

S U M M E R S E A S O N 2 0 1 6



## Save the Dates!



June 3	Astronomy
June 13	FOMP meeting
June 17	Square Dance
June 21-22	Hide-n-Seekers Day Camp
June 29	Outdoor Explorers Day Camp
July 1	Astronomy
July 6-7	Hunter Trapper Ed Class
July 10	Lyme Disease Program
July 12	Project Learning Tree Workshop
July 19	Conservation Leaders Day Camp
August 1	FOMP meeting
August 5	Astronomy
Sept. 2	Astronomy
Sept. 5	FOMP meeting
Sept. 10	Patriots in the Park
Sept. 25	3-D Archery Shoot
Sept. 28	Green Career Day
Oct. 3	FOMP meeting
Oct. 8	Apple Butter Day
Oct. 9	Rotary Road Rally

## You never know what you might see at Mt. Pisgah State Park!

Check out the loons on Stephen Foster Lake! These majestic birds decided to stop in at our park for a break on their migration northward!

A bald eagle has also been sighted both perched and flying around our lake too!

*~Thank you to Pat Brackbill for contributing these photos!*

Please check out the Friends of Mt. Pisgah State Park Facebook page or website [www.friendsofmountpisgah.org](http://www.friendsofmountpisgah.org) for more info, times and registration!

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

### Women in the Wilds

**8.6.16**

Don't miss out on the chance to join 275+ ladies in a great atmosphere!

### Youth Field Day

**8.20.16**

Open to youth, ages 5-18! Free lunch, tshirt and commemorative patch!

### Patriots in the Park

**9.10.16**

Attention all veterans and active duty military personnel—this day is for you!



## Check Mt. Pisgah out!

**A free swimming pool, 12 miles of hiking trails, 76 acre Stephen Foster Lake, 1302 acres total of Mt. Pisgah State Park, all for you to enjoy!**



### New Flagpole

In Fall 2016, the Friends of Mt. Pisgah purchased a new flagpole and flag that was installed by the Mt. Pisgah State Park Maintenance Crew. Check out Old Glory as it flies proudly by our Hilltop Pavilion. The flagpole was dedicated at our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Patriots in the Park event.

### Dredging Project Update



The forebay dredging project of Stephen Foster Lake is nearing completion! Thank you to our partners of Bradford County Conservation District, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and Environmental Protection Agency for making this project happen!

### New Amphitheater

Wait until you see the progress that the Mt. Pisgah State Park maintenance crew has made on our new amphitheater to be used for special events and other programs in the park. Thank you to the Trail Life Troop #1776 – they have made great progress on peeling the bark of the locust log benches!



### Chief Wetonah Statue at Mt. Pisgah County Park



On May 15, 2016, over 280 runners participated in the Chief Wetonah Trail Run Challenge, involving trails on both the county and state park lands. Runners could choose between a 7 mile or 14 mile trail run!

Mt. Pisgah State Park adjoins 600 acres of Mt. Pisgah County Park, and 1550 acres of State Game Lands #289. Chief Wetonah was a great Oneida warrior that once roamed these lands.



## Osprey Nesting Platform installed by Troy Junior Sportsmen volunteers

Anticipation is defined in Webster's Dictionary: "a feeling of excitement about something that is going to happen: the act of preparing for something."

In the fall of 2015, an osprey nesting platform was erected on the Southeast side of Stephen Foster Lake, by the dam. The nesting platform was designed and built by youth from the Troy Junior Sportsmen Organization with help from Claverack Rural Electric in setting of the platform. Building materials were provided by Dennis Rathbun Construction and Tim Leonard Excavating.

The platform was set in place in anticipation that during migration North in Spring 2016 from South America that osprey would locate the platform, construct a nest, and begin a localized colony of osprey.

Osprey lay between 2-4 eggs with an incubation time of thirty-four to forty days. They will take their first flight at seven to eight weeks of age.

Two weeks after fledging the young will begin to hunt with the male. Ospreys are sometimes referred to as "fish hawks" mainly due to their diet being primarily made of fish. Osprey will hover directly above their prey and then dive vertically toward it. They will thrust their talons forward to snatch the fish from the water before impact. Ospreys are often fully immersed in the water and struggle to lift the fish from the water with their specialized talons.

In the fall, the young will migrate to northern South America where they will remain for a year and a half. They will attempt to attract a mate upon returning to their home territory, but will not successfully breed until the age of 3 at the nest site.

Let's keep an eye to the south and with anticipation that these magnificent birds find our nesting platform and become part of the family at Mt. Pisgah State Park. So far, osprey have been sighted at Mt. Pisgah State Park, but none have decided to build a nest on the new platform as of yet. Stay tuned!

*-Submitted by Dennis Rathbun, Jr.*

## Volunteer for our park!

The Friends of Mt. Pisgah can always use volunteers for our events and park. Do you want to work behind the scenes? From set-up and tear down, to weeding the gardens, donating your time or talent, maintaining the trails, picking up litter, we can find work for you! Need a service project? Ask us!



## NEW! Fitness Fridays at Mt. Pisgah State Park

Jenn Kropf, a local fitness enthusiast, will be offering Fitness Fridays, on Fridays, from June 17-July 29. Classes will revolve around your personal interests—open to all fitness levels and ages. These classes will focus on building strength and flexibility! Please meet 9 am at the Nature Center!

Bring your kid, your friend or neighbor and have fun! All you need is a pair of sneakers, water and a suggested donation of \$5.



## One last thought...

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

-Mahatma Gandhi

