



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.

### **Come Celebrate Pennsylvania's Wild Heritage and the 40th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act**

In June of 1937 Howard and Alice Zahniser canoed down the Allegheny River from Olean, New York to Tionesta, Pennsylvania (this was the days before the Kinzua Dam). Mr. Zahniser kept a journal of their experience during the trip. In the second to last entry of his journal (courtesy of the Zahniser family) "Zahnnie," as he was known to many, observed his surroundings as they approached the town of 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." The canoeing from Hickory on had the added interest of the faint recollection of familiar things. 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.*

Howard Zahniser was a native of Tionesta, and was the executive director of The Wilderness Society from 1945-1964. In his capacity with TWS, he was also the lead author of the soon to be 40-year-old Wilderness Act (P.L. 88-577), establishing America's National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). It provokes the imagination to think that as the Zahnisers canoed past Courson, Baker, Crull's and other Islands that June that these would some fifty years hence be included in the NWPS as part of the Allegheny Islands Wilderness as a result of the profound vision of Zahniser himself.

Please join us for a canoe trip that recreates part of the journey Mr. & Mrs. Zahniser took 67 years

ago. On Friday afternoon, August 27, we will leave the Allegheny Outfitters canoe livery in Warren to travel 40 miles downstream to Howard Zahniser's hometown of Tionesta, arriving on Sunday. We will camp on two of the seven Allegheny Wilderness Islands (designated under the 1984 Pennsylvania Wilderness Act -- P.L. 98-585) on Friday and Saturday night. In Tionesta, depending on time constraints, the group will be able to view the Howard Zahniser Pennsylvania Historical marker installed in 2001, the Howard Zahniser gravesite in the Tionesta Riverside Cemetery, and the old Zahniser home on Bridge Street.



Howard Zahniser canoeing the Allegheny River, June 1937. Zahnie would go on to head up The Wilderness Society and author the Wilderness Act itself. Photo courtesy Alice Zahniser

**If you are interested in participating in this trip, please contact Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (contact info below) before 5:00 pm on July 23th.** As we will need to rent canoes and feed ourselves during the trip, there may be a cost of \$25 to \$35 per person, depending on help we can get funding the trip. If you can bring your own canoe it will cut down on your expense. You will also need to bring your own camping gear. More details on the exact price of the trip will be provided as soon as possible to those indicating an interest in coming along. Members of the Zahniser family and leaders from today's wilderness preservation movement

from around the country are likely to be joining us for this special trip.

The purpose of this trip is many:

- To recognize and celebrate Howard Zahniser's important contribution to wilderness preservation in this country.
- To recognize and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act (signed into law September 3, 1964).
- To highlight and celebrate our current efforts to designate wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest. Proposed wilderness in the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness' *A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest* (see [www.pawild.org](http://www.pawild.org)), outlining eight potential additions to the NWPS, is being supported

by, among others: The Wilderness Society, Campaign for America's Wilderness, and the Pennsylvania chapter of the Sierra Club.

- And last but not least, we of course want to have fun and enjoy the National Wild and Scenic Allegheny River and the Allegheny National Forest. The Allegheny National Forest has always been, and always will be, home to many important multiple uses, not the least of which is wilderness preservation!

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