

*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.*

### **FAW 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event! Backpacking in the Proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area June 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

Would you like to experience the wild backcountry of the **largest Roadless Area in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF)** first-hand? As part of our 10-year anniversary celebration Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) is planning an overnight backpacking trip into the proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area for the weekend of June 11th and 12th, why not come and join us?

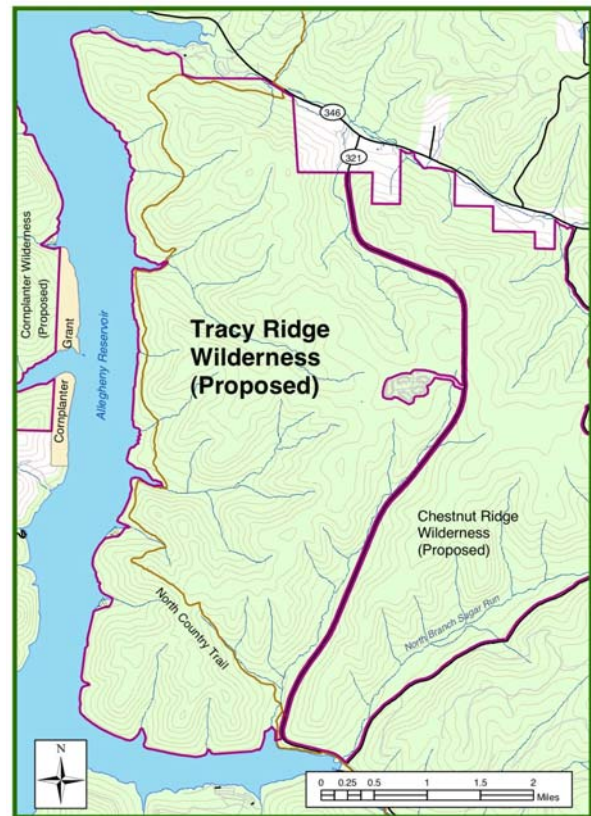
In addition to containing a nine-mile segment of the spectacular North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT), Tracy Ridge also has a self-contained network of hiking trails providing numerous options for day hikes, loops trails, and connections to the NCT.

For our hike, we will be leaving from the Tracy Ridge Campground parking lot on the morning of Saturday, June 11th and hiking down the trail along Johnnycake Run to the Allegheny Reservoir where we will pick up the NCT, and head south from there. We will camp overnight Saturday in Tracy Ridge's wild backcountry, and return to the parking lot during the day on Sunday.

Altogether, the hike will consist of more than 14 miles on portions of the NCT and the Tracy Ridge trail system through a stunning maturing forest that cloaks this **9,705-acre gem**. There will be no charge to participate, however hikers should bring all of their own camping equipment, food, and come fully prepared for

whatever weather conditions we may encounter.

To RSVP, or if you have questions or would like additional information, contact FAW at [info@pawild.org](mailto:info@pawild.org) or 814-723-0620.



9,705 Acres

### **The Saga of the Proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area**

Tracy Ridge was first proposed for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act of 1964 by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club. Long time Club member Richard Pratt of the Allegheny Group (along with Helen McGinnis...

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...and Fran Orzechowski) prepared a detailed proposal for Tracy Ridge on behalf of the Club in February of 1973.

Pennsylvania's two U.S. Senators at the time, Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker, strongly supported this Sierra Club proposal, and saw to it that Tracy Ridge was included for designation in early versions of the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act.

Unfortunately, the inclusion of Tracy Ridge (and other areas of the ANF) was not supported by then Congressman Albert Johnson of Smethport in the final version of the bill. Even though when passed the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act of 1975 established 16 new federal wilderness areas in 12 eastern states and 14 national forests, totaling more than 200,000 acres, the ANF lost out despite the strong support from Senators Scott and Schweiker.

Tracy Ridge did finally gain national recreation area status via legislation in 1984, but it still lacks the full protection of wilderness designation. In 2001 FAW took up the torch from the Sierra Club and again proposed Tracy Ridge for wilderness designation in our *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest*, published in 2003 to coincide with the commencement of the ANF's Forest Plan revision process. At this writing, the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal* is formally supported by more than 45 local, regional, statewide, and national conservation organizations, and over 100 businesses from throughout the region.

Further, a subset of these supporting organizations, known as the Pennsylvania Wilderness Coalition, is actively working in a boots on the ground statewide campaign to see that Tracy Ridge is permanently protected for future generations as wilderness. The Pennsylvania Wilderness Coalition is made up

of: Audubon Pennsylvania, Campaign for America's Wilderness of the Pew Environment Group, Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Division Izaak Walton League of America, Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, and The Wilderness Society.

As a result of our advocacy efforts, the ANF did formally recommend Tracy Ridge as a wilderness area in their Draft Forest Plan, released in 2006. The agency received more than 6,800 correspondences from the public (out of a total of 8,200 – greater than 80 percent!) specifically supporting Tracy Ridge, FAW, and the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal* during the planning process.

Despite this overwhelming support, however, the agency reversed itself when the Final Forest Plan was published in March of 2007, and the wilderness recommendation for Tracy Ridge was rescinded to the surprise and chagrin of most. (Curiously, during the Forest Plan revision process one purportedly pro-wilderness group openly *opposed* the designation of Tracy Ridge as wilderness! Unfortunately this may have contributed to the agency's final decision.)

Fortuitously, the Congress is not limited by agency recommendations when it comes to designating wilderness. Though Tracy Ridge does have the benefit of the protections of a national recreation area designation, it still faces intense pressure from those who wish to see development in the area (roads, hotels, golf courses – we've heard it all), and from the market pressures of the ongoing oil and gas drilling boom.



Tracy Ridge desperately needs the permanent protections that would be brought by acquiring the oil, gas, and mineral rights underlying the area, coupled with its designation as wilderness under the Wilderness Act – a designation that clearly should have been in place for this special

area as far back as 1975 with the passage of the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act.

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## **Roulette Rebel**

*The McKean - Potter - Cameron - Elk County News Blog*

### **Holland Wins 'Johnnycake Run' Photo**

February 28, 2011

This past weekend [February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>], Friends of Allegheny Wilderness participated in the 10th annual Kinzua Outdoor and Travel Show in Bradford, facilitated by the Bradford Area Chamber of Commerce.



**Johnnycake Run Sunset**

Having an informational wilderness table at this event has become an annual ritual for FAW as we have now participated in our 9th consecutive KOTS (missing only the first year). This is a great way to meet a lot of local outdoors-oriented people in a short period of time, and introduce them to the wilderness preservation idea.

For the first time FAW also held a drawing during the show, in order to give away a

professionally matted & framed 12" x 16" photograph taken within the proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area (framed by Kinzua Country Frameworks in North Warren). Titled "Johnnycake Run Sunset," the FAW photo depicts the mouth of Johnnycake Run, looking west out across the Allegheny Reservoir.

This proved to be quite a popular drawing with a great deal of interest and entries. Unfortunately only one person could win. Just before the close of the show Saturday evening, neutral party Anne Holliday, the KOTS emcee, drew the winning entry.

The winner was Marcy Holland of Kane. Congratulations to Marcy! As it happens, Marcy is in fact married to renowned nature photographer Rocky Holland. Marcy informs us that though much of their wall space is occupied by Rocky's photos already, she is extremely pleased to have won the drawing and intends to find a special place in their home to display Johnnycake Run Sunset.

In other news from the show, the BACC has begun distribution of their new Bradford & McKean County street maps, hot off the presses. (Included are inset maps of Eldred, Kane, Lewis Run, Port Allegany, and Smethport.) The maps feature an advertisement for FAW, prominently located directly under the Bradford city map. This will help keep FAW, our website, and the wilderness idea in front of the public for years to come as the BACC ordered a very large supply.

If you would like to order a map for your glove compartment, contact the BACC:

[www.bradfordchamber.com](http://www.bradfordchamber.com)

Big thanks to all of the enthusiastic visitors who stopped by the FAW table this weekend to say hello and offer their support, donations & encouragement for our campaign!

*Roulette Rebel* online: [www.rouletterebel.com](http://www.rouletterebel.com)

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### **FAW 10-year Accomplishments (Continued from December 2011 newsletter)**

Over the last nearly ten years, FAW and our many supporters throughout Pennsylvania and

beyond have made great strides toward permanently protecting new wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest. We have all of *you* to thank for that. Your letters to the U.S. Forest Service, to elected officials, and to others over the years have clearly had a substantial impact.

In the December 2010 issue of *FAWN*, we began to explore some of the ways FAW, and *especially* all of you who support us, have impacted the way the Allegheny National Forest is viewed throughout the region and the state, and managed by the Forest Service.

Below we continue to explore these accomplishments:

- In response to our concerns, in the new Forest Plan, there was a new “Management Area” prescription added by the Forest Service – “Remote Recreation Area.” RRA’s are like wilderness in some respects in that there is no commercial timber harvest permitted, no motorized uses permitted, and any roads present are to be decommissioned or converted to trails. RRA’s in the new Forest Plan include Hearts Content and its environs, the Hickory Creek Wilderness addition (East Hickory Creek headwaters area), and the Clarion River Roadless Area west of Ridgway – a total of more than 10,000 acres of protected ANF land to be managed in a near-wilderness state for at least the life span of the current Forest Plan. Though we had hoped to achieve a wilderness recommendation for Clarion River and Hickory Creek Wilderness addition, the RRA allocations are more than welcome changes for these areas over the old (1986) Forest Plan.
- We have raised awareness about the need to preserve wilderness areas in the ANF through exposure in statewide magazines such as the *Fingerlakes Trail News*, *Pennsylvania Game News* and *Pennsylvania Magazine*, as well as national magazines such as *American Forests*, *Backpacker*, *North Star: The Magazine of the North Country Trail Association*, *Outdoor America*, and *The Wilderness Society’s America’s Wilderness*.
- We have had dozens, if not hundreds, of newspaper articles and editorials published over the years from smaller local papers like the *Warren Times Observer*, *The Bradford Era*, and *The Forest Press* [Tionesta]; to larger regional papers like the *Erie Times News* and *Centre Daily Times* [State College]; to some of the largest papers in the Commonwealth such as the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. We have even had a number articles and editorials run in New York State’s *The Buffalo News*.
- A large selection of these newspaper and magazine articles are archived as PDF documents on our website, [www.pawild.org](http://www.pawild.org), on the Media page. These are free and available for download by the public at any time.
- FAW has led innumerable public hikes into all eleven of the proposed areas in the *Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal* over the years, bringing literally hundreds of citizens out into the woods to experience these prospective wilderness areas and national recreation areas first-hand. Those who have been deep into the interior of these special natural areas enjoy an experience that they can take home with them and never forget. This in turn makes them stronger advocates to have our proposed areas permanently protected through legislative action.
- Through countless presentations, tabling events, movie screenings, etc., we have grown our mailing list to more than 4,500 people from throughout Pennsylvania and beyond to help bring awareness to citizens from all walks of life who care about permanently protecting some of the last best wildlands our state has to offer.
- At this writing the *Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania’s Allegheny National Forest* has been downloaded from our website 15,174 times!

Like in chemistry class when you keep stirring more and more reactant into solution, eventually, inevitably, suddenly, the precipitate appears like magic and falls out of the solution.



You are all our “reactants,” and one day our “precipitate” will be newly-designated wilderness in the ANF!

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## Upcoming Allegheny Outdoor Club Hikes

There are several hikes organized by the Allegheny Outdoor Club coming up in the weeks and months ahead that supporters of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness might be interested in participating in, as they will take place in designated wilderness, and in proposed national recreation area acreage. From the AOC website ([www.alleghenyoutdoorclub.org](http://www.alleghenyoutdoorclub.org)):

**Saturday, April 16\*:** Hike in the Hemlock Run area, above Kinzua Dam. Participants will meet at the Allegheny Fish Hatchery at the end of Hemlock Road at 11 a.m. This four-mile, out-and-back hike is two miles of strenuous uphill hiking, eating lunch at the top then returning downhill. Hikers should bring water and lunch and wear sturdy hiking boots. Hike leader: Kirk Johnson (814) 723-0620.



Shown are hikers with the Allegheny Outdoor Club during a hike up North Branch Sugar Run within the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness Area in March of 2003.

**Sunday, May 1:** Hike the Hickory Creek Wilderness trail. This will be approximately five miles of the Hickory Creek Wilderness trail, out to Coon Run and back (a day hike). Meet at Musante Street in Warren at 1:30 p.m. or at the

Hickory Creek Wilderness trail head at 2:00 p.m. Hike leader: Greg Burkett, (814) 723-4989.

**Sunday, May 15\*:** Hike Coal Bed Road to the Allegheny Reservoir. Begin at end of Coal Bed Road and hike down Jackson Run to the Allegheny Reservoir and back. Wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at Hatch Run Conservation Area parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Hike leader: Kirk Johnson, (814) 723-0620.

**Sunday, June 5\*:** Hike Scandia area to Allegheny Reservoir overlook above the Kinzua Dam. Meet at Hatch Run Conservation Area Parking Lot at 1:30 p.m. Approximately five miles. Bring water, bug spray and rain gear. Hike leaders: Rick and Lynn McDaniels, (814) 757-8069.

*\* These hikes will explore the wild interior of the 4,752-acre area FAW has proposed as an addition to the Allegheny National Recreation Area along the southwest shores of the Allegheny Reservoir.*

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## Wilderness Thought For The Day

*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, “Wilderness: A management framework,” Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 28(4): 150-154*

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## Secretary Vilsack Appoints Johnson

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack has appointed FAW executive director Kirk Johnson as a member of the Allegheny Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the entire period of the Secure Rural School Program of 2008-2011. This committee is authorized under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act as reauthorized in October 2008 as part of Public Law 110-343. The committee’s purpose is to enhance local community collaboration with federal land managers by proposing, reviewing and making recommendations regarding proposed projects that will benefit resources on national forest lands in Forest and Warren Counties.

**Friends of Allegheny Wilderness**  
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*Cornus florida* Flowering dogwood is a small deciduous tree growing to 35 feet tall, with a trunk diameter of up to one foot or more. Dogwood is seriously threatened by a blight believed to be caused by the anthracnose fungus. Also, unfavorable environmental factors such as acid rain may weaken trees, predisposing them to decline. In years past it was a treat to see dogwood trees flowering throughout the ANF during the spring.

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**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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
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