

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.

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Working Together on the ANF - First in a Series

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness works with USFS on conservation projects

By BEN KLEIN

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Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and the Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country National Scenic Trail Association are two local groups working tirelessly in the Allegheny National Forest.

FAW has an expansive network with a mailing list of 4,900, with additional email contacts, and continues to reach followers through Facebook at www.facebook.com/friendsofalleghenywilderness.

“Nearly 50 local, statewide, and national organizations representing together hundreds of thousands of people have formally endorsed our *Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania’s Allegheny National Forest*

[www.pawild.org/supporters.html],” FAW Executive Director Kirk Johnson said. “FAW and our supporters have

substantially influenced protections for wild areas of the ANF. For example, during the last Forest Plan revision, more than 6,800 out of 8,200 public commentors on the draft Forest Plan wrote specifically in support of FAW and our *Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal*.”



Some of the board members for FAW at a recent meeting at the Saylor Freedom Farm in Fulton County – the farm of board member David Saylor. Saylor is the nephew of former Pennsylvania Congressman John P. Saylor, a Republican from Johnstown who introduced the Wilderness Act in the U.S. House of Representatives on June 11th, 1956 with these words: “...we Americans are the people we are largely because we have had the influence of the wilderness on our lives.” Pictured are, left to right: Joe Hardisky of Ellwood City, Bob Stoudt of Danville, Kirk Johnson of Warren, Saylor of Washington, D.C., and Ronald Simonsen, M.D., of Warren.

As a direct result of this work, two new wilderness areas (Chestnut Ridge and Minister Valley) were recommended by the Forest Service in their revised Forest...

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...Plan which was published in 2007. Further, several thousand additional acres from the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal* were also allocated by the Forest Service as "Remote Recreation Areas" in the new Forest Plan.

"Remote Recreation Areas are well-protected, almost like de facto wilderness areas, albeit on an administrative level and not legislated," Johnson said.

"In addition to our primary mission of working to permanently protect wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act of 1964, FAW has also since 2001 been the formal adopting stewardship organization for the 13-mile Hickory Creek Wilderness trail, keeping the trail clear of brush and tree limbs for other wilderness hikers to enjoy," Johnson said. "We typically do two or three trail stewardship projects per year, with our next one slated for the weekend of April 11th through the 13th. Over the years, dozens of FAW volunteers have participated in these trail stewardship weekends."

FAW members also participate in the Allegheny River Cleanup every year helping to remove trash from the Allegheny Islands Wilderness between Buckaloons and Tidioute.

Members are also on the lookout in the ANF for any sign of the hemlock wooly

adelgid — a non-native invasive insect that is deadly to eastern hemlock trees.

In order to reach their goals, FAW has to work extensively with the forest service.

"FAW and our volunteers have always had a very good working relationship with all ANF personnel from the Forest Supervisor to the two District Rangers, and everyone else on down the line. I can't think of anyone at the ANF who is not friendly and helpful," Johnson said.

"We look forward to cooperating with the ANF right along years into the future, with a number of different projects already lined up in 2014, the 50th anniversary year of the Wilderness Act of 1964. FAW is a formal partner group of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, which works to develop citizen stewards of designated wilderness areas all around the country. So we work not only with the local ANF, but with Forest Service personnel on a national scale as well."

FAW, like any small non-profit organization, has found funding a "perpetual concern," Johnson said.

"When the economy took such a terrible downturn toward the end of 2008, many small non-profits around the country began to find it more of a challenge to keep the coffers full. FAW has been no different in that regard," he said.

FAW's annual spring stewardship weekend on the Hickory Creek Wilderness trail will be held over the weekend of April 11 through the 13. There is no charge to participate, but participants are asked to bring all of their own food and camping

equipment, and come fully prepared for whatever weather conditions we might encounter.

Next week: *The North Country Trail Association.*

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50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act Show at the Crary Shaping Up - Extension on Photo Contest Deadline!

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 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. Howard Zahniser's son Mathias will also be a featured speaker. Read the online show summary here:

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

The participating photographers are:

Craig Blacklock

Clyde Butcher
Robert Clements
Kevin Ebi
Robbie George
Stephen Gorman
Robert Glenn Ketchum
Scot Miller
David Muench
Marc Muench
Mark Muse



Mount Fairweather and the Alsek Glacier within Alaska's 2,664,876-acre Glacier Bay Wilderness, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Photo by Robert Glenn Ketchum.

In addition to featuring wilderness images from around the country, the show will highlight the two designated wilderness areas right here in the ANF - 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!

And we have good news for those who had wanted to submit your photos, but never got around to it. The Crary and FAW boards of directors have decided to **extend the deadline for submitting.**

We have received some fine photos so far,

but would naturally love to have more submissions, so you now have until the end of the day on **Sunday, July 20th** to submit.

If you are interested in entering this contest, please follow these guidelines:

- Photos must have been taken within either 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.
- 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 input, but the final

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

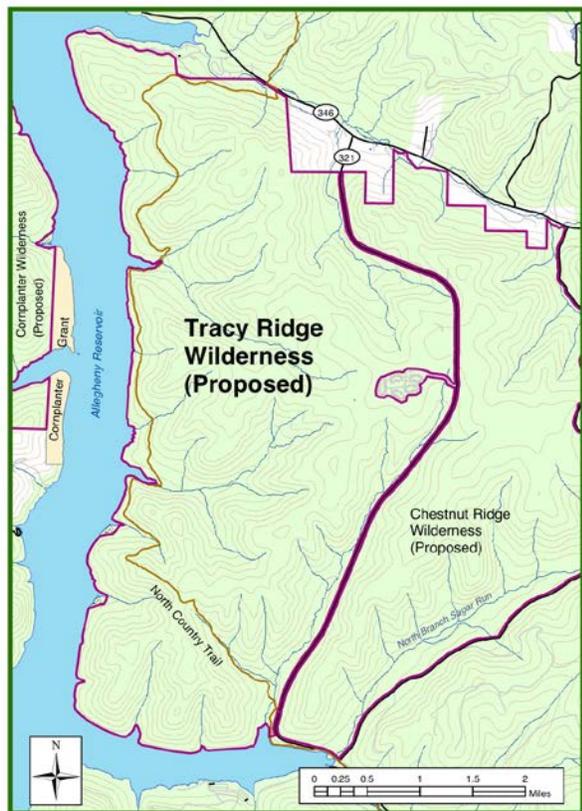
- **Submissions will be taken through July 20th**, with a final decision on the winning photographs announced by the end of July.
- Submissions will be accepted by email in .JPG format at info@pawild.org. Please include contact information, title of the photo, location it was taken, and asking price 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.

Original Wilderness Proposal for Tracy Ridge Now Available Online

The proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness, located along the eastern shoreline of the Allegheny Reservoir in Warren and McKean Counties, represents the largest formally-recognized Roadless Area in the Allegheny National Forest at more than 9,700 acres, and is perhaps the most obvious wilderness candidate area in the forest.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club thoroughly inventoried this stunning primeval area and proposed it for wilderness designation all the way back in February of 1973, 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 only become more wild and untrammelled during the intervening 40 years since the Sierra Club's proposal.



9,705 Acres

This original citizen wilderness proposal for Tracy Ridge, prepared by Dick Pratt and others from the Sierra Club, has recently been made available for public download as a PDF document on FAW's website:

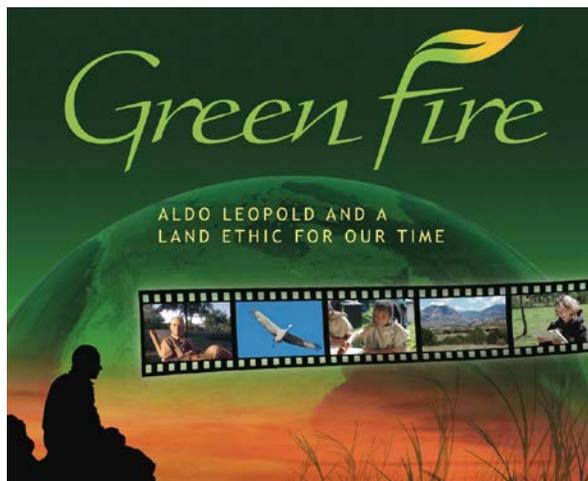
www.pawild.org/pdfs/TracyRidgePratt1973.pdf

This document is a 15 MB download, so you may need to be patient depending on the speed of your internet connection.

Similar detailed wilderness proposals from the Sierra Club from around the same time for Allegheny Front (also by Dick Pratt), and Hickory Creek (by Helen McGinnis), may be made available for download on the FAW website in the future.

50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act Free Screening of Green Fire at Chapman State Park, Friday, July 25th

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, Allegheny National Forest, Allegheny Outfitters, Chapman State Park, and Conewango Creek Watershed Association are teaming up to co-present a film at the outdoor amphitheatre at Chapman State Park on Friday evening, July 25th at 9:00 p.m. in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.



The film, a 70-minute 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 to the public, contact FAW at (814) 723-0620 or Jen Moore at Chapman State Park at (814) 723-0250 for more information.

This is a rain or shine event. In the event of rain, the film will be shown in one of the park's pavilions.

Next FAW Wilderness Trail Stewardship Weekend July 26th and 27th

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.



FAW will be backpacking into the Hickory Creek Wilderness on the weekend of **July 26th - 27th** to clear fallen branches, trees, and other debris from the 13-mile Hickory Creek Wilderness trail. This is a continuation of FAW's

wilderness stewardship activities detailed in the lead article in this issue of *FAWN*.

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

Contact FAW at info@pawild.org for more information or to sign up. Hope to see you on the trail!

The Wilderness Writings of Howard Zahniser

Mark Harvey, editor
Weyerhaeuser Environmental Classics,
University of Washington Press, 2014

A new compilation of the works of Tionesta native and Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser, *The Wilderness Writings of Howard Zahniser* (Mark Harvey, ed.), is chock full of wise and profound statements by the man who more than any other single individual is responsible for the establishment of America's National Wilderness Preservation System.

From time to time we will post some of these wonderful Zahniser quotes on our Facebook page for those who haven't yet had the pleasure of reading the whole book to enjoy:

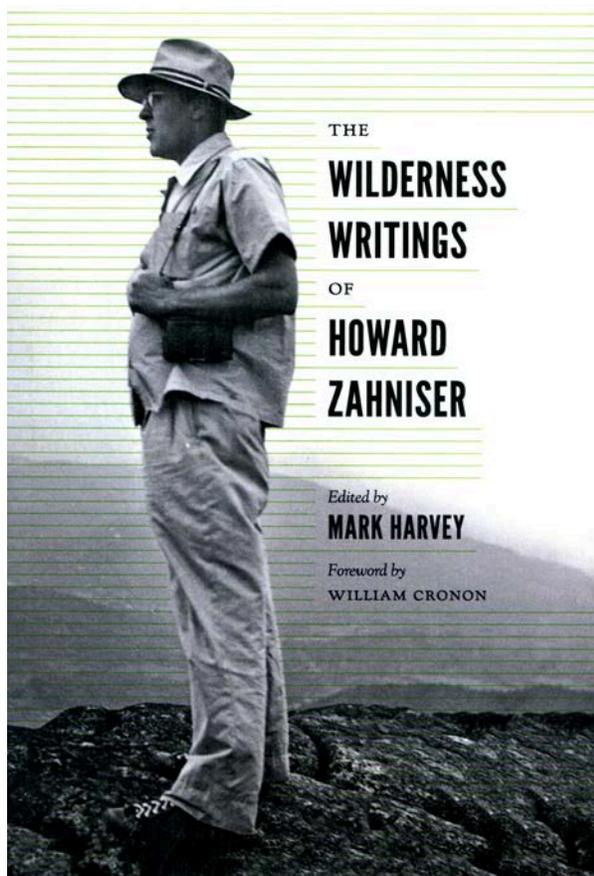
www.facebook.com/FriendsofAlleghenyWilderness

Below please find the first quote we recently shared:

"...It is not for the sake of any privileged few

that we are thus working so strenuously for wilderness preservation, but rather for all Americans. We feel that the privilege of a wilderness experience is something to which every American is entitled, including those who are not yet born. There is no person that we should like to see excluded. We are indeed trying to keep out buildings, roads, airplane-landing fields, mechanical vehicles, motorboats, and all the things that make the wilderness not the wilderness. That often makes it look as though we are trying to keep out people because these 'things' would all bring people. But, as we see it, they would not bring them to the wilderness because the wilderness would no longer be there for anyone...."

- Howard Zahniser, 1957



Please like and share our page with your

friends to keep up with our campaign, and all of the inspiring quotes about wilderness that will be posted!

Alice B. Zahniser, 1918-2014

Everyone here at Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is deeply saddened at the news of the recent passing of Alice B. Zahniser (born 1918), in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. In 1936, she married Howard C. Zahniser (1906-1964), who considered Tionesta his hometown. Howard Zahniser went on to author the federal Wilderness Act of 1964 in his capacity with The Wilderness Society.

Alice was an accomplished vocalist (a coloratura soprano), and was also the expert logistician behind her family's many wilderness experiences that buttressed Howard's wilderness preservation work. She was "the Mother Teresa of outdoor cooking over open wood fires." Her journal, *Ways to the Wilderness*, recounts the 1956 saga of the family of six, car camping between five wilderness treks – from Minnesota to Wyoming, Montana, and Washington. It was published in 2008 in honor of her 90th birthday.

There will be further details regarding Mrs. Zahniser provided in the September issue of *FAWN*.



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Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*) is rare in the ANF, but can be found at higher elevations within the proposed Scandia National Recreation Area, and at other locations surrounding the Allegheny Reservoir. It is a graceful medium-sized tree, growing to 60' or more. The trunk can reach as large as 2' diameter. The cones are 1.5"-3" long, and may persist on the tree for many years.

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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