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Friends of Allegheny Wilderness announces new board president

WARREN — The Warren-based non-profit organization Friends of Allegheny Wilderness has announced Bob Stoudt as new president of its board of directors.

Stoudt, an avid sportsman who has been involved with Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

since January of 2002, not long after the organization's establishment. His ties to the Allegheny National Forest region go back to the time of his grandparents.



STOUDT

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny. Currently, only about 9,000 acres — less than two percent — of the forest's 513,300 acres are designated wilderness.

During the Forest Service's recently completed Forest Plan revision, more than 6,800 of 8,200 respondents provided public comment specifically in support of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and their Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest.

Four generations of Stoudt's family have spent time at their Elk County cabin hunting, fish-

ing, hiking, canoeing, camping, mountain biking and simply enjoying the beauty of the national forest.

Stoudt spent the summer of 1995 as a cartographic intern for the Allegheny National Forest supervisor's office in Warren. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in geography/environmental planning from Bloomsburg University in 1995 and his master's degree in geography from Indiana State University in 1999. His master's thesis focused on the impact of the Kinzua Dam upon the vegetation of Crull's Island, one of the Allegheny River wilderness islands.

Stoudt is employed as the deputy director of the Montour Area Recreation Commission in Montour County. He volunteers as the chairman of the Warrior Run Pathways Committee and is a member of the steering committee for the West Branch Susquehanna River Water Trail.

Stoudt is a member of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited and is a life member of the National Rifle Association. He and his wife Becky live near Danville with their three children.