

The Pinchot Eagle

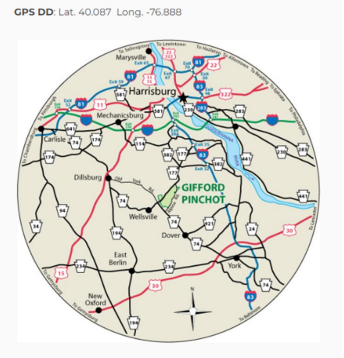


Friends of Pinchot State Park

January 2023



Extending a sincere thank-you to
 Park Friends & Pinchot Staff—
 Community Visitors & Volunteers—
 For your ongoing interest in and support for
 Gifford Pinchot State Park!



As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us.
 – Robin Wall Kimmerer



The Friends of Pinchot Advisory Board is looking for a Treasurer. If interested, please contact us at friendsofpinchot@gmail.com and more information will be provided.



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VOLUNTEER CORNER

Sawyers and Swampers

One of the biggest tasks involved in trail maintenance is the year-round removal of downed trees. Completion of a two-day comprehensive chainsaw training course (approved by the U.S. Forest Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) is required for

volunteer “sawyers” (those that operate the chainsaw for tree removal) and “swampers” (those that offer assistance with clearing but do not operate a chainsaw). The US Forest Service/DCNR-approved course entails 4 hours of in-class instruction and 12 hours of field work, and con-

cludes with a field exam—the passing of which is required for certification.

Our sawyer/swamper teams are outfitted with the necessary tools and gear to clear trails safely—including forest-safety chainsaw 1st aid trauma kits.

Meet our teams below!



KAREN & CHRIS TYNES—Sawyer Team

“We moved to the area just a few years ago and saw sawyering as a way to be involved in our local park. We received training through the Pennsylvania Parks

& Forests Foundation (PPFF) and, being new to sawyering, appreciate the chainsaw skills we acquired and the opportunity to practice while keeping Pinchot's trails clear for park visitors.”

JADY & BILL CONROY—Sawyer Team

“We both love the outdoors and spend our best hours hiking and exploring around the country when we can. We love living so close to Pinchot



as it is a constant sanctuary where we can enjoy exercise and fresh air and many, many birds! Keeping the trails clear and free of litter is an activity in which we are happy to volunteer.”

JOHN HEYCOCK & JAY STAUFFER—Sawyer Team

“Our team is called the ‘Crew 2 Few’ and is comprised of Jay Stauffer and Jerry Foulke and myself (John Heycock). I’m the card carrying sawyer and Jay and Jerry are the swampers.



The area of the park that we cover goes basically from beside the dam along the lakeside past boat launch #3, continuing along the trails around and past Conewago Day Use Area, up on the ridge and along the lakeside to around the tent camping area. This section of the park also encompasses the route used by our non-profit, ‘Gulliver’s Run’—which is held each November.

Jay and I are old friends, going back as far as Jr. High School days at Mechanicsburg. Jerry is our ‘cub’ member, who I met through some volunteer assistance with the Central PA Horse Rescue when helping set up their Spring Trail Run (which also uses the Gulliver’s Run course).

Pinchot Park is a real gem and we are fortunate to have access to such a beautiful section of Penn’s Woods. We are happy to be able to assist in keeping the trails open for all to enjoy.

Sometimes it seems that we are ‘too few’ to manage all of the fallen trees, but we still do our best!”

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Trail Care Stewards



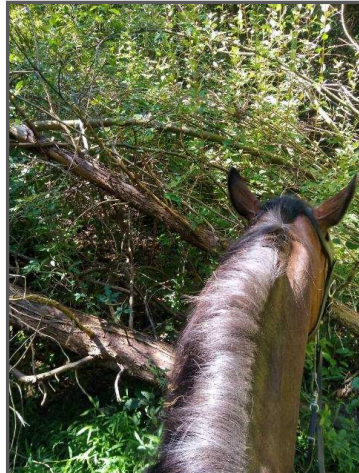
Pinchot's 18 miles of hiking trails provide great fun—and also require great care. Much of the necessary trail maintenance is accomplished through the **Adopt-A-Trail** program—a year-round commitment by volunteers to visit their assigned sections of trail (or trails) monthly, in order to trim branches, collect trash, repair washouts, remove invasive plants, and report downed trees.

If you are a frequent hiker, biker, walker, runner, horseback-rider, or wanderer – please consider becoming an Adopt-A-Trail volunteer!

RICH MYERS—Adopt-A-Trail Steward

“My family and I have ‘grown up’ here at Pinchot and many other PA state parks. We enjoy so many activities here and it's our ‘go to’ place for fun and relaxation. Through campground hosting, I had learned about trail workdays and Adopt-A-Trail. I have been so impressed by the amount of

work these long-time hosts had put into improving and maintaining the trails here that I had to be a part of it. I am enjoying giving back to Pinchot by working my section of trail and am looking forward to working with other volunteers on the many projects to come.”



JEANNE GOFORTH—Adopt-A-Trail Steward

In the northeast section of the park is an area set aside for horseback riding. This area includes several miles of wide, mowed, interconnecting trails that wind through reverting farm fields, pine plantations, and deciduous woodlands.

Jeanne and her horse, Ginger are frequent visitors to Pinchot's horse trails, located off Alpine Road. During her weekly rides, she also helps with trail maintenance.



“Most of the brush trimming we do is from horseback but occasionally we have to get off our horses.”

THANK YOU...
Sawyers, Swampers, & Stewards!!!

Volunteers spent 673 hours
maintaining trails in 2022!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps



During last year's lake draw-down,

one of the park improvement projects was the installation of a new ADA-accessible fishing pier at Conewago Day Use Area. The new retaining wall and pier offer much improved shoreline access for anglers of all ages and abilities. This past year, volunteers from the

Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps (PAOC) completed the final project step... staining the wooden pier—which was no easy task as the pier juts out over the water!

The PAOC program offers work experience, job training, and environmental education opportunities to youth and young adults.

For more information on PAOC: www.dcnr.pa.gov/outdoorcorps

Conewago Day Use Area



Firewood Committee

Volunteers spent 1750 hours processing wood in 2022!

Wood Committee members, campground hosts, Friends of Pinchot, and community volunteers all pitched in to prepare **over 6500 bundles of firewood** for campground visitors this past season. **Many thanks to all who participated in this year-round effort!**

Park Office Gnomes

Friends of Pinchot volunteers worked on the flower gardens at the Park Office this past fall, replacing the numerous(!) pulled weeds with native plants. In the process, they were fortunate enough to meet the little fellow to the right—a beautiful praying mantis!



Trail Care Day

Trail Care Day Was Not Impeded by Inclement Weather!

By Jim Hugar

Gifford Pinchot State Park's annual Trail Care Day was held on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Despite some light rain, over 20 intrepid volunteers from the Mason-Dixon Trail System, Keystone Trails Association, and Friends of Pinchot State Park as well as park staff turned out at 9:00 AM to support this annual event.



A two-pronged approach was utilized to make repairs to Beaver Creek Trail. The first prong was focused on the repairs to the **plank walkways** and the second prong was focused on the placing of gravel to stabilize the **trail surface**. Both efforts were intended to reduce erosion and improve mobility.

PLANNING

Plank Walkways: Park staff engaged the support of the Friends to evaluate the work requirements and materials needed for repairing/maintaining the plank walkways located on Beaver Creek Trail. A walk-through to assess needed repairs was conducted by the Assistant Park Manager and Friends' representative in early September. Based on this preliminary site assessment, a concept of repairs, a corresponding bill of materials and a cost estimate

were prepared by the Friends and submitted to Gifford Pinchot State Park. The park approved and purchased the materials. In order to maximize the execution portion, the Friends prepped materials one day prior to Trail Care Day, gathering the lumber materials from the park, precutting them to proper size, and then staging them near the worksite on Beaver Creek Trail.

Trail Surface Repairs: Park staff and representatives from the Mason-Dixon Trail System coordinated plans of gravel preparation for trail surface reinforcement. The park pre-staged gravel at both ends of the trail, with the intent to move gravel onto the trail from both ends as needed.



Moving & Staging Materials



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Trail Care Day—continued

EXECUTION

Plank Walkways: The main goal of the repairs to the plank walkways was to stabilize the walkway system in order to minimize ‘pumping’ action caused by the lack of center support and the narrow footprint of walkway base supports. Plank walkways were repositioned and leveled at three separate

locations. Most sections had additional center supports added and some deteriorated walkway planks were also replaced. The section closest to Rossville Road was completed; the center section and Squire Gratz Road section have some remaining work to be done to fully restore these sections of trail.

Building Footers



Placing Footers



New Footers in Place



Trail Surface Repairs: The Mason-Dixon Trail team was able to travel from Squire Gratz Road to within 50 feet of the plank walkway with their Gator UTV/ATV for repairs. Additionally, they spread gravel at both entrances to Beaver Creek Trail—an effort that should improve safe entrance and egress for the trail while reducing erosion.

Gravel Transport & Placement



KUDOS TO ALL THOSE THAT HELPED TO PLAN, TO PRE-STAGE MATERIALS, AND TO EXECUTE REPAIRS!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO TRAIL CARE DAY 2023!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

First Day Hike



1st-Day-Hikers in over 36 PA state parks started out the New Year on the trail—which included **Pinchot's 135 participants and their 30 canine companions!**



Souvenir Patch Contest

In 2021, the Friends added souvenir patches to the park merchandise available for purchase, to be re-designed annually for collectors. The Friends enlist community help in designing the yearly patch by

hosting an annual photo contest. **Presented here are the 1st and 2nd place winners** for Pinchot's 2023 collector's patch. **Congratulations to our winners—and thank you to all who participated!!!**



Submitted by Gretchen Galbraith

"I've been working at Pinchot for the past 6 years as a Park Resource Ranger. I grew up in Dover and have been coming to the park all of my life. My dad took me fishing and canoeing at Pinchot when I was a kid and I have a lot of fond memories there. My dad passed away a few years ago, but now I enjoy the park with my husband and my 3 stepchildren. Our favorite things to do there as a family are camping (especially for Pinchotween), canoeing, and hiking with our dog, Ellie. The photo of the sailboat was taken in 2018 from Quaker Race Day Use Area."

"My family and I are frequent visitors of many central PA state parks, but Pinchot is a staple to visit with our children, who we are raising to see nature as their playground. Our favorite activities are stand-up paddle boarding, hiking, and 'bouldering' along Lakeside Trail."

Submitted by Jessica Kurtz & son, William!



2nd Place



Also... Keep on snapping photos—and keep your eyes open for information on this year's competition for next year's 2024 patch!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Pinchotween

By Beth Kepley-McNutt

The 17th annual Pinchotween was held on Saturday, October 15 and the day's fall weather was absolutely gorgeous. Our special guests from **Canine Rescue of Central PA** joined us in the afternoon for pet costumes, pumpkin decorating, a nature scavenger hunt, and photo opportunities. Founded in 2002, Canine Rescue is an all-breed, all-volunteer, no-kill rescue dedicated to helping any dog in a helpless situation, ultimately finding loving families for as many as possible. (<https://www.crcpa.org>)

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 6:00 PM, featuring park equipment and vehicles, Bureau of Forestry and even Smokey Bear! Candy was handed out and campsite decorations were judged. Site #308 came away as our winner with their **"Scooby-Doo Mystery of Pinchot Park"** themed site. And for the winners, the Harry family, Pinchotween is not just an annual park event; it is an annual family event as well!



The Harry crew typically arrive on Tuesday or Wednesday of the week prior for campsite decoration set-up! Displays and props are all home-made. Treats for kids this year included Scooby-Snacks (of course!) as well as glow sticks for those with dietary restrictions.

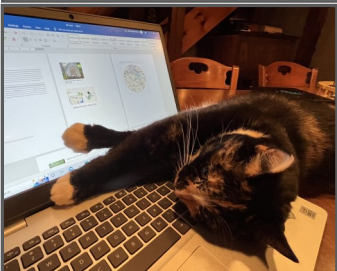
Halloween is a favorite holiday for these folks, simply because of Pinchotween! For them, it's great family fun and they love doing it for the enjoyment of all who attend!

"Behind the Scenes" —



Updates on and a message from
The Pinchot Eagle's editing assistants, Blanche and Belva...

Blanche helps with graphic layout...



While Belva, NOT helping, works on PPF's (Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation's) digital state park puzzle!



Wishing you all
a healthy & happy
New Year!



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee members attended several community events this past year—Mt. Airy Orchards' Blueberry Festival, Fairview Township's National Night Out, Leg Up Farm's Fall Festival, and two annual 5K fundraisers held at Pinchot:

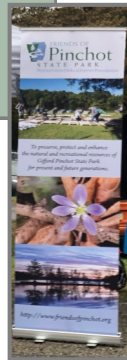
Central Pennsylvania Horse Rescue's Fun Run and Gulliver's Run. Volunteers distributed park and membership information and sold Friends' merchandise. **All sales go toward helping to financially support park projects!**



INFO!

THANK YOU
to all of the community members who hosted and attended events, made purchases and donations, and expressed interest in the Friends of Pinchot!

Look for the vertical banner!
Please join us!



By the way...

Board meetings take place on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM, excluding the month of December. Winter meetings are conducted via Zoom during November, January, and February; spring, summer and fall meetings take place at Conewago Day Use Area, Sunnyside Pavilion. **The public is welcome to attend!**



- T-Shirts.....\$15
 - Tote Bags.....\$15
 - Ball Caps.....\$10
 - Beanies.....\$10
 - PA Passports.....\$10
 - Souvenir Patches.....\$5
 - GIPI Stickers.....\$2
- CASH or CHECK only, please!

Merchandise is available at the Park Office. Please stop by!

Goings-On...

UPCOMING PARK EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Native Plant Sale* [fundraiser]
- Trail Care Days* [hiking area improvements]
- Habitat Work* [meadow restoration & native plant fencing]
- Firewood Days* [wood processing]
- Bench Construction* [Environmental Learning Center project]
- Fishing Line Recycling Bin* [workshop]
- Spotted Lanternfly Trap* [workshop]
- Kayak Clean-Up Around the Lake* [trash collection]

*Kindly reference our website [www.friendsofpinchot.org] or visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/FriendsofPinchot/] for more information!

PARK UPGRADES

Renovation

By Beth Kepley-McNutt

The **Environmental Learning Center (ELC)** in Conewago Day Use Area has been undergoing some much-needed renovations. The single-pane glass windows were upgraded in April 2022 to one inch insulated clear tempered glass. Unfortunately, park staff noticed bird collisions soon after the new windows were installed. Glass windows are dangerous to birds because they reflect the

surrounding environment—like vegetation or the sky. Birds, unable to recognize the surface as a barrier, see natural habitat mirrored in the reflection and fly directly into the glass. After collisions, some birds may be only temporarily stunned and without lasting injury. In many instances, however, birds are killed, never to fly again.

Resolution

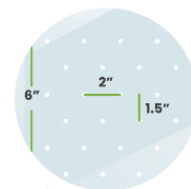
In 2023, Feather Friendly bird collision deterrent markers

(<https://www.featherfriendly.com/>)

will be applied on the exterior side of the window glass to reduce bird strikes. The markers provide a grid of reference points to show birds that the glass is a solid surface to avoid. It is important for protecting our local and migratory bird population.



We hope it may inspire park visitors to do the same to their properties!



Varied Grid Shapes & Sizes



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



Ice Rink—Pinchot Lake—February '22



Happy New Year!
 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

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Jim Hugar

Park Representative

Beth Kopley-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+ | TOTAL \$ _____ |

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.

World-wide practice of Conservation and the fair and continued access by all nations to the resources they need are the two indispensable foundations of continuous plenty and of permanent peace.

-Gifford Pinchot



Find us on Twitter at:
[Friends of Pinchot](https://twitter.com/FriendsofPinchot)



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