

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.

Annual FAW Winter Backpack, With Allegheny Outfitters, January 25th and 26th

The dates and location for the annual Friends of Allegheny Wilderness winter backpacking trip have been selected, and this year we will be teaming up with Allegheny Outfitters of Warren – an endorsing business of FAW and the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest*. During the U.S. Forest Service's most recent ANF Forest Plan revision, FAW and the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal* received the support of more than 6,800 out of 8,200 total public comments!



Members of FAW during an annual winter backpacking trip. The pictured trip from March, 2010 was almost all off-trail within the Hickory Creek Wilderness. Photo courtesy Luke Bobnar.

During the weekend of January 25th and 26th, we will be backpacking nine miles into the remote, untrammeled wilds of the southern end of the proposed Tracy Ridge

Wilderness Area on the east side of the Allegheny Reservoir. We will camp Saturday evening near Polly's Run, a picturesque stream that flows south into Sugar Bay.

Tracy Ridge represents the largest Roadless Area in the Allegheny National Forest at more than 9,700 acres, and is perhaps the most obvious wilderness candidate area in the entire Allegheny National Forest.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club thoroughly inventoried the area and proposed it for wilderness designation all the way back in the early 1970s – before the Wilderness Act and National Wilderness Preservation System were even ten years old! Through the natural, inevitable process of ecological succession, the area has become only more wild and untrammeled during the intervening 40 years since the Sierra Club's proposal.

For a brief history of the efforts to see Tracy Ridge designated as a wilderness area, see the article titled "The Saga of the Proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area" from the March 2011 issue of *FAWN*:

www.pawild.org/fawn/faw_v11no1.pdf

See also the Tuesday, April 17th, 1979 *Warren Times Observer* newspaper article "Tracy Ridge Wilderness Wins Carter's Support":

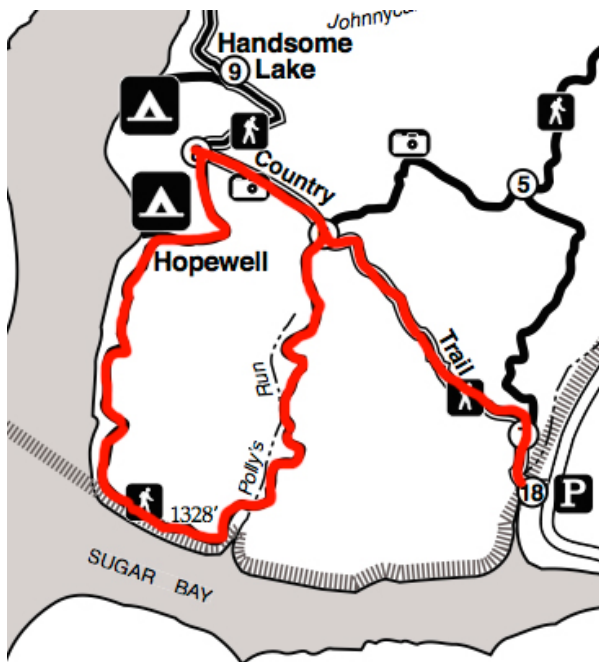
www.pawild.org/articles/wto41779.pdf

There is no charge to participate in this...

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

...backpacking trip, but all participants must bring all of their own food and camping gear, and come fully prepared for any weather conditions that we may encounter.

If you would like additional information about this trip, or would like to sign up, please email us at info@pawild.org.



In this map of the southern end of the proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area, the route of the January 25th and 26th FAW/AO backpacking trip is shown in red.

If you are in need of any backpacking or hiking equipment for this trip, simply head down to the Allegheny Outfitters store at 430 Pennsylvania Avenue West in Warren and they will hook you up!

Note: the below excellent letter-to-the-editor ran in the *Erie Times-News* newspaper one week after we published the September issue

of *FAWN*. It is a supportive response to an outdoor column about the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act which was included in that issue.

Erie Times-News

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Take a walk in the wild

Outdoors columnist Mike Bleech's good recognition of the value of wilderness, and of the outstanding work of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, was welcome reading, but I'd quibble with one sentence ("National Wilderness Month deserves consideration," *Erie Times-News*, Sept. 15).

I grew up in North East, moved to Colorado, but remain strongly connected to Erie County and western Pennsylvania's forests. I'm a wilderness volunteer out here, and serve on the board of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, which has helped me see the range of American wilderness.

"There is nowhere in the Allegheny National Forest that can be called wilderness, such as the term has been used elsewhere," Bleech wrote. Here's one elsewhere: Earlier this month, I spent three days walking 20-some miles through a small corner of the 75,068-acre Rawah Wilderness. Our work crew camped just below 11,000 feet, looking up at sheer walls with snow still in the crevices. Wall-calendar wilderness, right?

We humans have left our mark on the Rawah (logging, ranching) as on the Allegheny, but they both retain something that is at the heart of the Wilderness Act: "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." They are both places, where, paraphrasing Bleech, the moment we walk into them, things change in us. We come closer to something very big, very important. The Allegheny shares these qualities with the Rawah.

Leaves will be turning soon. Go for a walk in the Allegheny, feel what it does for you. That will tell you: "This is wilderness. We need to protect it."

Dave Cantrell
Fort Collins, Colo.

Reprinted with permission.

Calling all Wilderness Shutter-Bugs!

Throughout the month of September 2014, the Crary Art Gallery, a regional art museum in Warren, and the Warren-based non-profit organization Friends of Allegheny Wilderness will host an exhibition of wilderness images featuring many high-profile photographers to honor the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964 as well as the legacy of Tionesta native and Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser.



Longtime FAW board member Ed Castor is an intrepid traveler, having frequently visited and backpacked into wilderness areas, national parks, and other public lands all over the country over the years. Above Ed is pictured in the Ansel Adams Wilderness in California this past September.

The show will feature photographs from throughout America's National Wilderness Preservation System, and is to be titled "Wilderness at 50: Photographic Reflections on the Legacy of Tionesta Visionary Howard Zahniser." The president of The Wilderness

Society, Jamie Williams, will be our keynote speaker at the show's opening on Saturday, August 30th, 2014.

For more information, see the online show summary here:

www.wilderness50th.org/events.php?useraction=detail&e_id=98

In addition to featuring wilderness images from around the country, we will profile the two designated wilderness areas right here in the Allegheny National Forest - Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands. The best way to do that is to allow those of you who have explored these two wildly popular untrammeled areas to submit your own photos for possible inclusion in the photography show.

If you are interested in entering this contest, below please find an outline for prospective participants:

- Photos must have been taken either within the Hickory Creek or Allegheny Islands Wilderness Areas in the Allegheny National Forest. (In the case of Allegheny Islands, the photos can be taken from the river or riverside looking at the wilderness islands from the outside - as opposed to having to be literally *standing on* one of the islands when the picture was taken, though that would be fine too.)
- No individual may submit more than four photos total.
- Two winning photos will be chosen to represent the Hickory Creek Wilderness, and two for the Allegheny Islands Wilderness, for a total of four winning photos to be included in the show.
- Photos must be of high enough resolution (at least 2,000 pixels on the

long edge) that they can be blown up to at least 24" x 36" for inclusion in the show, should they be chosen.

- Winning photographers are responsible for having their photos framed for the show.



Matt Zahniser, son of Tionesta, Pennsylvania native and Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser, during a recent 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act photography show at the Museum of Missouri History in St. Louis. Photo by David Ulmer.

- Winning photographers are welcome to make their framed photos available for sale during the show.
- Entries will be posted in online albums on both the FAW and Crary Facebook pages for public input, but the final decision on winning entries will be made by the FAW and Crary boards of directors.
- Submissions will be taken from January 1st through June 30th, with a final decision on the winning photographs announced by July 15th.
- Submissions will be accepted by email in .JPEG format at info@pawild.org. Please include contact information, title of the photo, location it was taken, and asking sale price should your photo be selected to be included in the show.

- There is no charge to enter this contest.
- Contest entrants acknowledge that Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness and/or the Crary Art Gallery may use submissions to promote this contest and subsequent gallery exhibit, both in print and electronic media. Entrants retain all copyright and ownership of submissions.

Please feel free to send any questions you may have about this contest to info@pawild.org prior to submitting.

New Compilation of Howard Zahniser's Wilderness Writings to be Published

Good news! A new compilation of the writings of Tionesta, Pennsylvania native and Wilderness Act of 1964 author Howard Zahniser will be published in July, just in time for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act! A brief summary from the University of Washington Press follows below.

The Wilderness Writings of Howard Zahniser

Edited by Mark Harvey

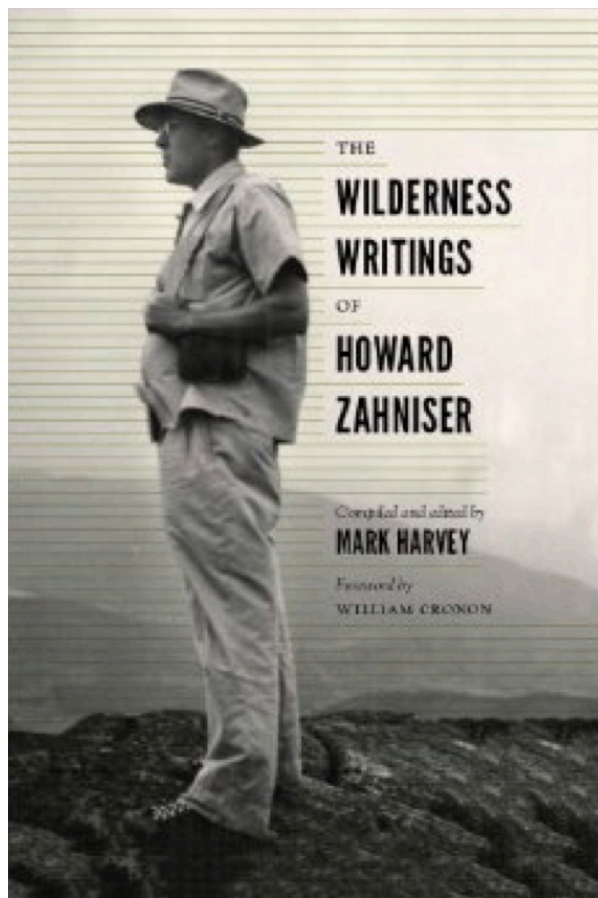
Published: July 2014

Bibliographic Information: 224 pp., 25 illus., 6 x 9 in.

Series: Weyerhaeuser Environmental Classics

Howard Zahniser (1906-1964), executive secretary of The Wilderness Society and editor of *The Living Wilderness* from 1945 to 1964, is arguably the person most responsible for drafting and promoting the Wilderness Act in 1964. The act, which created the National Wilderness Preservation System, was the culmination of Zahniser's years of tenacious lobbying and his work with conservationists across the nation. In 1964, fifty-four wilderness areas in thirteen states were part of the system; today the number has grown to 757 areas,

protecting more than a hundred million acres in forty-four states and Puerto Rico.



Zahniser’s passion for wild places and his arguments for their preservation were communicated through radio addresses, magazine articles, speeches, and congressional testimony. An eloquent and often poetic writer, he seized every opportunity to make the case for the value of wilderness to people, communities, and the nation.

Despite his unquestioned importance and the power of his prose, the best of Zahniser’s wilderness writings have never before been gathered in a single volume. This indispensable collection makes available in one place essays and other writings that played a vital role in persuading Congress and the American people that wilderness in the United States deserved permanent protection.

“Howard Zahniser authored the Wilderness Act of 1964 and was its most tireless advocate. A quiet, self-effacing man who felt no need to call attention to himself, he was also a graceful and eloquent writer whose essays – widely scattered in hard-to-find periodicals – deserve to be much more widely read than they have been. This first-ever anthology gathers his most important wilderness writings into a single volume to make them available to modern readers as never before,” environmental historian William Cronon writes in the Foreword to *The Wilderness Writings of Howard Zahniser*.

Help Save the Eastern Hemlock!



Hemlock branch infested with hemlock wooly adelgid within FAW’s proposed Cornplanter Wilderness Area, August 2013. Photo by Kirk Johnson.

For those interested in helping us with our ongoing surveys for the non-native invasive insect hemlock wooly adelgid, deadly to the native Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), please contact FAW at info@pawild.org. We can use all the help we can get!



Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365



Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) is a large bottom-feeding freshwater fish that can grow to more than six feet and 200 pounds. Once common in the Allegheny River, in years past lake sturgeon could have been found swimming beside what is today the Allegheny Islands Wilderness. The lake sturgeon is now largely absent and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission considers it an endangered species. The *Acipenseridae* family is ancient, having evolved more than 200 million years ago.

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