

# CountryViews

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY



## New Piece of the Puzzle in Place on Trolley Trail

A key link in the 7-mile long chain of the Trolley Trail was recently put into place. In May, the Conservancy signed a trail easement agreement with Cory and Amy Durso of Factoryville which will permit the creation of almost half a mile of public-access trail across lands owned by the Dursos in Abington Township.

The trail agreement covers the right-of-way of the old Northern Electric trolley line across the Durso property. It gives the Conservancy the right to permit public access to just this part of the property, for the purposes of public recreation. It will also make it possible to create a Clarks Summit trailhead for the Trolley Trail. The easement is of sufficient width for comfortable hiking or biking; motorized recreational vehicles will not be permitted.

Once agreements are in place with adjoining landowners, the Conservancy looks forward to formally opening this section of the trail to the public and allowing people to follow the trail all the way from Clarks Summit to the Abington Little League fields in Glenburn Township.

The slender strip of land that marks the right-of-way is nowadays hidden among trees, but it has a century-long history. The Northern Electric, as faithful readers will know, was a trolley line that operated from 1907 to 1932, serving points from Scranton all the way to Montrose with a spur line to Lake Winola. Led by the vision of Roz Peck and supported by the generosity of the Pecks and others, the Countryside Conservancy is working to turn sections of the old trolley line from Clarks Summit to Lake Winola into a recreational trail.

Through the Trolley Trail, the Conservancy is working to keep the trolley's history alive while creating a new resource for local communities. Our area suffers from a dearth of accessible off-road areas for non-motorized recreation. The Trolley Trail will be a healthier and more environmentally friendly way for community members to get around and have fun.

The Conservancy thanks the Dursos for their commitment to conservation, history, and public recreation!

The Conservancy is also proud to offer for sale the second edition of Norm Brauer's history *The Northern Electric*, a photographic journey along the historic trolley line with detailed maps and documentation of the history of the trolley. The book sells for \$33.39 (shipping extra, or you can pick up a copy at our office in La Plume). Call our office at 945-6995 for more information.



## Tailgate Picnic Sept. 23

Our 13th Annual Tailgate Picnic is coming! The Picnic will be held at our Meadowsweet Preserve on Lily Lake Road, Dalton, from 2 pm till dusk on Sunday, September 23. Pack your picnic basket and come on out to enjoy wagon rides, a corn roast, children's games, live music and more! The Tailgate Picnic is free for all Conservancy members. See page 2 for details, and save the date!



## Countryside Conservancy

PO Box 55  
La Plume PA 18440  
(570) 945-6995  
www.countrysideconservancy.org  
cconserv@epix.net

### Board of Directors:

Margaret Hull, President  
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### Staff

Mary Felley, Executive Director  
Rylan Coker, Land Protection Specialist  
Cheryl Ellsworth, Program Manager  
Lois Yeust, Administrative Assistant

### Mission:

The Countryside Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to protecting lands and waters in and near the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed for the public benefit now, and for the future.

The 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.

## Tailgate Picnic Set for September 23

All are invited to the Conservancy's 13th Annual Tailgate Picnic on Sunday, September 23! Sharon and Jim Vipond are serving as Picnic chairs for the second year in a row, and are planning a bewildering array of fun and games for your enjoyment. Margaret Hull and her team of Belgians from Spring Hills Farm will once again offer horse-drawn wagon rides. Live music from at least one local band will fill the air. The Acker family will prepare their delectable roasted corn and, of course, toasted marshmallows over the fire. A lineup of children's games and activities will be available, including the classic sack races and possibly even a treasure hunt. Bring your kites and take advantage of the fall breezes too!

Picnicgoers are invited to bring their cameras to capture candid scenes from the Picnic. We'd like to publish your photos of the Picnic in our next newsletter for all to enjoy.

The Tailgate Picnic is an annual thank-you event for all of our supporters. Admission is free for Conservancy members, and non-members can receive Picnic admission and a discounted one-year membership

for a \$15 donation at the gate.

The Picnic will take place at the Conservancy's Meadowsweet Preserve on Lily Lake Road in Abington Township, the same location as last year. To get to the Meadowsweet Preserve, take PA Route 407 north for three-quarters of a mile from the intersection of PA Routes 632 and 407 at the Waverly Community House. Turn left onto Lily Lake Road, and the picnic site is less than half a mile down the road on the right.

The festivities will start at 2 pm and continue till dusk. Pack your picnic basket and pack your family and friends into the car, come out and enjoy the day with us! Call the office at 945-6995 for more information, or to volunteer to help with the event.

Bikers take note: Bill Booth and Joe Tierney have offered once again to lead a mountain bike tour of Conservancy trails and the State Park trail system in the morning before the picnic. Please call the office at 945-6995 if you're interested in joining them!

## Stewardship Awards 2008

Letters will soon be going out under the intriguing headline: "Do you like what your neighbor's doing with his property?" This can only mean one thing: it's time to nominate your neighbor (or anybody else) for the Conservancy's Twelfth Annual Stewardship Awards!

The Stewardship Awards honor individuals, families and organizations who maintain their properties in a manner that respects the conservation values of the land and brings enjoyment to the community. Awards are made in three categories: Working Farm, Residential, and Special Uses. Owners of properties in the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed and surrounding areas are eligible for consideration, and anyone is welcome to nominate a property for an award. Nomination forms are available

by contacting the Conservancy at (570) 945-6995 or at cconserv@epix.net. You are encouraged to submit photos of the nominated property, which may be shown at the awards ceremony in spring 2008!

To give you an idea of the variety of properties that we consider, past winners have included dairy, beef and horse farms, historic and modern homes, an organic vegetable garden, two libraries, a public park, a restaurant featuring local farm produce, and several art galleries housed in historic buildings. Help us add to the list!

Award nominations should be sent to the Conservancy at PO Box 55, La Plume PA 18440 by September 14, or emailed to cconserv@epix.net. Award winners will be recognized in spring 2008 at our Annual Meeting.

## New Faces at the Conservancy

### Welcome New Staff

Countryside Conservancy is delighted to welcome its newest staff member, Rylan Coker. Rylan joined the Conservancy's staff in May 2007 as our Land Protection Specialist.

The Land Protection Specialist is responsible for coordinating and leading the implementation of the Conservancy's land protection and stewardship programs. In this position Rylan will work with landowners, Conservancy staff and Board members to organize conservation planning, to develop and close land projects, and to coordinate our stewardship program. The Conservancy's stewardship responsibilities include monitoring and enforcing the terms of conservation easements we hold on private lands, as well as actively managing the 300 acres of preserves that we own.

Rylan, a native of Sunset, Utah, first came to Pennsylvania in 2001 as an intern for the USDA Forest Service at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark in Milford, PA, through the Student Conservation Association. In the following year, Rylan moved back to Pennsylvania, married in the fall and continued his college education at Keystone College.

He began his college education at Weber



State University, in Ogden, Utah, in 1999 after returning from a two year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Ireland and Northern Ireland. He studied Botany at Weber, and after transferring to Keystone College earned a bachelors degree in Environmental Resource Management in the spring of 2006.

As a child, Rylan used to have thoughts of becoming a forest ranger or a smoke jumper. He has always enjoyed the outdoors, and has a high interest in protecting natural resources and wild lands. His love of the outdoors extends to the areas of camping, hiking, cycling and running. He is also a Master Gardener and Scoutmaster with Troop 520 in Tunkhannock—clearly a man of many talents! The Conservancy is very pleased to have him on our team.

## Welcome New Directors

The Conservancy is also happy to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors: Jack Muller and Abby Peck.

Jack Muller is a long-time Conservancy member and volunteer who has participated in tree plantings and beautification efforts and served on our Stewardship and Land Management Committee. He is also active in communicating with neighbors and community members about the importance of protecting their lands. Jack and his wife Gayle worked with the Conservancy to place a conservation easement on their land neighboring Lackawanna State Park in 2005 (profiled in our Winter 2006 issue). This easement permits public access along over a 1,400 foot length of the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek and its floodplain, for education and non-motorized recreation.

Abby Peck is another long-time Conservancy volunteer who has provided invaluable support on planting, landscaping and Trail projects. As the daughter of Conservancy founding member Roz Peck and her husband Jim, Abby grew up steeped in the ethic of conservation and the spirit of enlightened activism. Abby has generously volunteered to be a Board leader for the Conservancy's ongoing Trolley Trail project.

We are very happy to have Abby and Jack on board in an official capacity starting in 2007. Welcome!

## Countryside Wants You!

Countryside Conservancy is always looking for a few good men and women to help with tasks around the office, around our preserves, and around the community. The person we're looking for could be you! Activities you could help with include:

### *Indoor*

Bulk mailings  
Website maintenance  
Auction planning &  
donation solicitation

### *Outdoor*

Planting, pruning, watering and weeding  
Trail tending, Brush-hogging  
Litter pick-up  
Guiding nature walks  
Photographing properties and events  
GPS support

### *Indoor and Outdoor*

Water quality monitoring  
Tailgate Picnic

Training is provided for all volunteer activities! All you have to bring is time, energy and a willing spirit. Please call Mary or Cheryl at 945-6995, or email [cconserv@epix.net](mailto:cconserv@epix.net), if you'd like to find out more about volunteering.

## Auction a Winner Once Again

We are very happy to report that our 8th Annual Auction, held on July 21, once again set records for the Conservancy! All agreed it was a truly great event, and even the weather cooperated—it couldn't have been a more beautiful evening. Thanks to the hard work of Keystone College staff and all our volunteers, the setup and



*Volunteers setting up for the big evening*

arrangements were perfect, and over 200 guests had a great evening bidding, socializing and supporting the Conservancy.

Our able Auction Chairs were Elaine Shepard and Amy T. Broadbent, leading a great Auction Committee including Karen Barren, Eileen Barrett, Julianne Adams Barrett, Ali Breig, Ellen Burkey, Tricia Cummings, Penny Davis, Teri Erickson, Linda Gilardi, Katie Gilmartin, Eleanore Ginader, George Ginader, Kathleen Graff, Mary Gromelski, Lisa Hall, Erin Kane, Ann MacGregor, Kristie McMahon, Caroline Seamans, Karen Thomas, Amanda Von Rudenburg and Maureen Walker.

The auctioneer was once again Ken Rivenburg of Rivenburg's Auction Gallery.



*Auction guests inspect the goods on offer.*

Our Masters of Ceremonies were Curt and Phil Stevens. Our special thanks go to Ginader Jones and Co. LLP for their help with financial arrangements, to Kate D. Jones, Allyson Edwards and Keystone College, to Joan Tate for PR and publicity, and Jeneane Adams for floral arrangements.

## Live Auction Donors:

Accentuate Catering  
Amore  
Rod Azar  
Blu Wasabi  
Sally and Peter Bohlin  
Sandra Boyle  
Harmar and Leslie Brereton  
Broadway Theater League of  
Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Cars Are Us  
Chincoteague Comfort Suites  
Creekside Gardens  
D&D Organic Lawns  
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The Dietrich Theater  
Don's Seafood  
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Johnny's Car Wash  
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Keystone College  
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Scranton Community Concerts

Scranton Fish Company  
Wayne Smith  
State Street Grill  
Stone Bridge Inn and Restaurant  
Michael Suchy, Michaelangelo's  
Restaurant  
Summit Cleaners  
Summit Frameworks  
The Northeast Theater  
Karen Thomas  
Timothy Thomas Carpenter &  
Chimney Sweep  
Rick Thompson  
Trovato's Meat Market  
Twigs

## Silent Auction Donors:

A & G Outfitters  
Fred Adams, Abington Clock Repair  
Jeneane Adams  
Jacqueline Albano  
Michael Alexander, The Artisan's Image  
Alexander's Salon & Spa  
Alliance Landfill  
Amici: A Restaurant  
Art Strands Jewelry & Gifts  
Atlantic Fish & Fabulous Foods

## Auction a Winner Once Again (Continued)

Our Sanctuary Society level sponsors were Marworth and Riverfront Sports Complex. Steward level sponsors were Alliance Landfill/Apex Waste Services, the Foley Law Firm, Gentex Corporation, Penn Security Bank & Trust, and Peoples National Bank. Protector level sponsors were Action Personnel Services, citi Smith

Barney, Condrón & Company, Erickson/ Greco Group - Merrill Lynch, First Liberty Bank and Trust, Highland Associates, Knowles Associates Insurance, Oliver Price & Rhodes, Pennstar Bank, PNC and R. J. Walker Co. Our host sponsor, gracious as always, was Keystone College.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge each of the donors who made beautiful, valuable, and distinctive contributions to the Auction this year. Please support these Conservancy supporters by giving them your patronage and



*L. P., Laura and Peter Frieder with co-chair Elaine Shepard*

introducing them to your friends and family! We simply could not make the Auction happen without them.



*Bidders mingle in the Silent Auction tent*

## Silent Auction Donors: (continued)

Karen Barren	Great Uncle Peter's Steakhouse	Roba's Tree Farm
Joanne Benson	Green Ridge Lanes	Ron's Flies
Bill's Sporting Goods	Greg Wall Golf Shop	Salon DM
Birchwood Tennis and Fitness Club	Dave Gromelski and the Hellbenders	Sanderson State Street
Nan Burti	Guy Cali Associates	Susan Scranton Dawson
Cangiano's Italian Specialties	Happenings Magazine	Scranton YMCA
Caravia Fresh Foods	Isabella Restaurant and Bar	The Settlers Inn at Bingham Park
William Chickillo	Robert and Gale Jaeger	Silver Queen Fine Art
Christian Dior, New York	Andrea Jones	Robert Stark, Susquehanna Studio
Cider Mill Antiques	Keystone College	Curt Stevens
Jean Colombo	Michael Kozlowski, M&J Custom Rods	Stone Hedge Golf Course
The Cummings House	Lavish Skin Care Products	Summerhouse Grill
Curves for Women	Julie Loftus	Jordan Taylor, Stony Meadow Pottery
Cutler & Company Antiques	Dr. William A. MacNamara	Rodrica Tilley
Dalton Fire Company	Manning's Dairy	Vida Tapas Bar and Grill
Mr. and Mrs. William Dobitsch, Endless	Mary Go Round	Waverly Community House
Mountain Air, Inc.	Kristie Miller McMahon	Waverly Deli
Renee Emanuel	Nada and Company	Waverly General Store
Everything Natural	Karen O'Connor	Wegmans
Faccia Luna	Oak Only Inc.	Gail Weinberger
Foley Law Firm	Old Forge Pizza Express	Willary Water Resource Center,
Formosa Restaurant	Randy Pace	Keystone College
G. Weinberger Company	Ed Parkinson	Wisnosky Jewelers
Ronen Gilat	Abby Peck	Mollie Woehling
Cindy Gillotti	Mr. and Mrs. Henry Platt	Woods and Company
Glenverly Antiques	PNC	Zummo's Café
Glint of Gold	Remington's	
The Golden Goose Toy Store	Riverfront Sports Complex	

## In Memoriam

We wish particularly to thank those individuals who made donations in memory of Dr. Walter Fordham, who passed away in April. Dr. Fordham, an avid outdoorsman, was a long-standing and generous supporter of the Conservancy. He and his wife Doris donated one of the first conservation easements the Conservancy ever accepted, on 22 acres of wetlands and woods in Benton Township. In 2005 Dr. Fordham went even further, donating the remainder interest in this property to the Conservancy, which now owns and manages it as a nature preserve. We sincerely thank Dr. Fordham's family for designating the Conservancy as a recipient of memorial gifts.

In memory of Dr. Walter Fordham:  
Atty. and Mrs. Dorrance Belin  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bohlin  
Mr. F. Warren Breig, Jr.  
Ms. Karen Brown  
Mrs. Ann Chamberlin  
Mr. and Mrs. David Cobb  
Ms. Elizabeth Cooper  
Mr. and Mrs. James Fleming, III  
Mr. and Mrs. George Ginader  
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Graff  
Mrs. Edson Green  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hart  
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Kresge  
Janice McMillen and Andrew Terhune  
Mrs. Joan Newman  
Ms. Lynn Nichols  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Platt  
Ms. Mary Rhodes  
Atty. Robert Sayers  
Mrs. Myrtle Tyndale

*(Continued on Page 7)*



## Preserve News

### ***Little Rocky Glen Update***

The Glen has seen a large number of visitors during summer 2007, and we are glad to report that most continue to enjoy themselves responsibly and clean up after themselves. We are deeply grateful to our part-time field staff, Michael Koval and Paul Maleski, who are putting in time at the Glen this summer, keeping an eye on visitors and generally caring for this beautiful spot.

For the second year, the Conservancy recently brush-hogged several fields on the north side of the creek. Our purpose is to maintain open habitat in these fields, which were historically used as hay meadow and pasture, to keep a diversity of habitat types available on the site for both wildlife and visitors. The Conservancy is preparing to develop a habitat-focused stewardship plan for the Glen, to help guide future management decisions of this type.

Architect Jim Rogers and contractor Roger Seamans recently visited Little Rocky Glen with Conservancy volunteers and staff to inspect the site of our planned picnic shelter. Construction of the shelter is expected to begin in late summer or fall. We are also ready to start on siting and design of a small parking area, to provide a safer place to park for visitors to the Glen. We are delighted to have the support of the Wyoming County commissioners to use County-dedicated Growing Greener grant funds toward both the picnic shelter and the parking area. The County funds will supplement grants from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority for the picnic shelter and from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region for the parking improvements. We deeply appreciate the support of these organizations. We hope that these improvements to the site will make it more accessible and enjoyable for all County residents and visitors.

### ***News from Trostle Pond***

Trostle Pond, the Benton Township property acquired by the Conservancy last year, has seen many visitors this spring and summer. The pond has turned out to be a very popular fishing spot. We have been delighted to hear positive comments from neighbors and friends around Benton Township, who were glad to see this highly scenic spot saved from the threat of development. We also discovered that many people weren't sure exactly who had bought the property, so we have put up a small sign at the parking area with our name!

We thank Alex Stout and the Lackawanna State Park staff, and also the good people at the Park Store who have placed a trash can at the parking area, for helping us keep this property looking good.



*State Park manager Alex Stout and the Conservancy's Rylan Coker inspecting conditions at Trostle Pond*

## Watershed Events:

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



*Old appliances and worse litter Bull Hill before the cleanup.*

On April 26, volunteers from the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition joined students from Lackawanna Trail High School, staff of Lackawanna State Park, and Lackawanna County Watershed Specialist Alana Roberts to undertake a major cleanup of the Bull Hill area of the State Park. They dragged out tons of waste metal, bottles, plastic bags and old household waste that had polluted this lovely hemlock-shaded wetland for years. This clean-up was supported by Project COALS (Clean Our American Lands and Streams), a Department of Environmental Protection program now active in Lackawanna County. Thanks to all who took part in this effort!

The Watershed Coalition team continues to monitor stream water quality in the South Branch and its tributaries at sites from La Plume to Bardwell. At the group's next meeting on September 10, we will analyze the results of our monitoring efforts from 2004 to the present, and plan how to continue our work most effectively. Members of the public are welcome to attend this or any Watershed Coalition meeting; please call 945-6995 for our meeting schedule.

On June 25, Angela Lambert and her new fleet of kayaks hosted an evening paddle at Lackawanna State Park for our members. The evening cool and the bird songs echoing over the lake made this an unbeatable way to mellow out! Angela will host a second kayak outing for Coalition members on Tuesday, August 28; it will begin at 8 p.m. to take advantage of the full moon. To sign up, please call the Conservancy office at 945-6995 or email [cconserv@epix.net](mailto:cconserv@epix.net).

Alana Roberts has secured a grant for the Coalition to organize one or more "build your own rain barrel" workshops, which will take place later this year. A rain barrel is a simple but very effective way to capture rainwater that falls on your roof, keep it from rushing into the nearest creek or storm drain, and have it available to water your garden in the next dry spell. It's a small thing, but if every home had one, it would make a real difference to our overburdened drainage systems! If you'd like to take part in a workshop, contact the Conservancy office at 945-6995.



*Lackawanna Trail High School students after the cleanup.*

## In Memoriam (Continued)

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

*In memory of Michael Banks:*

Mr. and Mrs. David Kaplan  
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Kaplan  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Yost

*In memory of Kevin Boyle:*

Jo-Ellen and Michael Greene

*In memory of Connie Sayre:*

Mr. and Mrs. William Tersteeg

*In memory of James and Roz Peck:*

Mrs. Susanna Peck Waterman

(Gifts in memory of James and Roz Peck are placed in the Peck Memorial Trail Fund to support the trail initiatives launched by Roz, Jim and other members of the Peck family.)

## Thanks to our Supporters

Starting from January 2007, the Conservancy will acknowledge all membership gifts once a year, in our Annual Report. Donors who request anonymity will be acknowledged simply as Anonymous Donors.



**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.

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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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