

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.

Calling all Wilderness Shutter-Bugs!

Throughout the month of September, the Crary Art Gallery, a regional art museum in Warren, and 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.

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*. We are honored to have the former president of The Wilderness Society, Bill Meadows, as our keynote speaker at the show's opening on Saturday, August 30th, 2014. Read 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 highlight the two designated wilderness areas right here in the Allegheny National Forest - Allegheny Islands and Hickory Creek. 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 guidelines:

- Photos must have been taken either within the Allegheny Islands or Hickory Creek 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.



Howard Zahniser canoeing on the Allegheny River past what is today the Allegheny Islands Wilderness islands, June 1937. Photo courtesy of Alice Zahniser.

- No individual may submit more than four photos total.
- Two winning photos will be chosen to represent Hickory Creek Wilderness, and two for 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.
- Winning photographers may make their photos available for sale during the show.
- Entries will be posted in online albums on both the FAW and Crary Facebook pages for public...

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...input, but the final decision on winning entries will be made by the FAW and Crary boards of directors.



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.

- 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 price should your photo be selected for the show.
- There is no charge to enter.
- 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.

Note: While having all qualifying portions of our federal public lands designated as wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act of 1964 is critical, after having these wonderful wild areas protected by an act of Congress, we

have a responsibility to care for and steward them into the future.

We will be backpacking into the Hickory Creek Wilderness on the weekend of **April 11th-13th** to clear this winter's "crop" of fallen branches, trees, and debris from the 13-mile Hickory Creek Wilderness trail.

There is no experience necessary to join this stewardship project, but participants must bring all of their own camping gear and food, and come prepared for the weather.

Contact FAW at info@pawild.org for more information or to sign up.

National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance News

February, 2014
Volume 3, Issue 2

Inspired and Working for Change

The NWSA Board is seeking wilderness stewards who want to help shape the work and impact of the organization by serving on select Board committees. Kirk Johnson, of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness in Pennsylvania, is serving on NWSA's Program Committee. He says Howard Zahniser is his inspiration for serving.

Howard Zahniser, the author of the Wilderness Act, was born and raised just down river from Warren, PA, where Kirk Johnson and Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) call home. Zahniser's lifework culminated in the powerful and – some say – poetic Wilderness Act, which he never lived to see signed. Sadly, his own state of Pennsylvania has fewer than 9,000 acres of designated Wilderness, a fact that Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is working to change.

"Our citizens' inventory found at least 54,000 acres in the Allegheny National Forest we think qualify for the National Wilderness Preservation System," explains Johnson, Executive Director of FAW. "And there are more than 10,000 acres we'd like to see win protection as a national recreation area."

The group, which has some 4,900 supporters, is also engaged in stewardship, tackling at least two major trail clearing efforts each year.



Stunning ancient hemlock trees in the Allegheny National Forest near Tionesta Creek. Photo by David Johnson of FAW.

If that weren't enough, Johnson has volunteered his time to serve on the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance's Programs Committee.

"Zahniser's efforts led to the National Wilderness Preservation System and a wilderness legacy for our country," notes Johnson. "I believe that system deserves a network of stewards to care for it, and I want to contribute to such a mission."

Johnson is serving with Dave Cantrell, former NWSA Board Chair.

"I've known Dave Cantrell for several years. He grew up not far from the Allegheny National Forest and we've been corresponding about our common concerns for several years now. He and I roomed together at the NWSA conference in Las Vegas in 2011 and we've kept our wilderness conversation going all along. He asked me to join the Programs Committee and to work on some projects I thought sounded interesting."

Johnson is researching tools for launching a series of stewardship webinars for the NWSA and is working on a database that will graphically show where stewardship groups are working, and where gaps still exist.

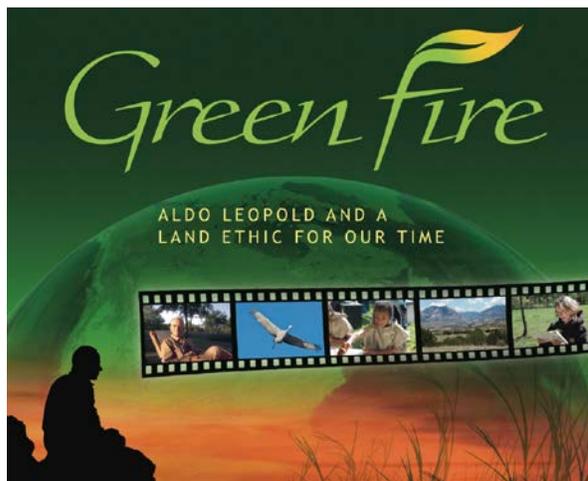
"I'd like to see citizen stewardship groups

created for as many of the National Wilderness Preservation System units as possible," says Johnson. "Contributing to the growth of NWSA is a sure way to do that."

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50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act Screening of *Green Fire* at the TREC, Friday, April 4th

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and the Allegheny National Forest are teaming up to co-present a film at the Big Green Screen theatre at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie on Friday evening, April 4th at 7:00 p.m. in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.



The film, a biographical documentary about Aldo Leopold, an early 20th-century wilderness advocate, leader within the U.S. Forest Service, and co-founder of The Wilderness Society, is titled *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time*. The Wilderness Society, of course, is the organization that led the charge to see the Wilderness Act passed, establishing America's National Wilderness Preservation System for all future generations to use and enjoy.

Admission to this screening of *Green Fire* is free, but people will still need to reserve tickets by calling the TREC at (814) 838-4123.



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Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) is a common shrub occurring from southern Ontario to eastern Texas that can grow to 10' or more in height. Native Americans used the stems as arrow shafts, hence it's name. It's blue fruits are a good food source for songbirds as the berries contain 40% fat.

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 _____

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Send to:
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