“Public Scoping and Development Mapping for the City of Warren, PA: Eco-Tourism, Cultural Heritage and Economic Diversity”

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
Dr. Livingston Alexander
President
300 Campus Drive
Bradford, PA 16701
814-362-7501

February 2014 – June 30, 2015

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Dr. Stephen Robar
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Program Director, Environmental Studies
Faculty Director, Appalachian Teaching Project
814-362-0242
robar@pitt.edu
Final Report Narrative

Title of Project: Development Mapping for the City of Warren, PA: Eco-Tourism, Cultural Heritage and Economic Diversity

Grant Period: February 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Grantee Name: University of Pittsburgh - Bradford

Project Director: Dr. Stephen F. Robar

Description of Project:

Building on, and expanding, the research and work of the 2013-14 ATP project at Pitt-Bradford, students and faculty in the 2014-15 ATP utilized interactive GPS/GIS-based trail mapping software to provide a digital mapping implementation platform for our community partners, BOOM! and PKP, for the furtherance of their local tourism and cultural development goals, ultimately transferring ownership and maintenance of the mapping process into the hands of the Warren community. The digital phone application (developed here at UPB) has been instituted in the towns of Smethport and Bradford in McKean County, PA since 2012. This year’s project extended this successful work into a new, adjacent county and advanced the work by tying together the two previous communities with the new community along the Route 6 corridor. The digital “app” is used in all three communities to promote their natural and historic tourism assets, as well as to help facilitate place-based education within the curriculum of area schools.

Activities:

In addition to the conference presentation, and conference poster, students engaged in the following activities and satisfied the following requirements of the 2014-2015 Scope of Work:

- Students met with community partners BOOM! and PKP throughout the spring and summer of 2014 planning and scoping the work of the upcoming semester.
- Students worked with community partners and UPB computer faculty to expand the technical capacity of the GIS application.
- Students worked with community partners to identify, map, photograph and research the over 40 locations to be entered into the application.
- Students met with the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau to further the efforts at integrating the application with other communities.
  - 10/23: Bradford.
• Students conducted interviews and local meetings with local leaders regarding the advancement of the application.
• Students spent several days in the Warren County and McKean County historical societies to collect data.

Activities II: Presentations and Events

• March, 2014: Students and faculty met with members of BOOM! and PKP and held an open information forum on the project.
• October 3-4, 2014: Students presented their work and project as part of UPB’s “Blue Gold and Green” Alumni Family Weekend program, and took family and alumni on a hike demonstrating the GIS application.
• November 10-11, 2014: Students presented their work at the Fall Environmental Studies Retreat to community partners BOOM! and PKP, as well as representatives of the Allegany State Park and other local organizations.
• December 5-6, 2014: Students present at the Appalachian Teaching Project Conference in Washington, DC.
• January 29, 2015: Students give public presentation on their work in Warren, PA.

Project Outcomes:

The project successfully developed a solid start-up platform for the community of Warren, PA, and delivered that platform to our community partners, BOOM! and PKP. Training materials are being developed for local partners, and training sessions are being scheduled.

The ATP project work and the Trailmaker APP are scheduled to be featured at the 2015 Pennsylvania Greenway and Trails Summit, to be held in Warren, PA in September.

The ATP project faculty leader (though it was really the students!) was recognized by the PA Wilds with the “Inspiring Youth Award.”

Problems Encountered:

The 2014-15 ATP project proposal included, when first developed, a component to work with the City of Warren in terms of a public scoping and asset inventory process associated with its intended revision of its city planning document and process. The intent was to expand the utilization of the application to be applied in the asset inventory process, and students in the class and ATP program would be trained in and learn the dynamics of, public scoping and asset inventory processes. However, for reasons beyond our control, the planning process was halted, forcing us to restructure our work. All in all, however, the scope of work was beyond sufficient enough to generate a very productive and aggressive project.
Program Continuation and Sustainability:

UPB will be submitting a proposal as part of the Appalachian Teaching Project for the 2015-2016 cycle that will include work with the City of Kane, PA. The scope and nature of the work will be structured so that the work of these past several years will be brought firmly together. The Allegany National Forest Visitors Bureau, as well as other regional stakeholders, will be working to solidify this work on behalf of the greater “Kinzua Region” and the Kinzua area of the Route 6 scenic corridor. Strong support has already been expressed and provided, and there is a strong likelihood of solid project sustainability.

Conclusions:

With respect to the foundational goals of the ARC, and as project supervisor, I believe the work is in keeping with the ARC’s goals of “increasing job opportunities,” as well as “develop and improve the region’s infrastructure.” Though infrastructure in its traditional usage would perhaps not include this type project, “communication” infrastructure and “marketing” infrastructure are suggested by this project.

As far as the immediate student learning goals, this has been an excellent project, and, the entire concept of the ATP is a solid idea, one that has been well-implemented. The students take so much away from this experience, and that is only supported by the broader program and its implementation.

Recommendations:

1.) Though difficult to operationalize given the vicissitudes of academic scheduling and demands, a summer ATP program component is quite possibly worth considering. Though it may not be ultimately possible to maintain on the scale that the program currently exists, again, it is worth looking into as the summer provides for quality work time.

2.) I think some consideration should be given as to how the LDDs might become a more visible and supportive element of the program. Recognizing all of the considerations that this suggestion might entail, I still think it is, again, worth a discussion.

Attachments:

- Newspaper article describing project (3/20/2014).
- Flyer, Alumni and Family Weekend (10/2014).
- Newspaper article describing project (1/12/2015).
- Newspaper article announcing public meeting (1/28/2015).
- Newspaper article covering public meeting (1/30/2015).
- Agenda flyer, public meeting.
- Press release, PA Wilds recognition of ATP Project and other UPB faculty work.
Can It Be? Spring!
The signs are there in nature...and calendar

By MIKIN FERRY
mikin@timesobserver.com

Spring means different things to different people. And different things mean spring.

Some people take the easy way out and look at their calendars. These are the people who see today's date as the official first day of spring. And, of course, they're right.

The calendar's announcement is based on astronomical calculations and states that the first day of spring occurs on March 20th.

An equinox is a date on which Earth's axis is tilted neither to the north nor to the south of the center of the Sun. As the ver-
PBAA
PITTSBURGH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BLUE, GOLD & GREEN
ALUMNI & FAMILY WEEKEND

OCTOBER 3-5, 2014
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT BRADFORD
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Executive Speaker Series 
& Networking Luncheon
Mukaiyama University Room
Frame-Westbergen Commons

The Executive Speaker Series brings top business leaders throughout the region to our campus. These seasoned professionals discuss relevant business issues and provide important career inspiration and advice for our students. Sponsored by the Division of Management & Education, Office of Career Services and the PBA.

Featured Speaker Josh Bridge ’02,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

All alumni are welcome to share their expertise and experiences with students who want to learn more about their professions and career decisions at this annual networking event.

Advance reservations are required. $10/person.  
Sponsored by County National Bank

3 p.m. Allegany State Park Guided Hike
Meet in the parking lot by the Harriett B. Wick Chapel at 2:45 p.m.

Join us for a guided hike in the spectacular Allegany State Park, which will be led by Josh Bridge ’02, natural resource specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Dr. Steve Robar, associate dean of academic affairs and associate professor of political science. They will be assisted by many capable colleagues and students. Josh and Dr. Robar will talk about the history of the Allegany State Park and its natural resources. It should be a spectacular and crisp fall-foliage and autumn-hiking opportunity, one that will raise a good appetite for the evening’s Farm-to-Table reception.

4 – 5 p.m. Career Services Open House
220 Frame-Westbergen Commons
Visit with Dr. Holly Spittler and Dr. Jim Evans over a cup of coffee.

- Tour the Career Services area and learn about all the resources and services that are available to you as a graduate
- Register with PantherLink, Pitt-Bradford’s powerful career management system, as a job seeker or employer
- Check out OptimalResume, the cutting-edge resume development software program that’s available to students and alumni
- Learn how you as a graduate can help with the career development of our students as a volunteer mentor, internship supervisor, employer or speaker

7 – 9 p.m. Welcome Back Farm-to-Table Reception
Mukaiyama University Room, Frame-Westbergen Commons

The PBA welcomes alumni to a reception celebrating locally sourced food and beverages, including a sampling from the Kane, PA. craft distillery, CJ Spirits. Reconnect with former classmates, staff and faculty as we acknowledge former PBA Teaching Excellence Award recipients and some recent faculty retirees too.

Free to attend. Advance registration required.
Outdoors In Mall

Warren County Outdoor Show
The Warren Mall was packed from one end to the other Saturday afternoon during the 2015 edition of the Warren County Outdoor Show. The mall was full of typical outdoor displays — firearms, fishing supplies and representatives from the state Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission as well as dog enforcement, among others — but also with a box of food vendors and included presentations throughout the day on various outdoor-related topics. At right, attendees scope out a series of high-powered rifles. Below at left, some of Brad Boggs’ Timleek rifle collection was on display and, below at right, a series of files were cut for show at the Trout Unlimited table. The Outdoor Show continued on Sunday.

Novel state law brings challenges to gun measures

By MICHAEL RUBINIK

A new state law that makes it easier for gun rights groups to challenge local firearm measures in court is already sparking litigation against municipalities across the state, which have largely delayed implementing new gun regulations.

Joshua Price, an attorney for four pro-gun groups and several municipalities, cited the new law in putting on hold a lawsuit challenging a new law in Butler County.

At least 22 of these municipalities have already delayed them, or indicated they plan to do so, according to Price, who specializes in firearms law and is based in northeast Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania, which has a strong tradition of hunting and gun ownership, has long prohibited its municipalities from enacting firearm ordinances that regulate the ownership, possession, transfer or transmission of firearms.

Casting Call Answered

Lalwani makes bid for spot on America's Next Top Model show

By BRIAN FERRY

From Youngsville High School and Dallas Observer student of the year to America’s Next Top Model? It could happen.

Or it could end up simply taking an item off a bucket list.

Andy Lalwani answered a casting call for The CW’s long-running television show from which the majority of the voting could send him to the show.

“I want to watch it a lot,” Lalwani said. “I used to be really up on the show.”

His experience as a model is as informal. As a photographer in high school, he would frequently gather people and arrange them for photos. When they wanted people for their photos, he returned the favor.

“Every time, they would say, ‘Andy, you need to be modeled,’” he said. “You absolutely need to think about this.”
Public invited to hear about BOOM!

By DIANA PADDOCK

dpaddock@timesobserver.com

The public can finally hear about BOOM! While it has been advertised, the specifics of its coordinators at a "soft launch" beginning at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 29, in the Wisconsin Room of the Jefferson Deffeyes Family Center.

Leading Warren County arts group BOOM! has worked with Pennsylvania College of Technology (PCT) and University of Pittsburgh at Bradford to host the event, which will feature an array of performances and speakers,

The resulting project is a website and app developed by UP that may one day provide visitors with the historic, architectural, commercial, artistic/entertainment, natural resources and outdoor recreation of our area.

WG & TK: Provided

Ruff Riders work and play

On Jan. 9, Sugar Grove Riders met at the Covenant Church. Anthony Smith had the all-boys lego game you will not want to miss. Following lego games, the group went over their upcoming calendar to see when the next meets.

A group of riders was given a short, and Audrey Smith of the Moose Lodge, presented a Christmas gift exchange. Abigail

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Events... 

Events around Warren County on Wednesday:
- Warren Rotary Club, second floor, Cornelius Mill Church, Market St., Warren, noon.
- Warren County Historical Society, 210 Fourth Ave., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Kiwanis Club, Jefferson Deffeyes Family Center, 121 P 10th St.
- Senior Citizens, free with Medicare card members of Moose 593, Moose Lodge, 7 p.m.
- Warren High School, High School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Events around Warren County on Thursday:
- Warren Rotary Club, second floor, Cornelius Mill Church, Market St., Warren, noon.
- Warren County Historical Society, 210 Fourth Ave., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Kiwanis Club, Jefferson Deffeyes Family Center, 121 P 10th St.
- Senior Citizens, free with Medicare card members of Moose 593, Moose Lodge, 7 p.m.

Events around Warren County on Friday:
- Warren Rotary Club, second floor, Cornelius Mill Church, Market St., Warren, noon.
- Warren County Historical Society, 210 Fourth Ave., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Kiwanis Club, Jefferson Deffeyes Family Center, 121 P 10th St.
- Senior Citizens, free with Medicare card members of Moose 593, Moose Lodge, 7 p.m.
- Warren High School, High School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Events around Warren County on Saturday:
- Warren Rotary Club, second floor, Cornelius Mill Church, Market St., Warren, noon.
- Warren County Historical Society, 210 Fourth Ave., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Kiwanis Club, Jefferson Deffeyes Family Center, 121 P 10th St.
- Senior Citizens, free with Medicare card members of Moose 593, Moose Lodge, 7 p.m.
- Warren High School, High School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Events around Warren County on Sunday:
- Warren Rotary Club, second floor, Cornelius Mill Church, Market St., Warren, noon.
- Warren County Historical Society, 210 Fourth Ave., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Kiwanis Club, Jefferson Deffeyes Family Center, 121 P 10th St.
- Senior Citizens, free with Medicare card members of Moose 593, Moose Lodge, 7 p.m.
- Warren High School, High School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Blue skies
Smiling at me
Nothing but blue skies
Do I see

Blue skies are somewhat rare in Warren, but when they occur they are glorious. Wednesday was just such a day, offering an opportunity to admire the Conewango Creek looking north from Pennsylvania Avenue. We offer thanks to living Birken for penning these lyrics in 1939. Blue skies really do smile. Things changed dramatically on Thursday afternoon, when skies darkened and dumped new snow on the landscape.

Chestnut Growth You Don’t Want

Volunteers are battling invasive plant

By BRIAN FERRY
bri@timesobserver.com

Water chestnut lives in water, but it’s not a use.

And local folks is the know

Water chestnut is an invasive species brought to the United States in the mid-19th Century. They are native to China, Japan, and Korea. It has a high capacity for reproduction and if left unchecked, water chestnut plants can spread, taking over entire lakes and ponds and greatly reducing water quality.

Warren County Conservation District’s Waterfowl Specialist Jon Gesmundo has said, “It’s a large effort if the homeowners are doing it alone by themselves. We encourage people to get into a group and work together.”

Warren County Conservation District’s Waterfowl Specialist Jon Gesmundo said, “We need to get more people involved in pulling water chestnut. We’ve had a lot of success in the past with the volunteer effort, but we need more people to help.

State data will help evaluate local high school reform

Dialogue about data is key

By JOSH COTTON
jcotton@timesobserver.com

“How will the Warren County School District know if high school reform is effective? One answer to that question is the data the district will collect. Districts in the state will be required to track performance metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the goal is to help districts measure the effectiveness of their programs and adjust them as necessary. The data will be used to improve classroom instruction and help students achieve better academic outcomes. The district’s aim is to use data-driven decision making to improve students’ academic performance.

Virtual tour map telling Warren’s story detailed

By ROB ANDERSEN
randersen@timesobserver.com

The virtual tour map is available online via a link on the Warren County Economic Development Authority’s website. It features 30 stops around Warren County and beyond.

The map was developed with the help of students from the local high school who worked on it during the summer. The project was a collaboration between the school district and the economic development authority.

Panel may ask students to design city ‘gateway’ sign

By BRIAN FERRY
bri@timesobserver.com

The City of Warren Redevelopment Authority, in addition to finding an east-side facade program, is also encouraging local artists to design a gateway sign for Warren's eastern gateway.

City Manager Nancy Froneck suggested the gateway could be a sculpture.

“Could we get some students to design a sign?” Authority member Daniel Crooks said. “It’s an opportunity to get young people involved.”

He said students who are involved will be able to choose a site for the sign. The idea is to create an artistic statement that represents the city.

The panel may ask students to design a gateway sign, but the final decision will be made by the planning commission.
Invasive water chestnut...
Virtual Tour Guide – Public Meeting Agenda

A. Welcome – Project History – Community Impact – Partners
   Charles Eurydice Gray (LWC – BOOM! Advancing & Preserving Warren County)

B. Trail Maker App Introduction – Past Examples – Walk Through – Appalachian Teaching
   Project & Appalachian Regional Commission
   Dr. Stephen Robar & Kelsey Krepps (University of Pittsburgh at Bradford)

C. Integration of Trail Maker into PKP website – Access by other community groups
   Mark King (PKP – Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways)

D. Formal project launch timeline – QR codes – Brochures and anticipated locations –
   Computer/Androird App – Testing for feedback – Possibly Apple app – Cards for feedback
   Jennie Minich (LWC – BOOM! Advancing & Preserving Warren County)

E. Community involvement – Outings (National Canoe & Kayak, Winterfest, guided hikes) –
   Email collection if want to be updated about outings – Community members may submit
   photos, text and videos (250 words, 3 minutes maximum videos) - Cameras at WCCBI (GPS)
   after spring launch or use your own – Submit to PKP (Is this best, Joe and Mark? If so, where
   should they send?) – Photo/Video submission form - Review panel – Starting to work with
   schools to hopefully make part of classroom curriculum
   George Lilja (LWC – BOOM! Advancing & Preserving Warren County)

F. PKP – Future of project – Trails at Jake’s Rocks – More trainings with UPB students –
   Questions – Thank you
   Joe Colosimo (PKP – Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways)
Twelve residents, small business owners, local organizations across region earn awards

PA Wilds Team recognizes outstanding efforts in sustainable tourism development

April 13 – A small group of business owners, citizens and organizations from across the 12½ county Pennsylvania Wilds region have earned awards for their contributions in sustainable tourism development and will be honored at an awards dinner and regional tourism briefing April 23.

Americans spend more than $640 billion a year on outdoor gear and trips and travel to get outdoors, and communities in the Pennsylvania Wilds are in great position to grow this industry given the region’s natural landscape and entrepreneurial background. For the last decade, dozens of local, state and federal partners from the public and private sectors have worked together to do just that in order to create jobs, diversify local economies, improve quality of life and inspire stewardship in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

Each year, the PA Wilds Team, a guiding partnership in this effort, gives out a small number of “Champion of the Pennsylvania Wilds” awards to recognize outstanding efforts by local partners in this work.

Awards Committee Chair Bob Imhof said this was another year of strong nominations. “The work being done by local partners in the Pennsylvania Wilds region is truly humbling.” Imhof said. “We've got people expanding businesses, helping us build the Pennsylvania Wilds brand through local and national media, donating equipment to support key tourism events, developing trails, inspiring our youth. The PA Wilds Team recognizes the tremendous effort put forth by so many dedicated individuals and groups and are proud to be able to honor them with these awards. Their hard work benefits residents and visitors alike.”

The 2015 Champion of the PA Wilds award winners are listed below. The winners will be recognized with a wooden plaque and citations from state and federal legislators at the PA Wilds Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet April 23 at the Red Fern in St Marys.

EDITORS: Media are invited to attend the April 23 event. To RSVP contact Heather Conrad at 814-503-8653 ext. 14; or hconrad@headwaterspa.org.

The Pennsylvania Wilds includes the counties of Warren, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Lycoming, Clinton, Cameron, Forest, Jefferson, Elk, Clearfield, Clarion and northern Centre.
The Ridgway-based enterprise, TomBob Outdoors was born out of a bold business move by Tim Smith and Brad Clinton to diversify a traditional powdered metals company by adding an outdoors division to it. TomBob Outdoors includes a line of patented, scented fishing lures manufactured locally by Continuous Metal Technologies along with other environmentally-friendly outdoor products like lead-free shot. TomBob Outdoors launched a national television series, *Friends in Wild Places*, broadcasting on the Pursuit Channel, Destination America a Discovery Communications Network, and other smaller networks across the U.S. The show takes viewers on hunting, fishing and outdoor adventures across the country including in the Pennsylvania Wilds. Tim Smith and Brad Clinton connected with the PA Wilds Team early on to find ways to tie into the PA Wilds brand and help promote the region through their television show. Over the last two years they have become valued partners in helping attract visitors to the Pennsylvania Wilds and in showcasing the many small businesses, rural traditions, events and landscapes for which the region is known.

**Stephen F. Robar and Wayne Brinda, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford - Inspiring Youth Award, McKean County**

Professors Stephen F. Robar and Wayne Brinda at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, are providing their students with robust and real-life opportunities outside the classroom. These have included innovative programs and projects like the development of Educational Resource Guides for popular school field trip destinations and working with communities to add their assets to the Trail Maker App. These projects promote visitation to historic, cultural and natural sites in the PA Wilds while inspiring these young adults to be stewards of these incredible natural and historic assets in their backyards. Instead of “busy” work, Professor Brinda wanted his students to impact the region positively. With that came the idea to support local school districts in a new requirement to have Education Resource Guides available for school field trip sites. Through this project, Education Resource Guides have now been developed for the PennBrad Oil Museum, the Eldred WWII Museum, and the Longhouse National Scenic Byway. Currently UPB students are working on a guide for the Kinzua Bridge State Park. All of these guides have been very successfully in encouraging new school field trips around the region.

**PA Great Outdoors Elk Expo - Event of the Year Award, Elk County**

2014 marked the 14th Annual PA Great Outdoors Elk Expo and the 2nd year it was held at the Elk County Visitor Center. With the help of many public and private partners at the local, state and national level, this two-day show has grown into a ‘must-see’ event boasting as many as 13,000 attendees. As part of this event, Game Commission partners have brought the PA Elk Hunt Lottery Drawing back to the region in addition to organizing a raffle for an additional elk tag which last year sold 9000 tickets to support elk conservation. The event also features educational seminars about conserving, protecting and enhancing elk country; programs that educate the youth about PA’s hunting heritage through hands-on training; artisan booths and demos; and wagon rides to see wildlife on the property. Foot traffic to the Expo gives a major boost to local lodging, restaurant, retailers and other small businesses in the area.

**Jodi Brennan- Member of the Year Award, Clearfield County**

Jodi Brennan is Clearfield County’s planning director and serves as chair of the PA Wilds Design Guide Awareness Committee. The Design Guide is an award-winning, voluntary planning document that helps communities to capitalize on growth opportunities without losing the characteristics that make them unique and contribute to our region’s strong sense of place. Under Brennan’s leadership, the Design Guide has grown in its distribution and use. Among her many successful projects, Brennan spearheaded a Preserve America grant on behalf of regional partners, which helped create a program for design assistance and signage grants to