

*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.*

Volume 14, #3

FAWN: The Official Newsletter of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

September 2014

## **FAW to Publish Howard Zahniser's Historic 1937 Allegheny River Journal**

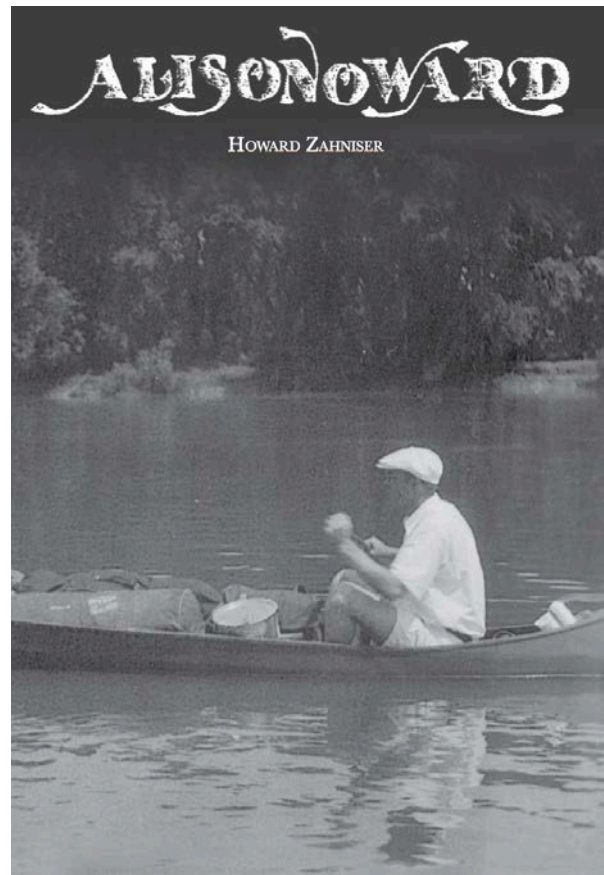
In June of 1937 Tionesta, Pennsylvania native and Wilderness Act of 1964 author Howard Zahniser, along with his wife Alice, took an epic 14-day, 100-mile canoe trip down the Allegheny River from Olean, New York to Tionesta, which could then be done continuously as this was before the Kinzua Dam above Warren. Zahniser kept a journal of their experiences during this journey, which he titled *Alisonoward* (a clever amalgamation of "Alice" and "Howard").

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is pleased to announce in this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Wilderness Act that Howard Zahniser's 1937 *Alisonoward* Allegheny River journal – to date circulated only among friends and family – will through cooperation with the Zahniser family soon be available to the general public as a fundraising effort for FAW!

The Wilderness Act Zahniser authored, widely considered to be the most poetic legislation ever enacted, provides mechanisms for setting aside significant tracts of federal land in perpetuity for primitive recreation, hunting, and fishing opportunities. Wilderness, according to the Wilderness Act, is an area "...where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Designated wilderness nationwide has grown from nine million acres in 1964 with the passage of the Wilderness Act to nearly 110 million acres today. There are now 758 wilderness areas in 44 states, as well as Puerto Rico – with more to come!

Wilderness is important as it is the only land in the country where nature is the primary influence across the landscape, and where threatened and endangered species find undisturbed refuge and high quality habitat.



Zahniser died in his sleep at his home on May 5, 1964 two days after testifying at the final hearing on his wilderness bill, and just a few months before it was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in the White House Rose Garden. The bill, which Zahniser had originally drafted in 1956, went through dozens of revisions and hearings and Zahniser was an...

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...active participant throughout, personally guiding the legislation through the labyrinth of Congress. He was a tireless advocate to the end.

In the second to last entry of the *Alisonward* journal, Zahniser observed his surroundings as he and Alice drew closer to his hometown of Tionesta in their canoe:

*It was a clear blue June day. The sky was especially beautiful, with cumulus, cirrus, and stratus clouds all day. As we went under a bridge at West Hickory, we saw two eagles flying high over the "narrows." ...We were much interested in fish jumping and in the green herons, standing on an anchored boat. A duck flew up from the river as we neared Tubbs Run's mouth and circled high in the air in ascending spirals and up Tubbs Run Valley....As we came near Tionesta we followed small currents close to the left bank, despite the shallow water, as we hoped to land at the cemetery.*

It provokes the imagination to think that as the Zahnisers canoed past Baker, Crull's, No Name and other islands that June, and in fact camped one night on Thompson's Island, that these would fifty years hence be included in America's National Wilderness Preservation System as part of the Allegheny Islands Wilderness — as a direct result of Zahniser's profound foresight.

*Alisonward* clocks in at 74 pages, and includes actual photos from the Zahniser's canoe trip, as well as three rare appendices. If you would like a copy of Howard Zahniser's historic *Alisonward* journal when it is soon published, please contact FAW at [info@pawild.org](mailto:info@pawild.org). Simply provide your name, address, phone, and email, along with the number of copies of *Alisonward* you would like to order, and we will contact you once they become available.

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## The Wilderness Act turns 50

**The Wilderness Society**  
September 3, 2014

Americans passed the Wilderness Act on Sept. 3, 1964 to forever protect our most awe-inspiring wild places and their many human stories.

Passage of this bedrock conservation act was a long, hard-fought struggle that eventually paid off with a new wilderness protection system that has grown to include nearly 110 million acres of premiere wildlands from coast to coast. But as we reflect on the Act's achievements 50 years later, we know there is still more to do.



**President Lyndon Johnson signs the Wilderness Act into law in the Whitehouse Rose Garden on September 3, 1964. Johnson is shown handing his pen to Alice Zahniser, widow of Howard Zahniser. Photo courtesy of Alice Zahniser.**

## Fifty years ago a system of protected wilderness was born

On Sept. 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act, creating the National Wilderness Preservation System. A total of 9.1 million acres of unspoiled wilderness forest lands were immediately placed into the new system as "designated wilderness" areas, including such renowned beauties as California's Ansel Adams Wilderness and Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness.

At last, the Wilderness Act had created a way for Americans to permanently protect beloved wild places. This wilderness network provides these lands with the highest level of protection afforded by the federal government.

Wilderness Society Executive Director Howard Zahniser was a leader in advancing the Wilderness Act. Not only was he the primary author of the Act, but Zahniser helped steer it through 18 hearings and 66 drafts before it finally passed the Senate 73-12 and the House by a near unanimous 374-1 margin.



The Wilderness Act allows Americans to now work directly with Congress to nominate deserving lands into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Through the Act, the public can lobby Congress to protect favorite wild places that have unspoiled wilderness characteristics, as opposed to relying on administrative agencies alone to make conservation recommendations.

Many of the early visionaries for the wilderness were founders of The Wilderness Society. These visionaries included Aldo Leopold, who pushed for the establishment of roadless primitive areas on Forest Service lands, and Wilderness Society Executive Director Howard Zahniser who worked fiercely to persuade Congress to create the National Wilderness Preservation System. As the largest wilderness system in the world today, America's National Wilderness Preservation System stands as an inspiration to many nations who seek to preserve their natural and cultural resources.

Over the past 50 years, the wilderness system

has grown into a diverse network of protected wildlands. It is nearly 110 million acres strong with 758 wilderness distinct units from Alaska to Florida. These special areas remain permanently safeguarded from development, helping Americans reconnect with the magic of our natural and cultural heritage.

*Excerpted with permission from The Wilderness Society. For a full copy of TWS's 36-page full-color report, Wilderness: Our Enduring American Legacy, contact FAW at [info@pawild.org](mailto:info@pawild.org).*

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### **FAW's Wilderness at 50 Show with the Crary Art Gallery a Huge Success!**

A very large crowd turned out for the successful opening of our long-awaited *Wilderness at 50: Photographic Reflections on the Legacy of Tionesta Visionary Howard Zahniser* on Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at the Crary Art Gallery in Warren. In fact, officials with the Crary conservatively estimate that there were more than 200 guests during the first weekend of the show - a record for any exhibition at the Crary to date.



**Accomplished wilderness photographer Kevin Ebi took a field trip to designated and proposed wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest prior to the opening of *Wilderness at 50* with Friends of Allegheny Wilderness. Here he photographs the untrammeled proposed addition to the Hickory Creek Wilderness. Photo by Kirk Johnson.**

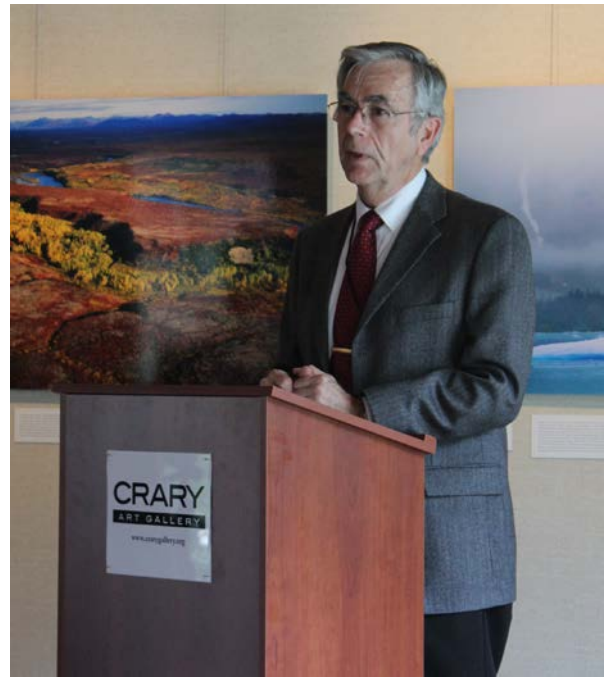
Talks were given in honor of Howard Zahniser by special guest speakers Rick Sollman of Congressman Glenn Thompson's office; Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor for the Allegheny

National Forest; Dr. Mathias Zahniser, son of Howard Zahniser; and Mr. William Meadows, immediate past president of The Wilderness Society.

In addition to our special guest speakers, three of the featured wilderness photographers attended the show opening in person! They were Kevin Ebi from Washington State, Stephen Gorman from Vermont, and Mark Muse from West Virginia.

*Wilderness at 50* runs through Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.

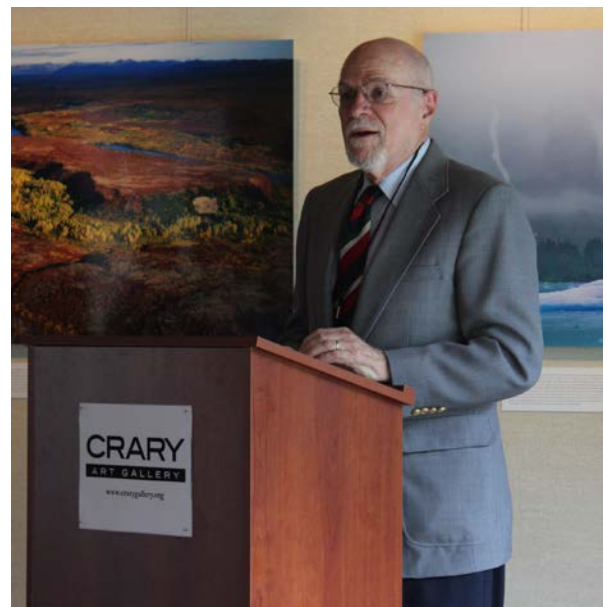
Below are photos of our special guest speakers at the opening of *Wilderness at 50*, all taken by Bob Stoudt, board president for Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.



**Clyde Thompson, ANF Forest Supervisor.**



**Rick Sollman, Field Representative for Congressman Glenn Thompson.**



**Dr. Mathias Zahniser, eldest son of Wilderness Act of 1964 author Howard, and Alice, Zahniser.**





**Bill Meadows, President of The Wilderness Society from 1996 through 2012.**

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### **FAW to Present at Fourth Annual Chapman State Park Fall Fest October 4<sup>th</sup>**

The fourth annual Fall Festival will be held at Chapman State Park October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> with activities for all ages. The festival will kick off Friday night with Geocaching at Night. Participants are asked to meet at the Amphitheater at 7:00 p.m. and to bring a flashlight. A limited supply of GPS units will be available for use during the program.

Activities will be held from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday at the beach and Pavilion Two. Presenters include Drop Spindle Basics, My Wee RV, Astronomy, Bird Watching, Primitive Fire, and Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.

Canoes and kayaks will be available to try out in the lake. All boats will be located on the beach. The Jammers, a group of local musicians, will be playing traditional acoustic folk music in Pavilion Two. Master Blacksmith Leon Briggs will demonstrate the art of blacksmithing.



**Dale Luthringer from Cook Forest State Park will provide his demonstration of Lumber Heritage logging operations. This photo is from last year's Fall Festival at Chapman State Park.**

Apple cider, Dutch oven, homemade ice cream and garbage can corn demonstrations will also be available. The Warren County Conservation District will be presenting the "Macros of Chapman" at the beach - be prepared to get your feet wet as you search for life in the lake! The Bureau of Forestry will also be conducting a Leaf Printing program. Stop by the lumbering demonstration to learn about that history in this area.

The fall festival will conclude with a Night Sky Watch presented by Tom Traub of the Martz Observatory. We'll be trying out the park's telescope to discover where and when to look for meteor showers and planets. If you have a telescope gathering dust, bring it out and get some tips on using it from an expert! The program begins at 6:30 p.m. at the beach. Please bring a chair or blanket and a flashlight.



**Friends of Allegheny Wilderness**  
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**Wood thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*) is widely distributed across North America, wintering in southern Mexico and Central America. The song of the male is often cited as the most beautiful in North America. The wood thrush is an omnivore, feeding on soil invertebrates and larvae, but will also eat fruits. In proposed wilderness areas of the Allegheny National Forest, the lilting, soothing song of the wood thrush can be heard echoing throughout the forest canopy during the summer.

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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.

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