

# The Pinchot Eagle



Friends of Pinchot State Park

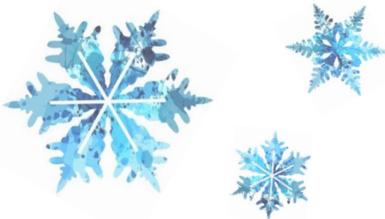
February 2024



Volunteers—Pinchot Staff—Park Visitors  
Thank you, environmental stewards!



The Friends of Pinchot Advisory Board is looking for new board members to serve as Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, and Membership Coordinator. If interested, please contact us at [friendsofpinchot@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpinchot@gmail.com) and more information will be provided.



### **In this issue:**

- Volunteer Corner ..... Page 2
  - Trail Care Day
- Park Upgrades ..... Page 3
  - Sustainability Project
  - Pet-Friendly Campsites
  - Kennel Shelter
- Tributes ..... Page 4
- Events & Activities ..... Page 5
  - Volunteer Picnic
  - Patch-Photo Contest
  - Pinchotween
  - Winter Regulars
  - Upcoming Events
- Meetings-Merch ..... Page 9
- Membership ..... Page 10



# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## Trail Care Day — October 7, 2023

*By Betsy Leppo & Michael Plish*

In October, Pinchot Park held its annual collaborative trail improvement work day with **Keystone Trails Association**, **Mason-Dixon Trail System**, and **Friends of Pinchot State Park**. This year, the group of 12 volunteers and 3 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (**DCNR**) staff members focused on the Beaver Creek Trail/Mason-Dixon Trail section located between Boat Mooring #1 and Squire Gratz Road.

Activities included trimming back much overgrown, hiker-traffic-impeding vegetation, reinforcing the high traffic trail bed sections as well as the trailhead parking area with gravel, and repairing multiple sections of wooden boardwalks that traverse particularly wet sections of trail. A small footbridge was also repaired to improve hiker safety.

Lopping Brush



Adding chicken wire to boardwalks for increased grip and safety



Spreading Stone



Weather was overcast with intermittent rainfall, but for the most part, the weather turned out to be a non-factor. Huge thanks to the volunteers (many of whom travelled far!) who showed up, undeterred by

the threat of rain, to help with this project! In total, volunteers contributed 96 hours—and a Subway lunch, provided by the Friends of Pinchot, wrapped up this year's annual Trail Care Day.

Your passion for making trails safer and more enjoyable for everyone is much appreciated!

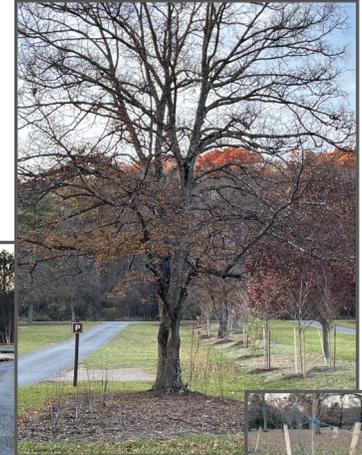


We look forward to Trail Care Day 2024!!!

# PARK UPGRADES

## Sustainability Project

The Quaker Race Sustainability Project is underway! Construction at Quaker Race Day Use Area began this past summer and will continue into 2024. The project accomplishments to date include completion of a new roof on the concession building and the planting of trees and rain gardens for lake shoreline erosion control. The final phase, installation of new, solar canopies over the parking areas and installation of underground electrical lines will resume this spring.

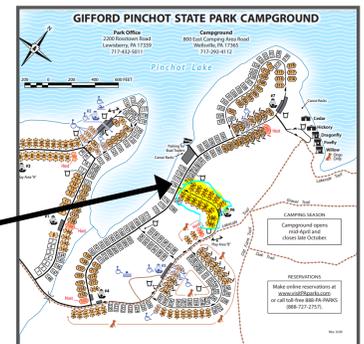


## Pet-Friendly Campsites

**\*NEW\*** for the 2024 Camping Season

Pinchot welcomes pet-campers too!  
Over 50 designated sites are available in the Campground.

**\*14\*** *additional* campsites (highlighted) newly converted to being **pet-friendly!**



## Kennel Shelter

*By Michael Plish*

This past summer, the Friends of Pinchot purchased a portable dog kennel for the park, providing a designated place to house strays found in the park—a recurring instance over the past few years. The kennel offers safe shelter to these animals until the park can remedy the situation—either in finding the owner or by enlisting the assistance of the local PA county dog warden.



Portable Dog Kennel

# TRIBUTES

## Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

October 24, 2023

### DCNR Rangers' Service Earns Governor's Award For Excellence



Congratulations to our rangers at Gifford Pinchot State Park who were recognized by Governor Josh Shapiro for saving the lives of two people on separate occasions as part of their duties at the state park in York County.

The rangers were honored as an outstanding team for ensuring the safety of all visitors, and particularly for helping to rescue visitors with medical issues in two separate incidents in 2022.

Pictured are the award recipients: DCNR Rangers Steven Anderson, Alexander Dale, and Rachel Ann Oplinger; Pennsylvania governor, Josh Shapiro; and Pinchot's Assistant Park Manager, Michael Plish, and Park Manager, Jennifer Park.



### "Behind the Scenes" —



Greetings from *The Pinchot Eagle's* editing assistants, Blanche and Belva...



Blanche in her Nordic helmet & Belva in her beanie... Both hoping for a bit more snow and winter fun before spring arrives!

### Health Benefits of Winter RECREATION

- The cold challenges the body more which can help strengthen heart health (not the case for those with heart disease)
- The body also uses up more energy trying to keep warm, helping to burn more calories
- Getting exposure to sunlight helps with vitamin D levels and protection against seasonal affective disorder
- Colder temps help boost your immune system, helping to fight infections
- Spending time outdoors in winter helps reduce stress and helps you think more clearly



# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

By Betsy Leppo

September 20, 2023

On a gorgeous fall afternoon in September, the Sunnyside Pavilion in Conewago Day Use Area was the setting for a celebration. Hot crockpots, cold salads, and sweet treats covered three large picnic tables. Little fuel cans flickered under steaming trays of barbecue.

We were celebrating the many volunteers who contributed their time and talents to make Pinchot a better place for the diverse flora, fauna, fungi, and fellow humans who find refuge there.



Most of all, we appreciate the amazing volunteers who contributed **3,851 hours of volunteer effort in 2023— the equivalent of 481 8-hour work days!**

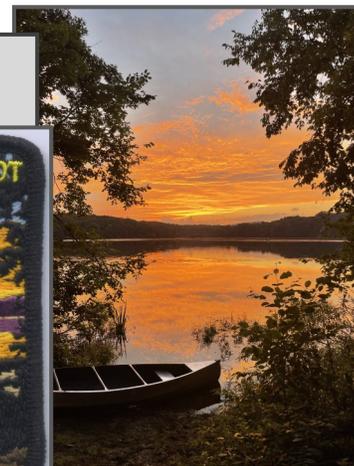
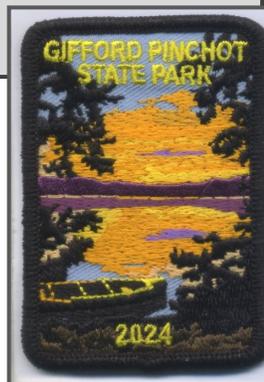
Thanks to the Gifford Pinchot State Park staff and the Friends of Pinchot for hosting the picnic and providing main dishes from Mission BBQ, and to the folks who brought side dishes and desserts to share.

## Patch Design Contest

In 2021, the Friends added souvenir patches to the array of park merchandise available for purchase—the patch to be redesigned annually for collectors. The Friends enlist community help in designing the yearly patch by hosting an annual photo contest.

Presented here is Pinchot's 2024 collector's patch, created from Alexis McCain's original photo. Thank you, Alexis!

Submitted by Alexis McCain



Patches are for sale for \$5 and can be purchased at the Park Office (year-round), the Campground Office (in season), and throughout the year at various events hosted/attended by the Friends of Pinchot.



Keep on snapping photos— and keep your eyes open for information on this year's competition for next year's 2025 patch!

# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## Pinchotween

By Beth Kepley-McNutt & Gretchen Galbraith



This past fall's annual Pinchotween event was held on Saturday, October 21, with this year's scheduled activities held in the campground area for the first time (vs. day-use areas); the many activities included adoptable dogs and a photo booth featuring special guests from **Canine Rescue of Central PA** (<https://www.crcpa.org>), kids' activities and crafts (huge thanks to volunteers from the Friends of Pinchot and local York county Girl Scout troop), and a visit from Smokey Bear!



**Campground trick-or-treat** was held during daylight hours and had no set route, so participants could stop at as many sites as their legs and sweet tooth would allow! A **campground parade** was held at 6 PM, featuring park equipment and vehicles from both PA State Parks and Forestry. Lots of candy was handed out to eager kids in costumes waiting at their campsites.

## Campsite Decorating Contest...

This year, winners were chosen exclusively by registered campers via an online poll, with paper ballots provided for those who could not vote online. Campers were able to vote for their three favorite sites, with the winners receiving a free nights' camping!

"Welcome to the Boneyard"



"Camp Pinchot Lake"



"Haunted House"

*Thank you to everyone who participated in and enjoyed this memorable event!  
We can't wait to see what you all come up with for next year!*

**HAPPY PINCHOTWEEN!**

# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## Winter Regulars...

Each winter, Pinchot regularly hosts a few **annual, fun-filled, cold weather events!** **2023-2024** followed suit, with a great turnout of courageous humans and their canine companions at November's annual 5K Gulliver's Run, January's First Day Hike, and January's Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Participants, spectators and Friends of Pinchot joined in on all of the fun.



November



The 11th annual Gulliver's Run had the largest turnout ever!

January



This year's hike also boasted a large presence of adorable, adoptable pups and their handlers from Canine Rescue of Central PA. (<https://www.crcpa.org>)

Conewago Day Use Area



Preparing Plungers' Pool on Pinchot Lake



Friends of Pinchot Merch/Info Table



Plungers!



Ice Sculptor



# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## Goings-On...

**Mark  
your  
calendars  
for these  
upcoming  
spring  
events!**



### Vernal Pool Walks:

March 22

March 29

April 5

### Wildflower Walks:

April 4

April 13

April 23

May 3

DCNR Calendar of Events:  
[https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/gifford\\_pinchot\\_state\\_park](https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/gifford_pinchot_state_park)



**Native Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

9AM-1PM



Please note that the \*new\* Friends of Pinchot website is currently under construction and therefore, unavailable. Please check back!

**([www.friendsofpinchot.org](http://www.friendsofpinchot.org))**

\*Visit us on Facebook [[www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/)] for more information!

# MEETINGS & MERCHANDISE



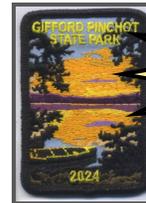
- Hoodies.....\$25**
- T-Shirts.....\$15\***  
\*[Friends of Pinchot Members \$12]
- Tote Bags.....\$15**
- Ball Caps.....\$15**
- Beanies.....\$15**
- PA Passports.....\$13**
- Souvenir Patches.....\$5**
- GIPI Stickers.....\$2**

**CASH or CHECK\***  
only, please!

\*Check made payable to PPF or Friends of Pinchot

Items are available April through October at the Campground Office and year-round at the Park Office.

~ PLEASE STOP BY ~



**Proceeds help to fund improvements in the park!**



**Curious about other park happenings & projects?**

**Join us for a monthly board meeting!**

Meetings are attended by Friends, volunteers, community members, and park staff.

**The public is welcome to attend!**

Meetings take place on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM, excluding the month of December.

Winter meetings are conducted at the Park Office or via Zoom during November, January, and February.

Spring, summer and fall meetings take place at Conewago Day Use Area, Sunnyside Pavilion.



**Volunteer Picnic  
September 18th**

For general information, please email [FriendsofPinchot@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofPinchot@gmail.com),  
 visit our website at [www.friendsofpinchot.org](http://www.friendsofpinchot.org),  
 or visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/).  
 You may also call the Gifford Pinchot State Park office at (717) 432-5011.



*Be safe—Be well!*



Gifford Pinchot State Park continues to be more essential to our community than ever...  
 providing healthy outdoor activity & much needed respite for ALL!  
 Please... consider becoming a Friend of Pinchot!



2200 Rosstown Road  
 Lewisberry, PA 17339  
 (717) 432-5011  
[FriendsofPinchot@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofPinchot@gmail.com)

**ADVISORY BOARD**

**Chair**  
 Vacant

**Co-Chair**  
 Betsy Leppo

**Treasurer**  
 Tammy Klunk

**Secretary**  
 Karen Tynes

**Membership Coordinator**  
 Karen Tynes

**Social Media/Volunteer Coordinator**  
 Terry Christopher

**Newsletter Editor**  
 Flo Spangenberg

**Board Members**  
 Phyllis Crooks  
 Dean Gibbons  
 Jim Grove  
 Jim Hugar  
 Courtney Snyder

**Park Representative**  
 Beth Kepley-McNutt

*This volunteer advisory board is dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the natural and recreational resources of Gifford Pinchot State Park for present and future generations.*

Friends of Pinchot State Park is a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). The PPFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**FRIENDS OF PINCHOT STATE PARK**

2023-24 Annual Membership Application

**Make checks payable to: PPF**  
 (include FOPSP on the memo line)

Mail form with payment to: Friends of Pinchot State Park,  
 2200 Rosstown Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339

NEW MEMBERSHIP  RENEWAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the newsletter via email.

I would like to receive a printed copy of the newsletter in the mail.

I am interested in volunteering.

All members receive a FOPSP membership card, a newsletter subscription to *The Pinchot Eagle*, and discounts on various FOPSP apparel. New members receive a complimentary 4" x 6" oval "GIPI" (Gifford Pinchot) bumper sticker.

- |  |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (age 62+)  | \$10.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase the annual GPSP  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual        | \$15.00   | souvenir patch: Add \$5.00                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family            | \$30.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional tax-deductible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Damselfly Sponsor | \$50.00   | contribution of \$_____                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly Sponsor | \$100.00  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate         | \$250.00+ | <b>TOTAL \$</b> _____                              |

Friends of Pinchot State Park was formed in March 2009 as a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF). The PPFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to PPFF are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

*Memberships are for one year, June 1 through May 31.*



The purpose of conservation:  
 The greatest good to the greatest number of people for the longest time.  
 -Gifford Pinchot

  
**Find us on Facebook at:**  
[Friends of Pinchot](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/)