

# CountryViews

WINTER · 2005

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY



## Little Rocky Glen Protected

On September 30, Countryside Conservancy purchased Little Rocky Glen (not the amusement park!) in Clinton Township, Wyoming County. This property, containing a spectacular scenic gorge on the South Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek, has been in private ownership and off-limits to the general public for decades. The site's sandstone formations and gorge topography make it unique in the South Branch watershed, and highly worthy of conservation. However, these features also make it environmentally fragile - susceptible to erosion and other types of damage.

The site will not be opened to the public until measures are in place to protect both the safety of visitors and the integrity of the landscape. The Conservancy intends to make this property accessible to the community for educational use and appropriate forms of recreation, but it must first ensure that the site is safe and well-managed and that ongoing management costs can be met. The Conservancy will soon launch a fundraising drive in the local community, in order to assure that adequate management funds will always be available for the site.

The Conservancy is now developing a management plan for the property with the help of prospective site users and interested community members. Community support will be a key ingredient in making this project a success. If you would like to have input to the planning for this outstanding property, please contact Mary Felley at (570) 945-6995.

A grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) provided half the acquisition costs for this project. Private foundations have stepped up to help match the state grant and provide seed money for management of the site. We wish to thank the Scranton Area Foundation, the Margaret Briggs Foundation, the PNC Foundation, the Procter & Gamble Fund, the Ross Family Foundation, the Sordoni Foundation, the John C. and Chara C. Haas Charitable Trust, Charles S. Holman Jr., the Walter L. Schautz Foundation, the Richard C. Marquardt Family Foundation, Penn Security Bank & Trust and anonymous donors that have committed support for this project to date.



## This may be the last issue of *CountryViews* you receive...

unless you join the Conservancy! Due to the cost of newsletter production, we will restrict future circulation of *CountryViews* to our membership. You can join using the form on the back page of this newsletter.

## Name that preserve!

We are seeking a name for the 29-acre property we have preserved on Route 438 in Benton Township, next to Lackawanna State Park. This property, which we acquired from the estate of Esther Ziegler after her death and which recently hosted our first 5K Trail Run, consists of beautiful, relatively mature hardwood and hemlock woods on sloping terrain. An extensive system of stone walls crosses and recrosses the property, while a former road from horse-and-wagon days runs through the middle. An intriguing and beautiful site! Your suggestions for a fitting name for this lovely spot are sought. Please contact the office with your ideas.

To visit this property, follow PA Route 438 one mile east of its intersection with PA Route 407, or 2.2 miles west of I-81 exit number 201 (Benton). The parking area is on the north side of the road, nearly opposite the Silo Antiques turnoff. The loop trail starts and ends at the parking area, and also allows hikers and bikers to connect over to the Park's Bull Hill Trail near the top of the hill.



*(Photo: Susan Scranton Dawson)*

## Trail Run a Big Winner

Countryside Conservancy's First Annual 5K Cross-Country Trail Run took place under a brilliant autumn sky on October 17, at Lackawanna State Park in Benton Township and on the Conservancy's adjacent preserve. Some fifty competitive runners and non-competitive runners and walkers helped kick off what will certainly become a yearly event for the Conservancy.



The race began at the Park's Bull Hill Trailhead on Route 438, crossing over State Park lands with great views of the fall colors, then looping through a beautiful wooded Conservancy property. The trail over Conservancy land was designed and built earlier this year by Conservancy volunteers.



Muddy slopes, rocks and tree roots were among the challenges our intrepid runners prevailed over.

Randy White of Tunkhannock took first place at 18 minutes 44 seconds, and Alaina Dietz of Dunmore was the first female finisher at 21 minutes 15 seconds. Runners and volunteers

alike had a great time. Conservancy volunteers stationed along the trail were surprised and delighted to receive compliments on the property and the event from out-of-breath runners as they switchbacked through the woods!

The Conservancy thanks run chair Bill Booth and run organizers Mickey Tierney, Curt Stevens and Joe Tierney; also Lackawanna State Park, the Dalton Ambulance Service, the Fleetville Fire Police, the Tunkhannock Bobcats, Jerry Pitkus and Joe Janichko for their support of this event. The Conservancy also thanks its event sponsors — Adams Enterprises of Tunkhannock, Insurance Markets, PNC Bank, State Street Grill, Utopia Spa & Wellness, Endless Mountain Water, National Running Center and Stone Road Studios — for making this event possible.

See you next year!

## Reflections of the Past

Last summer, Conservancy staff exchanged a delightful correspondence with Edgar Stromberg, a gentleman of 95 who grew up in Scranton and now lives in a retirement community in Southeast Pennsylvania. Mr. Stromberg wrote to correct his mailing address in our records, but went on to share precious memories of his youth in the Wyoming Valley. Mr. Stromberg writes: "It was up there that I got acquainted with conservation, though I didn't know it. I knew about Teddy Roosevelt and Governor Pinchot and their endeavors for National and State Parks and Forests. ... I was unaware of the subject in local application... but I sure was loaded for it, from my growing interest in Nature." He recalls Scout trips, visits to the Everhart Museum (at that time devoted purely to natural history), Lake Scranton and Ore Mine Springs, and eating baked beans and Ward's cakes (do they still exist?) on picnic outings.

Mr. Stromberg describes himself as "still a nature lover," though a victim of macular degeneration. "Birds are my special love, and I have recorded almost 100 species on (or over) our land and the bordering creek. I can't see them any more, so now I count the species whose songs I recognize; it's like greeting friends on my morning walks."

Mr. Stromberg also shared his thoughts on the work of non-profit nature conservation, putting it far better than we could: "...the very opposite of and twice as hard to run as a commercial enterprise... You have a number of projects thrust at you, or find [them] yourselves; and then you have to weigh them - some are of immediate need, some have great value for the distant future. And among them some will cost but little, some an "impossible" sum. And you have to think of how much money is in the bank, and how much can be raised - what audience will be attracted to support this project or that. Talk about multiple choice - this isn't a blue-book quiz; it's saving that pristine mountain stream, or a bit of the primal forest; preventing future floods or preserving the purity of a water supply... And all that without a business CEO's salary and stock options."

Finally, we'd like to share a part of Edgar Stromberg's poem "Along the Path":

... Enjoy the oft-spoke words:  
"Commune with Nature" and  
"Stop and smell the flowers."  
They're there, a-plenty.

I can't see well, now,  
But I remember -

The white, like new-laid snow,  
The blue of evening sky,  
Fresh-minted gleaming gold  
The rosy pink of dawn. ...

And there's the forms:  
The whorl of daisies' petals;  
The paint-brushes of thistle -  
Each petal carrying a seed  
Off into space;  
The goldenrod, in plumes and sprays,  
Each bearing countless tiny florets.

All, all are shaped and painted  
By God's hand (and evolution's);  
And I rejoice,  
Just knowing, they are there.

...

For a while, out there,  
I am young again.



*(Photo: Susan Scranton Dawson)*

## Fed Up with Sprawl

A recent survey sponsored by the National Association of Realtors ([www.realtor.org](http://www.realtor.org)) and Smart Growth America ([www.smartgrowthamerica.com](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.com)) found that for 79% of Americans, a commute time of 45 minutes or less is a top priority in choosing a home. What's more, some 60% of respondents, given a choice between two communities, preferred the neighborhood with shorter commuting time, sidewalks, and walking- distance amenities like shops, restaurants, schools and public transportation over the neighborhood with larger lots, limited walking opportunities and longer commuting times. Encouragingly, survey respondents thought the answer to long commutes was better-planned communities and improved public transportation rather than more and bigger roads.

Americans appear to be rediscovering the fact that quality time is typically not spent behind the wheel of a car, and that walking can be enjoyable and stress-reducing as well as healthy. Perhaps the only disappointing thing about the survey findings is that nowadays 45 minutes is considered a short commute!

## What Really Matters?

In an *Economist* poll of 2,747 registered voters conducted in October 2004, only 3 percent of respondents rated the environment as the issue most important to them personally. Top concerns were the economy (32%), health insurance (18%), the war on terror (13%) and the war in Iraq (8%). Curiously, the percentage of voters rating "same-sex marriage" as their top concern was 3%, the same as those choosing the environment. (Reported in *The Economist*, Oct. 23, 2004)

## Trail News

The Conservancy has received a grant through the Northeast Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Program to extend the planted buffer along Ackerly Creek. This will expand the landscaped area at the perimeter of the Abington Little League fields in Glenburn Township, and create the backbone of a walking trail that will loop all the way around the ballfields. Planting will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2005; contact the Conservancy office at 945-6995 if you'd like to take part!

Meanwhile, the DCNR-supported Trolley Trail Feasibility Study proceeds apace. The consultants, Mackin Engineering, have walked most parts of the historic Northern Electric Railway alignment between Clarks Summit and Factoryville, as well as alternate routes in areas where the historic route is unlikely to be a feasible option. Excellent aerial photography from Lackawanna

County and solid GIS work by the consultants have produced some very useful maps for the use of the study steering committee and the general public. The second of three public meetings is likely to take place in February or March 2005; landowners on and near the alignment will be invited to attend, and all other interested members of the public are encouraged to attend. Watch your local paper for the time and date of the meeting! This study is scheduled to be completed in summer 2005. The study's final report will give us a practical indication of the way forward for a non-motorized recreational trail linking local communities. If you would like to know more about this study, please contact the Conservancy office at 945-6995 or [cconserv@epix.net](mailto:cconserv@epix.net).



(Photo: Susan Scranton Dawson)

## Watershed Events -

### News from the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition

The South Branch Watershed Coalition closed out its year with a festive gathering on December 14. The Water Quality Monitoring committee received an early Christmas gift in the form of two beautiful new water testing kits and a kicknet for collecting stream fauna (thank you, Santa!).

Also at the December meeting, Joyce Hatala of the Lackawanna College Environmental Institute reported on her efforts to spark public debate and better planning of stormwater management in Lackawanna County. A first step will be a series of three **workshops on stormwater management**, for municipal officials and the general public. The first will take place at 5:45 pm on **February 3, 2005** at Lackawanna College. Call Joyce at (570) 504-7939 for more information or to sign up!

## Stream Channel Restoration

The Tunkhannock and Bowman's Creek Watershed Assessment and Restoration Project, led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, continues to move forward. Assessments of stream condition were completed in summer 2004, and sites for pilot restoration projects are now being selected. The restoration efforts will aim to halt rampant erosion and stabilize stream channels using naturalistic methods rather than traditional "hard" engineering. The Watershed Coalition, at its December meeting, helped rank ten South Branch sites being considered for pilot projects. To find out more about this project, contact the Wyoming County Conservation District at (570) 836-2589 ext. 3.

## Glenburn Pond

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has given permission for the Natural Lands Trust to draw down the water level of Glenburn Pond, a familiar landmark along Routes 6 and 11 in Glenburn Township. Natural Lands Trust, a conservation organization based in Media, PA, has owned the pond for several decades. Drawdown of the water level will probably be a first step toward permanent removal of the dam that created the pond, and restoration of the area to marshland. Given that the dam has been in place for about 150 years, community members feel a strong stake in the issue of dam removal. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has kindly undertaken to schedule a public meeting in January or February to allow a forum for discussion of the pond, the drawdown and related issues. More meetings may follow if enough interest is generated and all players are willing to attend. Contact the Conservancy office for further information; the Conservancy will keep Watershed Coalition members apprised of any meetings scheduled.

## More News is Good News

Countryside Conservancy is delighted to announce that it will write a regular column for the Abington Journal! Our column will appear monthly. We will use this forum to keep Abington area readers apprised of our ongoing projects and all the conservation news that's fit to print.



*(Photo: Susan Scranton Dawson)*

## Thank You to Our Members!

We wish to welcome all the new and renewing members who have joined since the kickoff of our 2005 Annual Campaign! We thank the following individuals whose contributions will help keep the Conservancy healthy and active in the coming year:

Mary H. Acker  
William and Lorraine Alaimo  
Mr. Albert G. Albert  
Mrs. Irwin Alperin  
Mr. and Mrs. James Alperin  
Mr. and Mrs. Myer Alperin  
Ms. Debbie Amato  
Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Aronsohn  
Agnes Aronsohn  
Mr. and Mrs. William Aubrey, II  
Mr. and Mrs. Rod Azar  
Dr. and Mrs. John Baidon  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Baldwin  
Mr. Robert Ballot  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Bannon  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Belin  
Mr. and Mrs. David Belin  
Mr. and Mrs. Dorrance Belin  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Belin, IV  
Marjorie Black  
Dr. and Mrs. Edward Boehm  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bohlin  
Atty. and Mrs. Frank Bolock, Jr.  
Jeanne Bovard  
Atty. Sandra Boyle  
Mr. and Mrs. James Brady  
Ali Breig  
Julia Ann Brennan  
Dr. and Mrs. Harmar D. Brereton  
Amy T. Broadbent  
Atty. and Mrs. Cody Brooks  
Walter Broughton  
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Brundage  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Cali  
Mark Catalano and Cheryle Stone  
Patricia Cembalest  
Mr. and Mrs. David Clemens  
Mr. and Mrs. John Clune  
Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Colombo

Lynn Conrad  
Elizabeth I. Cooper  
Lydia Coulter  
Mr. and Mrs. James Cours  
Mr. W. Scott Cresswell  
The Crimmel Family  
Mr. and Mrs. James Crowley  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Curtain  
Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Cutillo  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Daniels  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Dann  
James and Penny Davis  
Thomas Davis  
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Dawgert  
Susan Scranton Dawson  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Decker  
Joe and Nan DeMarco  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dembert  
Drs. Henri and Marilyn Deutsch  
Mr. and Mrs. David Dickstein  
Dr. and Mrs. Christopher Dressel, Jr.  
Pat Drower  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Durbin  
Richard Egen  
Tim Eichner  
Geraldine Ellis  
Mr. and Mrs. Morris Edmundson  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Emanuelson  
Mr. Paul Epsom  
Teri and Steve Erickson  
Ms. Lucy Eysenbach  
Mrs. Esther Fassett  
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Felley  
Mary Felley  
Dianne and Judd Fitze  
Robert Fleese and Gretchen Ludders  
Mr. and Mrs. L. Peter Frieder, Jr.  
Mrs. Esther Friedmann  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fritch  
Mortimer B. Fuller, III  
Patricia Fuller  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Gallagher  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gallagher  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Nevin Gerber  
Paul and Mary Gere  
Jean Gerrard  
Atty. and Mrs. James Gibbons  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerald Gilbert

Mr. and Mrs. George Ginader  
Kathleen and Phil Graff  
Jo-Ellen and Michael Greene  
Mr. and Mrs. Burr Hamilton  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Harley  
Mr. and Mrs. Dana Harrison  
Joyce Hatala  
Ann and David Hawk  
Mr. and Mrs. David Hill  
Christine Hischmann  
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Horchos  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Horger  
Susan Poulson and William Houser  
Mrs. Ceil D. Hughes  
Bob Hunter  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hyde  
Frank Illuzzi  
Dave Jennings  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jennings  
Mr. and Mrs. David Jobson  
Ulla Nelson & Seth Jones  
Ms. Dawn Jones  
Michael Kane  
Peter Kane  
Richard and Erin Kane  
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Kaplan  
Elaine Wolfe Kaye  
Violet R. Kelly  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kibbe  
Dr. and Mrs. Fred Lally  
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Lees, Jr.  
Kathryn LeSoine and Will Chamberlin Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Bertram N. Linder  
Ms. Marion Little  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lombardi  
Elizabeth Macarthur  
Malcolm and Ann MacGregor  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Mackie  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew D. Mackie, Jr.  
Franklin Mastro  
Mrs. Nadina P. Mattes  
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Matthews  
Bernie McGurl  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick McMahan  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mecca  
Dr. and Mrs. P. Christopher Metzger  
Daniel and Judith Millett

Mr. and Mrs. James P. Millett  
 Leo and Ann Moskovitz  
 Jack and Gayle Muller  
 Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Neubert  
 Mary Ann Nichols  
 John S. Niles III  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Nowakowski  
 Mrs. Jane Oppenheim  
 Abby Peck  
 James Peck  
 Maribeth Woody and Dave Perry  
 Dr. and Mrs. John Peters  
 Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Pisanchyn  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pittman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Platt  
 Dr. and Mrs. Lee Rancier  
 Dr. and Mrs. Madhava Rao  
 Charlotte Ravaioli  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Redel  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Rees  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Reid  
 Diane Dietzen and Anthony Rhodes  
 Mary B. Rhodes  
 Bruce and Nancy Ross  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Roth  
 Dr. and Mrs. Ken Rudolph  
 Nina and Rudy Ruedemann  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rundell  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ryan  
 Eleanor Samojlowicz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sandercock  
 Dr. and Mrs. Douglas and Margaret  
 Sheldon  
 Ms. Elaine Shepard  
 Congressman and Mrs. Don Sherwood  
 Helen Shin  
 Atty. and Mrs. Russell D. Shurtleff  
 Mike and Judy Skerel  
 Dr. Jerry Skinner  
 Leah Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Smith  
 Wayne and Susan Snyder  
 Brenda Spangenberg  
 Mrs. Nancy Stahler  
 Bill and Mardi Steppacher  
 Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Stevens  
 Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Stevens  
 Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Stone

Mark Catalano and Cheryle Stone  
 Jackson Stroud  
 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Teed  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Theilgard  
 Jerome Thier  
 Joe Tierney and Renee Czubowicz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Tierney  
 Mr. and Mrs. James M. Vipond  
 Jonathan Vipond III  
 Dr. and Mrs. Gary Wadsworth  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven Weinberger  
 Gilbert Weinberger  
 Ellen Wengen  
 Dr. and Mrs. Gehred D. Wetzel  
 Mr. and Mrs. Randy White  
 Mr. and Mrs. Billy Williams  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Williamson  
 Joan Wincovitch  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wise  
 Mollie Woehling  
 Bettylou Woods  
 Dr. Midori Y. Yamanouchi-Rynn  
 Damon Young and Family

The campaign will conclude in February 2005. Please don't delay in joining or renewing your membership - your gift is what makes our work possible! Members who renew before press time of the next CountryViews will be acknowledged in the Spring 2005 issue.

### Memorials

We offer our thanks to the following individuals who made gifts to the Conservancy in memory of individuals who have passed away. These gifts will go to the Conservancy's Land Fund to support our land protection activities throughout the region.

*In memory of Tillie Ceccarelli:*

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jennings

*In memory of W. Lawson Chamberlin:*

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Edmundson

*In memory of Mary Elizabeth Houck:*

Jane Oppenheim

*In memory of Robert Hull:*

Ms. Bonnie Alco  
 Susan and Dorrance Belin  
 Amy T. Broadbent  
 Joseph Tierney and Renee Czubowicz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fedor  
 Kathleen and Phil Graff  
 Jo-Ellen and Michael Greene  
 Mrs. Fay Gunster  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hillebrand  
 Deborah Lomax  
 Dr. and Mrs. P. Christopher Metzger  
 Lynn H. Nichols  
 Mary B. Rhodes  
 Barbara Richardson  
 Mr. and Mrs. W. William Stoeckel

*In memory of Annie Jennings:*

Kathleen and Phil Graff

*In memory of Dr. John McGeehan:*

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Emanuelson

*In memory of Robert Messimer:*

Susan and Dorrance Belin,  
 Lynn H. Nichols

*In memory of Rosamond R. Peck*

(in addition to donors acknowledged in our Fall 2004 newsletter):

Mr. and Mrs. Dana Harrison

Ms. Mary Hart

Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Monick,

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Zeitlyn,  
 the Garden Exchange

*In memory of Adrian E. Ross:*

Susan and Dorrance Belin

*In memory of Joseph Suchy:*

Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Redel

*In memory of Wayne Williams:*

Lynn H. Nichols

### and a Happy Birthday!

*In honor of Marjorie Black's 80th birthday:*

Jane Oppenheim

**Join Countryside Conservancy's efforts to preserve the fragile natural beauty of our area.  
The future depends on us. Please join us today.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Family \$35

\_\_\_\_\_ Friend \$70

\_\_\_\_\_ Founder \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$250

\_\_\_\_\_ Benefactor \$500

\_\_\_\_\_ Trust Partner \$1,000 and up

Please tear off and remit with your check or VISA/MC charge to Countryside Conservancy, PO Box 55, La Plume, PA 18440.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MC: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP.: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Consider a gift to the Countryside Conservancy in honor of someone you care about. The gift of conservation will last forever.  
For more information contact Mary Felley at P.O. Box 55, La Plume PA 18440. (570) 945-6995 or cconserv@epix.net

---

**Countryside Conservancy Board of Directors**

Patricia Acker

Lydia Coulter

Commander Jo-Ellen Greene

Dorrance Belin

Penny Davis

Margaret Hull

William Booth

Susan Scranton Dawson

Howard Jennings

Sandra Boyle

Teri Erickson

Michael T. Kane

Amy T. Broadbent

L.P. Frieder, III

Malcolm MacGregor

Eric A. Brown

George Ginader

Russell D. Shurtleff

Lisa Hall Buranich

Kathleen C. Graff

Denise Wright

*Countryside Conservancy is a tax-exempt organization as provided by IRS regulations. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania.*

*1-800-732-0999*

*Registration does not imply endorsement.*

*Printed on recycled paper.*



Countryside Conservancy  
P.O. Box 55  
La Plume, PA 18440

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 5 LA PLUME PA 18440
--