

# Inside BERKS business

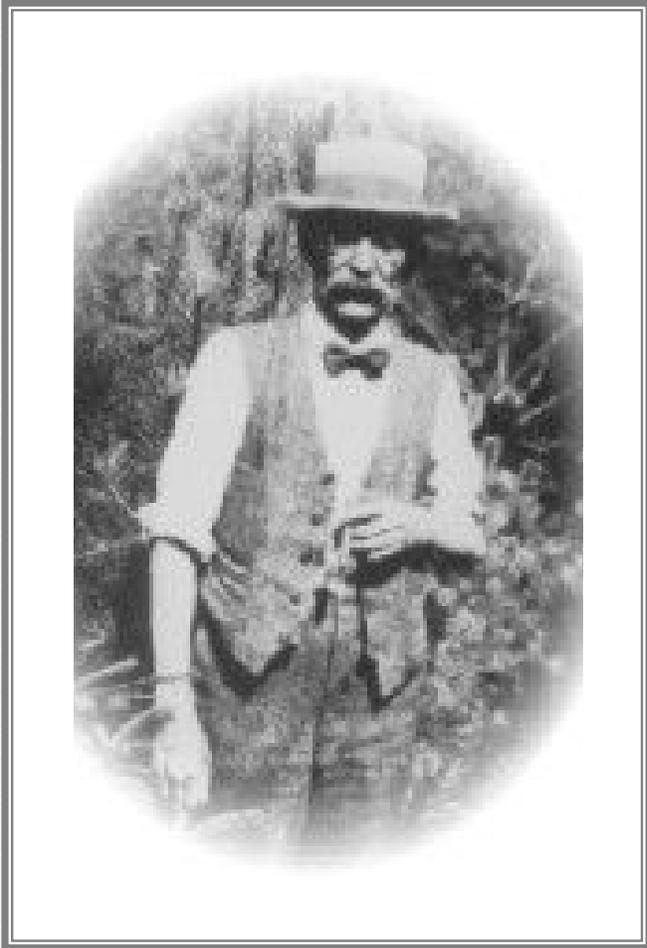
---

Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center:  
A Berks County Treasure

# Inside BERKS business

---

- An initiative that supports the PA Career Education and Work Standards
- IBb assigns educators to paid summer work-site internships
- Interns gain perspective and information on the host company's occupations, job skills, and abilities that are required to assist in preparing students for their future
- Teachers return to their places of education, armed with the knowledge of the skills and opportunities awaiting students in Berks County, and with ideas to help grease the career tracks



# Nolde Forest: A Brief Description

---

- Founded by Jacob Nolde, German immigrant, in 1904; acquired by state in late 1960's
- State Park: 665 acres of coniferous and deciduous forests, streams, ponds, hiking trails, diverse habitats
- C.H. McConnell Environmental Education Hall- year round education opportunities (bird id & tallying, firefly education/catch and release, stream studies, botany, archery)
- Activities: environmental education, hiking, fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing



# Summary of Experience

---

- Tour of Nolde- explored Nolde mansion & McConnell Environmental Education Hall
- Conservation Leadership Program: 3 day program
  - Berks County Agriculture Center and Nolde Forest
  - Dozen+ Berks County high school students:
    - Exposed to environmental careers (Berks County Conservancy- Pest Control and Education, Berks County Planning Commissioner, PA Game Commissioner, DCNR: Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey, DCNR: Forestry, DEP: Air and Solid Waste Management)
    - Volunteered: planted native plants, weeded for Watershed Conservancy

# Employment Education and Skill Requirements

- **Environmental Education Specialist-** arranges field trips, teaches groups about various environmental, natural, and conservancy topics; *BS in Science or BS in Education*
- **Park Ranger-** performs public safety and promotes recreation in state parks; *2 years of public work plus first aid and CPR certification*
- **DCNR Ranger-** facilitates environmental education, public safety and law enforcement; *15 credits in environmental sciences, ecology, outdoor recreation, wildlife management, or related courses plus first-aid and CPR certification*
- **Forester-** plans and implements programs designed to manage, protect and preserve forest resources; *2 years of technical forestry experience and an Associate's Degree in forestry or related field*
- \*Most positions require the Civil Service Exam as part of application process.



# Entry Salary and Benefits

---

- Park Ranger- \$12.00 per hour
- Environmental Education Specialist- \$23.00 per hour
- Park Maintenance- \$12.00 per hour
- Typical Benefits- life insurance, health insurance, pension plan, competitive salary, paid sick time, paid vacation, paid holidays, employment opportunities state-wide (movement within the state system)

# Nolde's Greatest Asset

---

- Natural resources- forest, land, and water sources:
  - 665 acres of coniferous plantations and deciduous woodlands
  - Over 5 miles of cleared walking trails
  - Habitat to many deep-forest birds
  - Fresh-water streams and ponds
  - Wildflower and native plantings
- State park network:
  - Started in 1893 to return Pennsylvania's "Desert" back into a forest wonderland (Valley Forge- 1<sup>st</sup> park)
  - 121 state parks- designed so that Pennsylvanians are never more than 30 minutes from a state park
  - 200,000 acres of free recreation areas cared for by DCNR



# Technology Utilized



01

Teaching tools: laptop,  
projector

- Goal: trying to get internet into environmental education classroom particularly to stream videos
- Mostly hands-on and outdoors focused, therefore, technology is often not a primary tool

02

Advertising tool: state website

03

Geocaching activities:  
navigation tools such as GPS

# Nolde's Greatest Challenge

## Issue: State parks rely on tax dollars:

- Budget is often tight
- Infrastructure is getting old or outdated (parking lots too small), yet parks are visited each year in increasing numbers

## Solution:

- Gas pipeline helps fund some maintenance projects
- Cut backs are in place to save money in areas that don't affect the public



# Desired Skills for Success in this Field

---

Flexibility- rarely have routine days and often deal with public

Self-starter- some positions are without an immediate supervisor, so it's important to have a vision for what needs to be done and the steps needed to accomplish the task

Problem solver- without a large network of supervisors or team members on hand, the ability to help a park visitor or address problems facing the floraculture is crucial

General skills- need to be organized and keep on top of paper work, be an outdoors-oriented individual, but also a people-person with at least basic computer skills

# Summary of Abstract

---

## Career awareness activities:

- Students participate in a year-long reading project where they explore a possible career opportunity by making reading selections from various genres (informational, biography, poetry, historical fiction, etc) that are focused on their career interests. Students will report out creating a board with bibliography, potential jobs, and what areas to investigate in this particular area of interest.
- Students compose business letters to an expert within their field of career interest asking for information regarding this field.

## PA Career Education and Work Standards:

- 12.1.5.B Describe the impact of personal interest and abilities on career choices.
- 13.3.5.G Pennsylvania's public schools shall teach, challenge and support every student to realize his or her maximum potential and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to describe how personal interests and abilities impact lifelong learning.
- 13.2.5.C Compose and compare a business and a personal letter.

## Content Areas Academic Standards:

- RI.5.9 Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- W.5.1 Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.

# Nolde Forest: Berks County Gem, For Work or for Play!

---

