

# The Pinchot Eagle



Friends of Pinchot State Park

April/May/June 2012

## April 21, 2012: "Spring into Action" Volunteer Weekend

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DNCR)

The first annual "Spring into Action" volunteer weekend will be held on April 21, 2012 at Gifford Pinchot State Park. Volunteers will have the opportunity to lend a helping hand in maintaining their favorite park, with the park saying "thank you" for their hard work by providing free camping Friday and Saturday nights in the family campground.

Any group or family who wishes to volunteer can participate in this program, whether they are staying in the campground or not. Those interested in volunteering, but not camping, need to pre-register by calling the park office.

Saturday, April 21, there will be two volunteer work sessions. The first session is 9:00am-noon and the second session is 1:00-3:00pm. Both sessions will meet at bathhouse #1. The park has a limited

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## Bluebirds: Hook, Line & Sinker

By Rose-Anna Behr

I have monitored nest boxes at Pinchot for the past ten years. It is an easy and rewarding task. Once a week during nesting season, I peek into several assigned boxes and report the nesting progress. I have seen many bluebirds, tree swallows, wrens, chickadees, and tufted titmouse lay eggs and successfully raise their young.

One hot day last summer, I opened a box near the beach in the B-loop of the campground. Four bluebird nestlings snoozed, resting their heads on each other's backs. To my distress, one of the chicks had a fishing line in his beak. I gently tried to remove it, only to discover it was way down his gullet, and not coming out! What to do?!!

I called the park office. Colleen, at the front desk, gave me the number for Bird Rescue of York County, a non-profit songbird rescue who works solely on donations. I called in a near panic! My baby bird was in trouble! "Don't pull, don't cut the line. Put him in

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## "Host-it" Note



Now that spring is here, we are looking forward to settling into the campground (our second household, minus a few luxuries). The enjoyment of the great outdoors and the scenery at Gifford Pinchot State Park makes any inconvenience worthwhile.

Last year we ended the season with a nor'easter snow storm. We can't wait to see what this year brings!

Jim and Kim Merlino  
Campground Hosts



## DID YOU KNOW...

...Monofilament fishing line is dangerous to wildlife?

Improperly disposed of monofilament fishing line can be deadly. Birds, turtles and even fish can become entangled by the line and die when they are unable to escape.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## APRIL

- Sat, April 14.....Pond and Lake Management Workshop  
9:00am-12:00pm  
*Nature/Interpretive Center, Conewago Day Use Area*
- Sun April 15.....Beautiful Bluebirds, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
*Nature/Interpretive Center, Conewago Day Use Area*
- Sat, April 21.....Spring Into Action—Volunteer Day, 9:00am  
*Bathhouse #1, Campground*
- Sat, April 28.....Rowing Regatta, 8:00am-5:00pm  
*Pinchot Lake*

## JUNE

- Sat., June 30..... Friends' Open House, 11:00am-2:00pm  
*Nature/Interpretive Center, Conewago Day Use Area*
- Sat., June 30..... Kid's Bug Hunt, 11:00am-12:00pm  
*Ages 3 and up, Nature/Interpretive Center, Conewago Day Use Area*
- Sat., June 30..... Wildflower Walk, 1:00pm-2:30pm  
*Ages 10 and up, Nature/Interpretive Center, Conewago Day Use Area*

For more information and an updated list of events, please visit our website: [www.friendsofpinchot.org/home/calendar](http://www.friendsofpinchot.org/home/calendar)

thought she could see not just the line, but also the shank of a fishhook! She sent me on my way promising to take good care of him. I did not get my hopes up... he was so tiny, and fishhooks are bad news!

Four days later, Teresa called me. I braced myself. "He's ready to go back to his nest," she said. I might have cried a little bit. She told me it was a sinker, not a hook on that line. It's mother must have mistaken it for food, or maybe there had been a worm and a hook too. Teresa had carefully worked it out, then fed and medicated the bird until she was sure he was fine. She even put him with another chick so he would have company while he recuperated.

I picked up the bluebird and returned him to the park. I opened the box to three sleeping chicks. I nestled the fourth back into his place and closed the box. The next week they were nearly ready to fledge, and I could not even tell which one was "mine". The week after that, they were out of the nest. ■

PHOTO BY BOB MOUL



Eastern Bluebird on nestbox.

**Bluebirds: Hook, Line & Sinker**  
(Continued from page 1)

a paper bag and keep him warm, and bring him in," I was counseled. I did just that.

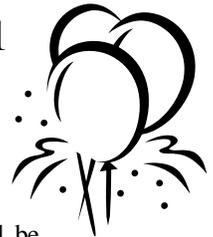
At the time I visited, Teresa and her husband were taking turns every hour doing the rounds (45 minutes of feeding, medicating and tending to their avian patients). Does this family not sleep?! Teresa kindly took in the bird, and with a quick review,

## Friends Hold Open House

Saturday, June 25, 2011

11:00am – 2:00pm

*Nature/Interpretive Center  
Conewago Day Use Area*

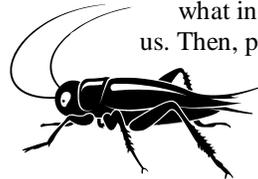


The Friends of Pinchot State Park will be hosting an open house at the Nature/Interpretive Center (Conewago Day Use Area). Everyone is invited to stop by, meet the board members, and learn about the projects we have been working on. Light refreshments will be available.

### Bug Hunt – 11:00am

(ages 3 and up)

Park Naturalist, Beth Kepley, will lead a discussion about what insects are and how they differ from us. Then, participants will go out and explore to see how many different kinds of insects can be found. *Nature/Interpretive Center.*



### Wildflower Walk – 1:00pm

(ages 10 and up)

Wildflower enthusiast, Pat Sabold, will lead a warm summer stroll identifying wildflowers and sharing a bit of lore about the plants. *Nature/Interpretive Center.*

**Volunteer Weekend**  
(Continued from page 1)

supply of tools for the volunteer work, so feel free to bring your own hand tools and work gloves.

Beginning Friday, April 20, there will be a limited number of campsites available for those who want to take

advantage of the free camping. Campers must stop in at the campground office to register. Please do not call the State Park Reservation System to make reservations for this volunteer opportunity. Campers will not be charged the normal overnight camping fee in agreement that they participate in both the Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon work sessions.

We will be working to spruce up the campground and the park in anticipation of the upcoming summer season. This includes campsite cleanup, trail work, litter pick-up and various other small park projects. Aside from the obvious incentive of a free weekend of camping, participants will be able to experience the rewards of volunteering in the outdoors and having a part in the beautification of our natural and recreational resources. This is a rain or shine event. If you have questions, please contact the park office at (717) 432-5011. ■



**Friends of Pinchot State Park  
2011 Annual Report**

Beginning Balance on Jan. 1, 2011.....	\$19,687.32
Income*.....	\$31,060.19
Expenses*.....	<u>\$22,454.99</u>
<b>Year End Balance on Dec 31, 2011 .....</b>	<b>\$28,292.52</b>

*\*Totals include income and expenses associated with grants.*

Volunteers .....	58
Volunteer Hours.....	1551.25
Volunteer Campground Host Hours .....	8720

Our major projects in 2011 were:

Improvements made on Beaver Creek and Lakeside Trails; 43 turtle basking platforms were built and placed in the lake; a woodshed was purchased to help implement our primary fundraiser, firewood sales; 6 park benches were purchased (still to be erected), and financially supported various park programs and events.

*The complete annual report can be found at our website  
<http://friendsofpinchot.org/home/newsletters>.*



2200 Rosstown Road  
Lewisberry, PA 17339  
(717) 432-5011  
Email: FOPSP@aol.com

**ADVISORY BOARD**

**Chairman**  
Jim Merlino

**Co-Chairman**  
Ted Prindle

**Treasurer**  
Sally Ray

**Secretary**  
Betsy Leppo

**Board Members**  
Larry Reddy  
Kevin Merlino  
Pat Sabold  
James Grove  
Steve Stroman

**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 5th of each quarter (March, June, September, December). The Advisory Board reserve publication decisions.

**FRIENDS OF PINCHOT STATE PARK**

2011-2012 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+)	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$250.00+
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to make a	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25.00	tax-deductible	
<input type="checkbox"/> Damselfly Sponsor	\$50.00	contribution of \$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly Sponsor	\$100.00	<b>TOTAL \$</b>	_____

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive my newsletter via email.  
 I am interested in volunteering.

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.*