



News for Immediate Release

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DCNR Appoints Manager at Caledonia State Park Complex

Harrisburg - The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has named Phillip Schmidt manager of the Caledonia State Park Complex in Franklin County.

"Phil brings to his new position a diverse, well-rounded parks background and experience honed most recently at one of our most heavily visited parks in the state," said DCNR Secretary Ellen Ferretti. "His professionalism and enthusiasm can only enhance the public's experience at the two parks he now will oversee."

The 1,125-acre Caledonia State Park is located along Route 30, between Chambersburg and Gettysburg. Bisected by the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, traversing South Mountain and stretching from Georgia to Maine, the park is enveloped by the more than 84,600 acres of Michaux State Forest. The complex also includes the nearby 24-acre Mont Alto State Park adjoining the Penn State Mont Alto campus.

Visitors are drawn to both parks by nearby historical sites linked to the Civil War, Civilian Conservation Corps, iron works and more.

Caledonia is a favorite with both overnight campers and day-use visitors seeking out its swimming pool, 18-hole golf course, picnic tables and pavilions, and miles of hiking trails. The state park also offers anglers top-quality trout fishing on Rocky Creek, the East Branch of the Conococheague, and Carbaugh Run.

"Growing up in Philadelphia, a city rich in history and short on green space, I developed a strong appreciation for both," Schmidt said. "Caledonia is a great park for both of these aspects. I am very excited to join the staff there, and help others interpret and enjoy the histories and resources Caledonia has to offer."

Schmidt replaces Kelly Klasnick, who was named chief of Operations and Training Section within the Bureau of State Parks' Operations and Maintenance Division in Harrisburg.

The new Caledonia State Park Complex manager began his career with the Bureau of State Parks in 2003, working as an intern at the bureau's Region Four Office in Perkasio, Bucks County. He later worked as a laborer and seasonal DCNR ranger at Neshaminy State Park, Bucks County; and as manager trainee at the bureau's Region One Office in Emporium, Cameron County. There he was assigned state park managerial duties at Parker Dam, Clearfield County; Shikellamy, Northumberland County; Reeds Gap, Mifflin County; and Little Pine, Lycoming

County. Since April, Schmidt served as assistant park manager at Codorus State Park, York County.

A native of the Holmesburg section of Philadelphia, Schmidt, 33, received a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries science from the Pennsylvania State University.

For more information on Caledonia, Mont Alto and Pennsylvania's other 118 state parks, call 1-888-PA-PARKS between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; or visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us (select State Parks).

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