

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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Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, ANF highlighted in new book

WARREN – The Warren-based non-profit organization Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and the Allegheny National Forest are highlighted in a newly-published book about Eastern wilderness preservation.

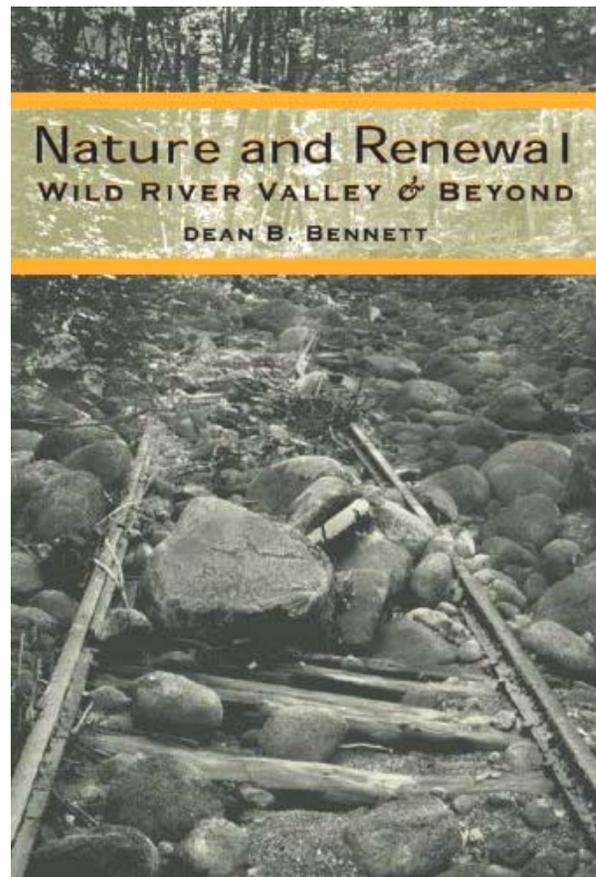
In “Nature and Renewal: Wild River Valley & Beyond” (Tilbury House Publishers), Dean B. Bennett examines in detail the political, ecological, and human history of the recently designated 24,000-acre Wild River Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest. President George W. Bush added the Wild River Wilderness to America’s National Wilderness Preservation System on December 1, 2006 when he signed the New England Wilderness Act into law.

“Friends of Allegheny Wilderness continue to pursue a vigorous campaign to urge the support of its congressional delegation for the wilderness proposal in its entirety.” – Dean B. Bennet, Ph.D.

Nature and Renewal is the story of a magnificent wilderness in a relatively unknown northern New Hampshire river valley circumscribed by steep mountainous terrain. It is also a history of the New England logging industry, a raging wildfire, and the disappearance of an entire logging village; of both land abuse and land stewardship; of ecological disaster and renewal; and of nature’s resiliency.

Like the Allegheny, the White Mountain National Forest has always been crucial for timber

production. And, importantly, both forests also contain large blocks of wild land suitable for wilderness designation. Bennett compares the efforts of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness to protect wilderness on the Allegheny National Forest to the New Hampshire advocacy efforts.



He writes “If we look at efforts to preserve wilderness in America, we would discover a remarkable similarity between the story of Wild River Valley and the story of the Allegheny Plateau in northwestern Pennsylvania.”

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Friends of Allegheny Wilderness has proposed that eight areas totaling 54,460 acres of the Allegheny be designated as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 in their Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, published in 2003. During the U.S. Forest Service's recently completed Forest Plan revision, more than 6,800 of a total of 8,200 public comments – greater than 80 percent – specifically advocated for Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.

“As did the Friends of Wild River work to preserve White Mountain National Forest wilderness, so are the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness campaigning to designate more wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest,” Bennett writes. “In 2007 the Forest Service published its revised ANF Forest Plan, recommending only two new wilderness areas totaling 12,379 acres, far less than the Friends proposed. As this book goes to press, the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness continue to pursue a vigorous campaign to urge the support of its congressional delegation for the wilderness proposal in its entirety.”

“Like the Allegheny's own story, the Wild River Wilderness demonstrates that areas once harmed by injurious land-use practices can become candidates for wilderness preservation, where nature is allowed to reclaim them, and where visitors can find peace and solitude,” said Kirk Johnson, executive director for Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.

Dean B. Bennett is professor emeritus at the University of Maine at Farmington. Born and raised in Maine, he received a Ph.D. in resource planning and conservation from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan with a special emphasis in environmental

education. His other books include: *Maine's Natural Heritage*, *Allagash: Maine's Wild and Scenic River*, *The Forgotten Nature of New England: A Search for Traces of the Original Wilderness*, and *The Wilderness from Chamberlain Farm*.

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Warren Times Observer
Saturday, October 3, 2009

Allegheny River Cleanup

Ever since my husband and I bought Allegheny Outfitters in 2006, we've wanted to hold a river clean-up. Not because the Allegheny River was dirty; more because we made our living putting thousands of people on the river each summer, and felt it was the appropriate way to give back.

But to get that idea to the point of actually dragging dozens of appliances, tires, pipes and other trash out of the river over five days and 31 miles took A LOT of help. I'm humbled by the community's support and stunned by all the trash pulled out of the river. Many thanks are due:

Foremost, to the volunteers who picked up trash: This project would not have been possible without you. A slide show of your hard work is at www.alleghenyrivercleanup.com. I'd encourage everyone to check it out.

As with any big event that requires months of planning, we had key people behind the scenes. Nathan Welker of the U.S. Forest Service was one of them. In addition to helping plan, he spent all week in a jet boat assisting canoes during the clean-up. A big thanks to him and all the folks at the U.S. Forest Service who volunteered to get in there, get dirty and seriously help out.

A spirit of giving back is important, especially among a community's larger companies, since they are often the ones that can really make a difference. When we hear about cool local community projects Northwest Savings Bank is often involved. In this case, they not only helped with planning and supplies but also PAID employees to go clean up the river. Several Northwest employees volunteered a second time, unpaid. We are especially grateful to Northwest's John Beard for his enthusiasm and guidance during all phases of the clean-up.

Dennis DeRalph and the folks at Whirley Drinkworks deserve a huge thank you for their team of volunteers and generous donation of 500 water bottles emblazoned with the clean-up logo. We also want to thank our staff for their hard work, especially "Grandpa" Dave Wargo, who spent every day on the water hauling trash.



FAW volunteers Jerry and Jackie Covert with their canoe containing the discarded refuse they collected from the 67-acre Thompsons Wilderness Island.

Thanks to the Young Professionals Association volunteers who volunteered and especially Heidi Powley for assisting with planning. Thank you to John Papalia and COT, Mike Olewine and WCVB, and the entire WCCBI for their help in all phases of the clean-up. A special thank you to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for keeping water levels perfect throughout the entire cleanup, and for their help overall.

Thank you to Allegheny Site Management for support at Buckaloons; Conewango Canoe & Kayak and Revitalization of Youngsville for spearheading cleanups along two of the Allegheny's main tributaries; Culligan, Experience, Inc., Kwik Fill, Little Caesars Pizza,

Mangione Beverage, Warren General Hospital, Warren Industrial Solutions, West Penn Oil Co., Inc., Wildwood Inn and Women in the Outdoors for their donations.

We are incredibly grateful to the Exchange Club, Experience, Inc., **Friends of Allegheny Wilderness**, Gannon University Small Business Development Center, Golden Living Center, McKissock LP, Northwest Savings Bank, Pitt Bradford, Trout Unlimited, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, Warren County Adult Probation and Parole, Warren County Chamber of Business & Industry, Whirley Drinkworks, Women in the Outdoors and the Young Professionals Association for sending volunteers to the clean-up.

A giant thank you to Veolia Environmental Services; Segel & Son, Inc.; and Warren Tire Center for volunteering to dispose of all our findings the right way this time.

Until next year, GREAT JOB everyone!

Piper and Josh Lindell

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FAW Hickory Creek Backpack 1/30-31

An overnight backpacking trip through the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area and into the proposed Hickory Creek Wilderness addition is planned for the weekend of January 30 & 31. This outing will give hikers a fine sense of a long segment of East Hickory Creek – a state-designated Wilderness Trout Stream.

The trip will begin where East Hickory Creek exits the southern edge of the Hickory Creek Wilderness along Forest Road 119 in southern Warren County around noon on Saturday. The hike through the Hickory Creek Wilderness will be all off trail. We will follow East Hickory Creek north through the wilderness, pass into the proposed wilderness addition until we reach the Tanbark Trail, on which we will exit to the east. In all, we will end up hiking approximately 10 miles over the two-day span.

Hikers should bring all of their own food and equipment and come fully prepared for the weather. To RSVP, or for more information, contact Friends of Allegheny Wilderness at info@pawild.org or 814-723-0620.

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Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*): a non-migratory medium-sized grouse occurring in forests throughout the northeast and across Canada. Ruffed grouse require significant tracts of forest, at least part of which is older growth, to maintain stable populations. They are averse to open fields, and will rarely be found there.

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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