

# CountryViews



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY

## Auction Alert: Save the Date!

The Conservancy's Seventh Annual Auction will take place on Saturday, **July 15, 2006**. This year's Auction Chairs are Ann and Malcolm MacGregor. We're looking forward to a great party on our lucky seventh Auction anniversary! Stay tuned for more details.

Meanwhile, other Conservancy events coming up include:

**Tuesday, February 21:**  
Movie Night, 7:30 pm at Lackawanna State Park Environmental Learning Center (see page 7)

**Wednesday, March 15:**  
Fly-tying clinic with Ron Kozlowski of Ron's Flies. 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Willary Water Resource Center, Keystone College (see page 7)

**Saturday, April 22:**  
Great Pennsylvania Cleanup at Little Rocky Glen (see page 7)

**Wednesday, April 26:**  
Stewardship Awards and Annual Meeting, 7:00 pm at Evans Hall, Keystone College; free coffee and desserts. The public is most cordially invited to attend!

We hope to see you at one or all of these great events!

## Upstream, Downstream

In our last issue of *CountryViews*, we highlighted the Conservancy's acquisition of creekside lands at the northeast edge of the Lackawanna State Park, to protect habitat and water quality on the South Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek upstream from the Park. We are happy to bring you news of more land conserved on the same creek, this time just downstream from the Park.

In December 2005, the Conservancy finalized an easement on 18 acres owned by Gayle and Jack Muller next to Lackawanna State

Park. This easement will protect lands on the South Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek, directly downstream from the Park boundary. The protected area includes upland and bottomland forest, old fields, and over 1,400 linear feet of the creek and floodplain. This stretch of the creek had been identified by the 1997 Lackawanna County Natural Areas Inventory as being of conservation value from an ecological perspective, and its scenic values are also exceptional.

The Conservancy expresses its deep gratitude to Gayle and Jack for making the commitment to preserve this beautiful and dramatic landscape forever. We would also like to thank the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, which developed the model easement used as the basis for this project, and Attorneys Dorrance Belin and Sandra Boyle, who tailored the model easement to this project.

This easement was the final land-protection project completed under a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant has helped create protective buffers for the Lackawanna State Park and the South Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek in the Park's vicinity. Through this grant, the Conservancy has permanently protected over 111 acres around the Park.

The Conservancy recently finalized several other exciting conservation projects. Read more about them in an upcoming issue of *CountryViews*!



*Photo: M. Felley*

*View of land protected by the new conservation easement.*

## Farewell to a Great Friend

James Peck, beloved husband of Conservancy founding member Roz Peck, passed away on February 2. He was a true gentleman and a gentle spirit, and will be missed by all who knew him. He was also a great friend and supporter of nature and the Conservancy. One friend of the Peck family has remarked that the Conservancy would never have come into being without the loving support Jim gave to Roz, and the freedom he gave her to pursue her many original ideas—including the Conservancy.

The family has designated the Countryside Conservancy and the Appalachian Mountain Club as recipients of memorial gifts. Gifts to the Conservancy will be placed in the Peck Memorial Trail Fund to support our ongoing trail work.

## Farmland Preservation

We would like to welcome Ellie Hyde as the new Administrator of the Lackawanna County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Ellie was an early Board member of the Conservancy. We salute her for her past service, and wish her the best in her new position!

## Thanks to Our Volunteers

The Conservancy relies critically on the time, energy and hard work given freely by its many volunteers. Without their input, we couldn't achieve a fraction of what we do. This includes the Trolley Trail (removing invasive plants and trash, planting trees and shrubs, advising the Feasibility Study); other trails on Conservancy properties (design, construction and maintenance); Little Rocky Glen (picking up litter, posting signs, patrolling); the Watershed Coalition (water quality monitoring, planning and promoting events); and many public events, including first and foremost the Annual Auction. The all-volunteer Auction Committee plans and carries out the whole event, from major sponsorships to table decorations. And the artists, crafters and businesses who donate auction items, and the sponsors who help underwrite the event's cost, are also volunteers in an important way: they are freely giving time, skills and funds that make the event a success.

Last but not least, there's our Board of Directors and Advisory Board: our real front-line volunteers. The Conservancy extends its sincere thanks to all the volunteers who do so much for us.

## Become a Volunteer!

One of our goals for 2006 is to invite new volunteers to get involved with the Conservancy, and to improve the volunteer experience. There is much that we want to do to make better use of the valuable time and skills that volunteers offer to us, and to more adequately recognize and thank our volunteers for their contributions.

As a first step, we invite all past and potential future volunteers to fill out the form on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter and return it to our office.

For new applicants, once we receive your form, we'll give you a call to set up a meeting, discuss what you'd like to do for the Conservancy, and how we can best work with you. We also ask our past or current volunteers to complete this form and return it to us, so that we can update our files.

If you think you might like to volunteer, please call Cheryl or Mary at 945-6995 to find out more, including the full range of opportunities available. We look forward to working with you!



*Apple trees in snow, Herrick Township*

*Photo: M. Felley*

# Volunteer Application



## Contact Information

Name	
Street Address	
City, State, ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

## Availability

During which hours are you available for volunteer assignments?

- Weekday mornings       Weekend mornings  
 Weekday afternoons       Weekend afternoons  
 Weekday evenings       Weekend evenings

## Interests

Tell us in which areas you are interested in volunteering:

- Little Rocky Glen Stewardship  
 Water Quality Monitoring  
 Trail Tender  
 Office  
 Auction Committee  
 Trail Run Committee  
 Tailgate Picnic Committee  
 Other Fundraising Events  
 Other (please specify preference): \_\_\_\_\_

## Special Skills or Qualifications

Summarize special skills and qualifications you have acquired from employment, previous volunteer work, or through other activities.

### Previous Volunteer Experience

Please summarize your previous volunteer experience.

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### Reference

Please supply the name and phone number of a reference.

--

### Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a volunteer, any false statements, omissions, or other misrepresentations made by me on this application may result in my immediate dismissal.

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	

It is the policy of the Countryside Conservancy to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in volunteering with us.

Please return this form to Cheryl Ellsworth, Program Manager at:  
Countryside Conservancy, PO Box 55, La Plume PA 18440 (fax 945-8014)  
Please call Cheryl at 945-6995 with any questions.

### For Office Use Only: Person to Notify in Case of Emergency

Name	
Street Address	
City, State, ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

## Thank You to Our Members!

We wish to welcome all the new and renewing members who have supported our Annual Campaign 2006 since the date of our last newsletter! We thank the following individuals whose contributions are helping to keep the Conservancy healthy and active this year:

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Acker  
Mr. Benjamin Adams  
Mr. Albert Albert  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Albright  
Mr. and Mrs. Myer Alperin  
Mr. and Mrs. James Alperin  
Mrs. Francine Alperin  
Ms. Debbie Amato  
Anonymous donor  
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Ms. Agnes Aronsohn  
Mr. and Mrs. William Aubrey, II  
Mr. and Mrs. Rod Azar  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Baldwin  
Mr. Robert Ballot  
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Mr. and Mrs. Ron Barrett  
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Mr. and Mrs. David Belin  
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Atty. and Mrs. Tim Kelly  
Mr. Jerry Kenjorski  
Mr. and Mrs. James Kilgore  
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Mr. Ron Kozlowski  
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority  
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Kathryn LeSoine and Will Chamberlin, Jr.  
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Ms. Marion Little

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 Ms. Elizabeth MacArthur  
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 Mrs. Nadina P. Mattes  
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 Lisa Mori  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack (John) Muller  
 Dr. and Mrs. Albert Nalevanko  
 Mrs. Marianne Nelson  
 Ulla Nelson and Seth Jones  
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 Mrs. Bettylou Woods  
 Mr. and Mrs. Earle Wootton  
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert Wright  
 Mr. and Mrs. George Wrightnour  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dale Yarasavage  
 Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Zukoski

F. Warren Breig, Jr. of Breig Brothers gave a membership gift in honor of Laura and Peter Frieder, the chairs of the Annual Campaign for 2006. We would like to extend our warm thanks to the Frieders, in appreciation of their

hard work in support of our efforts!

If you haven't yet, please join or renew your membership now. You will find a membership form on the back page of this newsletter. Your gift is what makes our work possible! Members who join or renew before press time of the next *CountryViews* will be acknowledged in the Spring 2006 issue.

## Honors and Memorials

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

*Gift to the Peck Memorial Trail Fund:*  
 James and Kathleen Burnett

*In honor of Tina and Terry Haight:*  
 Heather and Warren Acker

*In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Harry Schmaltz:*  
 Heather and Warren Acker

*In honor of Colleen and Howard Snowdon:*  
 Warren Breig and Carol Fells

*In memory of Charles W. Dithrich, Esq.:*  
 Lynn Nichols

Gifts made in memory of James Peck will be acknowledged in the next issue of *CountryViews*.

What better way to remember a departed friend who loved the land, or to celebrate a joyous passage in a loved one's life, than to make a gift? Through the Conservancy you can give the gift of conservation, which goes on forever.

We offer our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions in these acknowledgements. Please call us if we have overlooked your gift or misspelled your name, and we will make it right in our next issue! We are grateful for your forbearance.

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

### Movie Night Madness

The Watershed Coalition's first Movie Night on November 15 was a great success. The topic was Invasive Species, and our guest speaker Donna Murphy of the US Forest Service gave a fascinating presentation on problem invasive plants in our region.

This month we hold our second Movie Night on Tuesday, February 21. We'll show the new WVIA-produced documentary "Looking to the River," about our own Susquehanna River. The guest speaker will be Dave Buck of Endless Mountain Outfitters, who also appears in the movie. The time is 7:30 pm and the place is the Environmental Learning Center of Lackawanna State Park on Route 407. Admission and refreshments are free, and all are welcome! The Watershed Coalition will hold its regular monthly meeting immediately before the movie, starting at 6:30 pm. Members of the public are invited to attend.

### Spring Events

Several other Watershed Coalition events are coming up. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

- Wednesday, March 15: An evening fly-tying clinic with Ron Kozlowski of Ron's Flies. This event will be held at the Willary Water Resource Center, next door to the Conservancy's office at Keystone College. A small fee will be charged to cover supplies. Please call ahead to reserve your place and for detailed information.
- Saturday, April 22: Great Pennsylvania Cleanup at Little Rocky Glen. After the success of last year's event, we will plan to do a morning roadside and creekside litter pick-up at this site once again.

For information on all Watershed Coalition events, please call Mary at 945-6995.



Photo: M. Felley

## Major Close-outs

We are glad to report that we have successfully closed out several major state- and federal-funded grants in the past month! We'd like to thank our funding agencies and all the volunteers and landowners who assisted with the following projects:

All land projects have been completed for the DCNR Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Greenway grant (mentioned on page 1). With this grant, we have protected five parcels totaling 111 acres around Lackawanna State Park.

We have completed all work for the DCNR grant supporting the Trolley Trail Feasibility Study, covering the trail from Clarks Summit to Factoryville plus a possible link to Lackawanna State Park. This exhaustive study will pave the way for more focused work on the Trail.

Finally, we have wrapped up a grant from the Northeast Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Program to enhance creekside vegetation and delineate a trail loop around the ballfields of the Abington Little League in Glenburn Township. This grant program is funded by the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area, directed by the Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Council, and supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry Penn State Cooperative Extension. We thank Congressman Sherwood and his office for securing funds for this program.

## Whale Watching

Keystone College's annual Whale Watching Trip will take place Friday-Sunday, June 2nd-4th, 2006. Travel via motorcoach to Provincetown, Massachusetts for a whale-watching extravaganza! For \$275 per person, you get a memorable weekend including an orientation session at the College, motorcoach transportation from Keystone to Provincetown and back, two nights' lodging, breakfasts, fine dining on Friday, a guided hike on the Cape, and a half-day whale-watching trip. Fin and humpback whales, dolphins, and seals are among the species that may be spotted. Space is limited, so call Howard Jennings at (570) 945-8403 now to book your place!

**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

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*1-800-732-0999*

*Registration does not imply endorsement.*

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