



Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation
Chapter Annual Report Form
For 12-month period ending 12/31/17

The Year in Review

Chapter Name: **Friends of Pinchot State Park (FOPSP)**

Information Submitted By: Betsy Leppo, FOPSP Secretary

(Name and position held in group)

Please complete and return this form by January 31, 2018 to:

Marci Mowery

PA Parks and Forests Foundation

1845 Market Street, Suite 202, Camp Hill, PA 17011

or via email: mmowery-ppff@pa.net and pmetzger@paparksandforests.org

Board of Directors (required): Use attached form or provide your own list. Click on [green](#) tab below.

(PPFF's directors and officers insurance provider requires current information in order to provide coverage.)

(Whether you use your own form or the one provided, ALL directors must sign an updated conflict of interest form each year.)

Funds Raised (required): Use attached form. Click on [blue](#) tab below.

Projects and Activities: Use attached form. Click on [orange](#) tab below.

Please list your greatest challenge this past year:

This year we said goodbye to our outgoing Chair and Vice Chairs, Jim Merlino and Ted Prindle. Thankfully Ted stayed on as a director, and we are happy to report we have two great people who stepped up to steer the ship, Curtis Gottdiner and Mary Beth Zeigler. With Pat Sabold's departure, we lost a talented board member who handled key jobs including the newsletter and website. We will need to find people to pick up her duties. The position of Treasurer will also be vacated by the end of this year. Bringing on a new board member with the right skill set to fill this position is a top priority. We continue to rely heavily on a small group of dedicated volunteers to accomplish the work of the Friends group. Splitting and bundling wood is a relentless task during the camping season to keep up with the demand in the campground. This is our core fundraiser but it takes a lot of hard work to prepare the wood for sale. Obtaining new members continues to be a challenge. March of 2017 marked the 8th anniversary of the start of the FOPSP. Our goal is to retain core volunteers while exploring different ways to engage new potential members and volunteers by hosting outreach events and activities.

What do you view as the highlight or greatest accomplishment of the past year?

In 2017 FOPSP volunteers continued to take care of many routine activities including light maintenance in the campground, park grounds, and on trails. We provided community outreach through nature programs and the Pinchot Eagle newsletter. Our fundraising efforts allowed us to set more money aside in our playground fund to add the final pieces to the Conewago Day Use Area. We continued to build a fund for educational displays and related items for the renovated Environmental Education Center. We are excited to contribute to the environmental program at the park and help park staff provide a rich variety of experiences for park visitors and their children. Our largest purchase in 2017 was a used brush chipper to handle the clean-up of wood processed for our campground firewood fundraisers. Firewood sales continue to be our primary source of income, generating a net profit of \$27,900 in 2017. This chipper is also helping park staff with dead tree removal, which has become a large effort due to the widespread loss of ash trees to the emerald ash borer infestation. We helped the park with emergency septic service on their waste water treatment plant and a new floor for the campground office. This year we worked collaboratively on our 7th annual trail care day, a partnership between FOPSP, Gifford Pinchot State Park, the Keystone Trail Association, and the Mason-Dixon Trail Association. Since 2011 we have rehabilitated over a half mile of trails in a sustainable manner. This year we improved 325 feet of a very muddy section of the Lakeside/Mason-Dixon Trail between Rt. 177 and the campground entrance. We worked with park staff and volunteers, including Earth Day 'Spring into Action' volunteers, and students from the Diakon Wilderness Nursery, to plant and fence a variety of native plants and shrubs around the vernal pool wetlands that were restored in 2016. In 2017 we hosted our first native plant sale, a new event to replace the FOPSP open house. We used the opportunity to engage with the public about the value of native plants, and showcased a variety of FOPSP projects and partnerships. We offered complimentary hot drinks as a way of extending our hospitality to people who stopped by. The sale was a great success, we generated a modest profit, received three new memberships from people who attended the sale, and sold all 232 plants we purchased!

Do you have a current work plan? If yes, please provide a copy. If no, can we help you prepare one?

Do you have a budget for 2018? Please provide a copy.

Please make sure we receive your newsletter, either by mail at the office or email.

Please make sure we have a copy of your membership brochures.

Please make sure we have a copy of your minutes from each meeting throughout the year.

The same goes for any other communications pieces, like events flyers.

Do you have any training needs or is there another way PPF can help you succeed?

Please share your photographs for the library!

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation
FOPSP Information For Website Directory and Other Public Use

Point of Contact (POC) for Group : Curtis Gottdiner, curtisgpinchot@yahoo.com

(Primary person to receive information from PPF and is listed publicly as the chapter contact on our website.)

POC Address : Gifford Pinchot State Park, attn. FOPSP, 2200 Rosstown Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339

POC Phone : Gifford Pinchot Park Office Phone: 717-432-5011

POC Email: FOPSP email: fopsp@aol.com

Web URL: www.friendsofpinchot.org

Facebook page : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gifford-Pinchot-State-Park/175468372494927>

Web/Facebook Contact : Ted Prindle (prindleted@aol.com)

Does your chapter or board meet regularly?

Yes: Y

No:

(If yes, on what schedule and where?)

We meet four to six times a year, typically on the second or third Tuesday of alternating months. We meet from 6-8 PM at the Gifford Pinchot State Park office. In 2017 we met on January 17, March 28, May 16, July 11, September 19, and November 14.

Please list all special events planned for 2018

(please update to Pam Metzger at pmetzger@paparksandforests.org as scheduled)

Native Plant Sale - Saturday April 28

Vernal pool and wildflower walks - Spring

Trail Care Day - October 6

Pinchotween - Saturday October 20

First Day Hike - January 1, 2019

Please list all known volunteer days planned for 2018

(please update to Pam Metzger at pmetzger@paparksandforests.org as scheduled)

Native Plant Sale Preparation - plug repotting workdays:

Friday March 23 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the GPSP park maintenance area

Saturday March 24 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the GPSP park maintenance area

Native Plant Sale:

Saturday April 28 at the Sunnyside Pavilion of the Conewago Day Use Area from 10:00-2:00

Trail Care Day:

Saturday October 6

Please list any volunteer needs you may have

(e.g., web/Facebook/social media help, membership, trail workers, etc.)

We need new volunteers/board members to take over the positions listed below. In addition to the PPF job descriptions, we have summaries that describe how each position is typically managed by FOPSP

Treasurer (board position)

Pinchot Eagle newsletter editor

Webmaster

Additional volunteer needs: firewood cutting and wood bundling, trail maintenance, event planning

(please update to Pam Metzger at pmetzger@paparksandforests.org as scheduled)

Who, if anyone, logs your events into DCNR's website calendar?

Beth Kepley-McNutt, Gifford Pinchot State Park Environmental Education Specialist

If you have a website calendar, what "vendor" do you use? (e.g., Google calendar, something else)

Website calendar not currently active.

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation
FOPSP Board of Directors 2018

This list is used internally only by PPF to send updates via email and mail and to assure proper insurance coverage

CHAIR

First Name: Curtis Last Name: Gottdiner

VICE CHAIR

First Name: Mary Beth Last Name: Zeigler

SECRETARY

First Name: Betsy Last Name: Leppo

TREASURER

First Name: Sally Last Name: Ray

DIRECTOR

First Name: Dean Last Name: Gibbons

DIRECTOR

First Name: Jim Last Name: Grove

DIRECTOR

First Name: Kevin Last Name: Merlino

DIRECTOR

First Name: Ted Last Name: Prindle

DIRECTOR

First Name: Phyllis Last Name: Crooks
(Newly elected board member on 2/20/2018 to a 1 year term.)

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation
FOPSP Chapter Financial Report for PPF
12-month period ending 12/31/17

REVENUE:

Membership Dues	\$ 955.00
Contributions - Individual	\$ 1,365.85
Contributions - Corporate	\$ 1,927.46
Events (Revenue from sales, event admissions, etc.)	\$ 1,390.57
Sales - Firewood	\$ 27,900.00
Sales - Ice	\$ 5,636.00
Sales - Clothing	\$ 600.00
Sales - Stickers	\$ 143.00
Grants (More information outlined below)	\$ 500.00
Program Fees	\$ -
Small Games of Chance Proceeds	\$ -
Value of In-Kind Contributions	\$ -
Other (Please specify source.)	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 40,417.88

GRANTS

Did you receive any grants in 2017?

Yes:

No:

If yes, please list. Attach additional page if necessary:

Grant Source: Bureau of State Parks Programming Services

Grant Amount: \$500.00

Project Funded: PPF Adventure Camp

Do you plan to apply for grants in 2018?*

Yes:

No:

If yes, please list prospective source, amount and project summary:

*** Prior to applying for any grant, Chapters must contact Marci (717.236.7644 or mmowery-ppff@pa.net) to confirm that the application conforms to the PPF Bylaws, the Chapter workplan and applicable DCNR regulations.**

Do you currently have an additional checking account?

Yes:

No:

If yes, have you submitted your year end paperwork to Debbie?

Yes:

No:

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation FOPSP 2017 Projects and Activities

Service Projects:	# Projects Hosted	Hundreds of recurring workdays
	Estimated Attendance	205: Estimated number of FOPSP volunteers. In some cases we allowed one person to be counted multiple times if they volunteered on multiple days. However, when our core group volunteers participated in dozens of routine events, we did not tally them multiple times for those activities. Throughout the year (but primarily during camping season), a core group of ~15 volunteers plus ~15 additional volunteers worked over many days on the tasks described below. Summary of volunteer effort: 7 people <1 day; 7 people 2-4 days; 7 people 5-10 days; 7 people 10-30 days; 2 people 70-90 days.
	Project Descriptions: recurring work days, cleanups, improvement projects utilizing volunteers, outside service groups, etc. and dates held.	<u>Routine Work</u> on many dates throughout the year on tasks including: Firewood preparation and sales in the campground (1660.5 hrs); Light maintenance in campground (615.5 hrs), park and trail care (117.5 hrs); Nature Center (24 hrs); Administrative duties (412.5 hrs). <u>Project Workdays</u> : Vernal pool planting, fencing and monitoring, 69 volunteers involved over 21 dates between 2/2/17 and 12/1/17 (249 hrs); Trail Care Day and preparation, 20 volunteers involved, main event on October 7 (152 hrs); additional FOPSP participation and preparation for workdays, multiple dates (171.5 hrs).
Special Events:	# Events Held	5
	Estimated Attendance	196
	Event Descriptions: Type of events, date held. Include annual events such as craft and other fairs, concerts, etc.	Vernal pool walks on April 14 (8 participants) and April 15 (5 participants); wildflower walks on April 8 (14 participants), April 15 (18 participants); 1 native plant sale and preparation, 15 volunteers involved, main event on April 29 with 132 attendees. Board member participation and preparation for events, multiple dates (116 hrs)
Other Activities:	Other Activities	2
	Estimated Attendance	610
	Descriptions: Include type of activity and dates held for any activity	FOPSP helped Gifford Pinchot State Park staff host several events this year: The First Day Hike on January 1 (50 participants), and Pinchotween on October 15 (550 participants).
Volunteers:	Total number of volunteers your group has had for the year.	234: Estimated number of FOPSP volunteers. In some cases we allowed one person to be counted multiple times if they volunteered on multiple days. However, when our core group volunteers participated in dozens of routine work days, we did not tally them multiple times for those activities.
	Estimated volunteer hours provided	3518.5

FOPSP Physical Projects:

Playground ¹	3
Fishing Dock	na
ADA Launch	na
Trees (Gardens?) Planted ²	9 trees plus 14 gardens
Number of Trails Maintained	11
Miles of Trails Maintained/Built ³	11.7
Trail Bridges Built/Repaired	none

Other Projects (Number and Description)

1. Put in wood fiber 'carpet' around **3** playgrounds: at Quaker Race Day Use Area, Conewago Day Use Area, and at the playground near Bathhouse 6 in campground. Set aside funding for final pieces for the Conewago Day Use Area playground.
2. Planted **8** trees at Conewago Day Use Area on spring clean-up day. Planted **1** tree with Governor Wolf. Planted and fenced **14** 'gardens' (8x4 feet rectangles) and installed 482 native perennial wildflowers and 85 native shrubs around five restored vernal pool wetlands
3. FOPSP volunteers monitor an estimated **11.7 miles** of park trails, and do light maintenance, such as removal of brush and fallen trees, as needed throughout the season. A 325 foot section of trail had more extensive work done as part of the annual Trail Care Day. This section is located on the Lakeside / Mason-Dixon Trail between Rt. 177 and the campground entrance.