

# PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

## New Web site maps state's trails

By Bob Frye  
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The state's hiking trails are great places to spend time -- and good pathways for accessing fishing and hunting spots, too.

Now, a new Web site makes it easier to learn about those trails.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has launched a first-of-its-kind site to help people search, view, map and share information on the thousands of miles of trails in Pennsylvania at [www.ExplorePAtrails.com](http://www.ExplorePAtrails.com). The site is an interactive one, in which people can find and share information, photos and new discoveries. The site offers a changing "featured" trail, a search option for finding trails and a calendar of trail-related events.

On the site, you can find information about hiking, biking, canoe, state park and state forest trails, rail-trails, cross country skiing, equestrian, snowmobile and ATV trails, and more.

More than 5,700 miles of Pennsylvania trails have been mapped and made available on the site.

### BRIDGE CLOSED

Speaking of trails, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has closed the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail bridge that crosses the Pennsylvania Turnpike indefinitely "due to structural deficiencies resulting in unsafe conditions."

The closure impact through hikers on the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail as well as snowmobile users in the Laurel Highlands. The gates immediately preceding the bridge are closed, and temporary barricades will be placed in multiple locations to alert trail users to the conditions and closure.

Anyone seeking more information on the closure is asked to call Laurel Hill State Park at 814-455-3744.

### LAND SAVED

A conservation partnership aimed at working with private landowners has permanently conserved nearly two miles of land along French Creek through a voluntary conservation easement.

The conserved property, 143 acres at the confluence of the West Branch and main stem of French Creek in Venango Township, Erie County, is owned by

Jim and Pat Harwood of Harwood Farms Inc. Conservation of this property will help to restore and maintain floodplain forests as well as protect French Creek, which contains rare and endangered freshwater mussels, fish and other aquatic species.

The land was conserved through the work of the French Creek Joint Venture.

## **SHOTGUN RAFFLE**

If you've always wanted to own a high-end custom shotgun, this is your chance.

The Ruffed Grouse Society is raffling a "Baby Frame" Model 21 28-gauge, side-by-side shotgun made by Connecticut Shotgun Manufacturing Co. It features 28-inch barrels, choked-improved cylinder and modified with two beads, a straight English stock crafted from fancy AAA feathercrotch walnut to a checkered butt and a 14 1/2-inch LOP. The beavertail fore-end has an ebony insert in the tip. It has a single selective trigger, and the RGS logo is hand-engraved in real gold on the bottom of the receiver. It's valued at \$32,000.

Only 1,500 tickets will be sold. They cost \$100 and can be ordered by calling 1-888-564-6747. The drawing will be held June 30.

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