

The Pinchot Eagle



Friends of Pinchot State Park

July/August/September 2012

“Who Cooks for You All?”

By Rose-Anna Behr

When my niece was eighteen months old, she pointed to a picture of a sleepy barn owl in a hayloft window. She picked it out from all the other things in the farm scene. “Owl” she said, “ooo-ooo-ooo,” a sound between an owl, a dove, and an excited child.

All birds from her-

ons to ducks to pigeons to hummingbirds she called “birds,” except owls. From the get-go, she knew owls were special. I would like to think this is my influence. Owls are one of my most favorite birds, especially Pinchot’s barred owls.

As most campers know, Pinchot has many owls. The barred owls are large, second only to the great horned owl. They are brown and



Barred Owl

PHOTO BY PAT SABOLD

white with horizontal bars and vertical stripes on their chest, thus their name “barred.” Unlike the screech and great horned owl, they have

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OWL PROWL

Fri., July 27, 2012
8:30pm-10:00pm

What makes owls such good night hunters? Join us at the campground amphitheater, with our guest speaker Rose-Anna Behr, for a short introduction to the species of owls found here at Pinchot Park and learn about their special adaptations. We will then venture out for a walk to see if we can hear or see any of our night time, feathered friends! Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight to use AFTER the program.

For more information, contact
Beth Kepley-McNutt,
Park Naturalist
ekepley-mc@state.pa.us
or 717-432-5011

DID YOU KNOW...

...Three owl species commonly make their home at Gifford Pinchot State Park?

Great-horned owl: At 18-25” in size, it is the largest of the common owl species at Pinchot. The great-horned owl can be identified by its ear tufts (horns), yellow eyes, and heavy barring beneath. Its call is a series of hoots that sounds similar to, “Whooo’s awake, me toooo”. Nesting occurs in February and early March.

Barred owl: At 17-24” in size, it is the second largest owl commonly seen at Pinchot. The barred owl has brown eyes, no ear tufts, barring across the chest, and streaks going lengthwise on the belly. Its call is a series of hoots that sounds similar to, “Whooo cooks for you, whooo cooks for you alllll”. Nesting occurs in March and early April.

Eastern Screech-owl: At 7-10” in size, it is the smallest of owl species common to Pinchot. The screech-owl has ear tufts, lengthwise streaking, and yellow eyes. Its call is similar to a mournful horse whinny.



PHOTO BY TED PRINDLE

The Friends of Pinchot State Park purchased six park benches. Two benches were installed at boat mooring #2, two benches near bathhouse #7 in the campground, and two benches at the campground boat launch area. Park and campground visitors now have a place to relax and enjoy the magnificent view of the lake.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

Sat., July 14..... **Fun Sail Day, 9:00am-5:00pm**
Pinchot Sailing Club, Conewago Day Use Area

Fri., July 20.....**DreamWright's Theater:**
"A Midsummer Night's Dream,"
7:00pm-9:00pm
Family-friendly, Campground Amphitheater

Sat., July 21 **Summer Stargaze and the Human Solar System**
8:00pm-10:30pm
Family-friendly, Open field near pet-friendly loop in campground

Fri., July 27.....**Owl Prowl, 8:30pm-10:00pm**
Campground Amphitheater

AUGUST

Sat., August 4.....**Owl Prowl, 8:30pm-10:00pm**
Campground Amphitheater

Sat., August 11.....**Night Hike, 8:00pm-10:00pm**
Family Friendly, Campground Amphitheater

Sat., August 18 **Honey Bee Awareness Day, 10:00am-4:00pm**
Family-friendly, Nature/Interpretive Center, Conewago Day Use Area

Sat., August 25.....**Snakes of PA, 7:00pm-9:00pm**
Family-friendly, 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

Pinchot Sailing Club Fun Sail Day

Saturday, July 14, 2012
9:00am-5:00pm



The Pinchot Sailing Club will hold a family fun day on Pinchot Lake. They will be gathering at the Conewago Day Use Area of the park. There will be sailboat rides beginning at 9:30am. A free picnic lunch will be provided with your fun sail (beginning at 10:30am). Additional lunches and/or lunches for non-riders can be purchased for \$5.00 each. ALL ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS!

For more information contact the Pinchot Sailing Club at commodore@pinchotsailing.com or Rich Alioth at 717-975-0879.

Try Your Hand at Disc Golf!

Each Tuesday Evening
From Now Until September 25, 2012
5:20pm - 8:00pm

Sponsored by the Boulder Woods Country Club

Try your hand at the sport of Disc Golf on Tuesday evenings, at Pinchot, now through September.

Those interested in a FREE sampling of the sport of disc golf will be joined by a guide(s) from the local disc golf club, weather permitting. Bring your own Frisbees or borrow some discs from the guides on hand.

Arrive at the Shady Side pavilion (pavilion #1) in the Conewago Day Use area by 5:20pm and let the first player you see know that your group is participating in this posted park activity. Groups will be formed accordingly, with fun tips and easy to follow "how-to's", beginning at 5:30pm. Play will be at a leisurely pace and last for as long as each group cares to continue throwing.



Disc Golf Basket

PHOTO BY SALLY RAY

For more information, contact Mike Lordan at mikelordan@yahoo.com or call the park office at 717-432-5011.

Honey Bee Awareness Day!

Saturday, August 18, 2012
10:00am-4:00pm

Sponsored by the York County Beekeeping Association
<http://www.ycbk.org/>

The National Honey Bee Day program started with a simple concept: Bring together beekeepers, bee associations and clubs, as well as other interested groups and individuals to connect with communities and advance beekeeping. By working together, and harnessing the efforts that so many individuals and groups already accomplish, and using a united effort on one day a year, the returns and message can be magnified.

Join us at the interpretive/nature center for family-friendly crafts, talks, presentations and more!

For more information, contact Beth Kepley-McNutt, Park Naturalist, at ekepley-mc@state.pa.us or 717-432-5011.

"Who Cooks for You All?"
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no ear tufts. The owls reside in Pennsylvania forests year round, and return time and again to the same nests in cavities in old trees.

The forests in and around the campground are home to many pairs of barred owls. And they love to talk! Their typical

call, "who cooks for you, who cooks for you allll," echoes throughout the forest all summer long. These owls are not shy about advertising their presence. They also have a "monkey call," a raucous "awk-awk-awk-awk-awk," sometimes ending in a long "whoooooooo." The adults and young tend to make this call close to the nest.

In late summer, you can often hear a rising insect-like, bird-like screech, which is the fledged young barred-owl begging for food. I have heard them low in the canopy and seen them perch on the moored sailboat masts calling for food. Rarely, you may hear the "beak clack," which is a very clear statement of "back off!!!"

The next time you are camping, take a quiet night hike, tune your ears to the sounds of the night, and listen for the owls, or join us for one of our owl prowls. Pinchot's barred owls rarely disappoint! ■



"Host-it" Note

This amusing, but true story, was shared by a camper and is being retold by campground host, Phyllis Crooks:

WATERFRONT CAMPING

Truck is packed, have all my gear and food. Eight more hours of work and I am off for the best weekend ever of camping and fishing. The lady in the office said my site is right on the water, just roll out of my tent and I'm ready to fish. What could be better.

Saturday, I rolled out of my tent, drank my coffee and fished the day away. I planned on doing the same on Sunday morning. Heard some rain on the tent... good sleeping sounds. Awoke Sunday morning, unzipped my tent and the lake came pouring in. Looked around, everything was in the water. It must have rained a LOT more than I thought! I quietly packed up and went home to dry out. I guess "on the water" really means "on the water." I'll be back, keep my site open, it was the best weekend ever."



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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
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

2012-2013 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+) | \$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 | TOTAL \$ | _____ |

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____

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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.