

The Pinchot Eagle

SEPT 2025, ISSUE 48

UPCOMING EVENTS

VOLUNTEER

GIVE NOW

explore pinchot's meadows

by Betsy Leppo

This summer, biologists with the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program checked on several wildflower meadows in the park. These meadows support a variety of lovely native plants and insects, but are in need of ongoing maintenance to keep them open and to prevent overgrowth by invasive species like Japanese stiltgrass and autumn olive shrubs. We also checked on the fencing around some sensitive plants that are unique in the park. These plants had been struggling to flower and fruit due to constant deer browse, but are thriving now in their protective enclosures. The Friends of Pinchot have helped to fence and monitor these special plant populations.



An interesting insect we observed in a meadow was a silver-spotted hanging thief, a type of robber fly that feeds on smaller insects.



Wildflower meadows were created by farmers clearing land and grazing livestock prior to the park's creation in the 1960s. Some of these meadows stayed open for decades due to the thin soils over diabase bedrock, but in recent years they have been filling in with shrubs and trees.

This yellowfruit horse-gentian is a southern species that nears its northern limit in Pennsylvania and is only known from a few locations in the state. The fruits develop where the leaves meet the stem, and have thin leafy wings encircling the top of the fruit like little green stars. Deer persistently nipped the plants and prevented them from flowering and fruiting until we placed protective cages around them.



THE YORK COUNTY PA OUTDOOR CORP

(PAOC) repaired over 210 feet of Lakeside Trail East of the Quaker Race Day Use Area. Working with the Park Staff the Friends triaged the worst sections of the trail, developed repair strategies, and material requirements based on DCNR guidelines and PSU Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Practices. The PAOC replaced a 12" culvert that was 90% clogged and installed ~150' of raised trail to gain enough trail elevation to keep it above the lakes typical high-water mark. This raised trail includes an additional 6" culvert. The culvert will allow water to transition to the uphill side of the trail as the lake rises and falls. During the execution phase the Friends and Park Staff supported the movement of materials and provided technical guidance. Without the enthusiastic and skilled support of the PAOC these sections of trail would continue to be difficult to traverse and hikers would continue to seek alternative routes causing additional harm to the ecosystem and sediment runoff to the lake.

by Jim Hugar

THANK
YOU!



board news

The board will be taking nominations for the position of board secretary. Email us at friendsofpinchot@gmail.com for more information.

DESIGN THE NEXT PINCHOT PATCH!

Submit your Gifford Pinchot State Park photos - the winning photo will be replicated on a 3" x 3" embroidered patch. Please submit your photos in jpg format to friendsofpinchot@gmail.com by 10/24/25



save the date!

volunteer picnic
Thurs Oct 2
5:30pm
Sunnyside
Pavilion

pinchot merch

 **FOR SALE**

Hooded Sweatshirts.....\$35
Long-Sleeved Hoodies.....\$25
T-Shirts (Youth & Adult).....\$20*
*[Friends of Pinchot Members – \$16]
Tote Bags.....\$15
Ball Caps.....\$15
Beanies.....\$15
PA Passports.....\$13
Souvenir Patches.....\$5
Bandannas.....\$5
Stickers/Magnets.....\$4

CASH or CHECK*
only, please!

*Check made payable to PPFF

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

Pinchot Merch:

April – Oct at the Campground Office
(weekends only starting at noon on Fri.)

AND Year-round at the Park Office



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!

be a volunteer

Make new friends and a difference!

Learn more and sign up 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

be in touch

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