



Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area

Straddling Peters Mountain, the 803-acre Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area is dominated by large hardwood trees. This large block of nearly unbroken forest is a haven for wildlife like forest warblers and other deep woods animals. A main attraction to the conservation area is the interconnected trail system.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.44246 Long. -76.85918

From PA 322/22, take PA 225 north for 4.5 miles. Just before entering the village of Matamoras, turn right on Camp Hebron Road and follow it for 4.5 miles. The conservation area is on the right.

Spend the Day

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: All hiking trails in the conservation area are open for cross-country skiing. Evergreen, Pine, and Old Sawmill trails are recommended for cross-country skiing.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 780 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are black bears, deer, turkeys, grouse, rabbits, and squirrels.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the Little Buffalo State Park office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner's vehicle or enclosed trailer. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

Learn, Experience, Connect

The Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area offers educational programs year round. Many programs feature wildlife and forest ecology. Contact the Little Buffalo State Park office or explore the online calendar of events, <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov>, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.



What is a Conservation Area?

This designation is for land donated to the Bureau of State Parks and managed for the purposes of preserving open space, conserving natural resources, and providing opportunities for passive, non-motorized, low density outdoor recreation and environmental education activities. A conservation area is characterized as a large area with few improvements and no through roads. Recreational facilities and development are minimal. Conservation areas are used for low impact recreation, serve as outdoor classrooms, and act as examples of proper stewardship and resource management.

What is a Restrictive Covenant?

A restrictive covenant is a condition that is written into a deed, either by the seller or person donating the property,

Joseph E. Ibberson 1917-2011



Joseph Ibberson receives an award from Governor Tom Ridge After graduation from Yale in 1948, Joseph Ibberson was recruited and hired by the Department of Forests and Waters, Bureau of Forestry, to develop the first forest management plans for the 2,000,000 acres of Pennsylvania state forest land. By 1955, all of the forests were mapped and had management plans.

Joe then created the Division of Forests Advisory Services which further expanded the management plans and targeted the preservation of endangered species and wetlands.

From this work grew the Division of Forest Pest Management, which became a recognized leader in rearing and releasing predators and parasites to effectively manage forest pests.

Joe started a forest genetics program that reorganized the tree nurseries to produce large quantities of desirable and improved species.

Natural History

The Forest

The common tree species of Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area are red, black, scarlet, and chestnut oaks, white, Virginia, and table mountain pines, tulip poplars, eastern hemlocks, black gums, basswoods, black walnuts, black locusts, wild black cherries, black birches, red maples, sassafras, American beeches, and hickories. This diversity of trees produces nuts, seeds, berries, and browse for wildlife like white-tailed deer, squirrels, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, black bears, and many species of birds.

These tree species are just the latest species to grow here. Before European settlement, the forest was probably large white pines and eastern hemlocks. This dark, quiet forest quickly fell to the logger's ax. The forest that regrew was likely similar to the forest of today, with the addition of American chestnuts. The impressive chestnut dominated some of the forests of Pennsylvania until a blight killed most of the trees. Occasional American chestnuts still survive long enough to produce nuts, but the blight eventually kills them.

Drastic changes like forest fires have altered this forest several times. Another change is happening right now. For years, the mature pines along Pine Trail and other locations deposited seeds throughout the forest, but the seeds never germinated. Two successive years of defoliation of the deciduous trees by gypsy moths let sunlight to strike the forest floor, which allowed the white pine seeds to germinate. The thousands of white pine seedlings may grow to surpass the deciduous trees, making the forest resemble the previous coniferous forest.

Geology

The conservation area is in the Ridge and Valley Province of the Appalachian Mountains, which is characterized by long parallel mountain ridges and wide, flat valleys. The mountains arose during collisions of the continents of North

that must be adhered to by the person or organization that assumes possession of the property. Some of the restrictive covenants placed on the transfer of this property include:

- The land is intended for use, enjoyment, and education of all citizens of the commonwealth. Environmental, outdoor, and forest resources management education will be emphasized.

- Only passive recreational activities will be allowed. Horseback riding, biking, and motorized equipment, with the exception of official use equipment and accommodations for people with disabilities, are prohibited.

- Acceptable forestry practices will govern resource management. Generally, only dead and downed trees should be harvested, except on forest demonstration areas.

He also started the service forester program and now there are foresters in many counties to aid private citizens in managing their forested land.

In 1977, Joe retired from the Bureau of Forestry but continued to actively tree farm his own property and serve as a forestry consultant. That same year, Joe received the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Conservation Award. In 1998, he received the American Forest Foundation's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award for Pennsylvania. In 1999, Joe received their Outstanding Management of Resources Award for the northeastern states.

To train foresters to help the state's private woodland owners properly manage their forests, Joe endowed a chair at The Pennsylvania State University.

Joe continued to work with land owners across the commonwealth to participate in the conservation areas program until his death in 2011.

The Conservation Area

In 1962, Joe began buying land to create a tree farm on which he practiced various forms of forest management.

On December 9, 1998, Joseph E. Ibberson donated the land to the commonwealth. The stated purpose of the donation was to *"recognize the need of people for healthful recreation and a place where they can learn about the environment on which they depend for quality of life."* It became the first conservation area in the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks. Upon Joe's death, an additional 450 acres of land were donated to the conservation area.

I continue to search for new ideas to effectively preserve the natural resources of Pennsylvania, while sustaining recreational use and the harvesting of wood products.
- *Joseph E. Ibberson*



Pink lady's slipper

America and Africa. The Appalachian Mountains were once very tall, but 220 million years of erosion have worn away the tops of the mountains, leaving behind wide, flat valleys and short, steep mountains of hard rock.

Most of the bedrock of Peters Mountain is composed of hard sandstone tilted at a steep angle. Much of Powells Valley is underlain by a combination of soft rocks like shales, siltstones, and sandstones. Due to the rich valley soils, this area is often called the "bread basket of Dauphin County."



History

The land of the conservation area has been inhabited for over 11,000 years. The nearby Shoop Site is one of the largest and oldest Paleo-Indian sites in eastern North America. The Shoop Site is unusual in that it is near a hilltop, unlike most Paleo-Indian sites which are found in the floodplain. Archaeologists theorize that the Paleo-Indians were hunting migrating caribou. Interestingly, most of the stone tools found at the site were made from stone found 250 miles north in New York.

Subsequent inhabitants used the Shoop Site as a temporary shelter or hunting camp. Other nations occupying or passing through the area were the Shawnee, Nanticoke, Leni Lenape, and Iroquois League of Six Nations. The Susquehannocks claimed the land at the time European settlers arrived at Peters Mountain and Powells Valley.

Thousands of artifacts from the Shoop Site are exhibited in the Smithsonian Institution and the Pennsylvania State Museum. The Shoop Site is on private land and has no public access.

In 1726, Peter Allen built a stone home on the south side of a mountain, now called Peters Mountain. The Peter Allen House, the stone house at the intersection of PA 225 and PA 325, is the oldest house in Dauphin County. It was a tollhouse, hotel, and stagecoach stop. The house is currently privately owned.

North of the conservation area is Powells Creek and Powells Valley, named for Margaret Powell who owned the land at the creek mouth in the 1760s. South of the conservation area is Clarks Valley, named for early landowner William Clark, who owned 585 acres that later became Stackpole Farms at the intersection of PA 225 and PA 325.

Augusta Road, now PA 225, was an alternate route north to avoid passing too close to the Susquehanna River. The river route was often used by Indigenous people and could be dangerous when relationships were strained.

A second very old house is along Augusta Road, north of Peters Mountain by Powells Creek, at the intersection of PA 225 and Back Road. This tollhouse and stagecoach stop was a safe place to stop before or after crossing Peters Mountain. The house is currently privately owned.

A portion of Victoria Trail passes through the southeastern corner of the conservation area and intersects the Appalachian Trail. The Victoria Trail connected the nearby Victoria Iron Furnace to some of its timber supply. The furnace was on the south side of Peters Mountain in Clarks Valley and was in operation from 1830 to 1857. The land was repeatedly logged to supply wood for charcoal for the furnace. The last steam sawmill in Dauphin County, Bakers Sawmill, was within the land of the conservation area.



Scarlet tanager

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from Visit Hershey and Harrisburg. www.VisitHersheyHarrisburg.org Along PA 443 north of Harrisburg, **Fort Hunter Mansion and Park** was a settlement fort in the 1750s during the French and Indian War. This 40-acre Dauphin County park has playgrounds, picnic areas, and tours of the mansion. www.FortHunter.org


One mountain range to the south is **Boyd Big Tree Preserve Conservation Area**. Large trees of numerous species are scattered throughout the area, which provide habitat for deep forests birds, especially warblers. The large field is filled with blooming butterfly weed in late-July and early-August and attracts many butterflies.

Harrisburg, the historic capital of Pennsylvania, has many attractions, including: Pa. State Museum, State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, National Civil War Museum, and other attractions.



Boyd Big Tree Preserve

Access for People with Disabilities

 This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on the information kiosk in the parking area.

NEAREST HOSPITAL

UPMC Pinnacle Harrisburg
101 South Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-782-3131

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area

c/o Little Buffalo State Park
1579 State Park Road
Newport, PA 17074-9428
717-567-9255
LittleBuffSP@pa.gov

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to
5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

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Protect and Preserve Our Parks

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited.

- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.

- Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.

- Soliciting and posting signs are prohibited without approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Tell us about your hike at:



ileated woodpecker

