

The Pinchot Eagle

SEPT/OCT 2026, ISSUE 55

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mason – dixon trail care day at pinchot



We're teaming up with the Keystone Trail Association on Saturday, October 3rd, for a day of trail maintenance on Ridge Trail (Mason-Dixon Trail), and we'd love to have you join us! With the campground scheduled to close for upgrades, we expect to see increased use of Ridge Trail. We want to make sure the trail is in tip-top shape and ready for our hikers! This is a great opportunity to come out, lend a hand, and help us keep Ridge Trail safe, enjoyable, and well-maintained.

Date: Saturday, October 3rd

Time: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM (approximately)

Meeting Location: Campground entrance

Additional details can be found [here](#).

A box lunch will be provided for volunteers.

If you're able to participate, please RSVP no later than Monday, September 28th so we can plan accordingly.

We hope you can join us for a productive day on the trail and help us keep Ridge Trail in great shape!

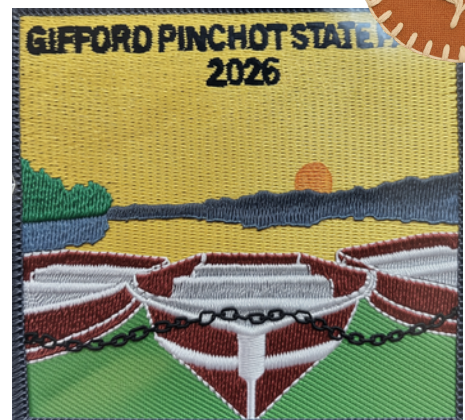
design our annual souvenir patch!

The winning Gifford Pinchot State Park photo will be replicated on a 3" x 3" embroidered patch. Please submit your photos in jpg format to

friendsofpinchot@gmail.com by October 23, 2026.

Please also include your phone number. Up to four entries per person are accepted!

By submitting a photo, you confirm that you are the photographer and copyright owner of the image, and you grant Friends of Pinchot State Park to enter this photo into the park's patch contest. Furthermore, you grant Friends of Pinchot State Park and Gifford Pinchot State Park a non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use the photo at any time, now or in the future, in any format to promote Gifford Pinchot State Park.



Gifford Pinchot

Open House

Oct 1 5:30-6:30pm

Lakeview Pavilion

Quaker Race

upcoming events

**Pinchoween,
Pinchot Campground**

Oct 17



Trail Care

Oct 3

9am

click [here](#) for deets

Tues Oct 13 at 5:00 to

7:00 PM meet at the
campground entrance

Gulliver's Run, Nov 1

5k run/3.5walk in
support of canine
cancer



"Conservation is the application of
common sense to the common problems
for the common good." ~ Gifford Pinchot

Under Pinchot's guidance, the number of national forests increased from 32 in 1898 to 149 in 1910. Pinchot and Roosevelt agreed on many points of conservation and worked tirelessly to end the destruction of U.S. forests. Learn more about Governor Gifford Pinchot [here](#).

Learn more about the history of Gifford Pinchot State Park in [this](#) article written by one of our own volunteers Frank Grumbine.

introducing pinchot's bird box residents

by Ben Leese

Pinchot hosts almost 100 bluebird boxes, and those boxes help five native species raise their young.

Eastern Bluebirds build nests out of grass and lay blue eggs (rarely some are white or even pink!). At the park, they often try to raise two clutches each season. Some even had young in the nest in August this year.

Tree Swallows build nest out of grass, like bluebirds, but always add white feathers on the top. The feathers may reduce the chance that other swallows add their own eggs to the nest (nest parasitism).

Both Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees occur at Pinchot, and the two species even interbreed. They build nests from moss and lay tiny, white eggs with small brown speckles. While the swallows and bluebirds will nest in open areas, Chickadees prefer to stay in or on the edges of the woods.

The House Wren likes the edges of woods also, so much so that they often build a "dummy nest" in every box they can find in their territory. These stick nests are often very messy, until the female selects a box to build a proper nest. The unused "dummy nests" are often removed by bird box monitors so boxes are available for other tenants. But some people think wrens build multiple nests to reduce predation or parasitism risks. This is the last species to start nesting here.

In addition to the five native species, the bird boxes are sometimes used by introduced House Sparrows. They build a very motley looking nest of grass and feathers and tend to fill the box up to the brim. The sometimes kill native species to claim a nest box, and the parks monitors tend to remove House Sparrow nests.



tree swallow



eastern bluebird



eastern bluebird

thank you for being a friend

VOLUNTEER PICNIC

We celebrated all Pinchot
Volunteers on September 16th
at our annual volunteer picnic!.



Thank
you

Read about
Friend's Co-Chair
Betsy Leppo [here](#)



BASKETGRASS BONANZA CONCLUDED AUGUST 31

The 2026 Basketgrass Bonanza has now officially come to a close. Please be sure to submit all of your presence/not-detected data to iMapInvasives for surveys conducted during the month of August. All presence reports should include at least one photo of observed wavyleaf basketgrass and be tagged under the "Basketgrass Bonanza (2026)" project. Later this year a summary report will be created by iMapInvasives that highlights all Basketgrass Bonanza findings, distribution maps, and participant feedback.

e-bikes in pa state parks and forests

All bikes — traditional and electric (e-bikes) — are permitted on DCNR public use roads, unless they are marked as prohibited for bikes. Traditional bikes and all e-bikes that comply with the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code are permitted on DCNR trails.

E-bikes are allowed on trails where regular bikes are allowed if they meet these rules:

Weigh no more than 100 pounds

Do not go faster than 20 mph using the motor

Have a motor no bigger than 750 watts

Have working pedals

Trails where e-bikes are not allowed include:

Natural areas

Hiking trails marked with yellow or orange blazes

Trails or roads with “No Biking” signs



Other public lands in Pennsylvania (like federal lands, local parks, game lands, and preserves) may have different rules. Check before you go!

For official details see DCNR Details [here](#).



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corporate friend!
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RF Fager Supply

for more information about becoming a
corporate sponsor please contact us at
friendsofpinchot@gmail.com

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 PPFF.

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



Stop by the Pinchot State Park Open House on Oct 1, the Dillsburg Farmers' Market on October 3 from 8-12pm, and Gullivers Run on Nov 1 to grab new Pinchot merch!

be in touch



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