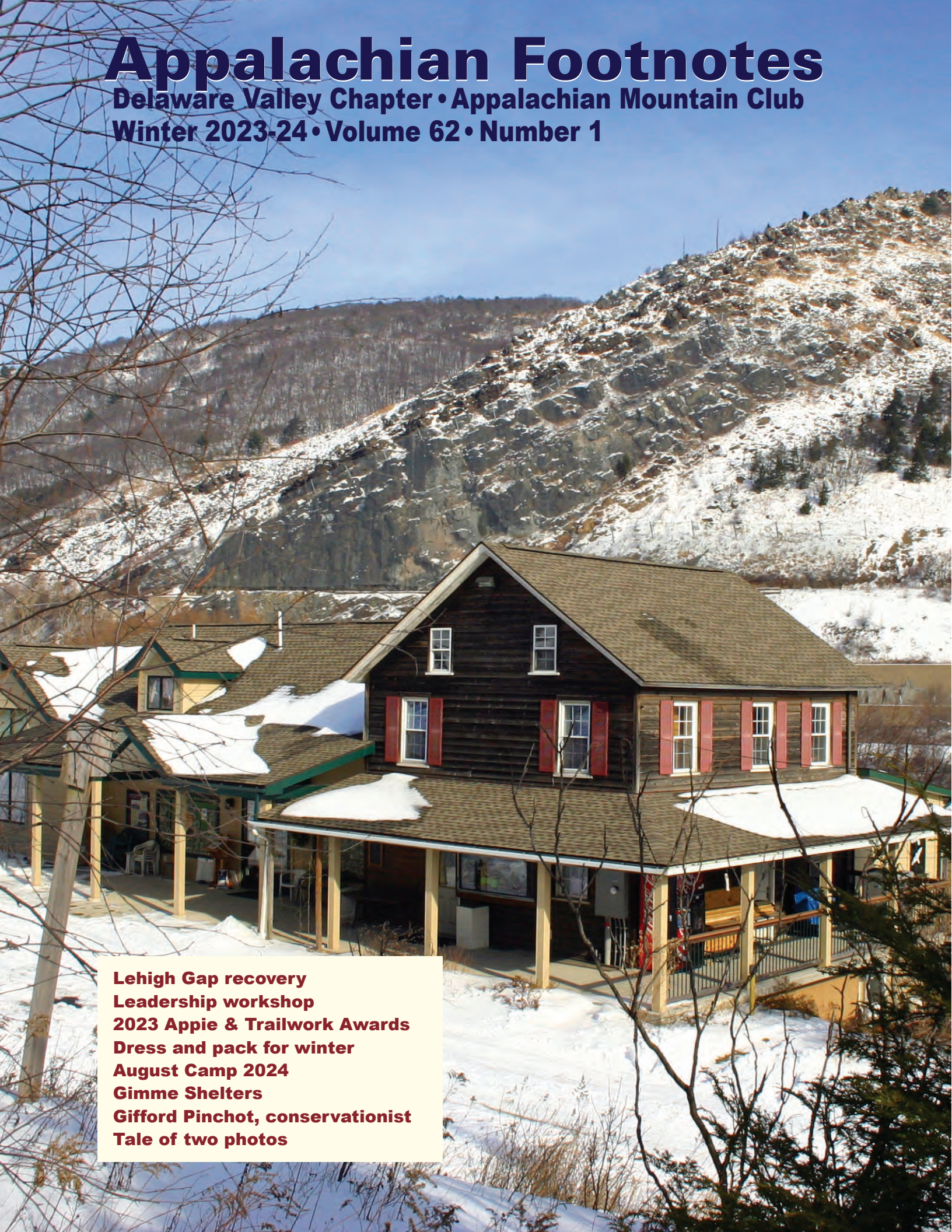


# Appalachian Footnotes

Delaware Valley Chapter • Appalachian Mountain Club

Winter 2023-24 • Volume 62 • Number 1



**Lehigh Gap recovery  
Leadership workshop  
2023 Appie & Trailwork Awards  
Dress and pack for winter  
August Camp 2024  
Gimme Shelters  
Gifford Pinchot, conservationist  
Tale of two photos**



# Delaware Valley Chapter Leadership Workshop

## April 6-7, Nockamixon State Park

**Step up and lead outdoor activities!** Boost your leadership confidence and skills!

The Delaware Valley Chapter will host an AMC Outdoor Leadership Training Workshop on the weekend of April 6-7. An optional first aid class will be offered Friday evening, April 5. To make this event easily accessible for DV Chapter members, this session will take place at Nockamixon State Park near Quakertown, PA.

Everyone is welcome to attend: new leaders, new members, experienced leaders, members who just want to learn what leadership is all about.

Training utilizes an experiential model where you get outdoors and participate in mock scenarios. Not only is this method a more effective approach to learning, it's also fun!



During the training, you will have ample opportunities to network with current leaders through camaraderie and informative programs. You will instantly feel part of our family.

**Topics covered** are the elements of outdoor leadership common to all AMC outdoor activities:

- Activity planning
- Leading safe and enjoyable activities
- Leadership Approaches
- Risk Prevention
- Liability issues
- Accident scene management
- Immersion in numerous role play scenarios
- Conservation and minimum impact issues
- AMC leadership requirements and guidelines
- Optional basic first aid for outdoor leaders (Not a WFA course)

**Instructors:** Experienced AMC volunteers

The cost for the course is \$35 for AMC members, \$50 for non-members, \$20 for AMC members who complete one co-lead by April 1, 2024. If you'd like to stay overnight at the cabins at Nockamixon State Park, please mention at registration for more details.

To register: Contact Jeff Fritzinger, [jfritzamcdv@gmail.com](mailto:jfritzamcdv@gmail.com) for additional information and registration.



## 75th Anniversary Issue

**This is the 75th issue of Footnotes I have edited and I am more than willing to boast about that fact.**

Over the years I am not only the editor but also the most prolific contributor. I have written more words, more articles, made more drawings and had more of my photographs used than anyone else by far.

### **But you can do something to change this!**

At least shift things a bit! Please send good photos: pictures of active people having fun outdoors. Hiking, cycling, paddling, backpacking, skiing, building trails.

Send an idea for a story (before you write it) about something we did or something we are doing, or will do. Please contact me at [eric@outings.org](mailto:eric@outings.org). Thanks!

## Appalachian Footnotes

news from the

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Appalachian Mountain Club

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# Lehigh Gap: from Superfund site to super habitat



## The Grassroots Story of Lehigh Gap Nature Center

Written & compiled by Chad I. Schwartz, Executive Director

Situated along the Appalachian Trail at the nexus of the Poconos and the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC) is a nonprofit environmental education center and wildlife refuge dedicated to the conservation of the Lehigh Gap, Kittatinny Ridge and Lehigh River Watershed.

LGNC is unique, being the first and only environmental education center in the U.S. created from a federal Superfund cleanup site. Just two decades ago, much of the mountain-side in our surrounding area was barren and lifeless, scarred by decades of industrial pollution. LGNC's efforts to revegetate several hundred acres of this former "moonscape" have not only successfully restored life to the mountain, they have also established a community resource that is now enjoyed by tens of thousands of visitors annually.

Alongside its diverse terrestrial and aquatic habitats, our 756-acre wildlife refuge north of Slatington, PA, features 13 miles of freely accessible trails that adjoin the D&L and Appalachian trails. Our visitor and education center, the Osprey House, includes restrooms, drinking fountains, classrooms and a research library. Our work with area colleges and universities provides opportunities for student research, helping to train the next generation of scientists. Lastly, rooted in LGNC's conservation work is an equally thriving environmental education program that reaches 10,000-plus people of all ages per year.

In his 1998 book *A Walk in the Woods*, Bill Bryson likened the Appalachian Trail near the present-day site of LGNC to a World War I battlefield. Fortunately, much has changed since then. Continue reading below to learn more about the history of the Lehigh Gap and LGNC's role in the ecological transformation of this area.

## The Lehigh Gap Through Time

One of only five major water gaps bisecting the Kittatinny Ridge, the Lehigh Gap was formed by the erosive forces of the Lehigh River. Throughout its history, the Gap has served as a vital transportation corridor for people and wildlife alike. Human habitation of the Gap occurred as early as 13,000 years ago when Native American hunter-gatherers began following

migrating mammals (including elk, bison and woolly mammoths) northward as the Laurentide Ice Sheet receded. Indigenous inhabitants, most recently the Lenape People, hunted, fished, gathered and farmed in the vicinity of the Lehigh Gap for generations thereafter. On the crest of the Kittatinny Ridge, a vast savanna—one of Pennsylvania's last remaining original grasslands—marks the location where Indigenous People used prescribed fire to manage the ecosystem for farming and hunting over thousands of years. Before it was a bustling highway, the road now known as Route 248 was a Native American foot trail called the Nescopeck Path.

A new era of human history in the Lehigh Gap began in 1737, when the Walking Purchase opened the region to settlement by European immigrants. As in earlier years, human



THE LEHIGH GAP.

1875 illustration



## Lehigh Gap

habitation at this time was directly influenced by the topography, ecology and geology of the Lehigh Gap. The lower fertile slopes around the Gap were cleared mainly for agricultural use. Meanwhile, the abundant forests on the steep Kittatinny Ridge provided important natural resources that supported the earliest industrial activity of the region. Pines were logged for ship building, hemlock and oak bark was harvested to tan leather and other trees were burned to produce charcoal fuel for the burgeoning iron industry.

The discovery of anthracite coal north and west of the



*New Jersey Zinc built Palmerton, employed many, but left more than 80 years worth of heavy metal deposits—zinc, cadmium and lead—from its emissions,*

Lehigh Gap area in the late 18th century secured the Lehigh Gap's place in history. The Kittatinny was a sizeable barrier between the Pennsylvania coal fields and the industrial centers of the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions. Since the Lehigh Gap and Schuylkill Gap were the only natural passageways between the mines and the factories, both played a defining role in American industrialization. The Lehigh Gap quickly became an epicenter of coal transportation—first by raft, then by canal, and finally by railroad.

In 1898, a notable business—the New Jersey Zinc Company (NJZ)—made the economic decision to move closer to the coal fields in order to improve the efficiency of its operations. Established in Sussex County, New Jersey around 1850, NJZ specialized in smelting zinc for use in a wide array of products, ranging from galvanized steel to paint. Upon building a new, state-of-the-art factory immediately northwest of the Lehigh Gap, the company planned and built the Borough of Palmerton to provide residence for its diverse work force. NJZ was in operation for over 80 years, offering equitable employment (even in the midst of the Great Depression) and supporting a thriving community that, to this day, represents the quintessential American small town.

Though NJZ was ahead of its time socially and economically, the factory operated at a time when pollution control and monitoring was not a priority. Not only was industrial pollution unregulated for the better part of the company's history, but the technology to mitigate pollution had not been well

developed until recent decades. Moreover, no one at that time understood the short- or long-term impacts of pollution on the environment or human health. As a result, emissions from the company's plants seriously impacted the surrounding landscape throughout the 20th century.

After about 80 years of heavy metal deposition and 65 years of acid rain, approximately 3,000 acres of land were barren and laden with toxic zinc, cadmium and lead. As a result, in 1983, the EPA 'quarantined' the impacted area by establishing one of the nation's first Superfund sites—known as the Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund site—under the newly enacted Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

According to this law, the responsible polluter is required to remediate the impacted area. Although various methods of large-scale ecological restoration have been employed since the 1990s, LGNC took a novel approach by revegetating with native prairie grasses. This effort has successfully restored ecological function and beauty to the mountainside.

### Watching Grass Grow

The establishment of the first and only nature center on a Superfund site and the intense restoration work that followed was—both literally and figuratively speaking—a grassroots effort. LGNC owes its existence to a small group of volunteers who recognized the value and potential of the area. In 2002-2003, LGNC raised the funds to purchase the parcels that now comprise our refuge. Approximately 400 acres of this property falls within the Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund site and was heavily contaminated with heavy metals.

Following the advice of scientists and other partners, LGNC planted native prairie grasses to remediate the site. In 2003, we established 56 one-acre experimental test plots to determine which combination of grass seed and soil amendments (fertilizer, crushed limestone and compost) would grow most successfully on the barren mountainside. Once the proper mix was ascertained, about a quarter inch of soil amendment mixed with seed was spread on the lower elevations of the mountain. Despite the skepticism of some restoration experts,



*Barren mountainside.*



## Lehigh Gap

the seeds germinated and established the beginnings of a grassland within the first year. Dead for decades, the mountain was finally green again. The steep, barren upper slopes of the Ridge were seeded by aircraft beginning in 2006.



*Restored grassland, 2020. Twelve varieties of native grasses plus soil amendments were used. Tractors and spreaders handled the gentler slopes, with airplanes for the steeper ones.*

LGNC's mix of 12 native prairie grass species has done far more than simply revegetate the mountain. Having evolved in this region of the world over thousands of years, the native grasses provide important habitat for native wildlife. The fact that grasslands are one of the world's most imperiled habitats alone makes the refuge ecologically valuable. Yet, these grasses also solve some very serious problems associated with our site. EPA mandated that we stop the widespread erosion on our property and prevent the mobilization of heavy metals into the food chain. Not only do the long (over 10-foot), fibrous roots of the grasses stabilize the soil, they also sandwich the metals between two growing layers of clean topsoil that form as the plants decompose above and below ground each year.

The grassland continues to thrive to this day. In 2002, the land was so toxic that little or no life—including bacteria and fungi—could survive. Since that time, hundreds of species of animal, plant, fungus and bacteria have been documented on the restored mountainside. Within its 756 acres, our refuge features an amazing diversity of habitats, including forest, scrub, grassland, pond and riparian ecosystems.

LGNC serves as a model for innovative ecological restoration. In recognition of our unique conservation story, LGNC was honored with the EPA's Excellence in Site Reuse award in 2014. Yet, our restoration efforts are never complete. We must continually employ adaptive management practices in order to exclude invasive species and keep the metals from re-entering the ecosystem and food chain at toxic levels. LGNC is a living laboratory whose story is continually evolving.

### Growing from Our Roots

Volunteers are the backbone of LGNC. Our organization simply would not exist if it weren't for the persistent efforts of a small group of visionary naturalists who shared a will to make a

positive change for the environment and the local community. That small group of mainly hawk watchers has since grown into a robust family of members, supporters and volunteers who are today involved with every aspect of LGNC's conservation and education efforts.

Exemplifying the hard work of these many individuals, LGNC's trail system and prolific native gardens have been designed, constructed and maintained by dedicated volunteers. Our visitor center, too, is staffed by volunteers who greet visitors with a smile and provide information on LGNC and the surrounding region. Volunteers have also been the nucleus of LGNC's education program.

Such strong volunteer support has allowed LGNC to serve tens of thousands of people over the past 20 years. Through contacts with area school districts and colleges, LGNC has attracted the attention of teachers and professors who bring their classes to the refuge. Students from the preschool to graduate school levels visit to learn about nature, ecology, conservation and often about our restoration work at the Lehigh Gap. For the general public, LGNC offers clubs, camps, art shows, a speaker series and many other programs. Countless other visitors, including hikers, bikers, birders, photographers and general nature enthusiasts, come to enjoy LGNC's refuge and trail system.

In the midst of all the changes that have occurred in the Lehigh Gap since 2002, LGNC and its members have never lost sight of our mission. We continue to expand our education and conservation programs sustainably, always emphasizing quality over quantity. We hope that our story—supported by



*Children look at and touch plants and animals they have gathered on a pond walk at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center.*

our ongoing education and conservation work—will continue to inspire communities and individuals to achieve, sustain and support healthy and connected ecosystems at the Lehigh Gap, on the Kittatinny Ridge, throughout the Lehigh River Watershed and beyond.

Join us in writing the next chapter of this story of hope! Visit [lgnc.org](http://lgnc.org) to learn how you can get involved.

Photos provided by the Lehigh Gap Nature Center



# 2023 Award Winners



## Trailworker of the Year

**Jane Richter** has been our hiking mileage leader for the last several years. One of the reasons she is able to achieve this is her dedication to trailwork. A day of trailwork yields 15 miles in the tally,

Jane first showed up for trailwork on National Trails Day, June 2, 2018 at Ringing Rocks County Park, next In the spring of 2019 at Ringing Rocks County Park. From there, she took off like a rocket and became a regular of the Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Stewards, helping us finish our new trail at Ringing Rocks and helping us build new trails in Veterans' Park near Quakertown, and at Lake Nockamixon State Park. We are sure that she will also be joining us as we build yet another new trail in Bridgeton Township, PA.

She has also pitched in doing maintenance with the New Jersey Highlands Trail Crew, working at Jenny Jump State Park, where our AMC-DV club has adopted trails in the Mountain Lakes area, and on The Highlands Trail in Hunterdon County. Furthermore, she has also volunteered to do maintenance for the crew at French Creek State Park.

She is as dependable as they come, and has showed up for far more days than any other crew member of the Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Stewards. She is usually the first one to respond to emails asking for help. Would the Trails Chair could have 10 more like Jane! She certainly deserves this award for her hard work—manual labor, mind you—and dedication to trails for four plus years.

## Golden Appie of the Year

**Adrian Noble**, our Golden Appie of the Year, is now serving his 10th year on the DV Chapter Executive Committee.

As conservation chair he has led and encouraged others to lead community clean-ups, tree planting events often in coordination with other environmental organizations, film screenings regarding important environmental issues, plus invasive species removal projects.

He has been involved in supporting legislation in coordination with AMC goals on environmental issues, most recently the successful Great American Outdoors Act. He speaks to groups of AMC participants to mobilize them to have their voices heard by their elected representatives.

Most important of all, Adrian is a calm and thoughtful member of the executive committee on issues outside of his Conservation Committee responsibilities. He can be counted on to listen to all opinions and guide decision making toward the best interests of the DV Chapter.

## Appie of the Year

A great extra effort by **Jerry Taylor** made him our Appie of the Year. He leads hiking, bicycling and paddling trips, most often on, across and in the Delaware River.

He is innovative. He used light rail as a hiking shuttle. During COVID, when we were not allowed to carpool, he and his co-leader used bicycles for a paddling shuttle. He does different and interesting trips, often ones never done before.

His outstanding effort was a series of seven paddling trips on the Delaware River from above Easton down to Bristol, from shallow flowing river to deep tidewater. Plus he led many other Delaware River trips, giving our paddlers opportunities to enjoy our largest and most important river.

For 20 years, our chapter had an arrangement with the Churchville Nature Center in Bucks County that provided our group with boats, a trailer and a 15 passenger van. That arrangement ended when the county decided to drop the program rather than replace the aging equipment.

Our Appie worked out an arrangement with the Pennsylvania State Parks to have them provide boats, trailer and van for some of our Delaware River trips, helping fill the gap and provide paddling opportunities to those without boats.



# Winter hiking clothing & equipment: what to bring, what to wear

## Clothing to wear

**Dress in non-cotton layers:** When climbing, you are going to become a lot warmer than you might imagine, but you might also become chilled at that nice but windy overlook. Be ready to take off and put back on as needed. Cotton is dangerous in winter, so leave the jeans at home!

**Socks:** An insulated sock with liner sock works well. Merino wool medium or heavy weight are good. Your toes should not feel constricted in your boots

**Boots:** Hiking boots with heavy socks are fine for moderate conditions; for harsh conditions, use insulated and waterproof winter boots, of which there are many lightweight models on the market. Be sure to size your boots big enough for good circulation. Take socks you'll wear along when fitting. Uninsulated fabric hiking boots can result in cold wet feet if the trail is snowy, muddy or soggy wet.

**Long synthetic underwear,** light or medium weight: Wear tops in moderate weather, tops and bottoms in colder weather, or windy conditions.

**Light or medium weight fleece** or other synthetic overshirt or sweater.

**Synthetic mountaineering or hiking pants.** No cotton, no jeans.

**Gaiters** for additional warmth, to protect pants from crampons, and to keep snow out when snowshoeing or skiing on deep snow or unbroken trail

**Hat:** Synthetic or wool hat. Your outer shell jacket should have a hood for wind protection.

**Shell jacket** for cold and wind protection, or other synthetic outer wind layer.

**Wool or polar fleece mittens:** It is wise to have a variety of mittens, gloves and head gear for different conditions. Consider the addition of lightweight glove liners.

**Carry in your pack:** More insulating clothing, such as synthetic or down sweater, vest or jacket. Rain gear, both a parka and pants that can be put on over boots. Your extra mittens, gloves and hat collections.

## Food & Beverage

Bring a minimum of one to two liters of liquid per person per day in water bottles insulated with socks or in an inner jacket pocket. Hydration systems can freeze, and are not recommended.

**Lightweight thermos** is recommended (but not necessary) on longer cold hikes. Use for hot sugary beverages.

**Food items high in carbohydrates** that can be eaten while moving such as trail mix, energy gels, granola bars, small candy bars. Calorie dense foods such as nuts and cheese will add slow burning fuel to your body that carbohydrates cannot supply.

## Equipment

**Pack of sufficient size** to carry all your gear. Consider a pack cover or liner for wet conditions, or a trash bag inside your pack.

If **snowshoes** may be needed, shorter models work for most non-overnight trips. Bottom claws are absolutely necessary for steep ascents and descents.

**Microspikes** or similar products for moderately icy conditions, **crampons** for steep ice.

**Hiking poles** for additional stability and points of contact. Ice axe if terrain and conditions warrant.

**Head lamp or flashlight,** a personal first aid kit, lighter or matches, medications, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc.

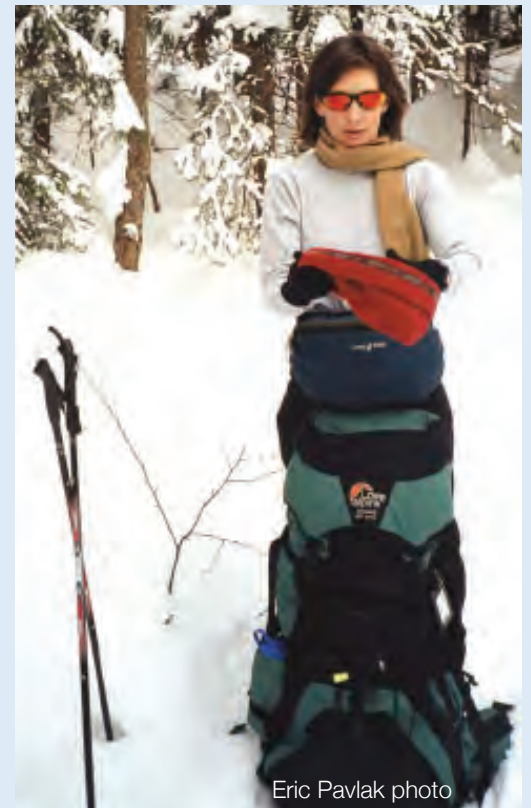
For cold emergencies, consider a light bivy sack, light sleeping bag, thin foam pad and parka as part of your group gear. For severe mountain conditions such as in the Whites or Adirondacks., each person should carry a winter sleeping bag, a bivy sack and sleeping pad. The group should have a stove, a large pot to melt snow and a mountaineering shovel.

**A hike on a path on a dry day and a trek through deep snow in the mountains are completely different. Select your clothing and gear accordingly.**



Rich Pace photo

*What you need to bring depends on the weather, location, terrain and length of trip. Above, a 40 degree day in the Pine Barrens. Below, -10 degrees in the high peaks region of the Adirondacks.*



Eric Pavlak photo



# AMC's August Camp 2024

## Central Cascades

### Sisters, Oregon



### Three Sisters Wilderness

Immerse yourself in the beautiful landscapes of the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests, as well as the pristine Three Sisters and Mount Jefferson Wilderness Areas. There are miles of trails that offer some of the best views in all of Oregon—including Cascade peaks, glaciers, waterfalls, alpine meadows, summertime wildflowers, lava fields, mountain lakes, and other natural wonders.

Choose your own adventure from our diverse range of daily hikes.

Our full-service tent village accommodates up to 64 campers each week. Two-person tents with cots are provided. Our dedicated Croo will serve delicious home-cooked meals. Shuttle service will be provided from and back to the Portland Airport.

### Camp Dates

Week 1 - July 20 to July 27

Week 2 - July 27 to August 3

Week 3 - August 3 to August 10

Week 4 - August 10 to August 17

We will be taking applications beginning 9 AM on January 2, 2024. All applications received in the first 10 days will be treated equally. There is no advantage to being the first in line; selection is by lottery. Applications will continue to be accepted after the lottery period to fill open spots. Watch our website, [augustcamp.org](http://augustcamp.org), in December for details.

Cost is \$1700 per person for AMC members and \$2040 for non-members.

**[augustcamp.org](http://augustcamp.org)**



## Hike, ceremony celebrate 51 years of LeRoy Smith Shelter



Lennie Steinmetz photo

A commemorative hike and ceremony were held on November 26 at the LeRoy Smith Shelter on the AT, marking 51 years to the day since it was built by Delaware Valley Chapter volunteers in 1972.

The shelter is located on a 16-mile section of the Appalachian Trail between Wind Gap and Little Gap that has been maintained by our chapter since the late sixties.

**LeRoy Smith, the driving force behind building the shelter, died at an early age shortly after it was completed.**

Read the story of the shelter the Summer 2017 issue of *Footnotes* written by Ken Graham, who participated in the construction of the shelter, and watch the video of the ceremony using the links below.

**Story:** <https://amcdv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/footnotes-summer-2017.pdf>

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/zXsWfP9MNPk?si=M4aeS9-uSlx-pbo->

## Construction begins on the new privy at the Kirkridge AT Shelter



Greg Bernet photos



Our AT crew is busy at work constructing a badly needed new privy at the Kirkridge Shelter. This is located on the AT between Fox Gap and the Delaware Water Gap, a section DV assumed maintenance responsibility for last year. Greg Bernet photos





# Gifford Pinchot, Father of Conservation

By Richard Puglisi

I don't remember what I was looking for that day when he appeared in my search results. I knew the name but not much else about him. As I was to learn, Gifford Pinchot was a truly remarkable person. He has been called the First Conservationist and is referred to as the father of American forestry.

He was born in 1865, into a wealthy Connecticut family. As a boy he loved the outdoors including hiking, camping and fishing, and it was this love of nature along with a suggestion by his father that inspired him to become a forester. At the time there were no forestry schools in the U.S., so instead Pinchot traveled and studied extensively at schools in Europe.

Upon returning to the United States, he would gain valuable experience in the field of forestry, starting in 1891 when Phelps Dodge hired him to evaluate timberlands in Pennsylvania and later in Arizona and California. Next, he was invited by the chief of the U.S. Division of Forestry to examine hardwoods in Mississippi and Arkansas. Also, during this time he would visit the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, the giant sequoias of the Sierras and the towering redwoods and Douglas firs of the Pacific Coast.

Beginning in 1892, Pinchot would spend the next three years managing the forests on George Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. And in 1893, he also found the time to work as a consulting forester in the New York Adirondacks and the pine and white cedar woods of New Jersey.

Pinchot was appointed by President William McKinley to be the head of the Division of Forestry in 1898. In 1903, he became professor of Forestry at Yale University. Then in 1905, he was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt to be chief of the newly established US Forest Service, a position he would hold for the next ten years.

During this time the once vast and plentiful natural resources of America were being ravaged by corporations interested solely in the profits to be made from mining, logging and water resources. So in 1905, Congress agreed to transfer all national forest reserves from the Department of the Interior to the U.S. Forest Service. This transfer allowed Pinchot to practice forestry on millions of federal acres and put an end to decades of forest devastation.

He believed that the federal government must act to regulate public lands and provide for the scientific management of its resources, and that protecting the parks was a social good. He increased the number of national forests from 32 to 149 and their acreage to 193 million.

In 1920 he was appointed chairman of the Pennsylvania Forest Commission. Then in 1923, he was elected governor of Pennsylvania and re-elected in 1931.

Pinchot was married to Cornelia Bryce for 32 years. A women's suffrage activist, she was described as "one of the most politically active first ladies in the history of Pennsylvania."

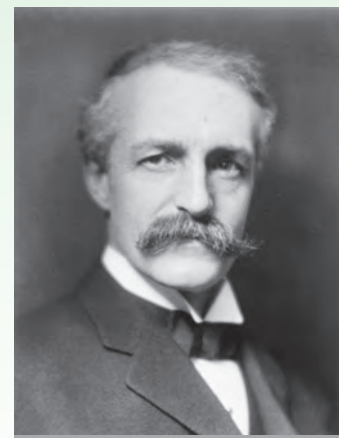
She advocated for women's rights, organized labor and other causes. The Pinchots had one child, Gifford Bryce Pinchot, who was born in 1915. The younger Pinchot helped found the Natural Resources Defense Council, the international environmental advocacy group.

Pinchot died in 1946 and is buried in Milford, Pennsylvania. After his death, Gifford Pinchot State Park in northern York County, PA, was named in his honor. In 1949, the Columbia National Forest in Washington State, which was established in 1908 under his guidance, was renamed the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. In 1963, his mansion, Grey Towers, in Milford, was donated to the Forest Service to serve as a museum and forestry training center.

Pinchot's legacy is in the national forests and parks that were preserved and protected during his tenure along with the forestry practices that he established. There are also the countless conservationists who have been inspired by his character, spirit, vision and leadership. Until the end, he remained a staunch advocate for conservation and natural resource management.

He once said, "Unless we practice conservation, those who come after us will have to pay the price of misery, degradation and failure for the progress and prosperity of our day."

This quote seems to be as true today as it was when Pinchot said it.





## Two images tell the climate change story of 2023



**Ducks on thin ice**, February 6. A pretty picture of several species of ducks standing on paper-thin ice in the Schuylkill Canal at Port Providence. Last winter was the first year in memory where the canal did not freeze over for long enough for people to walk or skate for at least part of the winter. Both photos by Eric Pavlak



**Valley Forge**. June 7. Looking toward the southern end of Mt. Joy. Smoke from Canadian wildfires has turned the air grey and the early afternoon sky pink.