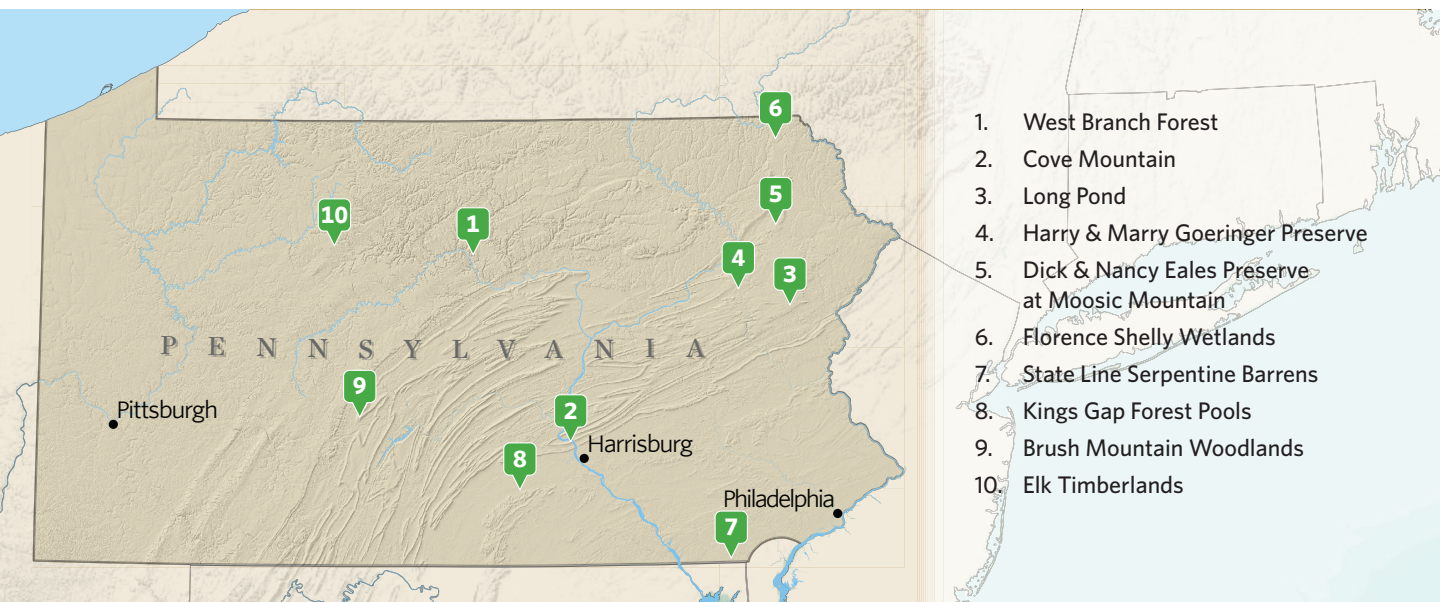


NATURE

PENNSYLVANIA

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Soaking in Spring

A New Season for Exploring Nature in Pennsylvania

SCENIC VIEWS: West Branch Forest

provides an unspoiled view for 50 miles and **Cove Mountain** offers a beautiful vista of the Susquehanna River, surrounding ridges and the historic Rockville Bridge—the longest stone masonry arch railroad viaduct in the world. Enjoy a panorama of Pennsylvania's northeastern corner from atop Moosic Mountain at our **Eales Preserve**.

PLANTS: See rare insectivorous sundew and pitcher plants at the **Florence Shelley Preserve**. More than 100 species of native wildflowers thrive among eastern North America's last remnants of serpentine grassland at the **State-Line Serpentine Barrens**, including serpentine aster, which only blooms in this location along the Pennsylvania-Maryland border. Explore one of Pennsylvania's most important moth and butterfly habitats at **Long**

Pond, where rhodora, a rare, pink-flowered wild azalea blooms each spring.

VERNAL POOLS: These seasonal wetlands serve as nurseries for frogs, amphibians and other aquatic life. Our **Goeringer Preserve** and **Forest Pools Preserve at Kings Gap** are both excellent places to see vernal pools.

ANIMALS: Visit **Brush Mountain** to observe nightly foraging by federally endangered Indiana bats and the largest maternity colony of little brown bats in Pennsylvania. Catch a glimpse of baby elk at **Elk Timberlands**.

BIRDS: For birders, each of these special places is worth a visit during springtime migration.

Visit nature.org/papreserves for more information about all of the special places we protect.



© Gates Rhodes

I am proud to share that, with your support, we have already protected more than 60,000 acres of Pennsylvania's special places just in this decade. Now that spring has arrived, come outside and experience some of them! We've highlighted a few of our favorites here.

Bill Keune

Executive Director, Pennsylvania



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Field Notes

Dick and Nancy Eales Preserve at Moosic Mountain

by Gates Rhodes

Just seven miles from Scranton, the Eales Preserve is a treat to visit during springtime. My favorite memory of this special place includes sweeping valley views from the top of a ridge surrounded by a landscape of low-lying shrubs and stunted pine and oak trees. The Eales Preserve features several trails, accessible from the parking area, that guide visitors throughout its 2,256 acres to explore diverse micro-environments and take in breathtaking scenery. One sunny spring day, I set out on the Blueberry Trail, which twisted and turned through colorful meadows and barrens to reveal beautiful

Bird watchers might be lucky to catch the spring songbird or raptor migration this time of year.

vistas across the mountainside and valley. The Conglomerate Trail, another option, loops through an area that is regenerating after a forest management controlled burn. After a shallow boulder field, Conglomerate meets with other trails, including one that leads to a waterfall. All of the Eales Preserve trails are well marked and easily shared with other hikers, photographers and mountain bike enthusiasts who travel from far and wide to experience this outdoor destination. Bird watchers might be lucky to catch the spring songbird or raptor migration this time of year. With nine trails, visitors to the Eales Preserve will find options of different lengths and difficulty (most moderate) for navigating diverse habitats and beautiful scenery.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Gates Rhodes



© Courtesy/Gates Rhodes

After managing instructional media and video projects at the University of Pennsylvania for 30 years, Gates Rhodes spends time pursuing photography and outdoor opportunities that help him understand and promote nature. This includes visiting and photographing places in Pennsylvania where The Nature Conservancy has played a role in conserving plants, animals and fragile habitats that represent the state's ecological diversity.

"My goal is to visit each place where The Nature Conservancy has played a role in permanently conserving nature in Pennsylvania. When I go, I don't aim to take the most beautiful photographs. Instead, I take pictures that allow people to really get a feel for what they will see if they visit."

Go online to nature.org/PAGates-Rhodes to see a photo gallery of Rhodes' photographs from several preserves.

Upcoming Events:

Learn about upcoming events taking place this spring and summer at nature.org/paevents.



DONATE ONLINE:

Go to nature.org/pagiving and support Pennsylvania nature today!