

NW Passages

Exploring NW PA's Greenways, Heritage & Recreation

June 2015



NW Passages

June 2015

Volume 2, Issue 1



Big Rubber Duck visited the Steel City ~ Dave DiCello

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beth@westpamag.com



About the Cover

Dave DiCello of Pittsburgh recently captured this phenomenal view of Point State Park & the Burgh from a helicopter, providing a unique perspective of the point at which the Allegheny & Monongahela Rivers join to become the mighty Ohio.

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to the June edition of NW PA's Nature & Heritage e-zine, with summertime underway and adventures awaiting!

This issue begins Volume Two of our free monthly email magazine, originally created out of a Greenways Block Grant from the PA DCNR and a consortium of partners. The grant expired with the completion of our tenth issue, and additional partners and sponsors are needed to sustain our endeavor. (email: stephen@westpamag.com)

We've expanded the *Afield & Afloat* section to three pages, spotlighting the many natural and historic happenings in June & July throughout our ten-county coverage area.

Two state parks are featured this month. *Dave DiCello's* photography provides a fascinating visual journey of Pittsburgh's Point State Park; while Mike Henderson's images of the waterfalls of Oil Creek State Park in Venango County are accompanied by descriptions, directions and GPS coordinates.

The endeavors and accomplishments of our partners are presented in the *Partner Agency News* section, along with a great article about the Council on Greenways & Trails.

Happy Trails!
Stephen & Beth West

Publishers/Editors ~ Stephen & Beth West
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Photographers ~ Dave DiCello, Mike Henderson

Partner Agencies of NW Passages



website:
eriepittsburghtrail.org



website:
nwpagreenways.org

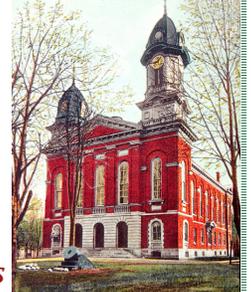


Resource Conservation & Development Council

website:
pennsoil.org

website:
co.venango.pa.us

Venango County



Wondrous Waterfalls of Oil Creek State Park

Story & Photos by Mike Henderson

When it comes to outdoor attractions, I can't think of anything more universally popular than a picturesque waterfall. Venango County is full of creeks, streams and runs rushing down the rugged hillsides, into the Allegheny River valley. The trick is knowing where to look and picking the right time to check them out.

The only truly public waterfalls in the county are located in Oil Creek State Park. While there are many great little falls and cascades throughout the park, there are four notable sites worthy of mention. Also worthy of mention is the fact that a century ago, this area was completely stripped of all of its natural beauty. The landscape was almost completely denuded of trees, the streams were fouled by all manner of contaminants, and the structures of refineries, derricks, and boom towns were visible in all directions. What remains today is a true testament to nature's determination and ability to heal itself.

Half the fun of hiking to **Miller Falls** is seeing the unique oil boom artifacts just off the trail along the way. Shortly after entering the woods from the parking area, you'll see what remains of an old central power unit (with two engines still intact), a large eccentric wheel, and some of the original rod lines still laying about the site.

Continue another hundred yards down the trail and you'll find yourself atop the gorge looking down on the waterfall. To get down to the creek, think mountain goat, only at this site there's an abandoned piece of steel cable put to good use along the steep trail going down the hill.

I have found this steel cable to be a great aid for both the descent and the ascent back up. This 25-foot waterfall tends to be the most popular in the park, probably because of its slightly more reliable flow rate than the others.

Miller Falls (GPS - N41 34'36" W79 39'10") is actually accessible from the bike trail, although you'll have a bit of a bike ride to get to the spot where the hike in is required. The site is most easily approached by car from the west; take Black Road (T669) off Route 8 for 0.7 mile; turn right onto Miller Farm Road (T-576), follow for almost 2 miles where you'll find the parking area just beyond the trailhead (N41 34'32" W79 39'11"). Follow the white blaze trail.

From Miller Falls, you can continue your drive down Miller Farm Road, cross the bridge over Oil Creek, and part-way up the hill to the parking area and trailhead (N41 33'52" W79 39'07"). Hike a mile on the yellow blaze trail to the colorfully-named **Plum Dungeon Falls**. You'll cross a couple small streams along the way, then you'll see a sign for the falls at a trail crossroad. The trail will take you to a nice vantage point with a comfy wooden bench. The waterfall is directly across the gorge from the bench. If you want to get down to the base of the falls, you'll need to put on your mountain goat hat again, because there is no easy way.

Plum Dungeon Falls is the highest, at 60 feet, but can be a disappointment if your trip is not preceded by considerable rain or snow melt, so take this into consideration before setting out on foot. But when the water runs over the sheer rock face, it's a beautiful sight. Either way, it's still a very scenic hike, and some of the smaller falls along the way can be pretty photogenic.

Miller Falls





Boughton Falls (*left*) is a very nice 35-foot waterfall located in the northern end of Oil Creek State Park. It takes a bit of effort to get there, but it is worth the hike. You'll need to park at the bike trailhead near Jersey Bridge (near Titusville), and then enter the Gerard Trail at its trailhead on the other side of the bridge.

Follow the yellow blaze trail south for 2.9 miles, then listen for the sound of falling water. The sign marking the falls is no longer there, fyi. (N41 35'31" W79 38'06") This waterfall is situated in a very deep ravine that is difficult to approach at creek level.

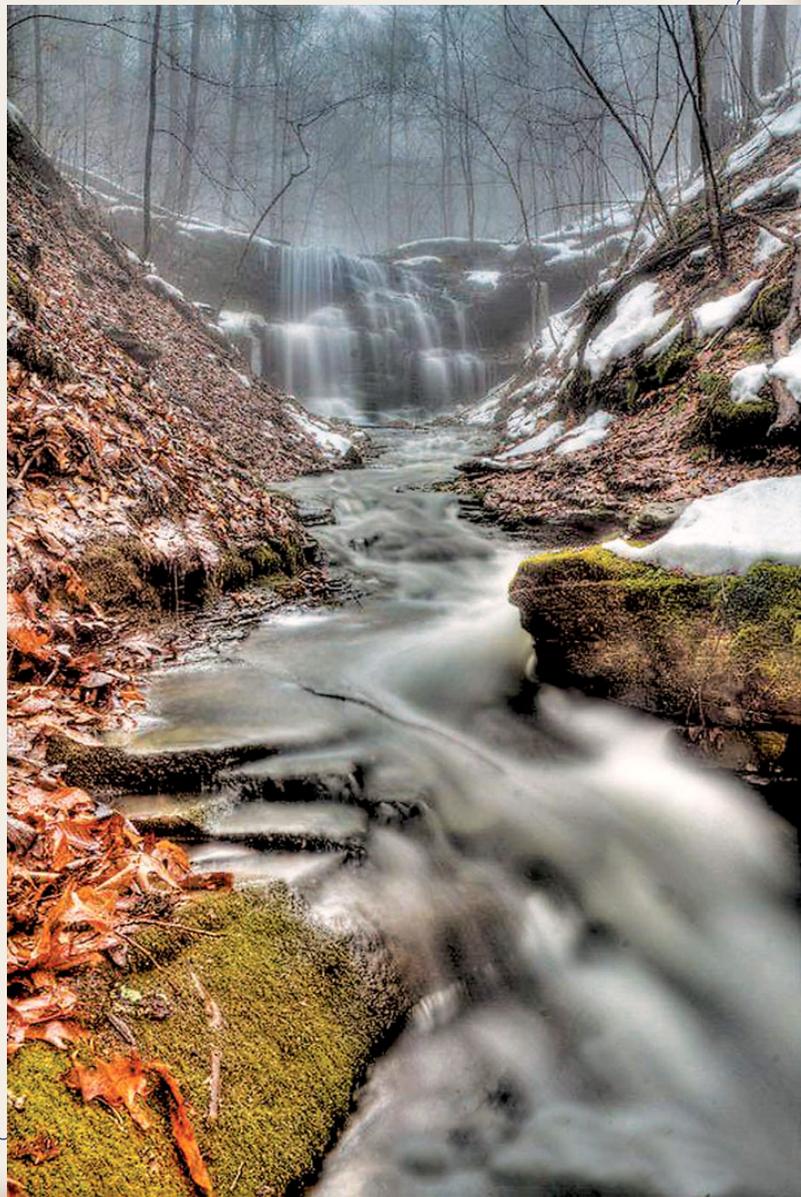
Pioneer Falls, also known as **Gregg Falls**, is near the ghost town of Pioneer. The waterfall is easily visible from the Gerard Trail, which winds its way around and through the park and actually crosses the falls on a picturesque foot bridge. This 45-foot waterfall is located inside a large u-turn the trail makes there.

The gorge is very deep, so any photos of the falls from stream level require the finesse of a mountain goat. Access to the waterfall site is a short half-mile hike from the parking area.

By car, enter the park from the west; turn from Route 8 onto Petroleum Center Road (SR1009); after 1.25 miles, turn left, then right onto Pioneer Road (T-621) for 2 miles, to the parking area near the bike trail (N41 32'09" W79 39'43").

Start out on the white blaze trail for a half mile, then take the yellow blaze trail for another 1/4 mile. Pioneer Fall's GPS coordinates are: N41 32'31" W79 40'00".

For more information about the waterfalls and hiking trails of Oil Creek State Park, or to obtain a park trail map, call the park office: (814) 676-5915, or visit their website: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/Parks/oilcreek



News from Partner Agencies of NW Passages



Building Coalitions & Trails

By Tom Baxter

As the executive director of Friends of the Riverfront, which develops and maintains trails along the three rivers in Allegheny County, I am reminded daily of the importance of collaborations and partnerships. The best alliances are those based on a shared passion and vision, even when there's disagreement on the details.

The opportunity to hear other points of view from respected peers helps create better, more innovative solutions to the challenges we face.

Nowhere is this more apparent than with the **Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance (EPTA)**, where I serve on the board of directors. This group of non-profits, municipalities and other organizations is dedicated to building and maintaining safe and well-marked multi-use trails through western Pennsylvania and into New York.

EPTA members include representatives from urban, suburban, and rural communities. **The 268-mile trail incorporates existing and planned segments, with the end goal of a continuous trail network.** Sections include Allegheny County's Three Rivers Heritage Trail (38.5-mile), Allegheny Valley Trail (62-mile), Great Lakes Seaway Trail (33.6-mile), Corry Trail (5.8-mile), McClintock Trail (3.5-mile), Chautauqua Rails to Trails (27-mile), and many others.

The work of EPTA is improving the quality of life for individuals and communities along the trail network, stimulating economic development, and attracting recreational tourism.

website: eriepittsburghtrail.org

The County of Venango served as the fiduciary partner of NW Passages' Volume One, and will continue as a partner for Volume Two.

The county is basically one vast greenway, with waterways weaving throughout the endless woodlands that blanket its rolling hills and valleys.

Along with many community parks, the county also features Two Mile Run County Park and Oil Creek State Park. Numerous streams feed into the Allegheny River, which winds through the county from north to south.

Venango County was established in 1800 and is rich in heritage. Native tribes populated the area for thousands of years, often maintaining peaceful relations with the Quakers who governed the Commonwealth. The area was of vital military importance during the mid-1700s, as the British, French & native allies maneuvered for control of the Ohio Country (*as the region was known then*).

The City of Franklin (*established 1795*) developed at the confluence of French Creek and the Allegheny River, as forts were built by the French and British during the French & Indian War. Fort Franklin was built in 1787 by the newly created United States of America, then dismantled in 1796 as peace was gained with western tribes. Franklin became the county seat in 1800.

Contact Info:

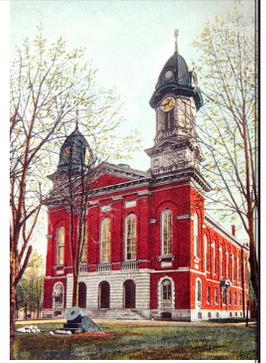
County of Venango, Pennsylvania

1174 Elk St., PO Box 831

Franklin, PA 16323

(814) 432-9500 website: co.venango.pa.us

Two Mile Run Co. Park website: twomilerun.net



Since 1964, **Penn Soil RC&D Council** has provided NW PA with leadership for implementing plans to improve the region's economy, environment and social well-being through the development of natural resources.

Penn Soil RC&D Council is acting as a fiscal agent for the Committee of Retired Boilermakers in their quest to build a scale model replica of St. Louis' famous Gateway Arch. The Baby Arch will be located at the Warren County Visitors Bureau, honoring the local labor connection to the history of creating the 630 foot tall Gateway Arch located at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis.

Eighty percent of the stainless steel sections of the Gateway Arch (*everything visible above ground level*) were fabricated at Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel in Warren, PA and shipped to St. Louis, MO for erection. Up to 280 local craftsmen worked on the Arch project in 1964 and 1965 at the PDM shop, and the local labor contribution to our Nation's history has largely been ignored or forgotten.

The completed Gateway Arch stands 630 feet tall in St. Louis to this day, with the 50th anniversary celebration planned for October, 2015. Hopefully, Warren's "Baby Arch" will be completed to coincide with this.

Labor for the project is being donated by committee volunteers. \$10,000 is needed to pay for the stainless steel, concrete foundations, highway signage, and for setting up the display in the Visitor's Center.

Contact Info:

Penn Soil RC&D Council

210 North Dr., Suite E

Warren, PA 16365

(814) 726-1441

email: pennsoilrcd@wconservervation.net

www.pennsoil.org

Penn Soil RC&D Council is a 501c3 charitable organization.



HOME OF THE ARCH

For more details on the Baby Arch Project and opportunities to help, visit the new website Penn Soil RC&D has created: babyarch.org

We welcome donations from individuals, organizations and businesses interested in honoring our boilermakers with the Baby Arch Monument!



By Deb Frawley
CGT Coordinator

Did you know that there are twelve different organizations or municipalities that own and operate the bikes trails in the counties of Clarion, Crawford and Venango? And that there is a new canoe access to the Allegheny River? As a business owner, do you know where to find over 158,000 new customers each year? Who do you talk with for more information, and is there an app for that?

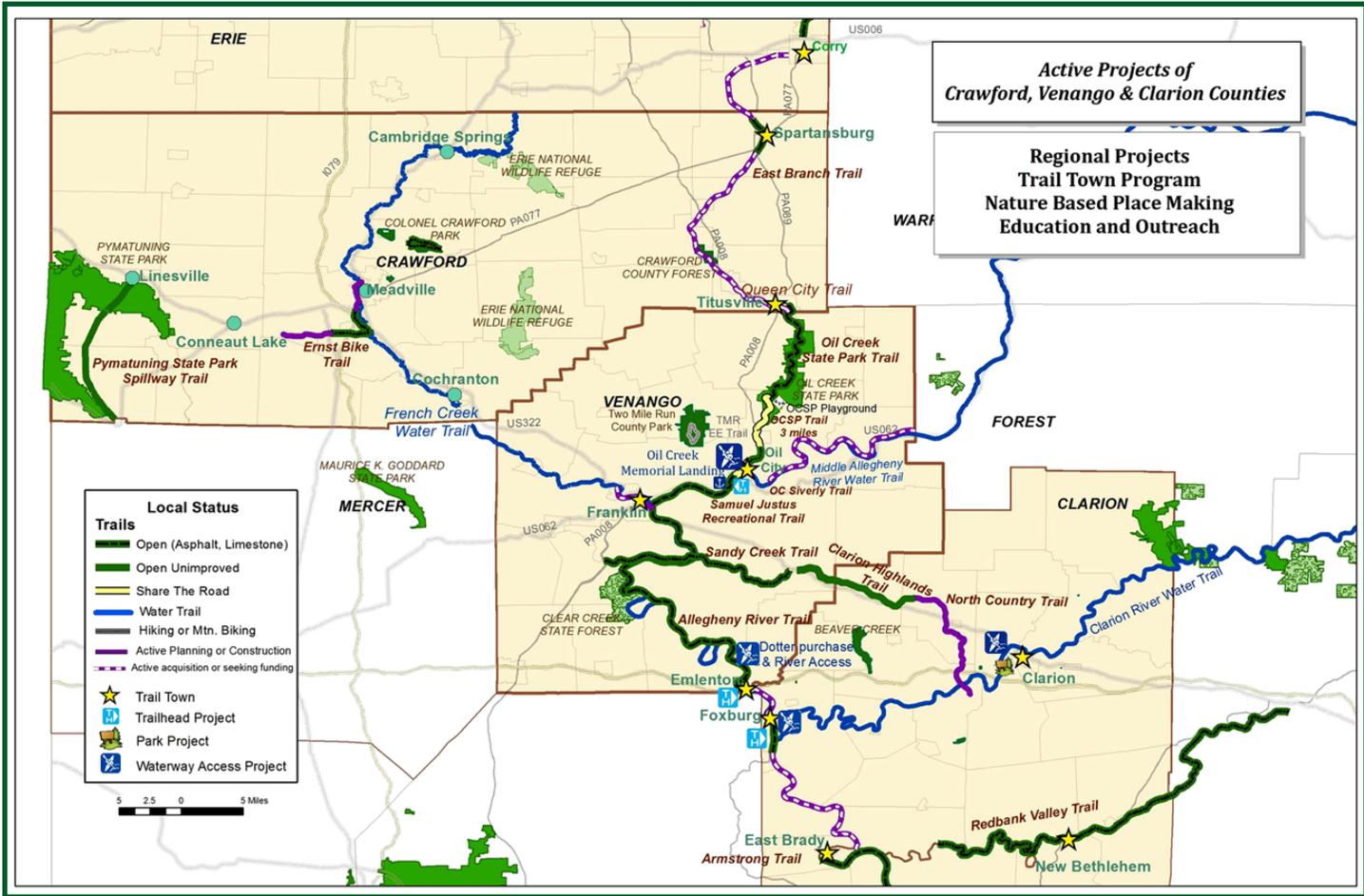
There are apps and websites and people that you can join with to be more involved or benefit from these assets. You can also send suggestions and questions.

The Council on Greenways & Trails (CGT) was formed in 2008 by local leaders in conservation and recreation including counties, municipalities and non-profit organizations. They realized the potential of our trails, parks and natural resources as assets on which to build the livability and economy of the region, and that this work would require professional technical assistance, coordination and partnerships. The CGT now has 15 members, and the projects completed and in process have demonstrated the program's success.

From its founding, the Council has combined the various pieces to develop a regional picture while seeking to accomplish each member's goals. In the process, the whole has become greater than the sum of its parts, as a growing awareness of our area boosts visitorship and each valuable project leads to others.

The CGT's Greenways Coordinator and member agencies, for example, have assisted the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance (EPTA) with its identity in the creation of a website and logo. EPTA is on a mission to develop and connect all of the bike/hike trails between the two cities. Regional events have attracted visitors from across the state and beyond, such as the 2013 PA Greenways & Trails Summit, the GeoTrain events and the EPT James Holden Memorial Ride. Many attendees have said they will be returning to the region.

CGT member projects have recently completed 8.3 new miles of multi-use trails, adding to the system that includes more than 80 miles in the Council's territory. Another 17 miles have been planned or engineered, and a former railroad bridge has been secured for trail use. Some of these new segments extend the trail system, while others make connections to our towns and businesses.



(Council on Greenways & Trails - cont.)

Access to the waterways has also been improved with a new ADA accessible fishing pier on Venango County's Justus Lake, and a new canoe/kayak access to the Allegheny River. A new public park and access to the Clarion River is also being planned.

CGT members have become *Bicycle Friendly Communities* and *Trail Towns*, while reaching out to their businesses to make sure that the outdoor recreation assets being built are also economic drivers for the region. The 2013 Erie to Pittsburgh Trail User Survey and Economic Impact Analysis found that the multi-use trail system alone attracts over 158,000 people per year, and has a direct economic impact of \$6.9 million to our local businesses.

The CGT will continue to promote greenways and trail systems, provide information to the public and media, and increase visibility through signage and trailhead enhancements. The Trail Town program will grow, as will the CGT itself. The progress we are making is attracting the attention of state and national organizations, plus larger regional initiatives that are crossing state lines. The Council on Greenways & Trails is a vital piece of this puzzle.

Please contact the Greenways Coordinator or any Council member with questions, suggestions or collaborations:

(814) 677-3152 Ext. 116 Fax: (814) 677-5206

email: dfrawley@oilregion.org

For more info, check out the Council's new website: nwpagreenways.org



The 2015 CGT Greenways Awards were presented recently in recognition of those in the region realizing the value of our natural and outdoor recreational resources, while partnering to protect and/or develop them. These natural assets benefit our citizens and visitors, and increase their economic impact.

The multi-use trails comprise several trails linked into a regional system and open to biking, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and more. *"The trails are free to use but certainly are not free or easy to build, operate and maintain,"* said Debra Frawley, Greenways Coordinator. The CGT Awards Ceremony was held in early June at Oil City's historic Hasson Park.

The James E. Holden Greenways Volunteer of the Year Award, which recognizes significant uncompensated hours and expertise, was awarded to **Michael Snyder, Esquire**. Judge Snyder committed many hours of legal expertise to the trail organizations researching documentation and always being available when questions arose. Sponsored by the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Greenways Neighbor of the Year Award, for involvement and assistance by a property owner adjacent to a greenway or trail segment, went to **Paul & Nancy Newbury**. The Newbury's purchased the Emlenton Mill and extensively restored the 150-year-old building. They evolved its utilization to provide a wide range of hospitality-related services geared to general visitors, but especially to outdoor enthusiasts enjoying the adjacent biking-hiking trail and the river. Sponsored by an anonymous donor.

The Thomas Allen Greenways Partner of the Year Award was given to the **French Creek Valley Conservancy** in recognition of donated support, resources, items and expertise. The Conservancy purchased property along the South Branch of French Creek in Erie County, which is now open to the public and will be a link in the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. They were instrumental in saving an old railroad bridge from demolition, which will also be part of the trail. Sponsored by the City of Oil City.

Sponsorships are invited for these annual awards. Each sponsorship of a specific award (suggested at \$250) will include the cost of a tree planted at a project site, a custom memorial plaque produced by Franklin Bronze Plaques, stone paver, and related site preparation. Sponsorships are tax deductible.

Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day on Saturday,

June 13!



COOK FOREST HAPPENINGS

June 13-14, Saturday & Sunday ~ "French & Indian War Encampment"

Cook Forest State Park will host a series of living history events depicting life during the French & Indian War. Highlights of this encampment sponsored by the Sawmill Center for the Arts include: woodland natives, cannon and musket firing, cooking, live tactical engagements, 18th century surgical techniques, blacksmithing, renowned living historians, children's games, and French & Indian War Era artisans, plus more. Take a walk back in time along the Black Bear Trail by the Sawmill Center for the Arts to view over 150 British, Colonial, French, and Native American re-enactors as they portray lifestyles of the 18th century.



Photo by Kyle Yates

June 25, Saturday at 8:30 am ~ "Clarion River Canoeing Program: Arroyo Bridge-Halton"



Cook Forest State Park will be conducting an interpretive historical canoeing program on the National Wild & Scenic Clarion River from Arroyo Bridge to Halton for experienced canoeists & kayakers only. This section of river is rich in local history, and also contains the most challenging set of rapids on the river. Fishing is permitted. Meet at the Park Office and car-pool to the starting point up-river. Dress appropriately for the weather. Lunch provided to those who register by 7/17. Cost is \$50/boat payable at the starting point (need exact change). Canoers must pre-register - 814-744-8407. 8 canoes available, space is limited, reserve early. (8 hrs.)

"Off the Beaten Path" Guided Hike ~ Erie County West Branch French Creek Conservation Area Friday, June 19 ~ 11:00 am to 2:30 pm



Join us for the first of a series of guided hikes this summer at West Branch French Creek Conservation Area in Erie County. *Pre-registration is required and limited to 10 participants.* For more information or to RSVP, contact Andrew Zadnik at (412) 586-2318 or AZadnik@paconserve.org

TOUR OF MERCER COUNTY - SATURDAY, JUNE 20

The Mercer County Trails Association presents a full service bicycle tour beginning and ending at Buhl Farm Park. Rides of 15, 35, 65 and 100 miles along rolling countryside and seldom seen spots. (Special in-park children's events).

Registration: 7:00 - 10:00 am day of event or online (cyclists ride as soon as they are checked in)

Location: Buhl Farm Park (across from Casino) 715 Hazen Road, Hermitage, PA

Admission: \$25

For more info: (724) 301-6993

Website: www.mctrails.org



Father's Day Fishing Program

Sunday, June 21

9:00 - 11:00 am

Celebrate all the great traditions passed down from one generation to the next this Father's Day. Families of all ages, join a Park Naturalist at the Rotary Pavilion to start a new tradition with your best fishing buddy. All equipment will be provided. This is a free program. Space is limited.



Call the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Erie PA for more details - (814) 833-7424.

Youth Field Days in our Region

Pennsylvania has many sportsmen's clubs and conservation groups stepping up to introduce area youth to hunting and the outdoors. These groups provide day-long events featuring activities such as firearm shooting, turkey calling, fishing, trapping, canoeing, camping & much more.



June 20 ~ 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Oil City Izaak Walton Club - Venango Co. Deep Hollow Road. Children 8-18 will engage in outdoor activities. Handicap accessible, lunch provided. For more info, contact Bill Lynam (814) 677-5218. Registration closes June 15, no walk-ins, please.

www.register-ed.com/events/view/58326

June 27 ~ 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Pymatuning Sportsmens Club - Crawford Co. 3642 W Erie St. Ext., Linesville, PA. Registration closes June 26.

www.register-ed.com/events/view/61977



July 11 ~ 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Chapman State Park - Warren Co. 4720 Chapman Dam Road, Clarendon, PA. For more info, call Darren Cummings (814) 706-1041. Registration closes July 4.

www.register-ed.com/events/view/61391

August 1 ~ 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Allegheny Nat'l. Forest - Forest Co. Buzzards Swamp, Marienville, PA. Contact Donna Zofcin at: dzofcin@co.forest.pa.us. Registration closes July 25.

www.register-ed.com/events/view/59292



PIONEER FROLIC FESTIVAL - June 27 & 28

Celebrate the lives of the early pioneers of Sandy Creek Valley (1750-1840). Period costumes, demonstrations, music, vendors, food and encampment set-up.

Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday 11 am - 5 pm

Marina at Lake Wilhelm

Maurice K. Goddard State Park

684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake - Mercer Co.

Parking and admission FREE; Donations accepted

For more info: (724) 253-4833 or visit

www.friendsofgoddard.com



Franklin's 2015 4th of July Festival
Welcome Home Our Troops!



Don't miss Franklin's week-long celebration featuring concerts, a fun Penny Carnival for children, pet show, food booths, and an ice cream social. Join us Saturday, June 27, for our annual **LibertyFest Parade**. The week is capped off by a spectacular fireworks display at Riverfront Park (800 block of Elk St.), on July 4 at dusk.

✦ Visit franklinpa.gov for a full schedule ✦

PA Firefly Festival ~ Saturday, June 27

☀ Noon to Midnight ☾

Come to the Allegheny National Forest for peak firefly season. Camp or book a night at your choice of varied local accommodations.



Explore the area by day, and bring a chair for nighttime viewing.

Celebrate the **Synchronous Firefly** at the third annual festival from noon - midnight.

Hands-on activities for kids, face painting, firefly observations and information, camping, music, educational programs, hikes, daytime canoe/kayak float on Tionesta Creek, night walks to observe synchronous fireflies (woods walk), "Chinese Lanterns" (creek walk), and more.

13558 St. Rt. 666, Tionesta, PA - Forest County

For more information call (814) 463-7606
 email pafireflyfestival@gmail.com or
 visit www.pafireflyfestival.blogspot.com



Arts, Crafts & Food Festival

Ellwood City, PA ~ Lawrence County

July 3 - 5 ~ 11 am - 10 pm

More than 200 arts & crafts vendors! From canvas & slate painting, candles to curtains, jewelry to stained glass & lots more! Great foods all day, entertainment, children's area and fun for the whole family with **FIREWORKS** finale.

Free admission. Parking \$.

At Ewing Park, Joffre St. Ext., Ellwood City

www.Ellwood-City-Festival.net

7th Annual Greenville Heritage Days - Mercer Co.

July 3 - 5

Come for a long weekend and celebrate our "Past, Present & Future" through Heritage Days activities: 5K race ✦ re-enactors ✦ games ✦ fireworks ✦ our three museums ✦ G-Mazing Race ✦ one of Mercer County's largest Car Shows ✦ Heritage Days USO Show ✦

✦ Fri. 6-11 pm; Sat. 9 am - 8:30 pm; Sun. 1-4 pm ✦
 Riverside Park, Alan Ave. & Main St. - Greenville

Admission Charge for 5K Run/Walk, USO Show, G-Mazing Race, carnival rides & games.

Contact Fred Kiser (724) 866-3317 for more info.

✦ Website: www.greenvilleheritagedays.com ✦

July 4 - Fish-for-Free Days allow anyone (resident or non-resident) to legally fish on Pennsylvania waterways on the designated days with **NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED** (Trout/Salmon and Lake Erie permits are also NOT required). All other fishing regulations still apply.

Fish-for-Free Days are great ways for families to "catch" the fun of fishing!

www.fishandboat.com

PA Fish & Boat Commission
 (814) 833-7424



Cook Forest State Park - Clarion Co. Family Fishing Program
 July 10 - 5:00 to 9:00 pm

Looking for a great way to connect with your family? 

Discover just how much fun fishing can be when you do it together at a PFBC Family Fishing Program. Learn basic fishing skills like knot tying, casting, baiting the hook, and taking a fish off the hook. You and your family will have the opportunity to fish - no fishing license required. All equipment provided. You'll be learning and fishing together.

Tom's Run - 113 River Rd., Cooksburg, PA

Contact Chad Foster - chfoster@pa.gov or (814) 683-5126
 Pre-register - www.fishandboat.com



North Coast Bass Association
Open Team Tournament

7/11 & 7/25

301 Peninsula Dr. - Erie, PA
 Launch from West Pier Boat Ramp, Presque Isle.

Two-man team fishing tourney. The winner will be based on which two-man team has the heaviest bag of five bass (*Smallmouth and Largemouth*

are allowed). Entry fee is \$150. Contact Aaron Gast - (814) 314-9847 for more info. or visit northcoastbass.com



July 10, 11 & 12 ~ Fri., Sat. & Sun.

Model train and car/truck display show, arts & crafts vendors, trash or treasure sales, VFD food booth, Jr. fishing derby, softball tournament, raft race, pony rides, frog jumping contest, ice cream/hot dog eating contests, parade, 5K walk/run, fireworks, car/truck/bike cruise and more.

Don't miss out on all the fun
Emlenton has to offer!

Visit www.emlentonpa.com for complete schedule of events.



**Western PA Balloon Quest
New Castle, Lawrence County
July 15-18**

Experience hot air balloon launches, live entertainment, music, demonstrations, food, weather permitting amusements, & fireworks at 10:30 pm Sat.

Free admission & parking
Scotland Meadows Park
2106 Camden Ave., New Castle

For more info: www.wpaballoonquest.webs.com

WATERFIRE SHARON 2015 ~ Saturday, July 18

WaterFire Sharon incorporates over 50 sparkling bonfires ablaze on the Shenango River emitting the fragrant scent of aromatic cedar and pine. Stroll the riverbank and enjoy the firelight flickering off of the bridges accompanied by enchanting music, diverse performers and artists from around the globe that engage your senses.

“WaterFire” is a World Class series of innovative, multi-sensory performance events. This public art performance brings people together in beautiful, open spaces to enjoy artistic programming and features the distinctiveness an American small town has to offer.



**WATERFIRE
SHARON, PA**

11:00 am - 11:00 pm - Lighting occurs shortly after sunset

Located throughout Downtown Sharon, PA - Mercer County

FREE and open to the public

For more info: (724) 981-5882 x111

email: info@waterfiresharonpa.org
www.waterfiresharonpa.org

The National Aviary
is America's only indoor non-profit zoo dedicated exclusively to birds.

Located on Pittsburgh's historic North Side, the National Aviary's diverse collection comprises more than 500 birds of 150 different species from around the world, many of them threatened or endangered in the wild. Walk-through exhibits allow close interaction between free-flying birds and visitors, with opportunities to handfeed and meet many species rarely found in zoos elsewhere in the world.



**Open Daily
10 am-5 pm**

website: aviary.org

(412) 258-9463

**37th Annual Oil Heritage Festival 2015
July 23-26 ~ Thursday-Sunday**

Don't miss Oil City's Oil Heritage Festival, sponsored by the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce. The event honors the area's rich heritage resulting from the discovery of petroleum and the “oil boom” that occurred along Oil Creek in the mid-1800s.

Enjoy 100+ crafters/artisans, entertainment, parades, great food, Oil Heritage Art Show, raft races, concerts, classic car & motorcycle show, fireworks, plus more!

The Annual Oil Heritage Festival depicts our distinctive heritage by incorporating many heritage-related events into one of Western PA's major festivals drawing thousands of visitors to the region.



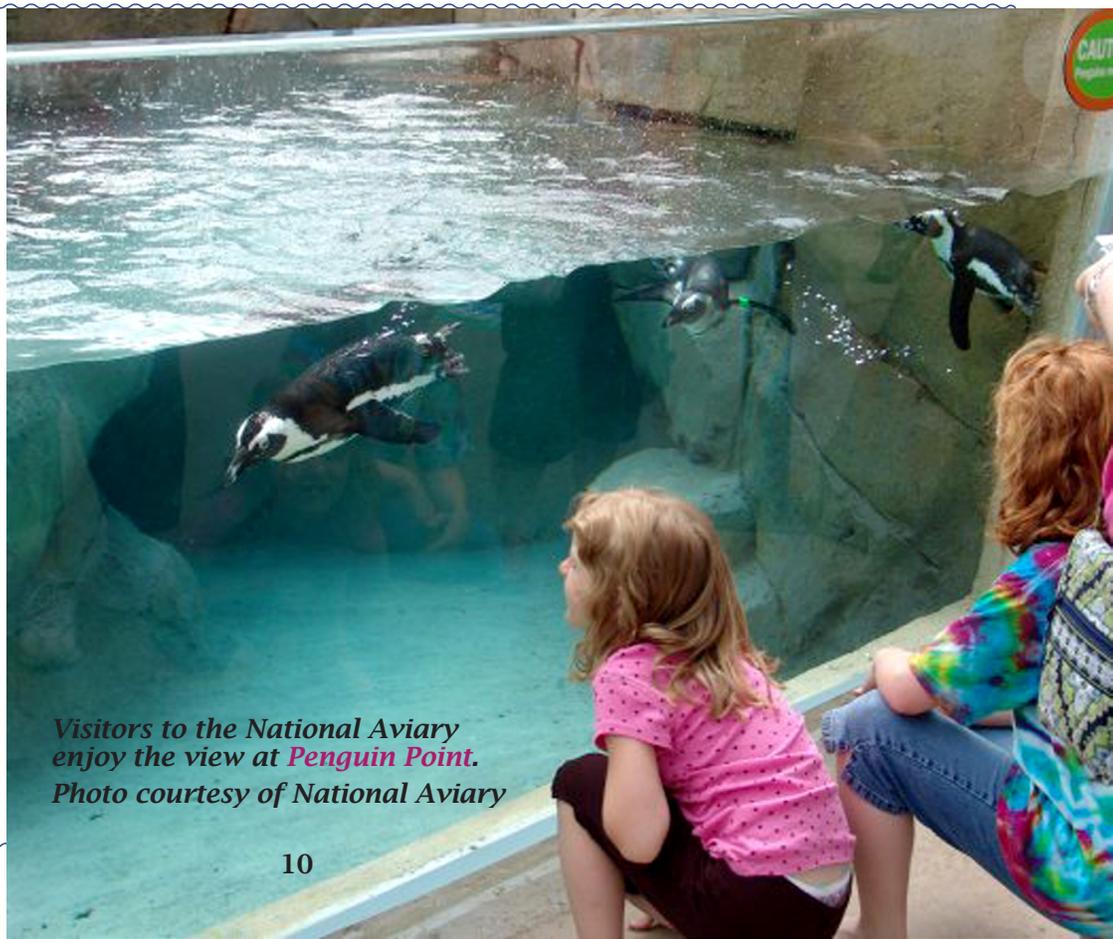
Visit venangochamber.org for full schedule of events.



**Discover Presque Isle
July 24 - 26**

Presque Isle State Park of Erie will host its three-day outdoor festival the last full weekend in July! This event includes live music, a large children's festival, art and craft vendors, a giant bonfire on the beach, a sand sculpture competition and athletic events that take place all around Presque Isle State Park. Plus much more!

Check out www.discoverpi.com for full schedule.



Visitors to the National Aviary enjoy the view at **Penguin Point**.
Photo courtesy of National Aviary



Photo by Jason Furda

Photographer Dave DiCello on the Fort Pitt Bridge, which crosses the Monongahela River to Pittsburgh and Point State Park.

Featured Photographer Dave DiCello's fascination with Pittsburgh and Point State Park has resulted in a wide range of images, captured from land, water and air. Born and raised in the Steel City, Dave says he *"can't imagine living anywhere else! From the breathtaking skyline views to the amazing history, Pittsburgh is one of the most beautiful cities in the country!"*

DiCello has been published in *Pittsburgh Magazine*, *Pittsburgh Business Times*, *Landmarks Magazine*, *Western Pennsylvania Magazine* and the *Lonely Planet Travel Magazine*. He's also covered assignments for the Pittsburgh Penguins, Pitt Panthers, Duquesne University and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.



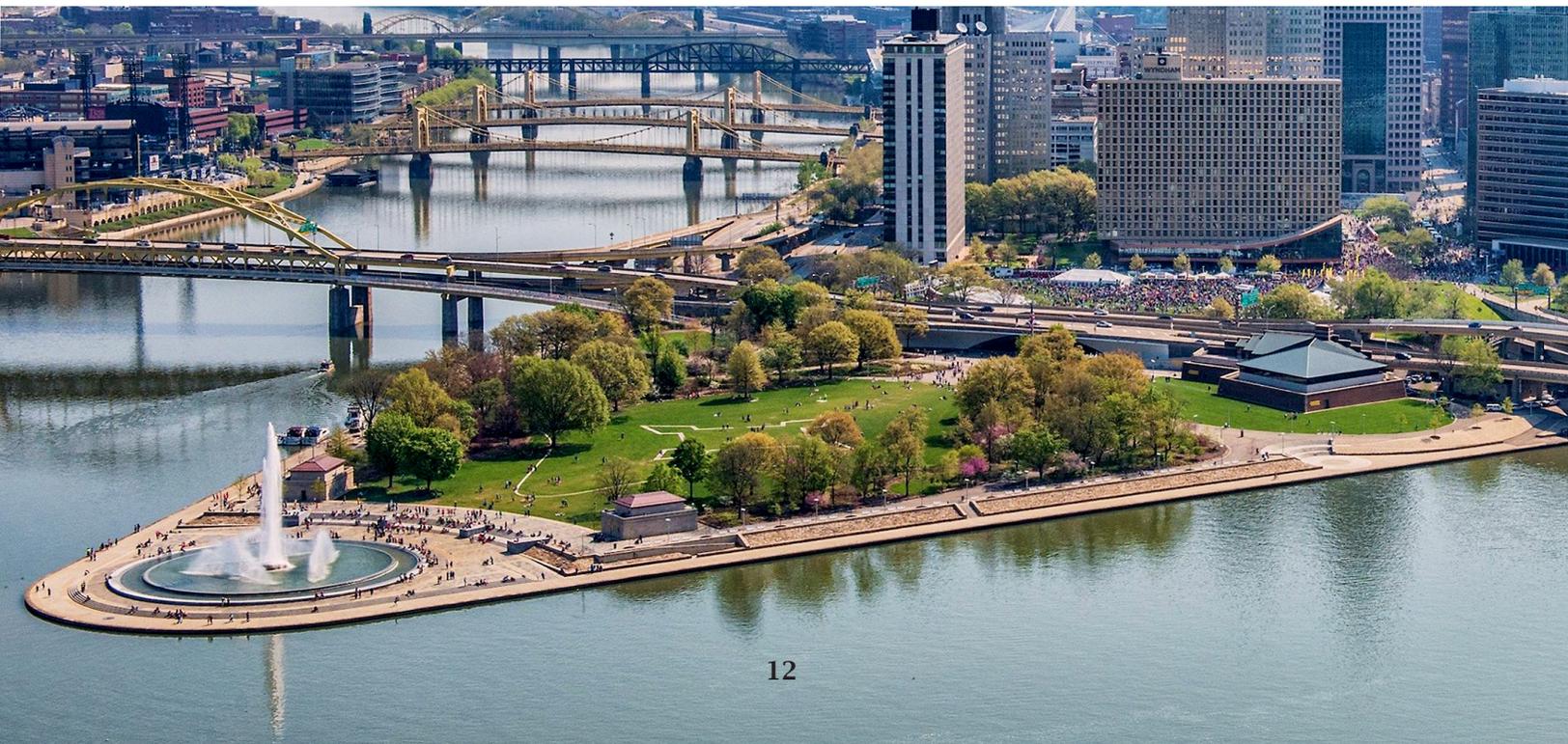


POINT STATE PARK IS DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH'S FRONT LAWN ~ NIGHT AND DAY

This incredible 36-acre state park and National Historic Landmark is situated at the confluence of the three rivers in the heart of downtown. With more than three million visitors a year, the park serves as a tangible reminder of Pittsburgh's enduring importance in our nation's history, commemorating the strategic heritage of the area during the French & Indian War (1754 - 1763). The Point is the centerpiece of Three Rivers Park ~ Pittsburgh's 13-mile riverfront park system.

Point State Park acts as a connector for the extensive bike/hike trails in the region:

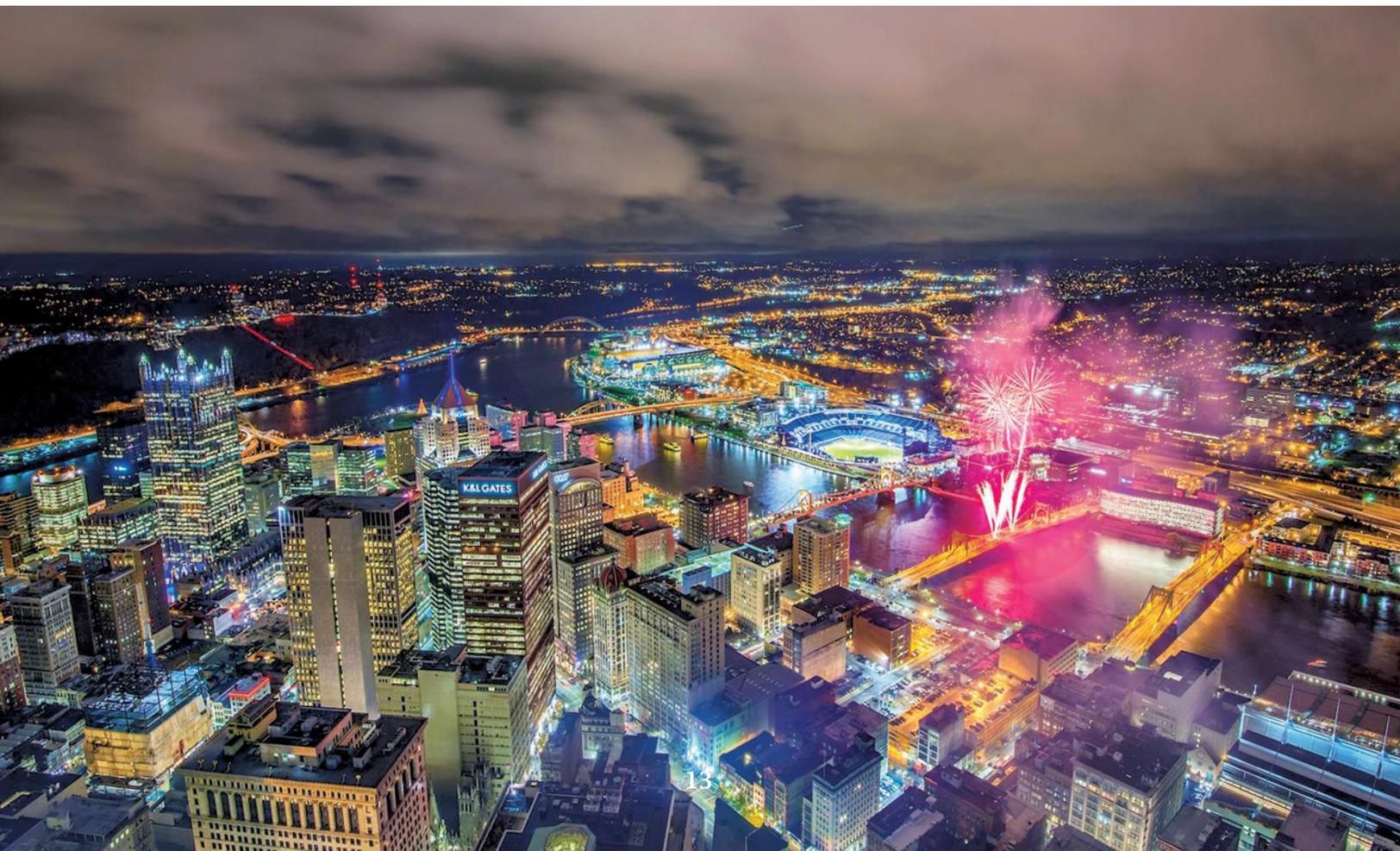
-  *Three Rivers Heritage Trail* runs along both sides of the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers in Allegheny County
-  *Great Allegheny Passage* runs southeasterly from the Point to Cumberland, MD
-  *Erie to Pittsburgh Trail* travels northward to Erie, via the Oil Heritage Region
-  *Ohio River Trail* runs westward to Ohio





Sunset over Pittsburgh from the 64th floor of the U.S. Steel Building, showing the Monongahela (left) and Allegheny River (right) merging into the Ohio River heading westerly.

'Light Up Night' pyrotechnics over the Allegheny River, launching the Christmas holiday season.





The Point State Park Fountain creates a morning rainbow, with a view of Mount Washington and the historic Duquesne Incline in the distance.

Opened in 1877, the **Duquesne Incline** was rescued and restored by a group of local residents in 1963. The *funicular* is one of the last of its kind in America, and continues to delight residents and tourists alike with its original, wooden cable cars. A museum of Pittsburgh history is housed in the upper station and features photos and information on inclines from around the world.

View of the Point State Park Fountain and Pittsburgh's three rivers from atop Mount Washington, with the Duquesne Incline journeying down the steep hillside.



