

THE WALK THROUGH THE WOODS

Good day everyone...it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

The famous Appalachian Trail, and many others, cross the state at one place or another; thus Pennsylvania probably is the best place for hiking, (easily and enjoyably) anywhere in the country. Like millions of other people whose outdoor recreation includes walking, you probably enjoy walking in the woods. And it is wise to ask yourself this question. Whose woods? If the woods you walk in are not your private property, they are certainly someone else's. Or, as a Pennsylvanian, some woods--part of these 29,000,000 acres of forest, are certainly your public property. A woodland often belongs to a farmer who uses it to supply his needs for wood. Some forests are corporately owned to be used for industry. When you trudge through privately owned land you are enjoying a favor, heartily granted by the owner. Some foot trails--such as the Appalachian Trail, exists only because the Hiking Clubs and other such groups who promote hiking as the fine recreation it is, have obtained permission from landowners to locate the trail where it is. One important aspect of hiking--and enjoyment of such recreation--is to show full consideration for the rights of the landowner. So, we remind you of some rules, before you get out into the Pennsylvania woods this year. The careful hiker or camper or fisherman or hunter, will refrain from smoking while walking in dry woods.

Camp fires will be built only at approved campsites and will be extinguished completely when the outdoorsman leaves. Shelters have been built on many trails; there are leantos for overnite use. If you're the first party to arrive at a shelter, you should welcome later arrivals. If you're a late arrival, you should respect the rights of the earlier party. Keep your fire small. A small fire is the safer one, furthermore it is important to conserve firewood which is usually scarce around a much-used shelter. Don't cut down live trees! Leave a supply of firewood! Don't leave left over food! Leave the surroundings clean! Packaged food is best for hiking, because tin cans present a beauty hazard! What this all means is that if you're a camper or hiker this year, good manners and good conduct are all part of the game. Have good "Woods manners"! Simply, Pennsylvania's woods belong to someone-- YOU--12,000,000 of YOU--enjoy them; respect the rules, preserve them--past generations have done so for you--you owe it to the next generations to protect a privilege, which, without your help will not last much longer. Help preserve Pennsylvania's Woods!

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.