

Glendale Lake Snowmobile Club Receives Conservation Group Volunteer of Year Award.

PA State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announces the recipient of the Group Volunteer of the Year for 2020. This award went to Glendale Lake Snowmobile Club of Patton, PA.

Prince Gallitzin State Park management submitted the nomination. Accomplishments that aided in selection for this award were, significant impact on general public, enhanced the image, prestige, and effectiveness of the Bureau. The following is the statement submitted by the PGSP manager.

...In fall of 2018 Prince Gallitzin State Park was notified by Glendale Riding Stables, that they were going out of business and would no longer be giving horseback riding on the park trails. 2018 was a very rainy year and horseback riding took a heavy toll on the trail system adjacent to the former Glendale Stables. Overwhelmed by the poor shape which the trails were in and without enough time for park staff to properly rehabilitate the trail system, the trails were left untouched. In late 2019 the Glendale Lake Snowmobile Club (GLSC), led by Rob Housley and Paul Simendinger, decided to take on this massive project of rerouting and rehabilitating the trails formerly known as the Glendale Riding Stable Trails and constructing a new connecting trail segment from Slate Lick Cove and Marina Road.

The new trail reroute was mapped, flagged out and approved when the pandemic related closures hit Pennsylvania. Instead of using it as an excuse to delay the project, it had a opposite effect on club members. Working independently and in small, safe groups the GLSC was able to make progress day after day and week after week on the project. All the while, the GLSC members were keeping in constant communication with park management and maintenance staff. They thought of creative ideas in how to repurpose the materials the park had on hand and in their scrap piles to make the trail sustainable and long lasting.

After approximately six months of work and over 600 volunteer hours, the trail was in place and ready to be used by hikers, mountain bikers, equestrian riders and snowmobilers. The new trail was named Shomo Run Trail after the creek that it follows. It is 2.0 mile long and it connects Slate Lick Cove and Marina Road to Noel Run Connector trail, which allows hikers and riders to access 17.1 miles of interconnected trails at Prince Gallitzin State Park. The most amazing aspect of this volunteer project is that the GLSC has put in an enormous amount of effort to create a trail after two consecutive years of winters with poor snow conditions. They were proud to be able to make this long-lasting trail in a State Park and they're hopeful that the trail will be in place for many generations of trail users and snowmobiles.

The GLSC has been an active volunteer group for the past six years. They have adopted and completed trail maintenance and improvements on many of the park's trails over the years. The reroute, rehabilitation and construction of the Shomo Run Trail went far beyond any effort that they have taken on in the past. The sheer number of volunteer hours as well as innovation solutions to working during a pandemic with purchasing restrictions was amazing. Their dedication to the creation of a sustainable trail system is to be commended and will be appreciated by park users for decades to come...

Congratulations to the Glendale Lake Snowmobile Club as the recipient of PA State DCNR Group Volunteer of the year 2020.



Left to Right, Paul Simendinger GLSC, Jessica Lavelua Park Manager, Rob Housley GLSC, Jim Davis GLSC, Tim Yeager Asst. Park Manager.



Photos submitted by Rob Housley