

Friends of DWGNRA Newsletter

FALL- 2025

Become a Friend Today, and Help Protect Tomorrow



Visit Our Website

Contact Us



Greetings!

Welcome to the FALL 2025 Friends of DWGNRA Newsletter!

We hope everyone is looking forward to enjoying fall here in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

As you plan your trips to the park, remember that the weather and construction can offer a challenge to just getting around. So it is always a good idea to check out the Park's FaceBook page for up-to-date information on parking and other conditions in the Park before visiting. Check out the current Park's alerts at <https://www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>.

Photo: Karen Keenan - A pond at PEEC

Our Events have begun JOIN US

Those of us at the Friends of the DWGNRA have put a schedule of events together for the Fall months that we hope will be of interest to our members and others.



THE 2025 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT 2025 Adult Impact Award Recipient Karen Tiesling-Keenan

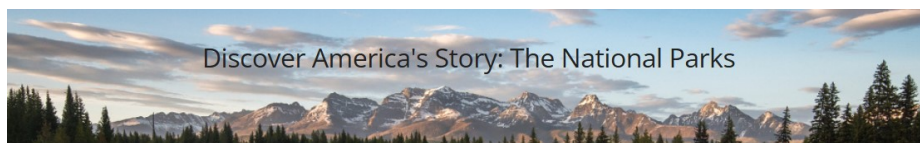


Living on the Wild Side

**A Walk and a Talk with Charlie Fineran and
Stephanie Sherman**

Saturday, July 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
at Middle Smithfield Township Cultural Center
Everyone was welcomed, particularly children of

all ages - 5 or 105!!!



Adventures in Our National Park Service

Presentation with Dr. Paul

Saturday, August 23 at 1:00 PM at Middle Smithfield Township Cultural Center

Dr. Paul Kovalski presented a thoroughly entertaining overview of the wide variety of parks within our National Park Service.

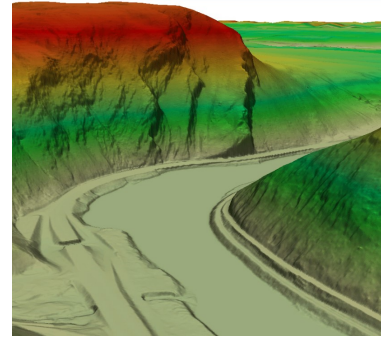
Laser Map the Gap:

A Look at the Geology and History of DWGNRA

Presentation by Jonathan Malzone

Thursday, September 11, 6:30 PM at Shawnee Inn

Jonathan Malzone walked us through the geological history and formation of the DWGNRA using LiDAR.



FESTIVAL OF WOOD

at Grey Towers in Milford PA
September 27, 2025 Free Event

An annual family event with Demos and Goods from the Woods, and a variety of conservation partners in the area.



Available from the Friends

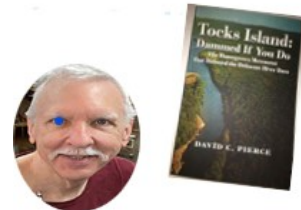


Our 2026 Calendar

\$12 for members

\$15 for non-members

*[https://friendsofdewanps.org/
calendar-purchase](https://friendsofdewanps.org/calendar-purchase)*



Copies of Tocks Island:
Dammed If You Do

by David Pierce

\$16 for Softcover

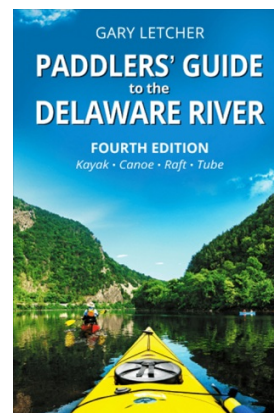
\$26 for Hardcover

Order from Amazon

This book is by Gary Letcher. The cost is \$20.00 for a limited time at our events. You can go to Gary's webpage to order a copy for \$22.95

[https://delawareriverguide.com/books/
paddlers-guide-to-the-delaware-river/](https://delawareriverguide.com/books/paddlers-guide-to-the-delaware-river/)
It can be ordered on Amazon as well.

We also have a few waterproof maps of Gary's covering the Delaware River for only \$15 at our events.



UP-COMING EVENTS

Paint & Sip on Gourds!

Terry Kloiber will lead us again this year to exercise our artistic abilities, even if we don't think we have any. With Terry as our guide, a plain gourd will become unique art piece to take home for the upcoming fall and winter holidays.

Thursday, Oct 30 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

at Middle Smithfield Township Community & Cultural Center
5200 Milford Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Cost is \$30 and registration is required as seats are limited!!

[Click here](#) for more details and to register for the event!



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 11 from 11:00 am to 4 pm

at PEEC, 538 Emery Road, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

Phone 570-828-2319 Email: peec@peec.org

Cost is \$5 per car

Celebrate Fall at PEEC's Annual Harvest Festival



Van Campen Day

Sunday, October 12 from noon to 4:00 pm.

At Walpack Village and the Van Campen Inn

Free - open to general public

"When Walpack was at the edge of the frontier."



DINE TO DONATE

Friday, October 24, 4 pm to 8pm or

Saturday Oct 25, noon to 8 pm

318 Stroud Mall, Stroudsburg Pa 570-424-2467

Dine In or Take Out - 10% of total food purchases for Friends of DWGNRA



DWGNRA News

New arrowheads!!

The Friends of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area were happy to provide the funding to replace the vandalized and stolen National Park Service arrowheads for the North and South entrance Signs!



What Happens During a Government Shutdown?

According to the NPS Contingency Plan (September 2025):

- Most **NPS sites will be closed** to public access.
- **Visitor services will be suspended**, including interpretive programs, maintenance, and public communications.
- **Park roads, trails, and open-air memorials** may remain physically accessible, but **services such as trash collection, restrooms, and emergency response will be significantly reduced**.
- **Park websites and social media** will not be updated, except for emergency notifications.
- **No new permits** will be issued, and special events requiring NPS oversight will be canceled.

If you have any emergencies in the park, please call the 24-Hour Emergency line at (570) 426-2457.

Be prepared and have contingency plans if visiting the park during the government shutdown. And please be diligent about cleaning up after yourselves.

The Plight of the Bats

By Steph Sherman

Love them or hate them, bats usually create some strong feelings for people. Yet most of us are amicable towards them at least around one time of year: Halloween. Bats have faced centuries of bad publicity from humans as creatures that go “bump” in the night. Honestly though, bats really do not want to “bump” into anything except for a plump moth. Scientists have worked hard to advocate for these important mammals and today they need our care more than ever as seasons and weather patterns shift on top of additional threats like disease. When you get down to it, bats are very similar to us in that sometimes all they really need is a good homelife, a supportive community and some helpful friends.

It is commonly known bats live in colonies, usually in caves or trees, but sometimes in attics too. (Who can blame them when it's safe, warm and cozy where people live?) Much as we would say “it takes a village to raise a child,” we could say it takes a roost to raise a pup as a close knit group helps ensure enough body heat for babies to grow successfully. Mothers will generally form a nursery colony together and take turns watching each other's pups as a friend heads out for a bite to eat. Sound familiar? And pick-up time from daycare is similar with mom and baby having their own unique codeword calls coupled by a scent test. (Since, you know, it's dark at night and noses can't see.) When you think about it, those flying fluffballs will grow up over summer chopping down thousands of insects nightly only to curl back up for a winter nap in a large fuzzy



pile. It's enough to make anyone a bit envious of such a supportive family group.

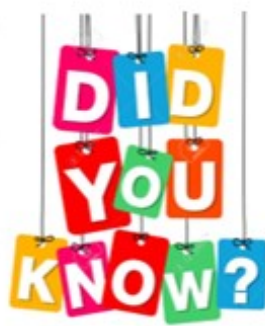
Sadly, the homelife isn't what it used to be. Sometimes you just end up finding a pretty bad mold problem, or in this case, fungus. White Nose Syndrome has put a real damper on the winter holiday season for "The Bats" family. This European fungus was introduced to New York in 2006 and has been as the equivalent of COVID-19 to our North American bats, taking out nearly 90% of 3 species that live here in PA and across the country. I'm not going to lie, that's a lot more bugs not being eaten in the food chain right there. Side of Zika with your West Nile Virus?

While not the most glamorous neighbor, bats have been downright model citizens in their community service efforts. They are the nightly mosquito exterminators flying up and down your streets, gobbling up the true pests for us. In other regions, they're the nightshift gardeners who pollinate tropical flowers, like agave and giant cacti, or plant new rainforest trees with a drop of some fruit. I mean, even just at the cost of a regular exterminator, those chores would definitely offset the neighborhood rent, right?

So how can we, in turn, be helpful friends to our neighborhood bats? By giving them exactly what we would want too, just in bat form. A supportive community? Setting up a bat box in your neighborhood takes on the very essence of "if you build it, they will come" by welcoming traveling bats into an appropriate safe spot. How about a good homelife? While I'm not saying adopt the little fur babies in the attic, always make sure to work with a professional to remove bats in a humane way as to let new moms move out with their young. And if you do happen to find a lone bat in need of help, connect and support the PA Bat Conservation and Rehab center out of Mertztown, PA. (Seriously, they are amazing people.) But after all that great community outreach, the best thing we all can do at the end of the day is just realize how connected we are with nature everyday in just our own backyards. So, like a good neighbor, head outside tonight and check to see that Mr. and/or Mrs. Bat came out for their nightly rounds.

For more information on our local bats, their conservation, and what our amazing rehabbers are up to, check out pabatrehab.org. You can even sponsor a bat of your own!





Pennsylvania Black Bear

It is unlawful to intentionally lay or place food, fruit, hay, grain, chemical, salt or other minerals that may cause bears to congregate or habituate an area. In addition, if conflict bears are being attracted to an area by other wildlife feeding, game wardens can issue written notice to temporarily halt the activity.

Pennsylvania boasts one of the largest black bear populations in the United States. With suitable habitats and abundant food sources, these magnificent creatures have found a welcoming environment in the state.

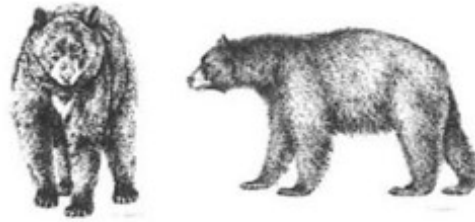


Adult male black bears in

Pennsylvania can weigh anywhere between 200 to 700 pounds, making them the largest land mammals in the state. Females are generally smaller and can weigh between 100 to 600 pounds.

These bears are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. Their diet mainly consists of berries,

Female Black Bear



- Cubs may be with her or nearby
- Appears pear shaped from the side with large rump
- Rump is higher than front shoulders
- Has small shoulders and front end
- Legs appear longer
- Neck is thinner and more distinct
- Face is slender and tapered
- Head and shoulders are about the same width
- Young bears of both sexes often look like females

Male Black Bear



- Cubs are never with him
- Generally larger than the female
- Adult will be more than 30 inches tall at the shoulder
- Appears square from the side
- Rump and shoulders are similar in height
- Legs appear short
- Ears appear small compared to the size of its head

acorns, nuts, grasses, insects, and occasionally small mammals or carrion.

During the cold winter months, black bears in Pennsylvania retreat to their dens and enter a state of hibernation. This helps them conserve energy and survive the harsh winter conditions.



Black bears have one of the best senses of smell among all land animals. They can detect scents from miles away, making them skilled hunters and foragers.

While black bears occasionally form small family groups, they are generally solitary creatures. The adult males have territories ranging from 10 to 50 square miles, while

females have smaller territories of about 2 to 10 square miles.

These bears excel at both swimming and climbing. They are excellent tree climbers and can quickly ascend tall trees to escape threats or search for food.

After a gestation period of around 7 months, female black bears give birth to 1-4 cubs. The cubs stay with their mother for over a year, learning essential survival skills before becoming independent.

Black bears play a crucial role in shaping the ecosystem by dispersing seeds through their scat and helping maintain plant populations. They also help control herbivore populations and contribute to nutrient cycling.

In recognition of its significance and presence in the state, the black bear was designated as the official state mammal of Pennsylvania in 1980.

While black bears are large and powerful animals, they are usually non-aggressive towards humans. They prefer to avoid confrontations and will typically retreat if they sense danger.

Black bears possess an impressive long-term memory. They can remember locations of food sources, territories, and other landmarks for several years.

These magnificent creatures contribute to the ecological balance and continue to captivate wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers alike



For things to do with other DWGNRA partners:



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

PEEC in Dingman's Ferry is the perfect place for learning, exploring, getting away, and connecting. With six hiking trails, weekend educational programs, and summer camps, PEEC is a great place for nature lovers of all ages, families, friends, photographers, youth and adult groups, scouts, students.

PEEC has many events throughout the fall!

Check their calendar on their *website under programs or click here!*

A list of our other DWGNRA partners:

Visit PEEC at their website, www.PEEC.org

Visit Peters Valley School of Craft, www.petersvalley.org.

Visit the Walpack Historical Society, www.walpackhistory.org.

Visit the Millbrook Village Society, facebook.com/Millbrook-Village-Society-413672305431861

Visit the Friends of Marie Zimmermann, friendsofmariezimmermann.com

Visit the Montague Grange # 140 , facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085700530211

ABOUT US



Our Mission

The Friends strive to preserve the natural, historical, recreational, and cultural features of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

By gathering donations and finding volunteers, the Friends are able to provide funding for vital park projects, as well as support day-to-day operations.

[Donate Today](#)

[Volunteer](#)



Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter. Remember to contact us via the website or Facebook with your thoughts and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Friends of the DWGNRA

**Friends of Delaware Water Gap National
Recreational Area**

Email Us: info@friendsofdewanps.org

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