



*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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**Bobnar Joins Friends of Allegheny Wilderness Board of Directors  
Western Pa. Conservancy Ridgway Rep. Latest Addition to Local Group's Leadership**

**WARREN** – The Warren, Pennsylvania-based non-profit organization Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) is pleased to announce the recent addition of Luke Bobnar to its board of directors.

FAW 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 (ANF) – Pennsylvania's only national forest.

Bobnar is currently employed as a watershed technician in the Upper Allegheny region for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) in Ridgway, on the outskirts of the ANF. He, his wife Alex and their two sons live outside of Ridgway south of the National Wild & Scenic Clarion River near FAW's proposed Clarion River Wilderness.

"My wife and I became involved with FAW in the fall of 2009, when FAW director Kirk Johnson came and gave a presentation to our Clarion University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society," Bobnar noted. "That sparked our interest in joining a FAW winter backpacking trip in February of 2010, and subsequent related activities."

"Having someone with Luke's qualifications, job experience and background join our board will be a tremendous asset to our wilderness advocacy program," said FAW board president Bob Stoudt of Danville, Pennsylvania. "We look forward to benefitting from Luke's skills and wisdom."

Bobnar's wilderness stewardship began more than a dozen years ago on a trail crew in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee. After graduating from Clarion University in May of 2010 with a bachelor's degree in biology, Bobnar spent time collecting grizzly bear hair for a population study in the one-million-acre Bob Marshall

Wilderness in Montana, as well as monitoring streams and wetlands in southwest Pennsylvania, before taking the WPC Ridgway position in early 2014.

“I am happy and honored by this opportunity. I look forward to working with FAW to enhance wilderness appreciation, and toward establishing more protected Allegheny wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 for current and future generations to use and enjoy. I thank the board for inviting me to join,” Bobnar concluded.

“Members of the FAW board of directors represent a wide variety and depth of experience in aspects of conservation, wilderness advocacy and recreation,” stated FAW executive director Kirk Johnson. “Luke’s addition only increases that valuable diversity. It’s great to have him and his strong appreciation for wilderness values on board.”

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness online: [www.pawild.org](http://www.pawild.org)

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