

The Pinchot Eagle

APRIL/MAY 2026, ISSUE 52

VOLUNTEER

EVENTS

GIVE NOW

native plant sale



Sunday May 17
Conewago Day Use Area
Sunnyside Pavilion
11-2pm

SUPPORT PINCHOT AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY BUYING NATIVE

Stock up on Pinchot merch.

**Become a member of Friends of Pinchot for \$15 a year and
get a discount on merch!**

Cash or check only



Swamp Milkweed
Blue False Indigo
False Aster
Blue wood sedge
Seersucker sedge
Northern sea oats
Joe Pye - Baby Joe
Sneezeweed
Blue Cardinal Flower
Bee Balm - scarlet
Bee Balm -spotted
Golden Ragwort
Phlox - Blue moon
Christmas Fern
**Hoary skullcap - prairie
snow**
Foamflower

vernal pool walks





spring wildflower walks



By: Jim Hugar

The first spring wildflower walk “sprouted” on April 2. Despite a dreary day the walkers were greeted with some early blooms of Round Leaf Hepatica, Spring Beauties, Wind Flowers (Rue Anemone), and the lime green flower buds bursting on the Spice Bush. The flower of the day was the bountiful blossoms of Blood Root which had 8 to 16 cloud white petals! These early ephemerals are crucial for early bees and other pollinators. The second walk on April 11th was a much sunnier and warmer day. Mother Nature added Red Buds, Virginia Bluebells, Yellow Trout-Lilies, Butter cups, Yellow and Blue Violets, Marsh Marigolds, Pussy Toes, Bluets (Quaker Ladies), a few ferns pushing their fronds, Dutchmen’s Breeches, and a few Trilliums including one red! There were still a few Round Leaf Hepatica and Bloodroot (more than we expected). The third walk on the 16th provided us some new entries into our list of blooming spring ephemerals with many Jack in the Pulpit, Early Saxifrage, American Black Currant, one Wild Pink and an abundance of wildflowers about to burst open. Unfortunately, there were no blooms remaining of the Trout Lilies, Hepaticas and Dutchmen’s Breech’s. We are always serenaded by an abundance of birds and often see a lot of pollinators. This Eastern Comma butterfly joined us and hung around to show off her bright colors. The food plant for the caterpillar includes nettles, elms, and hackberry, all abundant in the park..

There is one wildflower walk on May 11th at 2:00 PM, the Annual Mother’s Day Walk. We will meet at the Conewago Day Use Area, Sunnyside Pavilion. The walk will take about 2 hours.

getting the hikers out of the mud

Huge shoutout to our amazing volunteers who showed up for the first of our monthly trail care events! Not even a little rain could stop this determined crew from getting the job done along Lakeside Trail in the Quaker Race Day Use Area near the ADA fishing pier.

They placed 3 inches of gravel over a 15 foot section of exposed French Mattress rehabilitated 110 feet of trail, and installed a crossover for a small spring run to allow it to cross the trail at a stabilized point and reduce erosion. In addition they trimmed overhanging branches along the trail and cut back invasive multi-flora rose and autumn olive shrubs. All that hard work paid off with a stunning rainbow over the lake at the end of the evening. We couldn't have asked for a better ending. Thank you all for your dedication!



Join the "Rainbow Team" next month on May 12th, 5:00PM at the ELC in Conewago Day Use Area.



blue bird nesting boxes are constructed

by Jim Hugar

The Friends of Pinchot worked with the Park Staff and Troop # PA0304 of the American Heritage Girls to construct 22 bluebird nesting boxes with sponsorship from the West Shore Free Church.

Rebekah Hugar planned the project as part of her advancement, which included soliciting donations, and developing the workstations and workflow for various levels in her troop.

Volunteers cut the pine boards to the appropriate lengths, and seventeen girls assembled and painted the boxes under the supervision of ten adults.

The Friends will complete the construction by adding aluminum roof caps to the boxes, before donating them to Gifford Pinchot State Park for their Blue Bird Nesting and Monitoring Program.



2026

FREEDOM TO EXPLORE

Photo Contest

Celebrating 250 Years of Pennsylvania's Outdoor Heritage

The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers alike. All photos must be taken in a Pennsylvania state park or forest.

For full contest details, visit ppff.online/PhotoContest

2026 Categories:

- Pursuit of Happiness
- Freedom to Belong
- Voices of the Land
- We the Stewards
- Paths Through Time
- Youth (12-17)

Deadline is Sept. 30!

leave no trace

Originally posted on FB [here](#). Our Chapter and Public Engagement Coordinator Bryce Kruger underwent Leave No Trace training at the Raystown Field Station with other Juniata College Environmental Programs students! As a level 1 instructor Bryce can now share this knowledge via workshops parks and forests near you. Need a refresher on the seven principles of LNT?

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Join us for our next Tap Talk: The How's and Why's of Managing Natural Lands. Explore natural land management with Lancaster Conservancy forester, Eric Roper, and enjoy good food, local brews, and trivia! Tap Talks are held in partnership with Watershed Alliance of York PA and Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association. Please register using this [link](#)

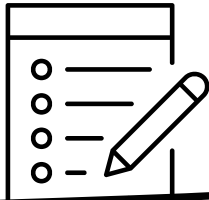
The Hows and Whys of Managing Natural Lands

at Collusion Tapwork's "The Sideshow" in York

May 21, 2026
6:00-8:00 PM

how are we
doing?

CLICK [HERE](#) TO GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS AND
SUGGESTIONS ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE OF
PINCHOT STATE PARK



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 regularly! Find
out more [here](#)!

advisory board

Jim Hugar, Chair
Betsy Leppo, Co-chair
Tammy Klunk, Treasurer
Denny Daugherty, Secretary
Alicia Bracken, Social Media and Website
Coordinator
Joyce Gayman, Membership and Volunteer
Coordinator
Phyllis Crooks, Firewood Sales Coordinator

*Two board positions are currently vacant -
please contact us for more information about
these board opportunities.

Newsletter editor: Abby Leese

Merch Sale



Want to help support the park?

Stop by the campground or park office
to get your official Pinchot gear!

All proceeds benefit Gifford Pinchot. Thank you!

- YOUTH & ADULT T-SHIRTS \$20
- LONG SLEEVE HOODIES \$30
- HOODED SWEATSHIRTS \$35
- TOTE BAGS, BALL CAPS, BEANIES \$15
- PA PASSPORT \$13
- SOUVENIR PATCH \$8
- STICKERS & MAGNETS \$4
- BANDANAS, DOG TAGS & HIKING MEDALLIONS \$5

****CASH OR CHECK ONLY****

Please make checks out to PFFF.

Friends of Pinchot members receive Adult and Youth T-shirts at a
discounted rate of \$16.



**Stop by Bathhouse #5 in the B
Loop at the Campground on
Sat May 23rd 9:00-12:00 to
grab new Pinchot merch!**

be in touch



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