# Logging History in the Pine Creek Valley

## Shay Locomotive Engine Switch-Back Railroad Model



The Shay locomotive engine model railroad depicts the switch-back railroads that were built on the mountains above the towns of Cammal, Slate Run, and Tiadaghton. The train brought logs down to the saw mills located in the towns. The logs were sawn into boards and rafted down Pine Creek to the Susquehanna and on to the cities of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware or loaded onto the Jersey Shore, Pine Creek and Buffalo railroad that ran to New York City on a standard gauge railroad that ran on what is now the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

The Shay locomotive engine contributed to the massive deforestation of mountains from the end of the 1800s through the 1920s. Prior to railroad development log slides, splash dams, log rafts, and crib systems for sorting and storing logs in the river were the norm.

### **Mountain Log Slide**



The replica of a log slide depicts how harvested trees were moved off the steep mountain sides early in the Nineteenth Century.

The logs were dragged down the slides by horses to temporary splash dams on the small creeks feeding Pine Creek.

In the spring of the year, when the water was high, the dams would be opened or 'splashed' and the logs were floated down Pine Creek to the Susquehanna River and on to the lumber mills of Williamsport.



The richness of the Pine Creek Valley environment is shown in the interactive Flora and Fauna display, the 180 gallon fish tank stocked with native brook trout, and eight birds of prey taxidermy specimens.



#### For more information:

#### **Richard D Hill**

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## **Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center**



Located just north of Waterville, PA on State Route 44 in the historic Pine Creek Valley



### **Educational Resources**

Richard Hill, the Environmental Education Specialist at the Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center, is available for historical and environmental walks and presentations at the center. He can also provide programming that meets the PA Department of Education Environment and Ecology Standards.

Rich taught Biology and General Science for 22 years in the Williamsport Area School District and earned his M.S. in Forest Resources from Penn State in 2011. He is the first Environmental Education Specialist for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

He can develop lesson plans to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of ages and educational levels. He can also direct you to media and publication resources to address environmental education standards.

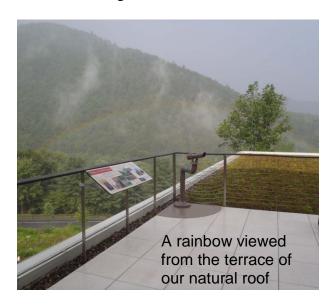
Rich is a certified teacher facilitator for the Pennsylvania Songbirds, Leave No Trace and Project WILD curriculum supplements.

Please contact Richard Hill at richill@pa.gov or 570-753-5409 ext 132 to schedule a presentation to supplement your curriculum at the Resource Management Center or in school classrooms.

The Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center is a LEED certified building. Integrating locally obtained and recycled materials into the construction process, and passive solar and geothermal heating systems, this state of the art building makes a reduced environmental impact compared to other buildings of its size.

The building is the headquarters of the Tiadaghton Forest District where the foresters, rangers, technicians, and other staff are based. The RMC has several interpretive displays to educate the public about Pennsylvania's native flora and fauna and the history of forest management from the 1800s through the current century. Many of the displays are interactive and provide learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Centrally located to the Pennsylvania Wilds, the public can view our interpretive displays and acquire camping, fuel wood, or boat launch permits. Recreational maps, as well as other information, are available at the Resource Management Center.





The Tiadaghton foresters provide leadership on issues related to the management of the forest, trees, and native plants. They provide information about the conditions and status of our forest resources to industry, academia, other government agencies, and conservation organizations. They prevent and suppress wildfires, manage destructive insects, tree diseases, and invasive plant species and provide leadership and technical assistance in conserving and managing private forest land. Foresters manage timber harvests complying with Forest Stewardship Council<sup>TM</sup> standards, protect the quality of the state's water resources, and manage natural gas activity within the state forest system. Foresters monitor and maintain several primitive campsites, hiking trails, ATV trails, and miles of roads in our forest. With over 155.000 acres of land there are endless recreation and educational opportunities.

## **Forestry Conservation**

Each forest has a history. Not just a biological history, but a history of those who had the vision to be good stewards and conserve the forests for generations to come.

Whether for marketable timber, wildlife habitat, recreation, or energy resources, many people through the centuries have been important to the conservation and responsible management of our forest resources.

The Forest Heroes videos tell the stories of six conservation leaders. Through education, **you too** can be a part of this rich heritage of conservationists for our Pennsylvania forests!

