

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest.

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In celebrating Wilderness Act, work to expand its legacy

By Kirk Johnson and Doug Scott

We are winding down the trail to the end of the year — and the end of the yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Under this historic statute, Congress extended the strongest possible protection to the wildest and most natural of our national forests and other federal conservation lands.

These are not just sanctuaries for wildlife, but sanctuaries for us, too. Here you can take your kids to hear a bird and the wind in the trees and the crunch of the snow under your boots without the discordance of motors or machinery. These are places to remember that we, too, came from the Earth and are wise to remember our dependence on it.

Pennsylvania has a special place in this history and the celebrations, for it was a native of the Keystone State who conceived, wrote, and lobbied the Wilderness Act into law.

Howard Zahniser was born in Franklin and raised in Tionesta, on the banks of the Allegheny River northeast of Pittsburgh. He played in the Allegheny National Forest and honeymooned while canoeing down the river, camping on an island that today is part of the

Allegheny Islands Wilderness Area.

In the celebrations of the Wilderness Act, including the national wilderness conference in Albuquerque, N.M., in October, where more than 1,000 leaders, elected officials, and federal wilderness stewards gathered, all eyes turned metaphorically to the north and east to pay tribute to “Zahnie,” as everyone knew him. He was the perfect leader of the Wilderness Society at midcentury - quiet, scholarly, pragmatic, and always happiest when others got the credit.



Members of a FAW backpacking group make their way off-trail through the untrammelled wilds of Hedgehog Run valley in the proposed Allegheny Front Wilderness, Feb. 2015. Photo by Dara Stern.

Zahnie is buried in Tionesta under a spreading oak tree along the Allegheny. He so loved that river and admired the words of a steamboat captain:

“It is a mysterious sort of place, and vague tales come wafting down from explorers who have been up there...wild country —

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365
814-723-0620
info@pawild.org
www.pawild.org

adventurous country!...strange and untamed and little explored. Curious that such a place should exist so close to civilization and still be untouched. Miles and miles of pioneer river with absolutely no sign of human handiwork."

A wilderness river – the kind of river Congress protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968. For this and the Wilderness Act and many new national parks, the leader in the U.S. House was Rep. John P. Saylor, a Republican from Johnstown. He joined with Democrats in a nonpartisan commitment to the wilderness that continues to this day.

The Wilderness Act originally covered 9.1 million acres in statutorily protected wilderness. Today, America's National Wilderness Preservation System embraces 110 million acres. And more is coming, fueled by local people who love a wild part of nearby federal lands and know that wilderness designation offers the strongest possible protection. These lands remain part of a national forest or other classification; wilderness provides an extra layer of legal protection.

This protection is needed for more areas in the Allegheny National Forest. In addition to the islands, we have only the Hickory Creek Wilderness – a total of just 9,000 acres out of about half a million – less than 2 percent of Pennsylvania's only national forest. For comparison, 18 percent of all national forest land is protected under Zahnie's Wilderness Act.

The Warren-based Friends of Allegheny Wilderness has been working for 15 years to rectify this paucity. Our *Citizens' Wilderness*

Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest identifies more than 50,000 acres that should be added to the wilderness system. Dozens of local, statewide, and national organizations representing hundreds of thousands of Americans have endorsed the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal*, and during the U.S. Forest Service's most recent revamping of its long-term management plan, more than 6,800 out of 8,200 public commenters wrote specifically in support of it.

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness leads frequent hikes into the wilds of the Allegheny. It may be a snowshoe hike or a foray into the valley bottoms of our proposed Tionesta Wilderness Area, where ancient hemlock trees can be 130 feet tall and 500 years old. Volunteers are needed to help with grassroots organizing, so Pennsylvanians are encouraged to check out pawild.org to see what they can do to help.

Wild. Beautiful at every season. Historic. And needing your help. This is your wild Allegheny country.

Kirk Johnson is executive director of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (www.pawild.org). He lives in Warren.

Doug Scott is a retired wilderness lobbyist and the author of "Wild Thoughts: Short Selections from Great Writing about Nature, Wilderness, and the People Who Protect Them."

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Wilderness Character, Untrammled, Human Knowing, and Our Projection of Desire

Recently there have been calls by some to radically alter the intent and purpose of the Wilderness Act of 1964 – assertions that designated wilderness areas now "need" our overt management because of the changing climate, the presence of invasive species, or any other host of reasons that any individual human being may believe to be valid. This

point of view was perhaps most conspicuously related in an opinion piece titled "Rethinking the Wild" by Christopher Solomon that was published in the *New York Times* last July.

The idea of managing wilderness is of course anathema to the whole purpose of preserving wilderness in the first place. The fundamental truth is that no one – not the most experienced agency manager of wilderness lands, not the most highly regarded Ph.D. in forestry from the most prestigious forestry school in the land – ultimately knows better than nature how to be nature. Nature is never 'doing it wrong,' no matter what, it is axiomatically impossible. That is why we designate wilderness areas, so that there will always be at least some vestiges of the natural world where mankind demonstrates true nonintervention, and that we have the humility and restraint to the greatest degree possible in today's modern world to leave some areas of the American landscape essentially to their own devices.

Remember that in wilderness "...the object is not to stop change, nor to recreate conditions as of some arbitrary historical date, nor to strive for favorable change in big game populations or in scenic vistas. The object is to let nature 'roll the dice' and accept the results with interest and scientific curiosity." – Robert Lucas, from "Wilderness: a Management Framework," *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 28(4): 150-154.

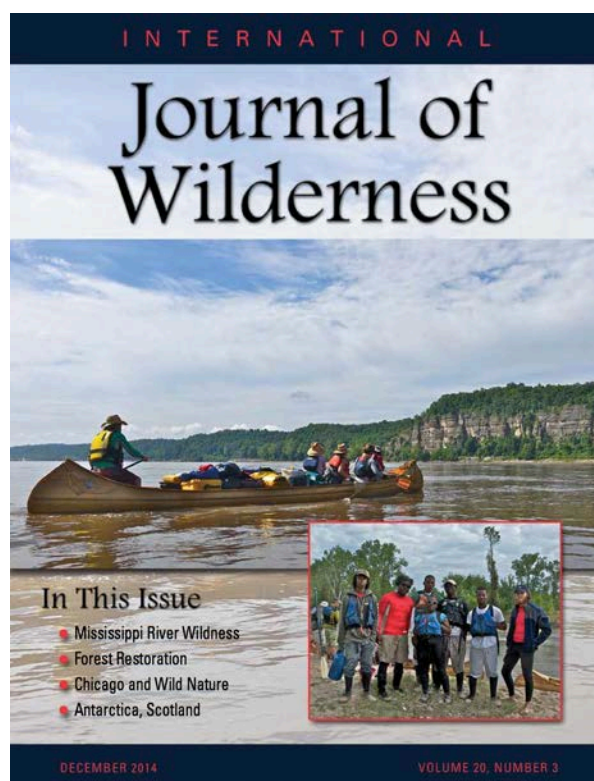
In a new article titled "Wilderness Character, Untrammled, Human Knowing, and Our Projection of Desire" published in the *International Journal of Wilderness* (December 2014, Vol. 20, No. 3, pp 4-7), long-time FAW supporter and wilderness advocate Ed Zahniser, son of Tionesta native and Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser, presents an exceedingly well-formulated discourse on the need to exercise circumspect self-restraint in the face of new calls to overtly manage America's wilderness. His article is

available on the FAW website:

<http://www.pawild.org/articles/ZahniserDec2014IJW.pdf>

Ed writes in part:

"The crux of wilderness character and of the 1964 Wilderness Act itself lies in the word *untrammled* and its caveat that we must not project our human desires and mental constructs onto designated wilderness. *Untrammled* says, as Howard Zahniser wrote, that with wilderness we should be guardians, not gardeners. *Untrammled* says that the so-called management or stewardship goal for designated wilderness, again as Howard Zahniser wrote, is to leave it unmanaged. *Untrammled* is a hard teaching for scientists and natural resource managers, especially when we are desperate to see public lands management otherwise generally guided by 'good science' rather than ideology, magical thinking, or wishful thinking.



But if wild, wildness, and wilderness embody the meaning of self-willed, how else

can we read *untrammelled*? Given the Wilderness Act's intent of a wilderness-forever future, we are impelled to read *untrammelled* as an urgent plea for an ethic of profound restraint and uncharacteristic humility. This is the human challenge – to preserve the self-willed-ness of the land untrammelled in perpetuity, forever, into the eternity of the future....

...The epistemological question that *untrammelled* asks of those who steward – whose etymological roots include wilderness warden and guardian – is this: To what future are we the past and a past that may well be contradicted? Does our generation *alone* not live in the permanence of ignorance? If not, we must be 'guardians not gardeners,' as Howard Zahniser wrote. We must protect wilderness at its boundary. Humility must be our portal for entering any wilderness."

Pete Westover Wins FAW Photo at Warren County Outdoor Show

During the Warren County Outdoor Show at the Warren Mall on January 10th-11th, Friends of Allegheny Wilderness raffled off a beautiful, professionally matted and framed photo of the Allegheny National Forest titled "Chestnut Ridge Beaver Pond."



"Chestnut Ridge Beaver Pond" from the 2007 Crary Art Gallery exhibition, "Picturing Wilderness."

This photo was taken along North Branch Sugar Run within the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness Area in northwest McKean

County. The photo had originally appeared in the month-long "Picturing Wilderness" exhibition at Warren's Crary Art Gallery during the summer of 2007.

In 2003, FAW proposed Chestnut Ridge for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act of 1964, and the U.S. Forest Service subsequently formally adopted this proposal as part of their long-term management plan for the ANF, published in March of 2007.



Long-time FAW board member Dr. Ronald Simonsen of Warren (right) is shown delivering "Chestnut Ridge Beaver Pond" to Pete (and Linda) Westover at his home on Swede Hill Rd. in Russell.

At the end of the Warren County Outdoor Show on Sunday evening, Pete Westover's name was randomly drawn from the more than 60 people who had stopped by the FAW booth to enter the contest over the course of the weekend. Impartial third party Cassidy Nielsen, a WAHS student, performed the honors of drawing the winning name.

Pennsylvania Bureau of Historic Preservation Wednesday, January 14th, 2015

Into the Wilderness!: The Search for Thompson's Island

By Keith Heinrichs

In July 2014, the Bureau for Historic

Preservation received an American Battlefield Protection Program planning grant from the National Park Service to locate, document, and delineate the boundaries of a significant, but little known Revolutionary War conflict site in northwestern Pennsylvania. The Battle of Thompson's Island, in present day Warren County, is listed with "Other Sites of Interest" in the 2007 Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States, but its exact location is unknown. In fact, it is possible that the battle simply took place near Thompson's Island, not on it – but we are certain that it is located within the Allegheny National Forest.

This project seeks to answer some of those questions.

War on the Pennsylvania Frontier

As we all know, the American Revolution was a war between soldiers of the British Empire and soldiers, both regular (Continental) and militia, of the 13 American colonies. A lesser known aspect of the war was that it included raids on Colonial frontier settlements by British forces, along with Tory forces loyal to the British Crown and their Native American allies, including members of the Iroquois Confederation. These raids reached a fever pitch in 1778. Probably the best known of these raids in Pennsylvania was the Battle of Wyoming, also known as the "Wyoming Massacre," which took place on July 3, 1778. During the battle, a force of about 400 militiamen took on a force of British Regulars, Tories, and Native Americans. Of the 400 militiamen who took part in the battle, only 60 would survive; 227 would be scalped by the Native Americans.

As a result of raids like the Wyoming Massacre, General George Washington, in 1779, began a campaign against the Native American allies of the British, particularly the Iroquois Confederation. As part of this campaign, Major General John Sullivan, along with eleven regiments – regimental manpower varied, but a regiment generally

included hundreds of soldiers – of Continentals (over 2,300 men total), would march approximately 70 miles northwest from Easton, Pennsylvania, to Wyoming, Pennsylvania. From there, the troops would march another approximately 70 miles northwest to what was then known as Tioga Point, Pennsylvania; it is now known as Athens, Pennsylvania. At the same time, Brigadier General James Clinton would lead five regiments of Continentals down the North Branch of the Susquehanna River to meet up with Sullivan. After the two groups met up they would proceed west to the Finger Lakes of New York, striking at the Iroquois by destroying everything in their path. They would continue to Genesee, an Iroquois town.



The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker at Thompson's Island.

As Sullivan was moving north on the eastern side of Pennsylvania, Colonel Daniel Brodhead would lead the 8th Pennsylvania regiment north from Fort Pitt (modern-day Pittsburgh) – Fort Pitt had been decommissioned by the British in 1772 and, during the Revolutionary War, it served as the Western headquarters of the Continental

Army – destroying everything in their path. If feasible, they would meet up with Sullivan in New York and either move on against Fort Niagara or turn back. On August 11, 1779, Brodhead and his men left from Fort Pitt and headed north, mostly following the Allegheny River. Around August 18, an advance guard of Brodhead’s men came upon 30 to 40 Allegany Seneca (members of the Iroquois Confederation) and a battle ensued, resulting in 3 American wounded and 5 Seneca killed; the rest retreated. The battle was the only Revolutionary War battle in northwestern Pennsylvania and is popularly referred to as the Battle of Thompson’s Island.

After the battle, Brodhead continued north, burning Native American villages. After this, Brodhead’s men returned to Fort Pitt, arriving there on September 14. The campaign lessened the raids, but they would continue throughout the Revolution.

The Search Begins

With input from stakeholders including the Allegheny National Forest, the Seneca Nation of Indians, and the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, we have prepared a Scope of Work to be sent out to several Cultural Resource Management companies for bid.

When the project is completed, we hope to have a detailed history, including GIS mapping, of Brodhead’s campaign from start to finish, a detailed history, including GIS mapping, of the Battle of Thompson’s Island, and archaeological survey to both locate and delineate the boundaries of the battlefield.

We will keep you posted as the project moves forward, so stay tuned!

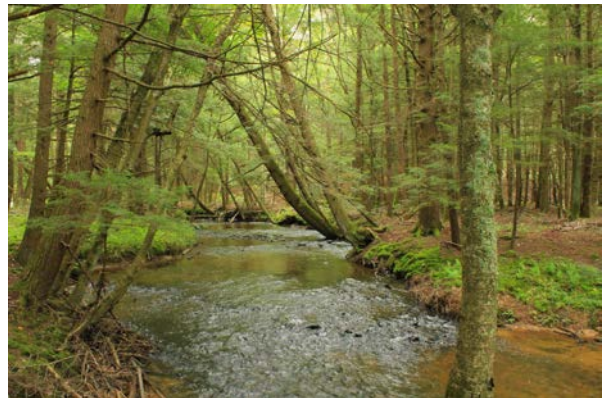
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Some Hickory Creek Wilderness History

Some of the tallest trees and oldest stands of forest in Pennsylvania’s largest federal wilderness area – the Allegheny National

Forest’s Hickory Creek Wilderness – lie in its southwest portion, toward where East Hickory Creek exits the wilderness at Forest Road 119.

Old, recently discovered survey notes from November of 1968 written by an employee of the Forest Service allude to the area’s natural wonder and recreational value – only what the surveyor evidently had in mind for the area was developed recreation, and not wilderness preservation. (This, despite the existence of the Wilderness Act, which had become law four years earlier.)



Near the southern boundary of the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area. Photo by David Johnson.

FAW is of course pleased that this particular special area was never developed, and was later protected by law in its natural state for present and future generations to enjoy with the passage of the Pennsylvania Wilderness Act of 1984! The 1968 notes read in part:

“This area on East Hickory Creek has very good potential for recreation. A small dam could be built across East Hickory Creek that could back up water for about a mile. Camp sites could be put in around stand #21. There is good access into this area by way of an old railroad grade that runs along East Hickory Creek. One bridge would be built and several pipes would be put in. This compartment also has any number of old skid roads that could be used for snowmobile trails.”

These surveyor observations help illustrate why it is FAW’s solemn sworn duty to advocate wilderness protection for all areas of the ANF that qualify. If we don’t, somebody will almost certainly come along at some point

in the future with bright ideas for developments and/or other activities which would eliminate or degrade the wilderness qualities and characteristics of the Allegheny's candidate additions to America's National Wilderness Preservation System.

FAW to Offer Free Hikes in Concert With September's Pennsylvania Trails Summit

The biennial Pennsylvania Greenways & Trails Summit will be held in Warren this September, and is expected to bring in between 200 to 250 attendees. The event provides trail builders, volunteers, and recreation professionals with the information needed to establish and steward trails throughout the Commonwealth. Previous Greenways Summits have been held in Altoona, Greensburg, Mechanicsburg, the Poconos, York, and Franklin.



September 20-22, 2015

Holiday Inn & Allegheny Community Center, Warren, PA

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness will make two different free hikes available to the public in concert with the upcoming Summit in order to help promote undeveloped backcountry hiking trails, and wilderness protection in the Allegheny National Forest.

The first FAW hike will be an overnight 13-mile backpacking trip in the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area on the Hickory Creek

Wilderness trail from Saturday the 19th through Sunday the 20th. For those willing to come a day early, this will be a fun way to spend the weekend and experience the Allegheny's backcountry first-hand.

The second hike will be a 6-mile day hike around the popular Minister loop trail within the proposed Minister Valley Wilderness Area on Wednesday the 23rd, for those willing to stick around for an extra day after the Summit.

If you are planning on coming to the Greenways Summit (or even if you're not planning to attend), and would like to join either or both of these hikes, please sign up by emailing FAW at info@pawild.org.

To learn more about the Greenways Summit in general, log onto: <http://tinyurl.com/3o93zlv>

Two poems from Confidence in Being

By Ed Zahniser

20

Wildness tells us things civility obscures
Beings and things: all metaphor posits shared existence
Humility is the portal to all and any wilderness
Ruffed grouse who drum are our hearts beating too
They don't create loneliness by encouraging consumption
—like geese get sucked into jets at 30,000 feet
Fear always floats to the top of our awful isolation
Speak truth and don't mislead another by your silences
Something in our national culture loves this wildness
that curious call of the wild whispers in America's ears
What then is our greatest failing but ingratitude
Anoint the wild with your own most sacred oils
Frame our quest as relatively bound and relatively free
Myth is the only place there isn't one

21

Things and the world came first: read it in the rocks
The stone knows the form the carver wants to give it
Micro- and macrocosm work by the self-same rules
Leaf bark wood-grain all proclaim the oakness of oaks
like inexpressible insights flowering in your dreams
Languages are passports between cultures: what does nature speak
Homer's 'rosy-fingered' meant the dawn Sappho's the moon
Grow your own loving by wanting to love invisible things
You're no plodding computer but a brilliant approximator
blessed with consciousness's strange electrical discharges
Work to extend your nature: not to defend it:
rolling mercy up the hill like Sisyphus his boulder
Listen for the winds that stir your mind from dust
Nature's things are what they seem: *that* is paradise

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365



Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is a small brownish bat, usually less than 10 cm long that lives in the forested regions of eastern Canada and the U.S. They are well-suited to foraging in the forest interior as their echolocation calls allow them to navigate through a varied forest canopy, and their small size allows for agility in dense vegetation. The northern long-eared bat has been heavily impacted by the white-nose syndrome fungal disease.

Your contribution to Friends of Allegheny Wilderness goes directly to saving wilderness!

Yes, I want to support Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and help protect Pennsylvania's Wilderness.

Yes, I want to contribute! Here is my donation of (circle one):

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$_____

Please make checks payable to "Friends of Allegheny Wilderness." Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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Send to:
Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365