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# The Titusville Herald

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TODAY



TITUSVILLE, PA

TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 7, 2001

50 CENTS

## FOR CONSERVATION LEADER Historical marker being dedicated

**TIONESTA** — The life and work of a Tionesta native being named one of the country's greatest conservation leaders will be celebrated next week with the dedication of a historical marker in the region.

The marker, honoring Howard Zahniser, will be unveiled by leaders of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and national conservation groups at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, on State Route 62, a mile and a half north of Tionesta.

Howard Zahniser was a lifelong advocate of wilderness and wildlands protection

as well as an early proponent of a national policy for wilderness preservation on America's public lands.

He served as executive director of the Wilderness Society from 1945 to 1964 and was chief architect of the Wilderness Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation system, which includes two Wilderness areas on the Allegheny National Forest: Allegheny Islands Wilderness and Hickory Creek Wilderness.

"We are excited to have been able to work with the Zahniser family, Forest County Historical Society, the PHMC and representatives of The Wilderness Society and Pew Wilderness Center to pay tribute to Howard Zahniser and his amazing contribution to protection of our public lands," said Kirk Johnson of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.

"We hope to further Zahniser's wilderness vision by working to designate additional Wilderness areas on the ANF."

Speakers planned for the dedication ceremony and

reception include Ed Zahniser and Matt Zahniser, sons of Howard Zahniser; U.S. Cong. John Peterson; and Darrell Knuffke of The Wilderness Society, vice-president for regional conservation.

"Pennsylvania has always been home to some of our nation's greatest conservationists and none is greater than Howard Zahniser," said Knuffke.

"We owe him a great debt of gratitude for all his work to protect Wilderness both throughout the country and right here in Pennsylvania."