

# The Pinchot Eagle



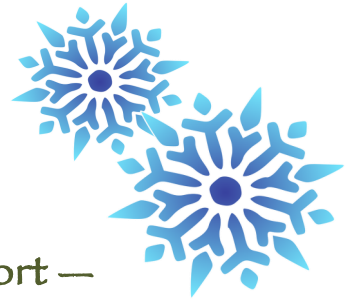
Friends of Pinchot State Park

January 2021



## Friends of Pinchot Members & Volunteers

For all that you do for the park —



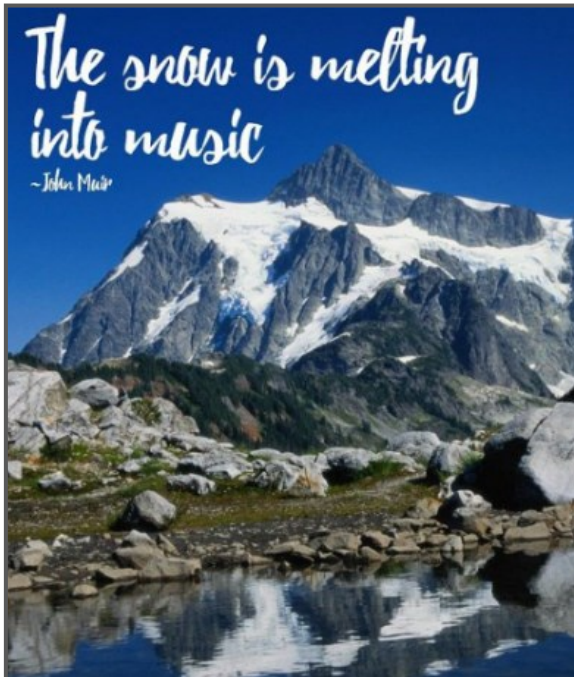
## Community Members & Residents

For your park interest, use, volunteering, and support —

— For maintaining involvement amidst the continued challenges —



# THANK YOU!!!



### **In this issue:**

Volunteer Corner ..... Page 2

- Meadow Restoration
- PA Outdoor Corps
- Trail Care Day

Events & Activities ..... Page 5

- Park Improvements:
  - Amphitheater Lights
  - Lake Drawdown Renovations
- Park Activities:
  - Gulliver's Run
  - Spring/Summer Events



Spotted Lanternfly Information ..... Page 7

New Board Members ..... Page 10

# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## Meadow Restoration

By Betsy Leppo

In our last newsletter, we described some special meadows that are found in the park. These little sun-filled pockets of grasses and wildflowers need regular management to prevent them from filling with shrubs, trees, or invasive plants. One problematic invasive is Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). First reported in the United States in Tennessee in 1919, Japanese stiltgrass (or JSG) was used back then as a packing material for imported porcelain from China. JSG is a quick growing spindly grass that is native to parts of Asia. It can be easily hand pulled and gathered into dense but lightweight bundles, which makes it perfect for packing delicate items without adding much weight. But when JSG was introduced into new environments where no natural controls were present to keep it in check, it began to spread quickly. Today JSG is found over most of the eastern U.S. as far west as Texas, and disrupts the healthy functioning of many fields and forests. JSG

does not sprout from an established root system; rather, it is an annual grass that grows from seed each year. JSG produces prodigious numbers of tiny sticky seeds that are readily moved by hikers and wildlife, and stick to the wheels of mountain bikes, ATVs, logging and mowing equipment, etc.

Japanese stiltgrass has become a dominant invasive plant in Gifford Pinchot State Park. JSG is difficult to control because it weaves in amongst desirable plants that we don't want to harm. Manual cutting and pulling can be effective in controlling JSG, but only if the management is conducted routinely. We can't realistically fight JSG everywhere, but these meadows are unique in the park and are a high priority for protection. Our goal is to reduce the amount of new seeds that are produced by hand pulling and cutting JSG with a string trimmer in late summer, before it goes to seed in early fall.

**On August 8, 2020, a group of 8 Friends of Pinchot volunteers visited some of these meadows to work on removal of JSG and other invasives.** Our thanks to Betsy, Carol, Flo, Jim, Tammy, Terry, Roberta and Sally for their hard work. To our volunteers whose good work was rewarded with a rash of chigger bites, our sympathies are with you. May you find comfort in knowing that chiggers do not carry disease, but we know the itching was intolerable! **In October of 2020, a small but mighty work crew from the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps (PAOC) came to the park to work on a variety of projects including invasive species removal in these meadows (see the PAOC article in this newsletter for more details).** The PAOC crew was assisted by several Gifford Pinchot State Park staff and Friends of Pinchot volunteers. Our thanks to Betsy, Carol, Gavin, Jim, Kaden, Kate, Kayla, Sally, Trent, Will, and Zack. Carol, your chocolate cookies were the bomb!

**Thanks to all of you for working so hard to help us preserve native biodiversity in the park!**



This giant sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*) lives up to its name. This individual found in a Pinchot meadow was about 6 feet tall, but they can get even bigger, up to 9 feet tall!

A profusion of native wildflowers like rosepink, black-eyed susans, and narrow-leaved mountain mint draw a variety of pollinating insects into the meadow.



# VOLUNTEER CORNER



Friends of Pinchot volunteers Roberta Downs (left) and Tammy Klunk (right) work on removing Japanese stiltgrass.



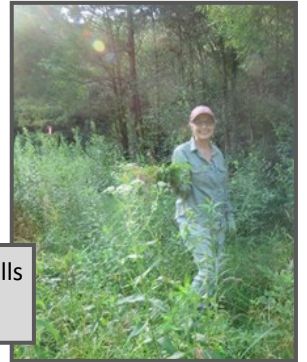
**Meadow Education...**



PHOTOS BY BETSY LEPPA



Terry Christopher, Friends of Pinchot volunteer, pulls Japanese stiltgrass from a meadow.



Friends of Pinchot volunteers Sally Ray, Jim Hugar, and Carol Hugar (from right to left) and Flo Spangenberg (at back) work in a meadow during our August 8 invasive removal work day.



This languid Chinese mantis (*Tenodera sinensis*) lies in wait to ambush visitors to the swamp milkweed flowers. Most mantids found in backyards and natural areas these days are either the Chinese or the European mantid. Both are invasive species that have displaced the native Carolina mantis, and have disrupted the natural insect food chain in areas where they have been introduced.



This great golden digger wasp (*Sphex ichneumoneus*) fuels herself on the nectar from a swamp milkweed. When her tank is full, she will burn off her meal digging tunnels in sandy soil, and hunting katydids. After a successful hunt, she returns to the tunnel with the katydid alive but paralyzed. She places the katydid inside, lays an egg upon it, then seals off the entrance to the tunnel. When the egg hatches, the newborn larva has a fresh meal upon which to feed.

This dapper orange and brown zabulon skipper (*Lon zabulon*) is frequently found in Pinchot meadows. The adults can find abundant flowers for nectar, and the caterpillars feed upon the lush grasses found there.



# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps

*By Jim Hugar*

The Friends work closely with the Park to support a wide array of groups. These various groups annually maintain and improve the Park. The Friends' support includes identifying projects, planning for the execution of the projects, and working with the groups when on site. One group that annually spends considerable time in service to the Park is the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps (PAOC). This group of young adults, headquartered in Harrisburg, have supported a wide range of recreation and conservation projects. The Park not only gains the benefits of the accomplished work but additionally is provided with the opportunity of helping the members gain work experience, on-the-job training, and environmental education. The Friends took the opportunity to educate the Corps on the unique geology at GPSP, some of the rare plants unique to this geology, and the numerous invasive species spreading throughout the Park. After gaining a better understanding of how these aggressive invaders impact

the native species and disrupt the ecological balance, the crew then spent several days removing these invasive species. The Friends also conducted an after-action review with the crew to better understand the PAOC's challenges encountered in removing the invasive species and thus improve future approaches in this removal process.



Photo of Alpine Trail opened up by PA Outdoor Corps

The PAOC crew also assisted park staff with the rebuilding of a crumbling retaining wall in the Conewago Day Use Area as well as the rehabilitation/raising of a portion of the paved walkway leading to the peninsula at Boat Mooring Area #2, which was chronically underwater. This has made for a more pleasant experience accessing the peninsula, for visitors on foot as well as for visitors in mobility devices.

## Trail Care Day

2020 boasted another successful Trail Care Day... the Gifford Pinchot State Park event held annually on the first Saturday in October, since 2011. Volunteers from both the Keystone Trails Association and the Friends of Pinchot joined together with park staff to work on Lakeside Trail. The group of 30 volunteers successfully resurfaced sections of the trail located near the trail/roadway intersection at the Campground entrance.

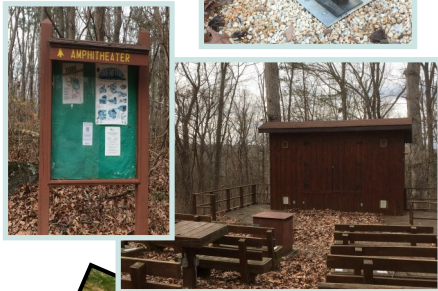
**Many thanks to all who participated—  
and also to the many hikers who traversed the trail that day—  
and cheered us on!!!**



PHOTOS BY TED PRINDLE

# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## Park Improvements



Drawdown:  
Boat Mooring Area #1



Drawdown:  
Conewago Day Use Area



Drawdown:  
Quaker Race Day Use Swimming Area

## Amphitheater Lighting...

The Friends helped to provide funding for the purchase/installation of new outdoor amphitheater lights, installed this past summer by park staff members. The new lighting lines the walkways to/from this pleasantly rustic, outdoor space and allows for the continued enjoyment of evening programs offered at the park.

## Pinchot Lake Drawdown...

*By Jim Hugar and Gavin Smith*

Pinchot Lake and its shores are looking dramatically different this winter. The lake elevation is currently being held at approximately five feet below normal pool, in order to execute a number of improvement efforts. In-house projects have included setting **new anchor points for swimming ropes and buoys**, as well as replacing the crumbled water's edge at the Conewago Day Use Area point with a **new retaining wall**. Forthcoming contracted projects will begin in early 2021. Conewago Day Use Area will see the installation of a **new ADA-accessible fishing pier**, a significant improvement for anglers with mobility challenges. Swimming access at the Quaker Race Day Use Area will be enhanced with a **new goose-**

**prevention fence**, featuring gated entries to **new concrete step-downs**. Sand will be replenished in the bottom of the roped swimming area. At Boat Mooring Area #2, the deteriorating dock, which keeps the pontoon boat used for public tours, will be replaced with a **new floating dock**. Access to the floating dock at Boat Mooring Area #3 will be improved with a **fortified retaining wall** and **paved path to the parking lot**. The motivation behind these projects is to enhance access, add recreational value, improve safety, and in some cases, limit erosion and lake sedimentation. Barring any unforeseen obstacles, the lake is currently scheduled to return to the normal operating level by mid-May, 2021.

# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## Park Activities

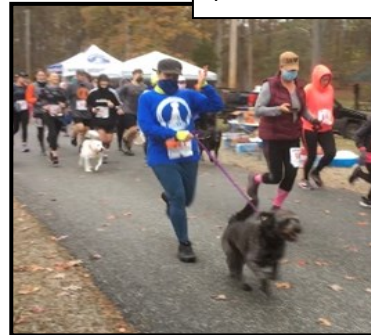
### Gulliver's Run...

As is tradition, Pinchot's first November weekend hosted the (albeit very wet, but MUCH fun!) 8<sup>th</sup> annual Gulliver's Run – the 5K trail run/walk “for dogs and their human companions” that raises funds for the fight against canine cancer.



Above: Volunteers man the information tent (sporting the Friends' snazzy new tablecloth and banner!) to distribute membership brochures and sell park T-shirts, stickers, and passports.

Friends' volunteers were present, as booth staff—and as runners!



Below: Friends' Treasurer, Courtney (two-legged) runs with her four-legged partner, Baekin!



For additional information, please go to [www.GulliversRun.org](http://www.GulliversRun.org)

### Upcoming Park Events & Volunteer Opportunities...

2021's annual **spring/summer** park events and volunteer opportunities will be dependent upon current and future public health and safety mandates... A **most hopeful** glimpse of plans ahead includes:

- Native Plant Sale [fundraiser]
- Earth Day Observation/Celebration [tree planting]
- Clean-Up Around the Lake [trash collection via kayak]
- Meadow Restoration [invasive plant removal]
- Trail Care [hiking area improvements & maintenance]
- Firewood Prep [splitting & bundling]



2020 Camping Season...  
Enjoyed by all!!!

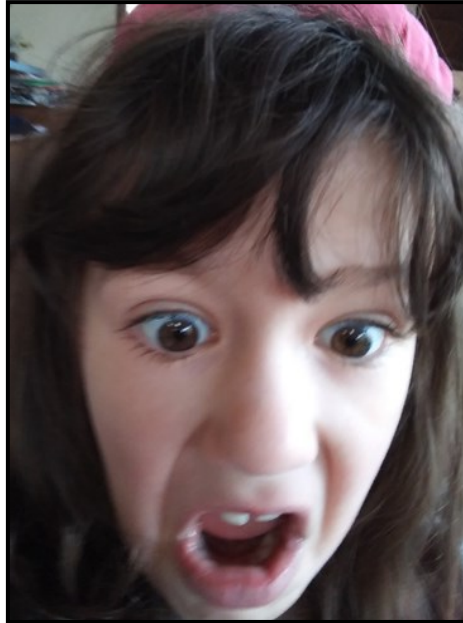
Kindly reference our website [[www.friendsofpinchot.org](http://www.friendsofpinchot.org)] or visit us on Facebook [[www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/)] for updates!

# SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

## Spotted Lanternflies - They're Here...

By Betsy Leppo

By now you've probably heard of the spotted lanternfly, a new invasive insect that is poised to cause a lot of damage to certain agricultural and timber crops. Spotted lanternflies are also stressing out homeowners who don't appreciate hordes of insects hopping on their trees and pooping sticky honeydew on their deck furniture. Spotted lanternflies were first detected in North America in 2014, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. They have been spreading steadily ever since, and are now known from 26 counties in Pennsylvania and are established in Virginia as well. They were first detected in York County in 2019, and by 2020 they were documented at sites within several miles of Gifford Pinchot State Park.



Our daughter (above left) found the first spotted lanternfly on our wooded property in October of 2020. We live about 5 miles south of Pinchot in Conewago Township. We found a total of 2 dozen lanternfly adults over a period of two weeks, and they appeared to be in dispersal mode at that time. The picture of the covered tree at right was taken several years ago from a heavily infested area in southeastern Pennsylvania (photo by Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org).

The good news is that spotted lanternflies do not bite or sting people, or cause structural damage to buildings. A low infestation of spotted lanternflies will be annoying, but is not likely to cause lasting damage to your trees. A large infestation can be harder on trees with heavier levels of feeding from nymphs and adults. There are believed to be at least 40 species of native plants in the U.S. that host the spotted lanternfly. They are particularly fond of grapevines, apple and stone fruit as well as

hardwoods like black walnut and maple. Spotted lanternflies also create a sticky honeydew excretion that supports the growth of a black sooty mold. This excretion is difficult to remove from fruit, often making commercial fruit unacceptable for marketing. Keep in mind the spotted lanternfly will not uniformly build into extremely high numbers across the whole landscape at one time; rather, hot spots will develop over time in different locations. At the first sign of a spotted lanternfly, it is important

not to overreact or begin broadcasting pesticides indiscriminately. Effective treatments will be targeted based on the time of year, life stage of the spotted lanternfly, and density of the infestation. Please be aware that some methods for controlling spotted lanternflies can have negative impacts on birds, mammals, and beneficial insects. Effective treatments will also minimize harm to other wildlife and the rest of the environment.

# SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

## How to Prepare for Spotted Lanternflies

The following links ([listed below](#)) will take you to some excellent resources developed by Penn State Extension and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to guide landowners in identifying and controlling spotted lanternflies. These links will take you to pdfs, videos, or webpages. *Note that clicking on links to pdfs stored online may prompt your computer to give you an automated security warning, but these documents have been selected from trustworthy sites and are safe to open.*

Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) photo by Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org.



Each female spotted lanternfly can lay a cluster of 30-50 seed-like eggs. She usually covers them with a protective coating that dries to a hard shell resembling dried mud. Two covered egg masses are visible in this photo, on the left and in the upper right corner. Over time the coating may crack and flake off, exposing the neat linear rows of brown eggs, visible in the center and lower right of the photo. Photo by Richard Gardner, image 5577075, Bugwood.org.

- 1) Familiarize yourself with the spotted lanternfly insect. Here is a good webpage that covers all the basics and was designed specifically for homeowners:  
<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-residents>
- 2) If you see spotted lanternflies in any life stage this year, take a photo and enter a report at <https://extension.psu.edu/have-you-seen-a-spotted-lanternfly> or call the spotted lanternfly hotline at 1-888-422-3359. Currently be on the lookout for the egg masses through early May. There are typically 30-50 eggs in a mass. Destroying them in this stage is easy and effective. Follow the guidelines to scrape and soak the egg masses in alcohol or hand sanitizer and discard.
- 3) Help keep spotted lanternfly from spreading! Follow these guidelines before you travel or transport items that were stored outdoors, whether you are currently in the quarantine area or not. Check for and remove all stages of spotted lanternfly following the guide at:  
[https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted\\_lanternfly/quarantine/Documents/SLF\\_Checklist\\_for\\_Residents.pdf](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/quarantine/Documents/SLF_Checklist_for_Residents.pdf)

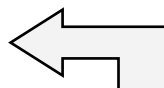


# SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

- 4) Research your treatment options. The homeowners guide under #1 above covers the basics. Here are some other very helpful resources:
- Spotted lanternflies feed on many plants, but tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is especially important to them. Here is a guide for identification of tree-of-heaven (<https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven>) or watch this 4-minute video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlhyFt2wW9U>). Tree-of-heaven has a uniquely awful smell to its leaves and twigs. The odor has been variously described as similar to rancid peanut butter, cat urine, or burning rubber.
  - Remove tree-of-heaven from your property. Beware that simply cutting it down (even if you treat the stump with herbicide) can cause the tree to spread even more aggressively through its extensive root system. Systemic herbicides are the most effective way to treat tree-of-heaven. This article gives a good overview of when and how to treat tree-of-heaven: <https://news.psu.edu/story/629017/2020/08/20/impact/extension-educator-late-summer-early-fall-optimal-time-treat-tree>
  - This video (6 minutes) has excellent guidelines for eradicating tree-of-heaven: <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven-control-strategies>
  - This free webinar (1 hour and 50 minutes) gives detailed information on tree-of-heaven control. It also describes how to create trap trees that can be used to lure and kill spotted lanternfly adults: [https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/1\\_oo7crbgk](https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/1_oo7crbgk)
  - This video gives spotted lanternfly management options (21 minutes), mapped out through the seasons: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-options-through-the-seasons>
  - This calendar illustrates the proper time to implement different types of spotted lanternfly control: [https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted\\_lanternfly/Documents/Time%20of%20year%20management%20chart.pdf](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/Documents/Time%20of%20year%20management%20chart.pdf)
  - This web page explains the different trapping methods and how to minimize the odds of harming other wildlife: <https://extension.psu.edu/using-traps-for-spotted-lanternfly-management>
  - This web page explains how to build an effective lanternfly trap that does not need a sticky band: <https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-build-a-new-style-spotted-lanternfly-circle-trap>

## “Behind the Scenes” —

An update on *The Pinchot Eagle’s* editing assistants, Blanche and Belva...



After a brief holiday respite, festively spreading joy & promoting good health —

Blanche & Belva are back to work!!!



# NEW BOARD MEMBERS

## **Jim Hugar, Board Member**

Jim was born and raised in north central Pennsylvania where he developed his love of the outdoors. After graduating from college, he entered the US Army Corps of Engineers and had a wide range of assignments while on active duty and as a reservist. Following his active duty, Jim continued to work for the US Army as a civilian engineer before his retirement as the Engineer Team Lead for the US Army Petroleum Center. Jim is a member of the Trail Maintenance and Environmental committees and assists the park in other areas where his engineer training can lend assistance. Jim is also a Master Watershed Steward with PSU Extension where he focuses on Pinchot Lake watershed related activities.



## **Tammy Klunk, Secretary**

As an avid hiker and boater at Pinchot Park for many years, Tammy feels fortunate to have this recreational resource within minutes of her home. Upon her recent retirement as a county park administrator, she became involved with the Friends of Pinchot by adopting a trail and helping with special projects. As a new member of the Board of Directors, she looks forward to volunteering on the many Friends' committees and initiatives.



## **Flo Spangenberg, Newsletter Editor**

Flo, a Pittsburgh native, relocated to Mechanicsburg after graduating from college. Now a Dillsburg resident, Flo is retired from working in special education, social work, and the printing paper industry. She loves PA state parks and all that they have to offer!



## **Karen Tynes, Membership Coordinator**

Karen was born and raised near Pittsburgh, PA, and after a near 20-year period living and working in Washington, DC, recently moved back to PA to a small farm where she and her husband hope to raise chickens, sheep and beef cattle. Karen loves hiking and backpacking and thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2010. Karen is a frequent visitor to Gifford Pinchot State Park and looks forward to serving on the Friends of Pinchot board.



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.



Wishing everyone a healthy,  
 happy new year!



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!

**FRIENDS OF Pinchot**  
 STATE PARK  
 Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation

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

**ADVISORY BOARD**

**Chair**  
 Terry Christopher

**Co-Chair**  
 Betsy Leppo

**Treasurer**  
 Courtney Snyder

**Secretary**  
 Tammy Klunk

**Newsletter Editor**  
 Flo Spangenberg

**Membership Coordinator**  
 Karen Tynes

**Board Members**  
 Phyllis Crooks  
 Dean Gibbons  
 Jim Grove  
 Jim Hugar  
 Jim Merlino  
 Ted Prindle

**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**

2020-21 Annual Membership Application

**Make checks payable to: PPFF**  
 (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(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

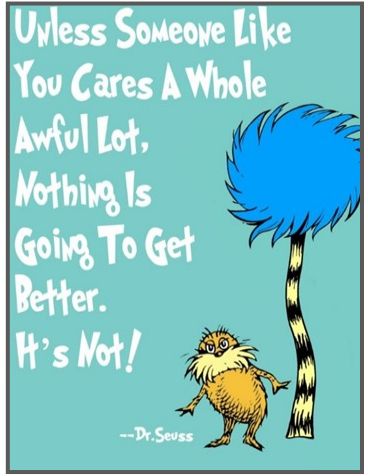
I would like to receive the newsletter via email.  
 I would like to receive a printed copy of the newsletter in the mail.  
 I am interested in volunteering.

All members receive the Pinchot Eagle newsletter and discounts on souvenir T-shirts. New members receive a Friends of Pinchot State Park bumper sticker.

___ Senior (age 62+)	\$10.00	___ Corporate	\$250.00+
___ Individual	\$15.00	___ I'd like to make a	
___ Family	\$25.00	tax-deductible	
___ Damselfly Sponsor	\$50.00	contribution of \$	_____
___ Dragonfly Sponsor	\$100.00	<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.*



  
**Find us on Twitter at:**  
[Friends of Pinchot](#)

  
**Find us on Facebook at:**  
[Friends of Pinchot](#)