



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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SPORTSMAN AND FORMER JOURNALIST JOINS FRIENDS OF ALLEGHENY WILDERNESS TEAM

Warren – Friends of Allegheny Wilderness today announced that former newsman and avid outdoorsman John Bartlett of Oil City has joined the non-profit conservation group as its field representative.

John Bartlett served for more than 30 years as a staff reporter for the *Erie Times-News*, primarily in bureau offices. In addition to regional news, he concentrated on environmental and conservation issues. His professional honors include the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation Conservation Communicator of the Year Award in 1992.

An avid outdoorsman, backpacker, hiker, and hunter, Bartlett has a deep appreciation for the Allegheny National Forest, its multiple uses, and the region's communities. He and his wife Kathy are natives of northwestern Pennsylvania and long-time residents of Oil City. The couple has two adult children, both of whom reside in the region.

"We are extremely excited to have John and his considerable skills and experience come to work for Friends of Allegheny Wilderness," said Kirk Johnson, the group's executive director. "John has a working knowledge of the issues, the people involved, and the communities of the Allegheny National Forest region. He is ready to hit the ground running as we enter a very important phase of our campaign, with the Forest Service releasing its Forest Plan later this month."

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to work on a campaign protecting special places for future generations where nature reigns," said Bartlett. "I believe deeply that we should do all we can to ensure that those who come after us can use and enjoy this wilderness as we have – for camping, canoeing, hunting, hiking, fishing, climbing, and so many other activities."

John Bartlett will be based in Oil City, and can be reached at (814) 676-4474.

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Friends of Allegheny Wilderness online: www.pawild.org

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