

# The Pinchot Eagle



Friends of Pinchot State Park

January/February/March 2011

## Ice Fishing

By Pat Sabold, FOPSP Board Member

Ice fishing is growing in popularity due to the improvements in outerwear and equipment. Winter fishermen are sometimes referred to as "hard-water" anglers. Regardless of whether you call yourself an ice-fisherman or a hard-water angler, it is best to know the basics before heading out onto the ice.



PHOTO BY BETSY LEPPRO

Pinchot Lake

### Safety

Four inches of blue ice is necessary to hold the weight of one angler and his/her equipment (200 lbs.). Five inches of blue ice will hold 800 lbs., seven inches will hold 1500 lbs., and eight inches will hold 2000 lbs.

### Dress for success

The right clothing can mean the difference between a fun day of fishing and a long day of shivering. A strategy of layering will help to trap and retain warmth to your body. Make sure your outerwear is water-repellant and wind-resistant. Start with a pair of insulated boots that deter moisture. The use of sock liners will allow you to remove a layer should your feet sweat. Up to 80 percent of the body's heat escapes from the head; woolen caps work great and can be layered with the hood of your coat. Layering

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## Volunteers of 2010....Thanks!

By the Friends of Pinchot State Park Board of Directors

During the 2010 year, there were 44 park volunteers who provided over 900 project hours and 8200 campground host hours.

Projects worked on throughout the year include: Ice and firewood fundraisers, old field habitat restoration, park and campground maintenance, nature center hosting, trail stewardship, public programs, and various administrative duties.

The Friends' board of directors would like to thank the following selfless people who helped to make a

"It's easy to make a buck.  
It's a lot tougher to make a  
difference."  
Tom Brokaw

difference at Pinchot this past year: John and Kay Boob, Phyllis Crooks, Barbara Cuomo, Libby Errickson, Dean and Barb Gibbons, Jim Grove, Hal and Annette Hinderdeer, Bob Keefer, Beth Kepley, Clifford Kirk, Joe and Rhanay Konas, Dave and Betsy Leppo, Bill

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## DID YOU KNOW...

...when Pinchot Lake freezes, there is white ice and blue ice?

White ice has air bubbles trapped within it, causing it to be weak. Blue ice is compressed and glacier-like, enabling it to hold more weight than white ice. Four inches of blue ice will hold 200 lbs. (about the weight of one angler and his/her equipment).

# Winter Robins

By Sally Ray, FOPSP Board Treasurer

The robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is a member of the thrush family that includes the bluebird, veery, and wood and hermit thrushes. The species name, *migratorius*, refers to the robin's migratory habits. Robins are known to fly south in the fall and over winter along the Gulf Coast, Mexico and Central America. Their return to neighborhood lawns in March is regarded as a sign of spring.



PHOTO BY BOB MOUL

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

Visitors to Gifford Pinchot State Park may be surprised when they see robins in the park during the winter months. While most robins head south in the fall, some will spend the winter in the northern states and southern Canada, migrating short distances or not at all. The robins we find during the winter months may be year round residents or migrants from farther north.

Robins migrate in response to a need to find food. During the spring and summer months, they feed on insects, worms and some fruits. As the temperatures drop and the supply of worms and other invertebrates diminishes, many robins will migrate to where these food sources are still available while other robins remain and make dietary changes. Their winter diet consists of fruits from various trees, shrubs and vines such as dogwood, juniper, grape, pokeberry, honeysuckle, sumac and roses.

Pinchot offers plenty of food and shelter for robins. Flocks gather in the park and will remain throughout the winter as long as the supply of fruits and berries is sufficient. Come check out Pinchot's winter robins. ■

# Let It Snow!

By Betsy Leppo, FOPSP Board Secretary

The fall tree spectacle is over, and the muted hues of winter are here for the long haul. But there is one thing that can still make the landscape sparkle, and that is snow!

droplets which stick together into bigger droplets. If temperatures are cold enough, the water droplets freeze and join randomly to form ice crystals and larger snowflakes. Did you know snow is a mineral, the same as diamonds or



PHOTO BY KEN LERO

Capped Column

Set aside the memories of nerve-wracking commutes to work, and sore back muscles after a shoveling marathon. Re-



PHOTO BY KEN LERO

Stellar-plate

salt, until it melts into liquid water, then it is not!



PHOTO BY KEN LERO

Branched Star

flect instead on the natural wonder that is snow.

Just like rain, snow starts as water vapor in the air. When there is a lot of moisture in the air, the water vapor begins to condense into tiny



PHOTO BY KEN LERO

Needles

We've all heard that no two snow flakes are alike. While it is probably true that complex snowflakes are not alike, very small and simple ice crystal shapes may appear the same to the human eye. There are dozens of types of snowflakes, of which a few are pictured throughout this article. ■



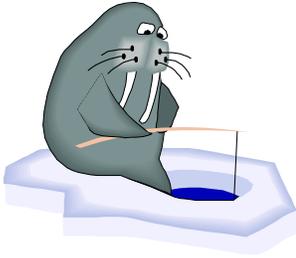
PHOTO BY KEN LERO

Plate



## Ice Fishing

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mittens over light gloves provides both warmth and dexterity.

### Shelters

If you plan to fish on cloudy, windy days, you may want an ice shelter to protect you from the chilling lake winds. Those made of lightweight frames, covered with plastic or even cardboard are inexpensive and easy to construct. A prefabricated structure, ranging in size and price, can be purchased. Whether you use a homemade or prefabricated windbreak, be sure to anchor it to the ice.

### Drilling Holes

Use of a hand- or power-driven auger will make the drilling process easy; however, any heavy pole with a chisel on the end will do the job. If you are fishing for smaller fish, a 6-inch or 7-inch hole is fine. If you hope to catch larger species, you will need an 8-inch hole. You will also need a strainer to remove the ice chips as you drill.

### Fishing Equipment

If fishing for panfish (small fish, of legal size, which fit in a standard frying pan), anglers prefer a short rod, about two feet long, called a jigging rod. Other popular ice fishing devices are tip-ups. Tip-ups span across the drilled hole, have a reel on the end, and signal the angler with a flag when a fish has taken the bait. They range in price, but a basic tip-up will cost between \$10 and \$20.

Use fishing line especially designed for ice fishing. A thick line, with a light-weight fluorocarbon lead, will hold the weight yet be practically invisible to the fish.

The type of bait to use depends upon what type of fish you hope to catch. Small earthworms, wax-worms, and mealworms work great for panfish. Bass and walleyes prefer small minnows.

Miscellaneous items you may want to take with you: Small first-aid kit, large hook on a pole (for getting large fish up through the hole), ice cleats for your boot, tape measure to check the ice thickness, and two small pieces of carpet (one to place under your feet and the other for on your seat).

Lastly, to get your equipment out onto the ice, you can use a 5-gallon bucket, which doubles as a seat or you can fashion a storage box onto a sled.

## Finding the Fish

If there are other anglers out on the ice, migrate toward them, but take care not to drill too close to their set-ups. If no other anglers are around, you can use a hydrographic lake map or a portable depth finder. An underwater camera is fun and useful as well.

Plan the timing of your fishing trip according to the fish you hope to catch. Some fish feed during low-light conditions (early morning, early evening), while others feed during the sunny midday hours.

### Learn from the mistakes of others

John Arway, executive director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, shared a story as a lesson for others. John took his two children, then ages 5 and 7, for a day of ice fishing. He quickly set up the tent, for the children to stay warm, while he drilled holes for the tip-ups. A huge gust of wind came by and blew the tent, with the children in it, about 50-80 yards down the ice, spinning as it went. When he finally caught up with the tent, he looked inside, and saw four huge eyes staring back out at him. According to John, the children's eyes appeared to be 10 times larger than normal. Although they expressed anger toward their dad, John couldn't help but think of how he would have spent top dollar at an amusement park for the children to experience that same thrill. The moral of this story is... Anchor your tent first, and then drill your tip-up holes. Thanks, John, for the great story!

### More Information

Regulations and more techniques about ice fishing can be found at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commissions website: [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com). ■





**Volunteers of 2010**

*(Continued from page 1)*

and Thelma Maughlin, Jen McCoy, Andrew McNutt, Jim and Kim

Merlino, Kevin Merlino, Dennis Phillippy, Ted and Rose Prindle, Ryan Rager, Jack and Sally Ray, Larry and Ruth Ann Reddy, Pat Sabold, Kenneth and Nancy Schrum, Tom Scully, Wayne and Deb Snelbaker, Steve Stroman, Matt Thompson, Glenn and Deb Wallick, and Lee and Betty Weller. Thanks!

We would like to express a special thank you to long-time park volunteers, Hal and Annette Hinerdeer. After 14 years of campground hosting, the Hinerdeers are giving up camping due to health issues. While hosting, they also helped



with the bluebird trail and various other things in the park.

Thank you to our parent organization, the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, for their support and guidance.

Additionally, we would like to thank the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), especially the park staff and management, for their support throughout the year. ■



## Winter Conditions at Pennsylvania State Parks



A winter report, showing snow and ice conditions, can be found at:  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/winter/](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/winter/)



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*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.

**Newsletter Editor: Pat Sabold**  
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Publication deadlines are the 15th of each quarter (March, June, September, December). The Advisory Board reserve publication decisions.

### FRIENDS OF PINCHOT STATE PARK

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

- |  |          |  |
|--|----------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (age 65+)  | \$5.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ |
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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.*