



## **News for Immediate Release**

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### **Little Buffalo State Park Building Dedication Honors Past Parks Director**

**Newport, Perry County** - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Ellen Ferretti recently joined Bureau of State Parks officials in recognizing the accomplishments of former Bureau Director Roger Fickes in the dedication of the Roger Fickes Park Office and Visitor Center at Little Buffalo State Park, near Newport, Perry County.

Retiring in 2006, Fickes served 14 years as state parks director and was instrumental in introducing and implementing many programs and initiatives that reshaped the bureau.

"It is so fitting that a Little Buffalo State Park building that serves as a key point of outreach for the park providing natural, cultural, historical and recreational programs for visitors and educators should be named in Roger's honor," Ferretti said. "He embraced the state park mission while garnering the respect of bureau employees and the public they serve.

"Under his guidance, the Pennsylvania state park system was modernized, better addressing public service needs and improving infrastructure," Ferretti said.

Located not far from Fickes' New Bloomfield, Perry County, home, Little Buffalo is one of the Bureau of State Park's more popular facilities, drawing more than 257,000 visitors a year. Its office and visitor center was constructed several years ago.

"My name on that building is secondary to the contributions of the men and women with whom I had the pleasure to work," Fickes told the dedication gathering. "Those folks gave their heart and soul and it endures in what people from around the state and country come to our parks to enjoy."

"I am very proud of my years as a public servant and what we had a chance to do in serving the people of Pennsylvania," Fickes said.

Prior to his appointment as director of the Bureau of State Parks, Fickes held several supervisory positions in a variety of bureaus within the former Department of Environmental Resources.

Located near Newport in Centre Township, Little Buffalo State Park encompasses 830 acres. Its 88-acre lake is popular with boaters and anglers. Historical features include a covered bridge; a restored, operating grist mill; an old farm house built

on the site of a colonial tavern; and a narrow-gauge railroad trace which features one of the original rail cars.

For more information on Pennsylvania's 120 state parks, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa](http://www.dcnr.state.pa) and select "Find a Park."

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