

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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Saturday, May 9, 2015

Rare writings of conservation giant are published by FAW

Zahniser's 1937 Allegheny River journal available

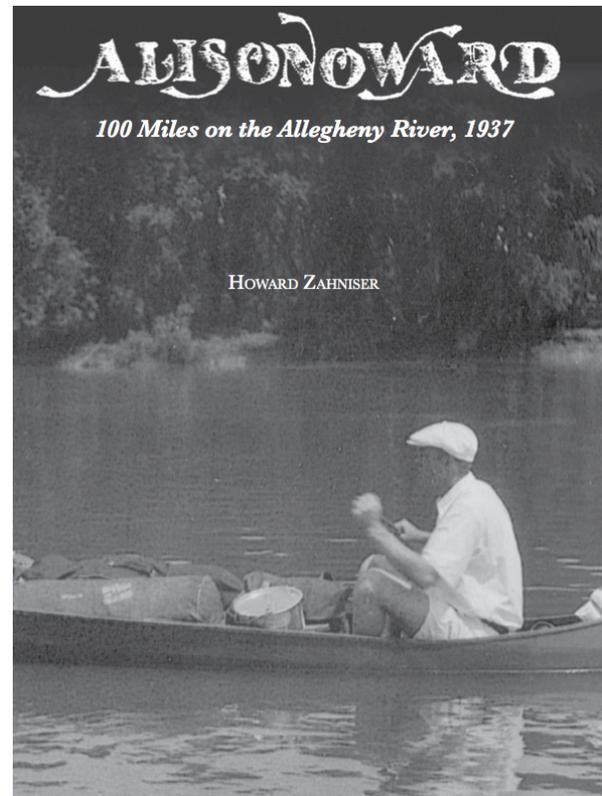
Howard Zahniser (1906–1964), longtime director of The Wilderness Society and primary author of the federal Wilderness Act of 1964, hailed from Tionesta, along the Allegheny River.

In June of 1937, Zahniser and his wife of one year, Alice (1918–2014), took an epic 14-day, 100-mile canoe trip down the Allegheny River from Olean, New York, to Tionesta. It was a continuous river trip then, there being no Kinzua Dam. North of Tionesta, the couple camped on Thompson's Island, now part of the 110-million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System that the Wilderness Act created.

The Warren-based non-profit organization Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) has published Zahniser's journal from that 1937 trip, *Alisonoward*, which is available online at tinyurl.com/alisonoward. In the second to last entry of *Alisonoward*, Zahniser observed his surroundings as they drew closer to Tionesta:

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.



"The Zahniser family applauds Friends of Allegheny Wilderness for making this journal widely available," said Howard and Alice's son Ed Zahniser. "It gives insight into our parents' love of birding, nature, and camping. More of the Allegheny and its watershed need higher levels of protection as the great public treasures they are."

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The Wilderness Act that Zahniser authored 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 762 wilderness areas in 44 states, as well as Puerto Rico - with more to come.

In Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest (ANF) there are two designated wilderness areas: Allegheny Islands Wilderness and Hickory Creek Wilderness, totaling approximately 9,000 acres - less than two percent of the 513,300-acre forest. FAW has proposed that an additional 50,000 acres be protected under the Wilderness Act.

"Having been born and raised, and lived all of my adult life in Warren - canoeing frequently on the Allegheny River and hunting and hiking in the Allegheny National Forest - I am pleased to see the publication of *Alisonoward* come to fruition," said area resident and longtime FAW board member Dr. Ronald Simonsen. "It is exciting to think that the local writings of one of America's conservation giants are going to be available to the public for the first time since Howard Zahniser wrote these words nearly eighty years ago," Simonsen concluded.

Wilderness is important because among other reasons it is the only land in the country where nature is the primary influence across

the landscape, and where threatened and endangered species can find undisturbed refuge and high quality habitat.

Howard and Alice Zahniser are laid to rest beside their beloved Allegheny River in Tionesta's Riverside Cemetery. With characteristic wordplay, Zahniser named their canoe and his journal *Alisonoward*, linking the couples' first names. The journal is published to support designating more wilderness in the ANF.

Alisonoward clocks in at 76 pages, and includes actual photographs from the Zahniser's canoe trip, as well as three rare appendices. Bookstores and other booksellers can order multiple copies for resale from FAW at a reduced rate per book. Contact FAW at info@pawild.org to find out how.

Individuals may purchase a copy of the book from Lulu.com at: tinyurl.com/alisonoward

Proceeds from the sales of *Alisonoward* go to benefit FAW.

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The Jamestown Post-Journal
Sunday, June 14, 2015

TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT
FAW and the Allegheny Reservoir Cleanup



Pictured above is Jean Gomory of the Warren County, Pennsylvania, Conservation District adding another bag of litter she collected to a collection point pile along the shore of the Allegheny Reservoir, south of Quaker Run.



Pictured above is the pile of tires that was collected during the May 9th Allegheny Reservoir Cleanup, at the Onoville Marina. Hundreds of tires were collected this year.

Photos by Kirk Johnson of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.

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Note: for those interested in participating in the annual Allegheny Reservoir Cleanup, and/or the annual Allegheny River & Conewango Creek Cleanup, log on to:

www.alleghenyrivercleanup.com

Please consider joining us!

The Wilderness Writings of Howard Zahniser on Facebook

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

From time to time we like post some of the wonderful and inspiring quotes by Tionesta native and Wilderness Act of 1964 author

Howard Zahniser from throughout his career on the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness Facebook page. Please like and follow our ever-expanding online presence!

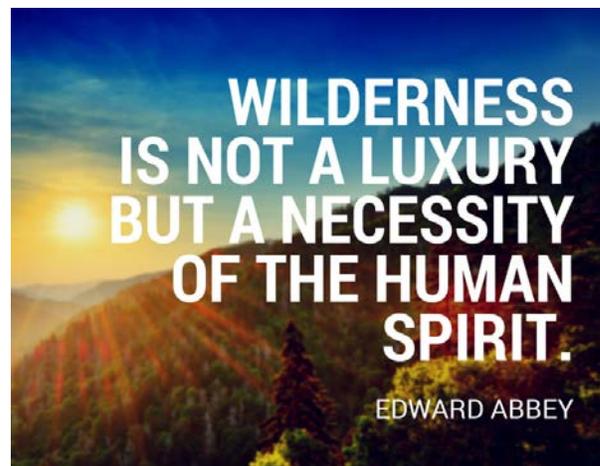
facebook.com/FriendsofAlleghenyWilderness

Below is an especially inspirational Zahniser quote for those of you who may be heading out into the Allegheny's wilderness during this beautiful Pennsylvania summer! (And you might consider leaving the smart phones and iPads, etc. at home!)

We deeply need the humility to know ourselves as the dependent members of a great community of life, and this can indeed be one of the spiritual benefits of a wilderness experience. Without the gadgets, the inventions, the contrivances whereby men have seemed to establish among themselves an independence of nature, without these distractions, to know the wilderness is to know a profound humility, to recognize one's littleness, to sense dependence and interdependence, indebtedness, and responsibility.

—Howard Zahniser, 1955, in a speech titled "The Need for Wilderness Areas" before the American Planning and Civic Association in Washington, D.C.

tinyurl.com/GreatCommunityOfLife



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White ash (*Fraxinus Americana*) is the most common of five species of ash tree in Pennsylvania. It is an intermediately-successional deciduous forest tree native to essentially all of eastern North America. It can grow to more than 100 feet tall, help provide high-quality wildlife habitat, and its wood is prized for baseball bats. White ash and all other species of ash in North America are threatened by the non-native emerald ash borer insect (*Agrilus planipennis*), first identified in the U.S. in Michigan in June of 2002.

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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