

To: PABIODIV@webmail.upb.pitt.edu
From: Gregory <meg5@psu.edu>
Subject: PABIODIV: Announcement: PA Wildlands 2003
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"Pennsylvania has the potential to be a center of wilderness in the Northeast. It has more public land than any state in the region (4,397,921 acres) and is second only to New Hampshire in percentage of land in public ownership (15.3 percent) . . . So, even though today Pennsylvania is the Northeast's most disappointing state in terms of protected wilderness, it is the state that has the most potential for expanding wilderness on lands already owned by the public" - Christopher McGrory Klyza in "Wilderness Comes Home, Rewilding the Northeast"

"PA Wildlands 2003: Prospects for Recovery and Rewilding," the second conference of the PA Wildlands Recovery Project, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. A fuller description of the conference, its key participants, goals, and registration information will be posted soon in the next several weeks.

SOME BACKGROUND

More than 150 people attended our first conference in January 2001 – a conference organized completely on a grassroots level and advertised through word-of-mouth.

The excitement and energy generated by that event spurred the creation of the PA Wildlands Recovery Project, a new 501(c)(3) educational and scientific organization dedicated to the science-based development of a comprehensive conservation network plan linking Pennsylvania wildlands with each other and with lands in other states.

Several such plans have already been developed by conservation biologists and citizen conservationists in other regions of North America. Some are already being revised to reflect new biological data and research. They include Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y), the Sky Islands plan in the Southwest and, more recently, the Maine Wildlands Network.

Regional groups across the continent, including PWRP, will be researching, writing, and introducing additional conservation plans in the coming years.

These are visionary long-term network proposals with an overall goal: the rewilding of the land. Most, if not all, of the many regional organizations behind the creation of these plans are working in close affiliation with The Wildlands Project office in Vermont. Wildlands Project board members include such well known conservation biologists as John Terborgh of Duke University, Michael Soule, and Reed Noss. The Wildlands Project is widely considered to be the most visionary and noble conservation initiative in North America today.

It has been presented in the past to the Society for Conservation Biology. It has been endorsed by such eminent scientists as E.O. Wilson and Paul Ehrlich.

Our Web site, wildpennsylvania.org, is under construction. Registration for the conference will be available through it within the next few weeks.

The registration fee, unchanged from the first conference, is \$30(early) and \$35 for those who register the day of the conference. The fee covers the cost of refreshments, a continental breakfast, and buffet lunch. More details will be announced.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THE TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND PRESENTERS

(Exact title of each presentation pending)

7:15 a.m. -- Registration begins; continental breakfast available

8:45 a.m. -- Welcome and introduction of first speaker, Dave Foreman, chairman of The Wildlands Project and publisher of "Wild Earth" journal. Dave will discuss the Sky Islands conservation network plan.

10:30-10:45 a.m. -- Break

10:45 a.m. -- Conrad Reining, Northeast region coordinator, The Wildlands Project

11:30 a.m. -- Steve Hoffman, bird conservation director, Audubon Pennsylvania. Steve will discuss landscape-scale conservation in the context of Audubon's Important Bird Area program.

12:15 to 1:15 p.m. -- Lunch

1:15 p.m. -- Panel. Presenters are Susan Hagood, Humane Society of the U.S. (wildlife corridors, passageways in developed landscapes), Clare Billet, The Natural Lands Trust (mapping for conservation and rewilding), Robert Lonsdorf, Brandywine Conservancy, (conservation in fragmented landscapes), and Bob DeGroot, Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement and Conservation (MAGIC), interstate wildlife corridors

2:45-3:00 p.m. -- Break

3:00-3:45 p.m. -- Author and eastern cougar proponent Chris Bolgiano

3:45 to 4:45 p.m. -- Ed Perry, retired assistant supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pennsylvania Field Office, "Prospects for Wildlands Recovery in Pennsylvania"

There will be plenty of space for tabletop displays and associated information.

Please share this information with friends and colleagues.

Thank you.

Alan Gregory
President, PA Wildlands Recovery Project

The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Listserve encourages open discussion about biodiversity issues in the state. It is hosted by the Allegheny Institute of Natural History, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and is moderated by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership. The opinions expressed in messages are those of the authors and NOT the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership.