



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.

From the Director

Welcome to the second Friends of Allegheny Wilderness newsletter, and thanks for checking in as we swing into our campaign to protect new federal wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest! Currently less than 2% of the ANF is wilderness. FAW believes a goal of 10% is appropriate. This will be the final issue for 2001. Beginning in 2002 we plan to publish four times a year. We welcome contributions, with submission deadlines on March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1.

This is the first issue following the September 11 calamity, and we believe it is important to carry on. The acts of the perpetrators and their collaborators should not impair the patriotic work of protecting America's natural heritage. With this in mind, we have included an inspiring essay by Richard Nelson, reprinted here with permission from *Orion* magazine.

FAW is pleased to welcome Eric Flood, Wilderness Ranger for the Allegheny National Forest, and Melyssa Watson, co-director of The Wilderness Society's Wilderness Support Center as columnists for this issue. We will be honored to have them return in future issues.

FAW will be organizing ground truthing and field trips into the Forest beginning in early spring to ascertain the qualities of some of the last undeveloped areas on the Allegheny, and we hope you will get involved. We need to complete thorough surveys so that strong and timely formal wilderness recommendations can be made to the Forest Service and our elected officials. So grab your hiking boots, topo maps, and compasses (not to mention digital cameras and GPS units), and give us a call if you'd like to help!

--Kirk Johnson

The Patience of Stones

by Richard Nelson

Since the tragedies of September 11, the only way I have found release from the almost unbearable weight of grief and fear is to take myself out into the wild places, where I can find the embrace of peace, where I can see that the world goes on as always, where I can touch my own source and understand that my life depends not just on the good graces of humankind, but also - and ultimately - on my sustenance from the earth itself.

Once again, I ask wild nature to brace up my depleted soul. And in gratitude, I renew my pledge to give something back.

This is why I will continue working to protect the environment even in these dark days. Now, perhaps more than ever, many of us need unhewn, unfettered places to find solace and replenish our spirits, to imagine a sane and reasonable future, to weave our lives together with those of our fellow beings, to understand that we are beholden to - and responsible for - something incomparably larger and more important than ourselves.

I have heard that conservationists all around the country feel overpowered by the situation, as if it had become inappropriate or unpatriotic to speak for the environment; as if our concerns had become irrelevant, measured against the magnitude and urgency of the national crisis. And yet, in the spreading aftermath of terrorism, there are proposals to diminish environmental protections, increase and subsidize resource development, and make more of our national public wildlands available to industry. The most stunning example is an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill, filed by Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma, that would mandate oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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Is this a time to move quietly aside? I say, unequivocally, no. I trust we have the integrity and determination not to allow our environment, our natural preserves, and our wildlife to become additional victims of terror, magnifying the dimension and permanency of our loss.

Through many years of volunteer work in conservation, I have come to see that activism fully engages us in the democratic process, that the freedom to express our opinion is a precious gift, and that conservation is a way of speaking out for the American land, perhaps the ultimate form of patriotism.

While our flags are waving and patriotism is a constant subject in public discourse, those of us who care deeply about the environment can add our voices as true patriots - not only supporting our human community but also the earth on which our nation stands.

My commitment to conservation activism and my willingness to work for America's natural heritage has never been stronger than it is now. My love and concern for this country, for our democratic principles, and for people everywhere is equally strengthened.

And as each day's events unfold, confronted by my sadness and my fear, I will look for comfort and balance where I always have: in the beauty of seagull voices, in the shelter of forests, in the power of storms, in the companionship of otters, in the affirmation of moonlight, in the confidence of wrens, in the dignity of mountains, in the tenderness of deer, in the perseverance of tides, in the elusiveness of seals, in the ephemerality of leaves, in the stoicism of bears, in the self-containment of islands, in the willingness of salmon, in the strength of roots, in the jubilation of streams, in the wisdom of ravens, in the patience of stones, in the assurance of dawn.

With profound thanks for all these things, and for the blessed company of humankind, I will offer my hands and my heart in whatever small way they might be of use - and in this, too, I will find hope.

This article originally appeared on OrionOnline.org, the website of Orion and Orion Afield magazines, under the feature headline "Thoughts on America." The list of contributing writers continues to grow.

Howard Zahniser Memorial Dedicated!

A unique connection for the Allegheny region is our ties to the architect of the 1964 Wilderness Act, Howard Zahniser. Zahniser was born in Franklin in 1906 and Tionesta, a town on the southwest boundary of the Allegheny National Forest, became his hometown. Zahniser, or "Zahnie" as he was known to many, was executive director of The Wilderness Society from 1945 until his untimely death in 1964, and was the lead author of the federal Wilderness Act of 1964 which created the National Wilderness Preservation System. He is buried in Tionesta, within a stone's throw of his beloved Allegheny River. A celebration of Zahnie's ties to Tionesta and the Allegheny region, and his lifelong work for wilderness was recently held in the hometown he loved.



Howard Zahniser Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker, Tionesta, Pennsylvania. Photo by John McComb, Pew Wilderness Center.

In March, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) approved the marker to be installed in Tionesta in honor of Zahnie. The dedication took place on Monday, August 13. FAW worked closely with the PHMC, the Forest County Historical Society, The Wilderness Society, and the Pew Wilderness Center to make this event a huge success. The dedication was an important end in itself to honor a great Pennsylvanian, but also served as an opportunity to educate the public about the value of wilderness.

The ceremony was enthusiastically attended by some 70+ wilderness aficionados including Congressman John Peterson; Howard Zahniser's sons Ed and Matt, and sister Helen Zahniser

Snyder; Doug Scott, Policy Director of the Pew Wilderness Center; Deputy Secretary of Agriculture under President Carter, Rupert Cutler; Allegheny National Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliott; Melyssa Watson and Darrell Knuffke of The Wilderness Society and many others who could well be mentioned.



Deputy Secretary of Agriculture under President Carter Rupert Cutler, left, and Allegheny Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliott, right. In the background are, from left to right, David Sublette, Sierra Club; Eric Flood, Allegheny Wilderness Ranger; Doug Scott, Pew Wilderness Center; and John Schultz, Bradford District Ranger, Allegheny National Forest. Photo by Dave Saville, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

FAW will further Zahnier's wilderness vision by working toward the designation of additional wilderness here, and in particular by gaining wilderness protection for the 4,100-acre Tionesta old-growth forest. These additions will make a fine tribute to the life and work of Howard Zahniser, whose 100th birthday anniversary is approaching in February 2006. Doug Scott of the Pew Wilderness Center has suggested a "Howard Zahniser Memorial Wilderness Act" designating new areas in the Allegheny.

The most moving speech of the day certainly was given by Howard Zahniser's son Ed, whose remarks begin on page 4.

From The Wilderness Society:

Pennsylvania's Wilderness & Conservation Leaders: U.S. Representative John P. Saylor
by Melyssa L. Watson, Wilderness Support Center

Many prominent wilderness and conservation leaders have hailed from the Keystone State.

They include the well-known authors Rachel Carson and Edward Abbey as well as Howard Zahniser – author of the Wilderness Act who grew up in Tionesta along the border of the Allegheny National Forest.

Another prominent Pennsylvanian played a key role in the passage of the Wilderness Act which created our National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and established the framework for Congress to add new Wilderness Areas to the NWPS. Former U.S. Representative John Saylor, a Republican from Johnstown was the original House sponsor of the Wilderness bill, which he first introduced in 1956. Saylor championed the measure throughout the eight-year bi-partisan effort, which ultimately led to the bill's passage in 1964.

In July 1956, shortly after introduction of the Wilderness bill, Saylor said, "We are a great people, because we have been so successful in developing and using our marvelous natural resources, **but also we Americans are the people we are largely because we have had the influence of the wilderness on our lives.**"*

Saylor served as member of Congress from Pennsylvania from 1949 until his death in 1973. During his career he was a steadfast champion for wild places. In addition to the instrumental role he played in passing the Wilderness Act, he played a key role in establishing the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, fought for national parks in Alaska, worked for tougher vehicle emission standards, and helped stop legislation which would have mandated increased logging on our National Forests.

** emphasis added*

FAW Director Publishes Tionesta Wilderness Paper in Natural Areas Journal

In a paper published in the October *Natural Areas Journal*, the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) proposal for protecting a rare 4,100-acre eastern old-growth forest through wilderness designation is outlined. Authored by FAW executive director Kirk Johnson, the paper is titled "A Proposal for Tionesta Wilderness Designation in the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania, USA."

The *Natural Areas Journal*, the peer reviewed quarterly of the Natural Areas Association, provides a forum for communication among persons involved in the identification, preservation, protection, and management of natural areas and elements of natural diversity.



The Natural Areas Journal is published by the Natural Areas Association: www.natareas.org.

The tract, known as the Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas, is located in the Allegheny National Forest just west of Kane. It is the largest parcel of old-growth forest in the eastern United States between the Adirondacks and the Great Smoky Mountains. Situated in the upper reaches of the Tionesta Creek watershed, it is dominated by large eastern hemlock and American beech trees, some 500 years old and approaching four feet in diameter.

In 1997, the U.S. Forest Service characterized the Tionesta Research Natural Area as “one of the most valuable old-growth remnants in the eastern U.S....evidenced by the 10-fold increase in research activity...over the past decade.”

Johnson's paper asserts that existing Forest Service roads within the proposed wilderness should be permanently closed and rehabilitated and that non-federal inholdings should be purchased from those willing to sell, with a goal of designating 20,000 – 30,000 acres as wilderness. This would permanently protect tributary streams of South Branch Tionesta Creek and surround the Tionesta old-growth with a protective wilderness buffer.

The forest surrounding the Tionesta old-growth consists largely of second-growth stands of shade-intolerant tree species resulting from the logging of the 1890-1930 clearcutting era. By the inevitable process of natural succession, the

second-growth will progress toward a hemlock-beech climax forest like that in the Tionesta tract if left undisturbed long enough.

For further information on the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness Tionesta Wilderness Area proposal or reprints of the paper, please call (814) 723-0620, or email alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net.



The Tionesta Research Natural Area old-growth forest. Photo by Kirk Johnson.

Remarks by Ed Zahniser at the Dedication of a Historical Marker at Tionesta, Pennsylvania Honoring Howard Zahniser's Work for Wilderness, August 13, 2001

Thank you Kirk, and thank you Kim Green and your Senator Arlen Specter. It is a great honor to be here for this purpose. My father Howard Zahniser considered Tionesta his home town. His mother Bertha Belle Newton Zahniser maintained the family home here on Bridge Street until her death in the 1950s. My father maintained it until his death in 1964. My father extolled Tionesta in an article he submitted to Scribner's Magazine soon after he had moved to Washington, D.C. When my mother Alice Zahniser was pregnant with their first child, my parents canoed down the Allegheny River from Olean, New York, to Tionesta Creek. My father and his parents and most of his siblings are buried in Tionesta's Riverside Cemetery just down river here.

On behalf of the family, also represented here by my father's sister Helen Zahniser-Snyder and her husband Professor Lee L. Snyder of Philadelphia, and my big brother, the Reverend Dr. A. H. Mathias Zahniser of Wilmore, Kentucky, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to you for sharing in this great moment of honor for Howard Zahniser and his work for preserving wilderness, for his role in drafting and championing the federal Wilderness Act of 1964, for his role in creating the

National Wilderness Preservation System that now preserves 105 million acres of wildlands on federal public lands, including on these Allegheny River islands you can see from here today.

This region of Pennsylvania has been generous in raising up stalwarts of the American conservation movement. Edward Abbey, author of *Desert Solitaire*, was born in Home, Pennsylvania. Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, was born in Springdale, Pennsylvania. Rachel Carson and Howard Zahniser were born within a year of each other. They died within a month of each other, and they both worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, publicizing wildlife conservation. The Johnstown, Pennsylvania area was home to U.S. Congressman John P. Saylor, who first introduced a Wilderness Bill in the House of Representatives. Pennsylvanians have a great legacy in the American conservation movement, and our family is proud that you have chosen to honor Howard Zahniser with this historical marker at the home town he loved, by the river he loved.



Ed Zahniser remembering his father, Howard, author of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Photo by Dave Saville.

My father had a great sense of humor, so perhaps it is not amiss to tell you that he was an absolute nut about reading historical markers. Our family of six traveled in convertibles with all our camping gear. My father would pull over at nearly every historical marker and read it aloud.

This was before Interstate highways, in the 1950s. When Kirk Johnson of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness first broached the idea of this marker, I emailed my mother, brother, and sisters Esther and Karen. "Isn't it ironic?" I asked them. "Even from beyond the grave Dad is making us stop for another historical marker!"



Melyssa Watson, co-director of The Wilderness Society's Wilderness Support Center, and U.S. Representative John Peterson, R-Pleasantville. Photo by Dave Saville

Howard Zahniser loved language. You can feel this in the text of the Wilderness Act. His major writing teachers were the Book of Job, 13th-century Italian poet Dante Alighieri, 18th-century English poet and engraver William Blake, and 19th-century American writer Henry David Thoreau. I think my father was intrigued by the restrained communication of historical markers. With so few words they sum up a life. Historical markers are the haiku of biography.

William Blake's latest biographer, Peter Ackroyd, said that for Blake, the engraver, words were precious objects carved out of metal. Henry Thoreau wrote that words were precious objects formed from the breath of life itself.

Thoreau also penned the intriguing phrase that "in Wildness is the preservation of the World." The word World there is the Greek word Kosmos. It means not only world but order, pattern, and beauty. Notice, too: Thoreau does not say we preserve wildness, but wildness preserves us, the world. This is perhaps the essential mystery of wilderness, and I think my father simply fell in love with it. He grew up in a tradition that assumes we must work to leave the world a better place. Howard Zahniser believed the world is a better place, and we are better people, for boldly embracing the humility to project wilderness and wildness-despite our obvious world-changing powers-into the future, into eternity even.

Again, on behalf of the extended Zahniser family, I wish to thank Kirk Johnson and Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Forest County Historical Society, Doug Scott of the Pew Wilderness Center, Melyssa Watson of the Wilderness Support Center, Darrell Knuffke of the Wilderness Society, Congressman John Peterson for his presence, and each of you for adding to the honor of this historical marker and of this day for Howard Zahniser in this place he loved so much. May all our children's children and their children enjoy a wilderness-forever future.

“Leave No Trace” Outdoor Ethics

by Eric Flood, Wilderness Ranger, Allegheny National Forest

Hello, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Eric Flood, and I have the good fortune to be Wilderness Ranger and Leave No Trace Master Educator for the Allegheny National Forest. I feel it is one of the best jobs in the Forest, and my duties include trail patrol and maintenance, law enforcement, visitor use and impacts monitoring, and probably most importantly, public education on wilderness values and Leave No Trace outdoor ethics (also known as LNT).

Originally, I hail from Cooper, Maine, a town of approximately 300 year-round residents near the Canadian border, where the St. Croix River empties into the Atlantic Ocean. I am a graduate of the University of Maine at Machias. Prior to coming to the Allegheny, I worked on the Chippewa and White Mountain National Forests. Preceding my work with the Forest Service, I held positions at Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado, Boston Harbor Islands State Park, and as environmental educator at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Conservation Camp.

LNT is a public education program that is designed to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. The program, which was originally conceived by the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the National Outdoor Leadership School, has grown with time to include a wide range of federal, state, local, and private sector partners. It is managed by Leave No Trace, Inc., a non-profit organization located in Boulder, Colorado. According to the Leave No Trace Inc. website (www.lnt.org), “The Leave No Trace message is more than a campaign for clean campsites. It's a program dedicated to building awareness, appreciation, and most of all, respect for our public recreation places. Leave No Trace oversees memberships, marketing, fundraising and program development efforts. In addition,

Leave No Trace forms partnerships to provide training, educational materials and outreach... Leave No Trace is about enjoying the great outdoors while traveling and camping with care”.

The need for a program such as LNT is evident in the increase of recreation visits to Forest Service lands over recent years. The resulting impacts of this expanded use on our forests and parks have come to be known popularly as “loving our wildlands to death.” Time and again, it has been found that the most effective technique for land agencies to reduce visitor use impacts is through widespread public education. Information about the impacts visitors have on our public lands, and instructions about the actions they may take to reduce or eliminate these impacts are essential management tools. Since the early seventies, most public land agencies have implemented their own low-impact visitor information programs. The creation of a comprehensive, single national program began in the early 90's with the creation of LNT Inc. and the inclusion of all of the federal land agencies into the program.

The LNT mission is accomplished through a variety of printed literature, brochures, posters, and interpretive displays and also by providing training opportunities as described on the LNT website:

- **Master Educator courses** which provide comprehensive coverage of LNT skills, ethics, and teaching practices, including four days of experiential learning in a backcountry setting.
- **Trainer courses** that are an abbreviated version of the Master's course for individuals who will be training the public directly.
- **Workshops**, formal but shorter duration LNT instruction, such as an afternoon session for Boy Scouts or an evening campfire presentation.
- **Public contacts** including informal LNT instruction in visitor centers, at trailheads, and in the backcountry.

The workshops and public contacts mentioned above consist of the bear's share of my own LNT work here on the Allegheny. In my first summer season here, I made over 500 LNT public contacts and provided LNT education workshops for an additional one hundred persons.

The LNT Principles, of which there are seven, are the foundation of the LNT outdoor ethics program. These Principles are constantly being re-evaluated and updated as findings on the best

techniques for reducing visitor use impacts come to light. The current principles are as follows:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

In future columns I will visit these seven principles individually and more in depth, and hopefully provide a greater understanding of their importance to prevent impacts during backcountry visits.

As for wilderness volunteer projects, I currently have several projects in the Hickory Creek and Allegheny River Islands Wilderness Areas in which I could use some assistance. In Hickory Creek Wilderness, one of the prevailing concerns is of persons inadvertently wandering from the trail and becoming lost. Prior to designation as a wilderness area, the Hickory Creek Trail (which is the only officially maintained trail within the Wilderness) was originally marked with painted yellow blazes. These blazes are now faded in many areas, and a number of the blazed trees have since blown down. In keeping with wilderness values, our current plan is to allow these blazes to fade away over time, and to replace them with rock cairn markers. These must be built at intervals close enough to allow hikers to find their way, and to a height which will allow them to remain visible above snow cover during the winter months. Because of the length of the Hickory Creek Trail, and the time required to construct each cairn, this will be a challenging task for the wilderness ranger to accomplish alone.

In addition to the faded blazes, many hikers can find themselves led astray by “bootleg” or user-developed trails. Also of concern are the remains of woods roads that date from times prior to wilderness designation and not yet completely faded from existence. The best way to alleviate this problem is to naturalize the area with blow-down material, making it less visible, more natural in appearance, and difficult to pass through. Particularly problematic is a bootleg trail that leads from the Heart’s Content Campground and across the Hickory Creek Trail. This remnant of a logging road has proven a challenge to return to a natural state due to firewood gathering by campers and persons using it continually removing material so they may pass through. In addition to leading hikers astray, it is also a source of trespass by bicycles from the campground, which are prohibited within the Wilderness. What is needed is to block the trail

with a mass of natural material that would be too daunting for an individual to attempt to clear, and too massive to be quickly reduced by persons seeking campfire wood. This would allow me to easily keep the way obstructed in the future with only periodic maintenance, and permit the trail to become a naturalized area of the forest.

The Allegheny River Islands Wilderness has opportunities for volunteers as well. Because the islands are downriver from the city of Warren (as well as several major highway bridges) and are periodically flooded, trash that makes its way into the river is too often deposited on the islands. This debris must periodically be gathered up and transported off the islands by boat. Of course, fire-rings that are excessive in size and full of partially burned metal cans and foil are always in need of maintenance.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, and in particular Kirk Johnson, for the opportunity of writing this column. In my next installment, we will visit the first of the seven Principles of Leave No Trace: Plan Ahead and Prepare.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Pew Wilderness Center, the Tortuga Foundation, the Peradam Foundation, and all of our donors for their generous support of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness. Special thanks to Peter Wray for his support for and guidance.

Thanks also to artist and web designer Chad Johnson who expertly rendered the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness logo seen on the front page and in the photo of Ed Zahniser on page 5. The logo is copyrighted to Chad Johnson and Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.

IMPORTANT – if you are a member of The Wilderness Society and a resident of Pennsylvania, you have been sent this complimentary copy of the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness newsletter. If you have not already done so, please indicate your interest soon to continue to receive the newsletter by contacting us at:

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