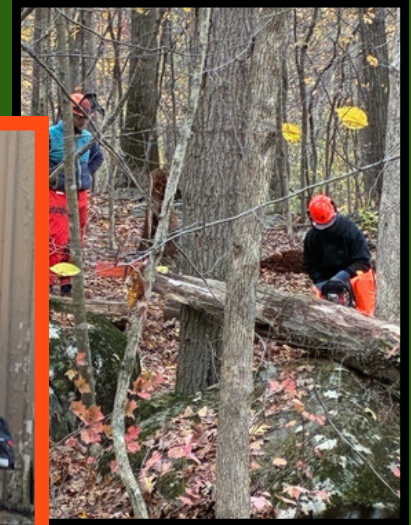


# The Pinchot Eagle

NOV/DEC 2025, ISSUE 50

VOLUNTEER

GIVE NOW



## sawyer chainsaw training

by Jim Hugar

PPFF and Gifford Pinchot State Park hosted a two-day classroom and hands-on chainsaw training course designed specifically for volunteers. The focus of the course was on removing downed trees from trails and other obstructed areas. The course was conducted by US Forest Service certified C-Sawyer Evaluator Peter Jensen. Some of the topics covered included: job hazards, emergency preparedness, sawyer/swamper relations, situational awareness, personal protective equipment, basic chainsaw operation and maintenance, cutting plans and much more. A special thanks to the three Friends of Pinchot volunteers, Bryce Kruger, Frank Grumbine and Todd Miller, who took two days out of their week to attend this training. Here are a few of their thoughts, "Peter was an excellent communicator and coach that made the group feel like a team. I found the chainsaw class very educational. It really increased my awareness of safety and gave me a much better understanding of how to properly use and maintain my chainsaw.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to partake in the chainsaw training and be able to help the park clear downed trees in the future. Gifford Pinchot State Park has given me so much through my life and it feels great to give back."



# pinchotween 2025



Representatives from the Friends and the Park staff helped campers and guests celebrate Pinchotween on Saturday October 18th. Various activities were available for both young and old alike. Over 280 individuals stopped by the station to participate in the activities, to get information on the Friends of Pinchot and to get a packet of pollinator wildflower seeds. In addition, the limited addition of the 1st Pinchotween stickers were available for purchase.





# getting pinchot hikers out of the mud

by Jim Hugar

The Friends of Pinchot (FOP) and members of the Keystone Trail Association (KTA) met on October 4th to initiate repairs on the Ridge Trail. This section of Ridge Trail is also part of the Mason-Dixon Trail that runs thru GPSP. The efforts focused on critical repairs along several sections of Ridge Trail between the campground access road (Trail Marker #44) and the first stream crossing (~1238 LF East of Marker #44).

Over the 1238' of trail, 289 feet was upgraded with 3"- 4" inches of gravel including installation of two 15' long burritos (French drain mattress), three diversion dips/crossovers and one section of woven geotextile was installed over a section of deep organic soil. The woven geotextile fabric prevents the gravel walking course from being worked into soil during wet conditions. Two of the areas sat in depressions and drainage channels, including French drains, we installed to allow water to move out of the depressed area. On Saturday the third drainage structure was installed along with 4" - 5" of additional gravel over ~ 40' of low-lying trail (area of woven geotextile) and an additional 2" - 3" over the two burritos, and an additional 15' of trail received gravel. The dry conditions on October 4th were not conducive to compacting the gravel but ~1" of rain on 3 - 4 October made compaction effective and all the newly surfaced areas were compacted with a flat plate vibratory compactor.



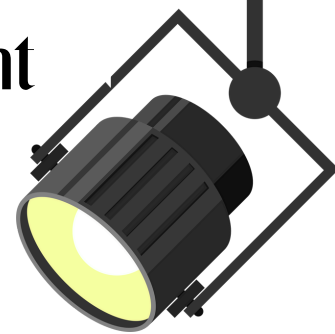
thank you for being a friend

THANK  
YOU!





# volunteer spotlight



**MAGGIE  
WONSICK &  
TRAIN YARD**



Our job at Pinchot is to walk the Quaker Race Trail (about 2.8 miles) once a month to keep it in good shape. We pick up trash, trim back areas that are crowding the trail, move fallen branches and logs off the trail if they aren't too big, and report if there is anything too big for us to handle.

Train Yard Gym & Fitness adopted the trail in January 2021, so we are coming up on five years now. I knew that some people were hesitant to come back to the gym after Covid, so I was looking for a way we could get people moving outdoors. As a bonus, we get to help our community!

We all enjoy getting to be out in nature together and getting to know each other better than we can in our time in the gym.

We like the challenge of trying to clear thick branches with our hand tools and using teamwork to move big logs. Having to call in the chain saws is a bit of a failure and last resort 😅!

It's always interesting to see what we find along the trail. The strangest thing we've found is a bed pillow. It was about midway through the trail so we had a long way to carry it out!

**We feel it's important to volunteer at Pinchot because it gets a lot of use and we want to keep it in good shape so it will continue to attract people to spend time outdoors.**



thank you  
for giving  
a hoot!



Article originally posted by Raven Ridge Wildlife Center on Facebook.

In August, we received a call from Park Ranger Albright at Gifford Pinchot State Park about a Great Horned Owl that was on the ground and unable to stand or fly. We discussed with Ranger Albright how to safely capture the owl, as they can be unpredictable, even if they appear sick or injured. Their instinct is either to fight or flight. Ranger Albright managed to wrap the owl in a thick blanket and place it securely in a cardboard box. Upon arrival, the owl was very quiet, which made us a bit nervous since we heard no movement or noise coming from the box as we prepared to open it. As we slowly opened the box and removed the blanket, we were met with the owl's head, its enormous yellow eyes looking back at us, and it was clicking. After carefully removing the owl from the box, we conducted a complete examination. The owl was found to be dehydrated and underweight, so we administered fluids and gave it time to rest. When we called Ranger Albright, there was silence on the other end of the phone. However, there was a sigh of relief and happiness when we informed him that his owl was ready to return home. We felt it was special to have the Ranger who rescued her be the one to release her back into the wild. It was clear that when the Ranger and the owl made eye contact, she recognized him immediately. With a little coaxing and conversation, the owl realized she was home and knew exactly where she was.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Make a difference in your  
community as a  
Master Watershed Steward!

- ✓ Receive 40 hours of training in environmental resources.
- ✓ Work on restoration projects, educational programs and more!
- ✓ Choose from a variety of opportunities based on your time and interests.

Master Watershed  
Steward Program

**SPRING CLASSES FORMING NOW**

[extension.psu.edu/protectwater](http://extension.psu.edu/protectwater)



**REFER A  
FRIEND**

When you bring a friend, both  
you and your friend get 20%  
off our one-time training fee

Applications are being accepted for the 2026 Master Watershed Steward training. If you have a love for the natural world and a strong desire to make a difference in your community and watershed, please consider joining us. We have a fun bunch of volunteers here in York County. Two information sessions are planned for interested individuals who want to learn more about the York MWS program. Click [here](#) for more information.



Say Happy Holidays  
with a one time  
donation in honor  
or in memory of  
someone you love.

And remember  
Pinchot Merch is  
available all year  
long in the Park  
Office - cash or  
check only.  
Thank you!

happy  
holidays



## 2025 volunteer picnic



## hunting changes

Beginning in the 26-27 hunting license year, DCNR plans to expand Sunday hunting opportunities to most state parks that currently allow hunting, with decisions made on a park-by-park basis.

Hunting area extended for waterfowl (+40 acres) as well as Conewago (+125 acres) from Midland trail to Alpine road, & removal of Nov 1 firearms restrictions, now allowing spring turkey, early muzzleloader, and early small game hunting. More info [here](#).

## be a friend

Not yet a friend of Pinchot?  
Make a yearly gift of as little as \$15 per year and support the park and get this newsletter delivered to your inbox monthly! Find out more [here](#)!

## advisory board

Betsy Leppo, Chair  
Jim Hugar, Co-chair  
Tammy Klunk, Treasurer  
Karen Tynes, Secretary  
Terry Christopher, Social Media Coordinator  
Joyce Gayman, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator  
Phyllis Crooks  
Dean Gibbons  
Jim Grove

Newsletter editor: Abby Leese

## pinchot merch

Wear your love of Pinchot on your sleeve or your water bottle!

Purchase Pinchot Merch:  
Year-round at the [Park Office](#)



## board news



The board will be taking nominations for the position of board secretary. Email us at [friendsofpinchot@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpinchot@gmail.com) for more information.

## be in touch



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