

The Pinchot Eagle

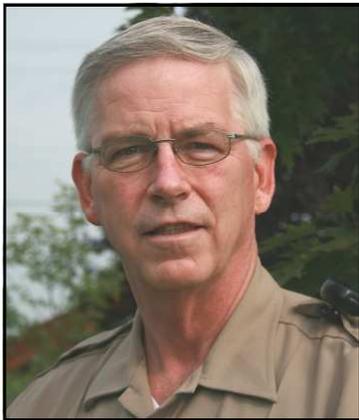


Friends of Pinchot State Park

July/August/September 2009

History of the Friends

By Bill Rosevear, Park Manager



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *The Pinchot Eagle*, published by the newly-formed Friends of Pinchot State Park. This is the beginning of a wonderful and exciting period in the history of Gifford Pinchot State Park.

Throughout the 48 years since the park was dedicated, it has had

support from its friends, neighbors and visitors. Many people have donated tens of thousands of hours helping the park fulfill its mission of providing wholesome outdoor recreation and educational programming.

During the 1990's the park encountered a problem with swimming in the lake, and for the health and safety of visitors, closed the swimming areas for almost three years. The closure of the swimming areas greatly diminished the park's attendance. In response to that decline local officials, businesses, citizens and friends of the park decided to organize and bring back visitors to the area. Thus the Pinchot Park Interest Group was founded. The Interest Group support resulted in the park receiving Keystone 93 funding and Growing Greener bond initiatives.

With the reopening of the swimming areas, the park attendance rebounded. As the years passed, membership in the Pinchot Park Interest Group started to wane, finally bringing to a close the presence of an interest group for the park.

While the ad hoc nature of the Pinchot Park Interest Group worked well, today we see the need for a more formal structure. The formation of a "Friends" group will be able to support park activities, raise funds, accept donations and support the mission of the park, while remaining unencumbered by the limitations of state government. The Friends of Pinchot State Park is a legal entity. It is a chapter within the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation and will be able to work

with the park managers, now and far into the future. It will grow in many ways; with a wonderful website, involved hands-on volunteers, additional facilities and activities to enhance the park and its resources.

With your help and vision we can all help grow the Friends of Pinchot, and make Gifford Pinchot State Park the best state park in Pennsylvania. ■

Meet the Advisory Board

In March of 2009, a handful of local volunteers joined together to form the Friends of Pinchot State Park Advisory Board.

Mission:

To preserve, protect and enhance the natural and recreational resources of Gifford Pinchot State Park for present and future generations.

Jim Merlino, Chairman: Jim and his wife are campground hosts and perform other volunteer work at the park.

Ted Prindle, Co-Chairman: Ted and his wife have been campground hosts for eight years. Ted is also Co-Coordinator of the campground host program.

Sally Ray, Co-Secretary/Treasurer: As a park volunteer, Sally has conducted a Box Turtle study for the past nine years. She is a biologist

and works for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP).

Betsy Leppo, Co-Secretary/Treasurer: Betsy has a zoology degree and works for the PA Natural Heritage Program. She helped to document and write management recommendations for the plants and animals of Pinchot.

Pat Sabold: Pat leads bird and wildflower walks and has compiled a photographic catalog of Pinchot's wildflowers.

Larry Reddy: Larry and his wife have been campground hosts for seven years.

Curtis Gottdiner: Curtis has grown up with Pinchot and volunteers with lake shore clean-up.

Kevin Merlino: Kevin is a landscaper and volunteers at the park with trail and shore clean-up. ■

DID YOU KNOW...

There are more than 18 miles of marked trails at Gifford Pinchot State Park?

If you would like to volunteer as a Trail Steward, please contact Sally Ray (717) 292-4881 or FOPSP@aol.com for more information.

Growing Up With Pinchot

by Curtis Gottdiner, Board Member



“Pinchot Park,” was two words in elementary school that I loved to hear. In the spring and fall, we would go on a field trip to Pinchot’s Whitetail Environmental

Center. At the door, I remember being greeted by a big Black Bear.

Each time we visited, there were always plenty of activities to do. I remember liking the feely boxes the best. The boxes had nature items in them and you had to guess what they were.

After the center, it was on to the trails. Our teacher, Mr. Capp would lead us kids on an adventure through the woods and teach us the history of the park. Each time, I learned something new and to this day, still remember what he taught us.

A few years down the road, in middle school, I took my boaters safety course at Pinchot Lake. Very useful! Then in high school, I joined the Audubon Society for bird watching. Almost every weekend, I used the bird observation blind at the Conewago Day Use Area. Pinchot has so many species in one place.

Now grown up and married, I come to Pinchot with my wife to camp. Through all the years of visiting Pinchot, I have so many great memories and good times. I hope that through the “Friends of Pinchot State Park” I can continue those memory makers for children generations to come! ■

Our Accomplishments

On May 16, 2009, the Friends held a Meet-and-Greet at the Conewago Day Use Area. Volunteers helped to pull Garlic Mustard (an invasive plant species) and new members were welcomed into the group.

Since the Friends inception in March, volunteers have: Monitored the trails, removed litter from the lake shoreline, conducted sign maintenance throughout the campground, acquired hosts for the nature center, provided campground hosting, monitored the bat boxes, and made landscape enhancements at the campground contact station.

Accomplishments of the administrative type include: Design of our website and membership brochure. Be sure to check out the website at www.friendsofpinchot.org.



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Lewisberry, PA 17339
(717) 432-5011
Email: FOPSP@aol.com

ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman
Jim Merlino

Co-Chairman
Ted Prindle

Secretary/Treasurer
Sally Ray & Betsy Leppo

Board Members
Larry Reddy
Kevin Merlino
Curtis Gottdiner
Pat Sabold

Park Representative
Beth Kepley

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
psaboldFOPSP@aol.com

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: 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

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (age 65+)	\$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to make a
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10.00	tax-deductible
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15.00	contribution of \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Damselfly Sponsor	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> I'm interested in
<input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly Sponsor	\$100.00	volunteering

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would like to receive my newsletter via email: Yes No

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.