



*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**

After months of anticipation, the Allegheny National Forest will initiate their Forest Plan Revision with public meetings on May 2 in DuBois and May 3 in Bradford. The DuBois workshop will be at the Sandy Hose Fire Hall, 15 Forest Avenue (near the intersection of U.S. Route 219 and Dickson Avenue). The Bradford session will be held at "The Hanger" on the campus of Pitt-Bradford. There will be signs directing the public from the campus entrance to the meeting site.

Please plan to attend one of these two workshops in order to advocate additional wilderness protection in the Allegheny National Forest. These early stage meetings will be very significant in determining the course of the Forest Plan revision over the next several years. It is important that wilderness remains high on the list of priority revision issues throughout the process.

Both workshops will be conducted by professional facilitators who are not Forest Service employees or staff. Workshops will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until about 4:30 p.m. with breaks for lunch. Please contact the ANF at (814) 723-5150 to assure adequate seating, handouts, and other materials, and to state which of the two workshops you plan to attend and if you need any special accommodation. For more information, please contact Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.

--Kirk Johnson

**The Value of Deadwood**  
**By Rance Scott Harmon**  
**Penn State Forest Resources Extension**

Most of us recognize the importance of living trees: they provide wildlife habitat, oxygen, timber, beauty, and many other assets. However, a common belief is that when a tree's vigor deteriorates, so does its ability to provide benefits.



East Fork Run, Tionesta Research Natural Area. Over time, large woody debris contributions to a stream channel through deadfall can significantly effect the fluvial geomorphology of a stream, diversifying aquatic wildlife habitat. Photo by Kirk Johnson.

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

In fact, my American Heritage Dictionary defines deadwood as “anything burdensome or superfluous” -- certainly not the qualities of something a landowner would want to have around.

However, dead and deteriorating trees are actually vital elements of healthy forests; they release nutrients, prevent erosion, store moisture, protect seedlings, and supply food and shelter for wildlife. Despite their importance, the number of dead and dying trees in many forestlands has declined due to timber salvaging, fire prevention, fire-wood cutting, and worker safety regulations. Good forest stewardship, then, requires us to consider both living trees and deadwood as vital, interacting components of the forest ecosystem that we can manage to meet sustainable forestry objectives.

As a tree's health deteriorates, it begins to lose the battle against invading organisms and the wood becomes weaker and softer—ideal for the work of cavity excavators such as woodpeckers. Many wildlife species use tree cavities for sanctuary against predators, extreme temperatures, and unfavorable weather conditions; and for nesting and brooding. Cavity nesters play a significant role in forest ecosystems by preying on harmful insects and helping to disperse seeds. Wood ducks, bluebirds, woodpeckers, owls, chickadees, squirrels, raccoons, bats, and mice are among the 35 species of birds and 20 species of mammals that use tree cavities in Pennsylvania.

Standing dead trees (snags) not only provide cavities but are also favorite perching sites for flycatchers, hawks, and owls. Along the water's edge, snags are excellent places to find perching kingfishers, ospreys, and bald eagles. Nuthatches and some bats and salamanders use spaces between loose bark and tree trunks for roosting. Woodpeckers and grouse

produce audible reminders of the importance of deadwood for wildlife by using the resonant qualities of deadwood for drumming -- a communication technique used to indicate territorial boundaries and attract mates.

Dead trees retain their ability to benefit wildlife and contribute to forest health even after they fall to the ground. Downed, decaying wood provides cover, foraging habitat, and egg laying sites for salamanders; and secure winter travel corridors and thermal protection for small mammals and mustelids, such as weasels. Twenty-three species of amphibians and reptiles take refuge in decaying wood in the northeastern United States, including box turtles, salamanders, and snakes.

By providing habitat and nutrition for organisms such as fungi, centipedes, beetles, and ants -- which, in turn, provide food for larger animals such as skunks, bears, and woodpeckers deadwood plays a key role in forest food webs. Besides directly benefiting wildlife, deadwood plays an important role in forest health by promoting soil fertility. As they decompose, rotting logs slowly release nutrients that help nurture future tree growth and prevent erosion by holding soil in place. The branches and tops of fallen trees help enable the regeneration of forests by protecting new tree growth from animal browsing.

Woody debris also plays a critical role in aquatic environments. Logs and branches that fall into streams and rivers help diversify habitat by creating deep pools, shady areas, and shelter. Consequently, aquatic habitats with sufficient woody debris support a greater variety of fish, invertebrates, algae, and other organisms than habitats devoid of woody debris. Besides habitat, logs can protect stream banks and lakeshores from erosion and trap leaves, which, together with deadwood, are the major source of nutrients and energy for small streams.

In conclusion, good forest stewardship involves regarding dead and deteriorating trees as vital elements of healthy forests to

manage for sustainable forestry objectives. For more information about deadwood, request the free publication, Pennsylvania Woodlands Number 7: Dead Wood for Wildlife from the Forest Stewardship Program by calling 1-800-235-WISE, sending e-mail to [RNRExt@psu.edu](mailto:RNRExt@psu.edu), or writing: Forest Stewardship Program, Forest Resources Extension, The Pennsylvania State University, 7 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802. The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and USDA Forest Service, in partnership with the Penn State's Forest Resources Extension, sponsor the Forest Stewardship Program in Pennsylvania.

Detailed information about deadwood is also available on the Dead Tree Web Site, [www.for.gov.bc.ca/research/deadwood/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/research/deadwood/), maintained by the British Columbia Ministry of Forests.

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**Wilderness Mentoring Conference 3:  
"Even in Troubled Times We Need to Have Fun"**

**By Ed Zahniser**

Mike Matz "wrapped up" Wilderness Mentoring Conference 3 saying "Even in troubled times we need to have fun." Indeed, the Conference organizers had just made three days of walking through what could be the syllabus for an advanced degree in wilderness advocacy great fun.

Often the walk-through speeded up to a run-through. Like Reginald "Flip" Hagood condensing the Stephen Covey training into 30 minutes. Or Doug Scott giving a one-hour, "lessons learned" version of wilderness movement history from *circa* 1930 to January 2003, at the Rex Ranch in Amado, Ariz., south of Tucson.

Matz and Scott are with the Campaign for America's Wilderness, which with the Wilderness Support Center of The Wilderness Society, of whose governing council Hagood is a member, co-sponsored the Conference with support from a number of individuals, foundations, and other groups.

Family-run Rex Ranch is an ideal venue, set

up and operated to encourage the work of people doing good things. For folks coming from more northerly climates, it was a break to watch the occasional roadrunner instead of snowplows from Thursday evening, January 9 through Monday morning January 13. (Check the Conference website photo gallery with its photo of an Alaskan wilderness advocate at pool side -- [www.jmccomb.com/mentor2003](http://www.jmccomb.com/mentor2003).)



Wilderness legislative expert Tim Mahoney and Melinda Pierce of the Sierra Club confer during the third mentoring conference in Amado, Arizona. Photo by John McComb.

And the food! Suffice it to say: I left Rex Ranch with a handle on my weight problem. Make that two handles . . . .

Sessions covered topics like the grassroots organizing plan, learning and using Capitol Hill, integrating communications into your wilderness campaign, working with Congress, working with the Administration, the political lay of the land, working with allies and building coalitions, rural organizing, wilderness campaign case studies, using the Web and other technologies to campaign for wilderness, fundraising and membership development, and creating a wilderness campaign.

Ample down time provided many opportunities for mentorship with some of the seasoned wilderness warriors, and wilderness mentor Connie Harvey of Aspen, Colo., shared her experiences with the group at a Saturday afternoon session. And there was musical entertainment by Wilderness Support Center head Bart Koehler and by a Tucson-based bluegrass-

country cross-over band with a hyperventilating mandolin.

Check [www.jmccomb.com/mentor2003](http://www.jmccomb.com/mentor2003) and learn more about these periodic Conferences. Participants selected are in early or early middle career as wilderness advocates and have shown both leadership and strategic skills. Geographic representation also plays a part in the selection process.

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### **FAW Hickory Creek Trail Cleanup**

On Saturday, April 26, the first Friends of Allegheny Wilderness Hickory Creek Trail cleanup of 2003 will be held in the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area with ANF Wilderness Ranger Eric Flood. Volunteers are needed to complete our trail crew for our third official clean up event since formally adopting the Hickory Creek Wilderness trail last year. Since this is federal wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act, we will be following the minimum tool requirement for wilderness, using manual crosscut saws and axes to clear woody debris from the trail. There is no experience necessary to participate. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Be sure to bring work gloves, drinking water, and something to eat. Please contact FAW or Eric Flood ([eflood@fs.fed.us](mailto:eflood@fs.fed.us)) for additional information or with any questions you might have. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Heart's Content picnic area.

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### **PA Sierra Club Endorses FAW Campaign**

At the Pennsylvania Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting in McClure, PA on Saturday, March 9, the state Sierra Club Chapter endorsed the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness campaign to designate additional areas of the Allegheny National Forest as federal wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Following a presentation by FAW executive director Kirk Johnson, the chapter unanimously approved two motions: first that the Chapter supports increased federal wilderness acreage in the ANF in general. Secondly, the Chapter

specifically adopted our wilderness campaign as a state chapter campaign.

The previous day, Chapter Organizer Phila Back had relied upon the FAW campaign as a model to coach group conservation chairs and other group leaders in an in-depth campaign planning matrix training session, based on the Sierra Club's *Grassroots Organizing Training Manual*.

In other Sierra Club news, the Lake Erie Group Sierra Club (who endorsed the FAW campaign last year) recently sent a joint LKE/FAW mailing to its membership encouraging them to get involved in the campaign.



Steph Benson preparing the FAW/Lake Erie Group Sierra Club mailing. Photo by Chuck Benson.

As David Sublette, LKE Group chair wrote in his cover letter for the mailing, "Together we can make a difference by permanently protecting the remaining wild areas of the ANF 'for the permanent good of the whole people.'"

On the web:

[www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org](http://www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org)  
*Pennsylvania Sierra Club*

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### **Announcing the ANF Chapter of the North Country Trail Association** **By Bert Nemcik**

My name is Bert Nemcik. I've lived and hiked in the Allegheny National Forest for

the past 32 years. After my 2002 Appalachian Trail thru-hike, I wanted to give back in some small way to the trail community.

I thought about doing some work on the AT, but it is a long way from home. Now, the North Country Trail is right here and does not have a chapter caring for this premier footpath in the ANF.



Hiking the North Country National Scenic Trail in the Tionesta Scenic Area old-growth forest. Photo by Kirk Johnson

I considered what I could do and decided to commit to forming the chapter with the assistance of Bob Tait, NCTA state coordinator, Rob Corbett, national NCTA trail coordinator, Kirk Johnson, Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, Eric Flood, ANF Wilderness Ranger, and many others.

Please, if you have not sent in your dues to the NCTA, do so now. Make your check payable to NCTA, not to me or the ANF chapter. Go to [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org) to join. Secondly, I am a member and can sponsor you, so when joining, please indicate that you are joining the ANF Chapter of the NCTA and Bert or Cheryl Nemcik is your sponsor. (This will save you \$12.)

Lastly, please spread the word to your friends and family. We are going to be looking for new members for the first six months until we build up a solid crew of interested and excited members who really want to use, promote and enjoy the North Country National Scenic Trail.

See you down the trail...

Bert Nemcik  
Acting chairperson  
[bnemcik@csonline.net](mailto:bnemcik@csonline.net)  
(814) 927-8303

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### ***Leave No Trace Principle 4: Leave What You Find***

***By Eric Flood***

***ANF Wilderness Ranger***

***Master Educator in LNT Outdoor Ethics***

Greetings, and welcome to this next installment of my series on the seven principles of Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics. If you are new to this newsletter, I invite you to go back and read the first four articles of this series (back issues are available on the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness Website) to gain more background into Leave No Trace Ethics, as well as more about the first three Leave No Trace Principles.

Returning readers will remember that my first article featured an overview of Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics, a public education program designed to promote responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. Leave No Trace was first conceived and developed by the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Over time Leave No Trace has expanded to include a wide range of partners in federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the private sector. Leave No Trace, Inc., a non-profit organization located in Boulder, Colorado is responsible for managing the program ([www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)).

The seven Leave No Trace Principles listed below are the foundation of the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics program:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

In the next three articles that followed, I went into detail on the topics of principles 1, 2, and 3: “Plan Ahead and Prepare”, “Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces”, and “Dispose of Waste Properly” respectively. This brings us over the half-way mark down the list of seven to Principle number 4, “Leave What You Find.”

The Leave What You Find principle applies to important cultural and biological components of the undeveloped and back-country areas where we recreate. This principle is important because as we obtain a special enjoyment from these unique places when we first discover them, we have an obligation to show them the respect that they are due. We have an additional obligation not to spoil this same type of experience for others who come after us.

This principle is often disregarded by otherwise well-intentioned persons because of the all-too-human tendency to think, “oh, just this one time won’t hurt anything”, or “it’s just a little, no one will even notice.” The problem lies in the cumulative effect that occurs when so many of us tap into this type of rationalization. Probably the most commonly referred to example of this type of thinking is people who pick wildflowers. For example, a patch of half a dozen blossoms along the side of a trail that a dozen people pass in the course of a day. The first person to pass enjoys an experience of undisturbed beauty, and thinks “there are plenty, no one will be the wiser if I take just one.” And so the second visitor has a slightly less pristine experience, but takes a flower also, based on the same rationale. By the time the seventh visitor passes that way, the original experience of that first visitor is gone forever. However, had all those who had gone before shown the appropriate restraint, the experience of discovery would have been equally enjoyed by all who pass that day, as well as all the days following while those wildflowers remained in bloom.

We previously discussed appropriate campsite selection with Principle #2: Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces. Remember we stressed that when it comes to camping, the Leave No Trace maxim is that “*good campsites are found, not made.*” If possible, select an established campsite already impacted as a result of previous use. Don’t ever cut branches from, drive nails into, or deface any trees around the campsite. Leave all other vegetation, rocks, and natural objects as they are. If you do disturb anything, be sure to return it to its original location when you depart.

Keep the appearance of your campsite as natural as possible by not constructing furniture, building shelters or digging trenches. Cutting boughs from trees to be used as bedding is an unconscionable thing to do, and provides extremely poor sleeping comfort besides. If you plan ahead and bring along such things as a tent for shelter, a sleeping pad, and backpacking camp chairs, you can be comfortable and still be able to leave the area of your camp just as it is. The natural condition of your campsite should always take precedence over any alterations made for your personal comfort or convenience.

Map and compass skills are not only important tools for your survival; they also play a role in being able to Leave What You Find. If you choose to leave the established trail, or to make your way cross-country without a trail, never blaze your path by using paint or flagging tape, cutting or breaking vegetation, or by piling rocks or debris. Instead, use your expertise with a compass and a map of the area you are traveling in to safely find your way without leaving any trace of your passing.

Many places that are currently wild or natural today weren’t always so in the past. These places may contain evidence of the history of the area in the form of artifacts and structures. Some public lands are even set aside with the primary purpose of preserving the special historic significance of the artifacts they contain. The proper way to enjoy these treasures is by examining them without touching or removing them from their location -- sometimes the historic

significance of an item is greatly degraded by changing its location or orientation by even a fraction. Of course, removing an item to selfishly keep is totally unthinkable. Show history and culture the respect it is due, and be considerate of the next person, who is entitled to enjoy the site with the same sense of discovery that you did.

I would like to end this discussion with a final thought from the great conservationist and wilderness advocate Aldo Leopold: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Thank you once again for your interest in Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics. If you would like to find out more, visit the Leave No Trace website at [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org), or contact me here at the Bradford Ranger District of the Allegheny National Forest, 29 U.S. Forest Service Drive, Bradford, PA 16701 (814) 362-4613 ext. 126, email [eflood@fs.fed.us](mailto:eflood@fs.fed.us). Until next time, Happy Trails!

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***Contact Your Legislators For Allegheny National Forest Wilderness!***

The Forest Service has the ability to recommend new wilderness designations in the Allegheny national Forest as part of its Forest Plan revision. However, only Congress can make the designations final by passing a law. To get additional areas of the Allegheny National Forest permanently protected as wilderness, it will require the support of the Commonwealth's federal legislators.

In particular, if you live in the Congressional District of Representative John Peterson (5<sup>th</sup> district) or Phil English (3<sup>rd</sup> district), please take the time to contact them and thank them for their attention to this issue to date, and encourage them to work toward drafting wilderness legislation for the ANF in the near future. Feel free to peruse the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

website ([www.pawild.org](http://www.pawild.org)) for talking points:

The Honorable John Peterson  
Member of Congress  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 226-5121

The Honorable Philip English  
Member of Congress  
1410 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5406

Pennsylvania's two Senators must hear the same message:

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senator  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-9027

The Honorable Rick Santorum  
United States Senator  
120 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-6324



President Lyndon Johnson signing the Wilderness Act into law in the White House Rose Garden, September 4, 1964. He is shown handing the pen to Alice Zahniser, widow of Tionesta native Howard Zahniser, who originally authored the Act. Photo courtesy Alice Zahniser.

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness  
220 Center Street  
Warren, PA 16365

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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."

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Send to:

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

220 Center Street

Warren, PA 16365