



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

This is it everyone, the revision of the Allegheny National Forest's Forest Plan is nearly upon us, scheduled to formally begin in October. The process will take approximately five years and the revised Plan will dictate management of the Allegheny for the following ten to fifteen years. We're talking about not being able to comment regarding the long term management of the Allegheny until 2020 or later! The importance of your involvement can not be overstated. With only two wilderness areas designated in the Forest, it is vital that the public strongly advocate new wilderness now. Please write Allegheny National Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliott at 222 Liberty Street, Warren, PA, 16365 and ask to be included on all Forest Plan revision mailings. For more information on how you can help, such as by writing letters or by inventorying wild areas of the Forest for possible inclusion in our National Wilderness Preservation System, please contact FAW.

I would also like to welcome back Allegheny National Forest wilderness ranger Eric Flood as a regular columnist in this issue. Eric's discussions of Leave No Trace camping ethics are a vital component of preserving Allegheny wilderness in perpetuity. Though I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, thought, support, money, etc. to the FAW campaign, space limitations prevent me from doing so here. Suffice to say that the FAW effort is standing on the shoulders of many caring, helpful, and experienced individuals.

Thanks, and I hope to see you in the Allegheny woods soon!

--Kirk Johnson

Stewardship Concerns in the Allegheny Islands Wilderness

By Bob Stoudt

As Forest Plan revision draws near, it is important that we focus awareness on potential threats to the long-term survival of the forest and the species that exist within its boundaries. One such focus of concern is the Allegheny River corridor and the Allegheny Islands Wilderness - a group of seven islands designated as federal wilderness areas, where recent studies have found that the community of plants and animals that live in and along the river are being threatened.



Crulls Wilderness Island, 1994.

The problems facing the river and the wilderness islands are varied, including sewage and industrial pollution, exotic species invasions, and dam-induced changes to natural river patterns. Since the construction of the Kinzua Dam in 1965, changes in river water temperature, reduced

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365
(814) 723-0620
alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net
www.pawild.org

Pittsburgh contact:

Bob Stoudt
125A Longvue Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(412) 635-9185
rstoudt@stargate.net

spring flows and increased summer flows, reduced ice scouring downstream of the dam, and an expansion of vegetation onto formerly bare shorelines have been documented. These changes, taken together, constitute a significant alteration of the river environment and lead to concern for the long-term viability of the unique community of plants and animals that exist within there.

The riparian vegetation patterns along the upper Allegheny River are regionally distinct. The Allegheny Islands Wilderness has been found to contain one of the few remaining mature riparian landscapes in Pennsylvania. However, recent studies have shown that the forest patterns on several, and probably all, of the wilderness islands are undergoing changes that may reduce their unique character. Changes in vegetation patterns that have been documented include an expansion of herbaceous and woody plants onto formerly bare shorelines that had been maintained by flood and ice scouring, and a significant expansion of non-native grasses and other herbaceous plants such as reed canary grass, Japanese knotweed, and garlic mustard onto large parts of the islands. These exotic species are overrunning the islands and appear to be changing the nature of the forests from a closed canopy to a more open, savannah-like appearance. Although a variety of factors are undoubtedly at work on the islands, the impacts of the dam and the invasion of the exotic species seem to be most pronounced.

Due to their wilderness designation, the islands of the Allegheny Islands Wilderness are to be managed with a minimal amount of direct human intervention. However, if the Forest Service's goal to preserve and protect these islands as regionally unique examples of vegetation is to be met, then it appears necessary that some degree of direct human modification will be required. The changes that have resulted from the alteration of

the flooding regime, elimination of ice scouring, and an increasing presence of exotic species present problems that cannot be ignored. If so, these changes threaten to reshape the Allegheny Islands Wilderness into something far different than what was initially intended to be protected.

These issues, along with other concerns raised by recent studies, suggest a need for the Forest Service, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers (which controls the Kinzua Dam), to reconsider their management practices and to take steps to better protect the Allegheny River and the Allegheny Islands Wilderness. Different, less environmentally degrading operating practices for the Kinzua Dam should be investigated and implemented to minimize the ongoing adverse consequences of the project. These operational changes should include, at the least, a return of more frequent, more intense springtime flooding to better mimic the pre-dam disturbance regime, and an effort to better imitate pre-dam annual river water temperature patterns. Further, an exhaustive inventory of aquatic and riparian species in the upper- and mid-reaches of the Allegheny River must be conducted so that long-range management plans can be made to protect these species. The increasing presence of exotic species, together with a lack of documentation of the range and population sizes of many native species of concern in this region greatly hampers effective protection strategies. Finally, declines in water quality as a result of poor sewage and municipal waste treatment around Warren, PA and Youngsville, PA must be addressed if any regional river recovery plan is to succeed.

FAW leads Field Trip into Proposed Tionesta Wilderness Area

By Lori Walker

On Tuesday, May 28th Friends of Allegheny Wilderness hosted a short field trip into an old growth stand of the Allegheny National Forest along the southern edge of the Tionesta Research Natural Area. Among the guests were U.S. Congressman John Peterson, representatives from the offices of Senators Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter, ANF Supervisor Kevin Elliott, Forest County Conservation Officer Doug Carlson, and local forester Ken Kane.

Under the canopy of giant hemlocks along East Fork Run, FAW director Kirk Johnson gave a short presentation on the Wilderness Act and the need for new wilderness designations in the ANF, particularly in the old growth of the Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas. Following the

presentation a discussion of practical concerns and questions ensued.



ANF Supervisor Kevin Elliott, Congressman John Peterson, and FAW Director Kirk Johnson discuss the merits of a Tionesta Wilderness Area. Photo by Lori Walker

The field trip concluded with Rep. Peterson's suggestion to put together a working group of representatives from his office, FAW, and the local timber industry to study the wilderness proposals, the resulting effects, and possible problems.

The field trip was a positive step toward obtaining new wilderness designations in the Allegheny National Forest.

Northern Allegheny Project Under Way

The Northern Allegheny Project (NAP) is an initiative of the PA Environmental Council, a private, non-profit environmental education and outreach organization. NAP was created in June of 2000 to raise public awareness and appreciation for streams in the Northern Allegheny Watershed. Its mission is to achieve an ecologically-enhanced region through implementing a comprehensive educational initiative that includes school programs, field trips, interpretive programs, public workshops, local government workshops and sojourns.

The specific geographic region that NAP covers includes the watersheds of the Oil, Brokenstraw, Conewango and Tionesta Creeks as well as the main stem of the Allegheny River from Kinzua Dam to Oil City.

NAP's activities are guided through the input of a core Advisory Council and adjunct members consisting of local educators, business-owners, industrialists, foresters, recreationalists, naturalists, farmers, riparian landowners, government representatives, conservationists, et al.

Some of the Project's activities to date include: water quality monitoring, youth-based educational programs, participation in public events, development of plans to partner on agricultural sites to implement best management practices, representation on various local committees and on the Allegheny River Support Group. NAP is also evolving into a liaison among various entities with similar goals.

Currently, the Northern Allegheny Project is purchasing equipment (biotic survey, water quality monitoring, educational/interpretive) through a Growing Greener grant to facilitate its education and outreach goals and to share with other groups who may also have the need for these items in their work. The Project is looking for appropriate partners to enhance its efforts and is engaged in initial talks with Friends of Allegheny Wilderness to determine future collaborative opportunities.

For more information about NAP, please contact its director, Gina Ellis, at the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville at northallegproj@cs.com or (814) 827-4428.

Imagine the Wild, Engage the World

Remarks by Ed Zahniser, Saturday, April 13, 2002, at the Pennsylvania/West Virginia WildernessWeekend

[This is an abbreviated version of Ed's excellent talk. Unfortunately we have to limit our newsletter to 8 pages. For the full text, please contact Friends of Allegheny Wilderness!]

Here is an excerpt from my father, Howard Zahniser's daily journal, showing what he was up to at our home in Hyattsville, Maryland and then at his Wilderness Society office and around Washington, D.C., on June 11, 1956:

"Awakened early, as Alice [his wife, my mother] was wondering whether the clock was right. So I soon got up, shaved, etc., got the [news]paper and

read it and then wrote ... until a bit after 8 when I got up and dressed.

"The first thing at the office I saw Spencer Smith to check with him as Sig Olson suggested regarding House introduction of the wilderness bill vis a vis the [Questico] Superior acquisition bill. To my surprise [Spencer] said he saw no reason for holding off--nor had he since the Superior bill had passed the Senate! Sig had been urging delay and quoting Spencer! So I asked Spencer if he wouldn't check with Sig as I wanted to be sure it was not going to distress him. Later Spencer called and said he had called Sig and the Superior bill had passed Friday. I called [Congressman] John Saylor's office to let him know the wilderness bill could be introduced. He introduced it, HR 11703, and decided to make the speech or statement later. I worked on preparing the statement. . . . I drafted a letter for John Saylor to send to Edward Preble noting that the wilderness bill had been introduced on the 85th anniversary of Edward's birth."

Implicit in that journal entry are many of the wilderness values that helped, from 1955 to 1964, secure passage of the Wilderness Act. I hope you can put them to good use to secure more wilderness designations in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. These wilderness values I want to celebrate with you are patience, persistence, evangelical zeal, bridge building, a sense of humor, sharing the credit, procedural and institutional naivete, and general good will.

There is nothing fancy on that list, but these character traits remain fundamental wilderness values.

Howard Zahniser was born in the Allegheny Mountains area of western Pennsylvania in 1906, to an essentially unsalaried evangelical Christian minister and his wife. For much of his childhood his parents did not live on the money economy. An elementary school teacher interested him in the Junior Audubon Society and prompted his lifelong delight in birds. Zahnise, as friends knew him, would brag that he graduated in the top ten of his high school class--and quickly add that there were only ten students *in* the class. He graduated from high school in Tionesta, where the family moved when he was about 13 years old.

He is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Tionesta just downriver from the Allegheny Island wilderness. His grave overlooks the river he loved, and he and my mother Alice canoed by there in 1937, putting in at Olean, New York and taking out at Tionesta Creek, just downstream

from the cemetery. (My brother Matt made that trip, too, but recalls nothing. He was in the womb.) A mile or two up Highway 62 from the cemetery, since last August, thanks to the imaginative work and persistence of Kirk Johnson, a Pennsylvania State Historical Marker honors my father's work for wilderness preservation.

As a teenager my father developed an inflammatory bone disease, osteomyelitis, then considered a 50-percent fatal disease. So he arrived at a small midwestern church college on crutches, also using a wheel chair--to play basketball. Because of this disease he did not know whether he would live to graduate. So Zahnise took only the courses that most interested him. At the end of four years he was still alive but lacked the required courses. He spent a fifth year as an upperclass freshman and later often boasted that he had crammed four years of college into five. Zahnise possessed a disarming sense of humor that he would use to defuse conflict or to break deadlocks.

...

Although he did not remain an evangelical Christian as an adult, gravitating more to the tradition of Reformed theology, Zahnise brought traits of his upbringing to his work for wilderness. He became a lobbyist allied in technique to a pastoral counselor. He projected an end-times hope that we would all one day take this wonderful step--this creation of a National Wilderness Preservation System--together. He did not attack the opponent as a person. His archest Wilderness Bill opponent was Colorado Congressman and House Interior Committee Chairman Wayne M. Aspinall, but Zahnise and Aspinall became genuine friends. They were friends despite how Aspinall repeatedly violated House rules to block the wilderness bill, and despite how much Cain Zahnise raised in Aspinall's Congressional district.

Stewart Udall once said Aspinall had all the characteristics--both good and bad--of a hedgehog and that Aspinall was the last of the Congressional committee chairmen to run his committee as though only his vote counted. Still, these adversaries respected each other. Zahnise's college chum, lifelong associate, and fellow charter member of the Wilderness Society Paul Oehser once wrote in *Backpacker* magazine: "Even [Zahnise's] adversaries in the wilderness cause (I don't think he had any enemies) grew to respect and love him. He was persuasive but never caustic or vindictive. . . . And this was the backbone of his integrity and effectiveness."

When Zahnie came to the Wilderness Society in 1945, the Society knew it must build bridges with other public lands advocates to broaden support for wilderness protection. The bridge building paid off 10 years later in the conservation coalition that won the Dinosaur National Monument victory, defeating the powerfully backed Echo Park dam proposed on the Green and Yampa rivers in Utah. That coalition then began the push for a wilderness bill in 1955 and 1956. The job of building bridges of cooperation for wilderness will never be done. Aldo Leopold might have couched this outreach effort in ecological terms as widening the boundaries of the community. As you continue this great tradition in your wilderness work, you are surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses. Although still in the minority, you are never alone in this work.

Should you feel naive at times, you also have Howard Zahniser, at least, as your witness. One month after that Wilderness Bill was introduced in the House in June 1956, our family embarked on an extended series of wilderness trips. Gone most of July and all August, we were so late back for school in September that my principal let me choose my sixth grade teacher. In all that time of wilderness family camping I slept in a *bed* bed only five times. My mother cooked so many campfire meals she should be canonized as a patron saint of wilderness cookery.

Evidently my father thought the wilderness legislation would zip through Congress, and he would sit back on his laurels and write a best-seller on family camping in the American wilderness. We visited the Adirondacks, Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Cloud Peak Primitive Area, Grand Teton National Park's Alaska Basin, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and what is now the Glacier Peak Wilderness. We wilderness-traveled by foot, horsepacking, horseback, and canoe. We car-camped in federal, state, provincial and other parks between the trips. We all kept diaries for our father's grand book project.

Naive? The first Wilderness Bill was politically green behind the ears. It took eight years of lobbying and compromising to forge socially viable legislation. But without the naivete, would these rag-tag conservationists have mustered the nerve to take that first step? Zahnie died with the book contract in force. All he wrote was letters to the publisher to keep the contract alive. Just days before he died on May 5, 1964, Zahnie wrote to his friend and fellow Adirondack conservationist Paul Schaefer. He told Schaefer it didn't look like there would be a post-Wilderness Bill period of writing. Indeed, there was not.

While our 1956 family wilderness trips have spawned no book as yet, they did raise up four junior wilderness bill lobbyists. On some Saturday mornings my father took us kids to Capitol Hill armed with wilderness bill leaflets. We worked the offices, where many members of Congress often worked on the weekends unprotected by their weekday staffs. My sisters Esther and Karen and I would go from office to office, making our spiel and delivering wilderness bill propaganda. Our older brother Matt, who went away to college in 1956, worked a later summer on the wilderness bill for the Citizens Committee on Natural Resources. It was Matt who recruited Idaho Senator Frank Church to support the wilderness bill, and it was Senator Church who later led the crucial Senate floor fight that saw the bill pass the Senate 78 to 12.

My father's lifelong literary interests fed his delight in words that ultimately informed his choice of *untrammelled* for one of the definitions of wilderness in the Act. ...The genius of the word *untrammelled* became clear in the 1970s battle for Eastern National Forest wilderness on lands recovered or recovering from being rooted, grazed, farmed, deforested, and eroded. Pristine? No. Virgin or old-growth? No. But guided by the Wilderness Act definition, Congress placed those land in the Wilderness System. As Rupert Cutler, assistant secretary of Agriculture for forests in the Carter Administration once said, wilderness is whatever Congress says it is.



East Fork Run, Tionesta Research Natural Area. Photo by Paul Feenstra, office of U.S. Representative John Peterson.

In the current issue of *Wild Earth* magazine, Douglas W. Scott of the American Wilderness Campaign has a marvelous article outlining the meaning and ramifications of the word *untrammelled* in the Wilderness Act. Doug's article presents a position on the range, meanings, and

practical designation applications of the four definitions of wilderness in the Act. You will want to be very conversant with this material for your own wilderness work.

“ . . . in Wilderness is the Preservation of the World.”

Leave No Trace Principle 1: Plan Ahead and Prepare

By Eric Flood - Allegheny National Forest Wilderness Ranger

Most outdoors enthusiasts would readily agree that to “plan ahead and prepare” is always the sensible thing to do before departing on any type of backcountry trip. Be it a day hike, an overnigher, or a week-long backpacking excursion, making the necessary effort to carefully plan your trip could easily mean the difference between an enjoyable time in the backwoods and a disappointing or dangerous misadventure. Careful planning is also as important to following Leave No Trace outdoor ethics as it is to ensuring your personal safety and enjoyment.

You should consider it to be an important pre-trip responsibility to check with local land managers to be sure of the rules, regulations and special considerations for any area you will be visiting. There are some important questions you should always be sure to ask them, such as what are the appropriate group sizes, camping regulations, fire restrictions, and any unique conditions existing in the vicinity of the places you intend to visit. Have them mail to you any printed materials they may have or check their website for information, and obtain the appropriate topographic maps for the places you will be traveling through.

Equipment choices that are carefully thought out in advance will go far to help you make appropriate low impact decisions for the duration of your outing. Consider the importance of bringing the proper clothing for any seasonal weather conditions that may occur. As an example, if the area you are traveling in is known to experience occasional snowfall well into the spring, you need to be prepared for this possibility. This may help you avoid being forced into high impact activities such as building shelters or making a fire for warmth.

It is an absolute essential to have with you a quality compass, topographic maps of the area to be traveled, and the necessary the skills to use both. Getting lost can have extremely high impact consequences- especially if large groups of people, or worse, aircraft and motorized vehicles,

must be used in a pristine area in order to locate you. If you lack the skills to use a map and compass, find a source to learn them. Find a knowledgeable mentor, or take a course with a local university or an outdoor club. There are also a variety of great books on this subject available, and the Internet is an excellent source as well.

As you go through your gear to pack for your trip, it's a good time to examine each item and ask yourself, “Do I really need to bring this along?” The first item you may question the necessity of is your axe. Should you build a fire, the Leave No Trace method is to keep your fire as small as possible, using small diameter down and dead wood. The wood gathered for such a fire should be small enough to break into useable pieces with your hands, eliminating the need for an axe. Any cutting can most likely be accomplished with a modest pocketknife.

For many people, it just isn't a camping trip without a campfire. While a fire may be an enjoyable diversion, because of the smoke, the demand on down and dead wood in the area, and the mess it leaves behind, it is one of the highest impact activities you can engage in. Additionally, there is always the danger of accidentally starting a forest fire, especially during particularly dry times of the year.

A campfire is also a time-consuming, messy, and not terribly efficient way to cook your meals. If you make the low-impact choice to bring a camping stove, and are careful to bring adequate fuel, the need (and temptation) to build a fire is by and large eliminated. If you remember to pack a candle, you have a low-impact source of light as well as a center for social gathering with that “firelight” feel to it. A candle is safer, doesn't pester you with smoke, doesn't constantly need to have fuel added, and leaves no mark on the land. Try substituting a candle for your fire on your next trip; you may be pleasantly surprised to find you prefer it to a campfire.

Among the important items you should always bring along to help reduce your impacts, is a trowel for digging catholes to dispose of human waste. Or you may also wish to try the golden standard of Leave No Trace ethics when it comes to managing human waste: by packing it out along with your trash. This requires a little more preparation in advance (not to mention a true spirit of dedication!) because of the sanitary concerns involved. Carrying special plastic bags for just this purpose is advisable, and double bagging is necessary to protect against the pathogens contained in human waste. We'll

discuss this subject more in depth with LNT principle #4: Dispose of Waste Properly.



Unnamed tributary to the Clarion River in the Clarion River roadless area near Ridgway. Photo by Bob Stoudt

Of course, you should always carry with you soap or hand sanitizer to use after disposing of your waste, for your personal health concerns. Having to be evacuated from a backcountry area by emergency medical personnel due to illness from avoidable self-contamination is yet another example of a high impact consequence that can arise from a lack of careful planning. Always wash your hands thoroughly, and be sure to do all of your washing at least 200 feet from water sources (even if using “biodegradable” soap).

Careful meal planning is important in several different ways. The first is to make your outing more enjoyable by serving meals that include tasty, high-energy foods. The second, and low impact way, is through the careful repackaging of your food to reduce waste. This helps to avert littering (accidental or otherwise) and has the added benefit of reducing both the bulk and weight of items in your pack. It also makes clean up around camp faster and easier.

Two lists follow, one of items you should always include in your pack, and the other is of items usually best left at home:

Some items to always bring:

- First aid kit
- Rain gear and appropriate layered clothing for any seasonal weather conditions
- Pocket Knife
- Water filter or treatment tablets, and plenty of food repackaged to reduce waste
- Topographic maps, compass, and the skills to use them
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Matches or fire starter
- Candle
- Bear-bag hanging kit
- Lightweight camp stove and fuel
- Trowel for digging catholes

Items you should leave at home:

- Axe
- Cans, foil, glass containers
- Unnecessary food packaging
- Any “luxury” item you rarely use

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness with the assistance on a project at the Hickory Creek Wilderness boundary with the Heart’s Content campground on Saturday, January 19.

Braving the snowy weather conditions, we brought in down and dead debris to pile (in as natural appearing state as possible) in an area where a “bootleg” trail has been established on an old roadbed behind a campsite. This bootleg trail leads to confusion for hikers as it crosses the Hickory Creek Trail, which is the only official maintained trail in the Wilderness. It has also been a source of children wandering from the campground and becoming lost, resulting in high-impact search and rescue activities in the past. Because many campground visitors also have bicycles and may not be aware of wilderness values, it also has unfortunately been a source of bicycle trespass into the wilderness.

So long until next time, when we will look at Leave No Trace principle 2: Travel and camp on durable surfaces. More information on Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics is available on the Web at www.lnt.org.

Special thanks to: American Wilderness Coalition, Environmental Background Information Center, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Peradam Foundation, Pew Wilderness Center, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, The Wildlands Project, Tortuga Foundation, Patagonia, Inc. , and all our individual donors.

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220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365