

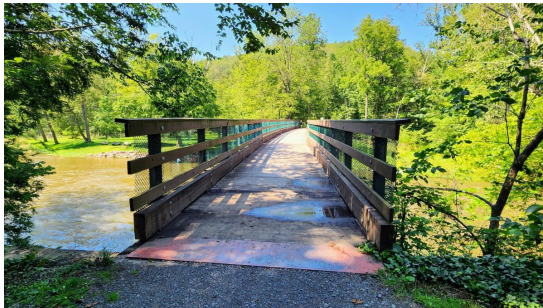


Poe Paddy Railroad Tunnel

August 27 & 31, 2023

Hello from Centred Outdoors!

When you're surrounded by hundreds of thousands of acres of picturesque State Forest, as we are in central PA - Rothrock, Bald Eagle, Sproul, Moshannon - it's impossible to narrow down any single location as the most beautiful. This week, we're visiting an area that just might take the blue ribbon for its natural beauty, fantastic fishing, and historic significance!



The Poe Paddy Railroad bridge spanning Penns Creek.

Used by the [Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad](#) beginning around 1880, the Poe Paddy Railroad Tunnel found new life as part of the Mid-state Trail in the mid-20th century, and later as a preserved bat habitat. [Recent work on the tunnel](#) made the passageway safer for pedestrians by lining the creviced walls with corrugated steel, while preserving the space above the passageway with bat-approved entrances on either end.

On a recent visit to scout the site, we ran into a family on their first exploration of the Poe Paddy area. After a stroll across the bridge, and a few excited screams as they emerged from the tunnel, one family member observed to us, "This place is really beautiful, isn't it?!" We can't think of a better way to sum up what you can expect from this week's free, guided outings to the Poe Paddy Tunnel and Rail Trail, on the edge of Poe Paddy State Park. Pack a few sandwiches and don't plan to rush home - you may not want to leave the peaceful scenery of this [Wild Area within Bald Eagle State Forest](#)



Take note - the drive to Poe Paddy Tunnel includes long stretches of gravel forest roads, and cell service can be very limited. (Reserve a seat on our free [Shuttle Van!](#)) Find a Bald Eagle State Forest [Purple Lizard Map](#), or download and print one of the maps linked below to take with you

on your drive. You'll want to follow directions for Poe Paddy State Park - you pass through the park's main camping areas and continue to the Poe Paddy Tunnel Parking Area on Tunnel Spur Road. Keep an eye out for our signs we'll have posted along the way!

Join our guides, along with naturalist Kylie Orndorf from Poe Paddy, and members of Penns Creek Trout Unlimited, for an afternoon of exploration at Poe Paddy Railroad Tunnel!

Summer is going by fast - we hope you'll come out to explore new places with Centred Outdoors!

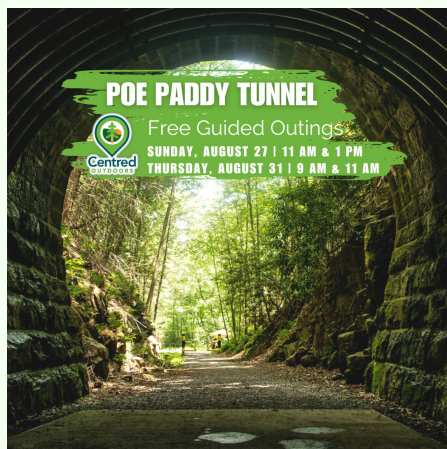
Bridget Whyte, Adventure Coordinator
ClearWater Conservancy

Questions? Reply to this email or send to: adventure@clearwaterconservancy.org

This Week with Centred Outdoors

Guided Outings at Poe Paddy Tunnel

Sunday, August 27 at 11AM & 1PM
Thursday, August 31 at 9AM & 11AM



Take a short trip along the Pennsylvania Mid State Trail that begins with a memorable walk through the Paddy Mountain Railroad Tunnel. After brief darkness in the tunnel you will be greeted by gorgeous views of Penn's Creek, birdsongs, and an abundance of plants and trees surrounding the Mid State Trail. The trail is welcoming, with wide, flat, even terrain - making this adventure well-suited for people of all ages and fitness levels.

[Event Details](#)



Need a ride?
Free shuttle service available!

Take a shuttle van to the 11 AM outings at Poe Paddy this week (Sunday or Thursday). Pickup/drop off locations at Westerly Parkway Plaza or Hills Plaza near Ollie's.

[Reserve A Seat](#)

Bring your budding Junior Naturalist!

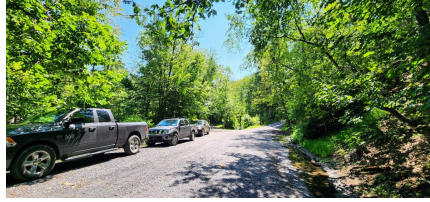
Kids can borrow one of our [Junior Naturalist backpacks](#) and try tools like a magnifying glass, binoculars, and field guides! Use the digital camera and we'll send you the pictures you take while exploring.



What to Expect & How to Prepare

Destination:

Poe Paddy Tunnel at Poe Paddy State Park Tunnel Spur Road Haines Township, PA



Guided Outing Dates:

Sunday, August 27 at 11AM & 1PM
Thursday, August 31 at 9AM & 11AM

Outing Length and Terrain:

- **Centred Outdoors Outing Map**
- **Outing length:** 1.35 mi (Ascent: 78 ft.)
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Terrain:** Wide, gravel rails-to-trails path; some gravel roadway prior to bridge/tunnel.

Map Links and Directions:

- **How to Find Us!** Follow directions for Poe Paddy State Park, continue to Tunnel Spur Road. The parking area is located where Tunnel Spur Road and the Penns Creek Path (Mid State Trail) intersect.
- **Centred Outdoors Outing Trail Map** (.pdf for download)
- **Find On Google Maps**
- **Poe Paddy State Park website (DCNR)**
- Destination is **13.1 miles from Old Route 322 above Potters Mills.**
- Destination is **30.4 miles/approx 1 hour** from Downtown State College.

What to bring:

[See our Tips](#) for a safe and successful outing. We encourage all participants to remember:

- bug spray, and/or long pants, sleeves, hats or bug nets for insect and tick protection
- a full bottle of water, at least 32 oz. per adult
- sturdy walking shoes
- sun protection such as a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen
- a light snack to enjoy during or after your hike



Looking for other nearby destinations? Visit [Poe Valley State Park](#) or the [Penns View Overlook!](#)

For more fascinating history of the Penns Valley Rails to Trails, visit [CentreCountyPA.gov](#) and [The P.R.R.'s Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad](#) by Michael Bazilla.

Have You Joined Us This Season?



Your Experience Matters!

We invite you to participate in our anonymous survey about Centred Outdoors guided hikes and activities. This brief survey helps us communicate our success with grant partners and stake holders and allows us to continue to alter our programming to better serve our community.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your valuable feedback!

[Participant Survey](#)

Mount Nittany Health Tips



How to Avoid Tick Bites and Lyme Disease

Ticks are common in wooded areas and can carry Lyme disease.

Wear long pants and sleeves to avoid tick bites. Tuck your pants into your socks, and use tick repellent. After hiking, check your body for ticks.

Remove ticks promptly using tweezers. It's important to monitor for symptoms for 30 days after a tick bite.

Call your healthcare provider if you or your child develop a rash or experience fever, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, or joint swelling and pain.



Health Tips for Centred Outdoors

Enjoy the health and wellness benefits of time spent in nature. Be prepared with these easy tips to keep you safe and ready for any adventure!

Visit the Mount Nittany Health [Wellness Library](#) for more healthy ways to enjoy the outdoors. Consider these Health Tips and be prepared for any Centred Outdoors outing!

Coming Up Next Week

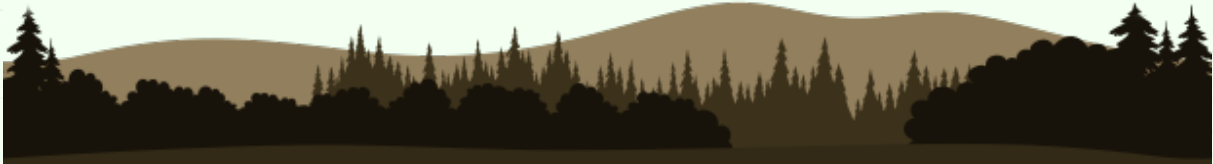


Guided Hike at the Ray F. Decker Trail

Sunday, September 3 | 11:00 AM

The Ray F. Decker Trail begins at the Decker property on Route 192, and climbs the mountain to the James Cleveland Memorial. Connect with the past via a short yet steep hike up to the monument in honor of James Cleveland, an airmail pilot who passed away in May 1931 in a plane crash on Mount Nittany between Centre Hall and Pleasant Gap.

[About This Destination](#)



Centred Outdoors is a program of ClearWater Conservancy, made possible with financial assistance from an Environmental Stewardship Fund grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. Financial assistance for the program is also provided by the Hamer Foundation, Mount Nittany Health, Richard King Mellon Foundation, and community organizations.



ClearWater Conservancy's Centred Outdoors |
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Connect With Us



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