Steven Liddic
Christian and Brandi Lovecchio



William and Judy McConnell
Jonathan and Kathryn McClure
Robin C. Miller
Chris and Cathy Nolen
Donna Pearson
Thomas Phillips
John and Margaret Piper
Bruce and Catherine Platusich
Beverly, Abbey and Chris Porter
Jim and Kathy Rankin
Dixie and Jerry Reber
Lois Rothenberger
Mark and Suzanne Ruth
Sonny (Bruce) Ryan
Lloyd and Sondra Simmers
Virginia Thompson
Torbert Development Association
Alex Udowenko
Waterville Tavern
Wayd W. Wolgemuth
Donald and Marybeth Young
Bernie and Janet Zbicki

2020 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
Association
North Central Pa. Conservancy
Clinton County CleanScapes
Pennsylvania Environmental
Defense Foundation

2020 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:

Robert Porter Toner Hollick
Larry Lehman Alvin Kacin
George Clark

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

2020 PCPA INCOME

Total Income: \$ 15,005

Individual Memberships - **66**

Family Memberships - **187**

Camp/Organization Memberships
- **65**

Friends of Pine Creek - **45**

Memorial Memberships - **5**

New Life Memberships - **1**

Memorial for Toner Hollick

PCPA has a designated category for Memorials for those who would honor the memories of loved ones. These funds support our contributions to the PA Legal Defense Fund which, through the volunteer efforts of John Childs, follows any infractions that are detrimental to the health and environmental issues pertaining to the Pine Creek Valley.

One of our founding members, Toner Hollick of Waterville passed away in 2020. Toner was instrumental in our activities as well as an active member of the Waterville community. George Durrwachter worked with Toner on many activities and organizational boards. I cannot eulogize Toner any better than one of our past presidents George Durrwachter:

"We can be forever grateful for the service that Toner Hollick provided to the Pine Creek Preservation Association. Toner was a very detailed individual and liked to follow our bylaws to a "T", and why not, he helped to write them. He always prepared an agenda and followed that as well. Because of all the organizations that Toner was involved with, he was on the cutting edge of any happenings or challenges to the valley. One of his greatest joys was to hand out door prizes at our annual picnic. Toner would go into great detail about the donor who contributed each and every prize. It is only fitting that Cummings Township and PCPA placed a bench in his memory at the Cummings Township Recreation Park. The park was one of Toner's visions and was instrumental to make it happen."

COVID has been devastating to local businesses in the Valley. Please patronize the following businesses or say thank you to those organizations & individuals who so generously donated door prizes for our 2020 picnic and are held over for picnic 2021.

Valley Businesses: Cedar Run Inn --- Cedar Run Store --- Happy Acres Restaurant --- Hotel Manor --- McConnell's Country Store -- Waterville Tavern --- Wolfe's General Store --- Pine Creek Service (Jeff's Garage)

Jersey Shore: Jersey Shore State Bank --- Shore Diner --- Weis Market --- Venture Inn --- Crystal Beverage

Individuals: Jeff Campbell --- Mike Engle

Fun Facts of Pine Creek Valley

How much do you know about the Pine Creek Valley?

1. The rails to trails is based on the railroad path through the Pine Creek Valley. Do you know when the last train ran on the rails in the valley?

2. Potter County is the only place east of the Rocky Mountains where a Triple Continental Divide occurs. Into which major body of water does Pine Creek waters eventually empty?

3. What is the largest "creek" in Pennsylvania?

4. Can you name the four counties the Pine Creek flows through?

5. Which tributary of the West Branch Susquehanna River has the largest watershed?

6. The Iroquois called Pine Creek *Tiadaghton*. What does *Tiadaghton* mean?



“Email & Website News”

If you would like to be included on our Email News for Members, simply include your email address (or change of email address) on your Membership Application or send an Email to the Secretary at lgasperine@verizon.net. To learn more about our organization and activities, visit our website at <http://pinecreekpcpa.org>.

PCPA would like to go as green if possible. To accomplish this goal, please indicate if you would like to receive your newsletter digitally, please send an email to lgasperine@verizon.net.

2021 Large Trash Collection

Members who own property in McHenry and Brown Townships. Information on municipal waste disposal may be found on each of the township's web site.

Brown Township - <https://pinecreekvalley.com/local-government/brown-township/> - Bulk trash pick-up on the second Saturday in November and May. More details on the township website.

McHenry Township - <https://pinecreekvalley.com/local-government/mchenry-township/>

PCPA Meetings and COVID

Although our lifestyles have been significantly curtailed due to the COVID-19 virus, the PCPA has continued to hold meetings online via Zoom. The only thing you need to participate is a computer connected to the internet (or smart phone) and the Zoom app. The secretary sends out the agenda approximately two weeks prior to a meeting date along with an invitation to the Zoom meeting. You may download the Zoom program prior to the meeting time, then click on the invitation link to connect.

If anyone would like to do a practice session prior to the meeting, email Lou Anne Gasperine (lgasperine@verizon.net) and we can schedule that practice session. We apologize to regular members that do not have internet access or the capabilities. A bonus is there are some members outside of the area that were able to take part in the meetings. This is not a perfect situation but it is the best solution that we have to keep our members safe given the COVID restrictions.

PCPA Special Activities

In June, the PCPA sponsored the “Kids Corner” for the Second Sunday Makers Market at “Up The Crick”. PCPA Volunteers assisted with the kid's project while the parents shopped at the various merchants on the grounds. The project the kids made was a bird feeder consisting of a pinecone smeared with shortening and rolled in bird seed. A hanger was made from twine so the feeder could be hung in a tree when the children got home. Fun was had by all and watching the kids make the feeders was entertaining. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, vendors were unable to participate at the Waterville Apple Butter Festival in 2020. As a community outreach, PCPA volunteers staffed a tent at the Mt Top Fall Fest in October. We were pleased to greet current members, answer questions, provide information, and welcome 40 new members to start off 2021!

Links for Additional Organizations in the Valley

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

Slate Run Brown Trout Club: www.facebook.com/groups/226758475563659

Trout Unlimited Chapters:

Tiadaghton Chapter: www.tu.org/chapter/688-tiadaghton

Susquehanna Chapter: www.susquehannatu.com

Slate Run Sportsmen: www.slaterunsportsmen.com



Middle Susquehanna River Keeper - <http://www.middlesusquehannariverkeeper.org/>

PCPA Wearables

We had a good turnout for our new wearable purchases this past fall and at a PCPA event in October. If you are not aware, we have some cool new items, all embroidered, plus our screened tee shirts, both men's and ladies. New items are listed at a link that it is in this newsletter, along with an order blank to order items. I handle all the orders and local delivery to you. You can mail or email the order blank along with a check made out to me, Jeff Campbell, and I will order your items. Just a note- I will hold all the embroidered item orders for a spell, until I get a decent amount that can be stitched all at once, manufacturer's request.

Again, we are a non-profit organization, so this is **not** a PCPA fundraiser. The costs cover the item and shipping to me. Any questions, you may call or email me at the info on the bottom of the order form. The tee shirts run a bit small, so don't be afraid to upsize your choice.

Please be legible on the order form, making sure that I can clearly read your writing, and also check the amounts (e.g. S___ M___ L___ XL_2___ 2X___, etc) that you enter in the check boxes.

Again, for the love of our great organization and the love of the valley,

Jeff Campbell – Vice President

*Note: An order form for wearables may be found on our website at <http://pinecreekpcpa.org> .

PCPA Stickers

The PCPA have older stickers that are available for members. If you would like a sticker from a previous year, please let us know. To all Life Members, there is a new Life Member Sticker. To request a Life Member sticker, please contact the secretary at lgasperine@verizon.net or send a note to PCPA, PO Box 11, Waterville, PA 17776.

Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation

(Mary Bennett reached out to Attorney John Childs of the PEDF for an update on the legal issues the PEDF is pursuing concerning the Pine Creek Valley.)

Mary,

Good to hear from you. We do appreciate the continuing support of the PCPA!

Last year the work for PEDF was intense, but not conclusive. I wish we could have a full half hour or so to meet at the Forestry Office to fully discuss.

We have four (4) cases in court that were very active in 2020.

In the Supreme Court, against the Governor and the General Assembly, the case on whether the bonus and rental payments from the oil and gas leases are part of the public trust along with the royalties that the Supreme Court decided in 2017. The bonus and rental payments have been and will continue to be significant. The 2010 payments of \$383,000,000 were all bonus payments. That case was fully briefed and argued before the Supreme Court in September, 2020. We are waiting for a decision.

Also, in the Supreme Court we have appealed the Commonwealth Court decision to approve the 2017-2018 and the 2018-2019 Appropriations Acts, transferring @ \$100,000,000 from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, along with the 2017 Fiscal Code which repealed the 1955 Oil and Gas Lease Fund Act, which gave DCNR complete control over the oil and gas lease moneys to be used exclusively on projects which benefit the State Forest and Parks. Instead, the General Assembly now has complete control of the fund, and can appropriate the lease fund money pretty much as they want. We are currently writing our brief to the Supreme Court as to why these actions violate Article I Section 27. It is due the 22nd of February.

[Article 1, Section 27 of the Constitution states “The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”]

In the Commonwealth Court in 2020 we filed a new case, this time directly against DCNR and Secretary Dunn. We are challenging the 2016 State Forest Resource Management Plan, which makes continuing leasing our State Forest for oil and gas extraction for the specific purpose to raise revenue for the economic benefit of the Commonwealth, i.e. to save the General Assembly from having to raise taxes such as the severance tax on the oil and gas industry.

Additionally, we filed a separate challenge against the continuing appropriations from the oil and gas revenue to pay for DCNR's operations in 2019-2020. At the request of the Governor and the Commonwealth that case has been stayed pending the cases in the Supreme Court.

We are confident of a good opinion from the Supreme Court this year!

Let me know if you have any questions.

John

Answers to the Fun Facts on Pine Creek Valley

1. The last train ran through the gorge on October 7, 1988. (source: <https://www.trailink.com/trail-history/pine-creek-rail-trail/>)
2. Chesapeake Bay (source: <https://uncoveringpa.com/pennsylvania-facts>)
3. Pine Creek runs from Potter County just southeast of Ulysses and ends at the Susquehanna River near the small town of Jersey Shore and covers over 80 miles. A vast number of streams and creeks feed into Pine Creek creating the largest “Creek” in the United States. (source: <https://pinecreekvalley.com/about?>)
4. Tioga, Potter, Lycoming and Clinton counties (source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine_Creek_\(Pennsylvania\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine_Creek_(Pennsylvania)))
5. Pine Creek – has 979 square miles (source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine_Creek_\(Pennsylvania\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine_Creek_(Pennsylvania)))
6. Pine Creek is named for the vast number of Pine Trees that surround the creek and cover the mountains in the area. The name stems from the Iroquois Indians that once called Pine Creek, Tiadaghton, or “River of Pine”. (source: <https://pinecreekvalley.com/about?>)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

MEMBER INFO:

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 State _____ ZIP _____
 Email _____

Camp/Cottage:

Camp Name _____
 Address or _____
 Location _____

Camp/Organization – please indicate number of members
 over 18 years of age (voters) --- ()

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 - \$ _____



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