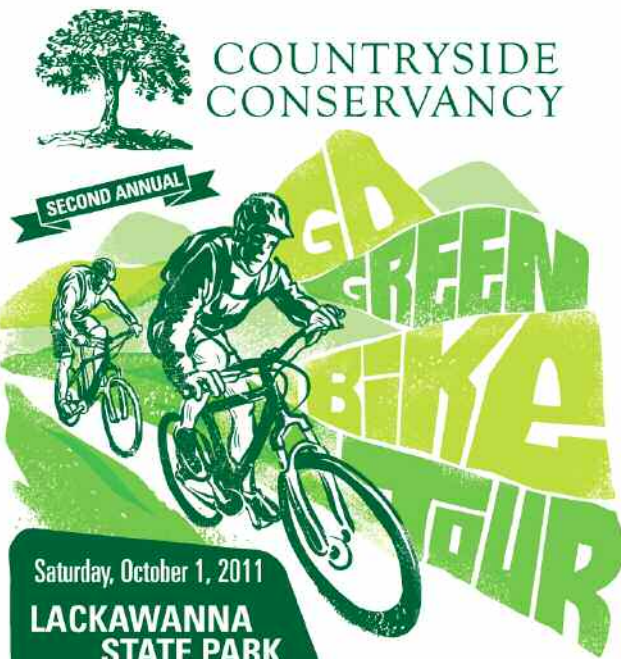


CountryViews



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY

GO GREEN BIKE TOUR – OCTOBER 1, 2011



Saturday, October 1, 2011

LACKAWANNA STATE PARK

Road & Mountain Biking
for all ages and skill levels

Live Music, Food and Raffle Prizes

All proceeds benefit Countryside
Conservancy - your local, non-profit land trust

PRESENTING SPONSORS:



Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation



More Information and to Register Online
www.countrysideconservancy.org

Countryside Conservancy's second annual Go Green Bike Tour is only two weeks away, and we promise this is the autumn event that you don't want to miss! Bring your road or mountain bike to Lackawanna State Park on Saturday, October 1st and experience firsthand the beauty of the Endless Mountains in October.

Beginner, intermediate and advanced bike routes will be available to accommodate riders of all abilities and preferences. Mountain bike routes will utilize the trails within the Lackawanna State Park/Countryside Conservancy trail system, ranging from a half-mile introductory ride for first-timers to an epic 18-mile single-track challenge for advanced riders. Road bike routes range from an 18-mile tour of the roads surrounding the State Park to a 62-mile Metric Century ride that will guide you through the backcountry roads of Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties.

"We came up with this event because we couldn't think of a better way to showcase the beautiful countryside that the Conservancy has worked so diligently to preserve," commented Bike Tour Committee Member Caroline Seamans. "This event offers something for everyone, including a hiking category for non-riders that want to participate in the fun. Others can also enjoy kayaking, fishing or just relaxing at the park while their friends or family participate in the bike tour."

All participants receive a map with specific route directions, lunch and a chance to win over \$1,000 worth of raffle prizes. The first 100 registrants receive a Go Green Bike Tour t-shirt and the first 50 registrants will also receive a Conservancy water bottle, so hurry up and register now! The cost is \$25 per rider if you register by

September 26th and \$35 per rider thereafter. Any parent or guardian can register themselves and up to 2 children (12 & under) for a total of \$35. Proceeds from this event will go toward supporting the Countryside Conservancy and their efforts to keep green spaces green. For more information or to register online visit the Conservancy's website at www.countrysideconservancy.org.



Go Paperless

Want to view this newsletter in full-color, digital, paperless format? Email us today at cconserv@epix.net.



Countryside Conservancy

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Upcoming Events

17th Annual Tailgate Picnic *Potluck*: Sunday, September 18—at Meadowsweet Preserve, Lily Lake Road, 3pm till dusk. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the sounds of live music by local band High Falls. Kid's activities, horse drawn wagon rides and roasted corn will also be available. Free to Conservancy members.

Go Green Bike Tour: Saturday, October 1—at Lackawanna State Park. Check-in between 7 and 10am. Routes for mountain bikers and road bikers of all ages and skill levels will be available. The cost is \$25 if you register before September 26 and includes food, beverages and 5 raffle tickets for all sorts of great prizes. Proceeds support the Countryside Conservancy in our pursuit of "Keeping Green Spaces Green!" Check out our website for more information and to register online.

Northeast Environmental Partners Awards Dinner: Thursday, October 27—at the Woodlands Inn and Resort. Celebrate "An Evening for Pennsylvania's Environment" as we honor individuals and organizations that, through partnerships, have achieved excellence in environmental protection or conservation. This year is particularly special because our very own Dorrance Belin will be receiving the Thomas P. Shelburne award for a lifelong commitment to land conservation in Pennsylvania. Also to be honored is the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition with a Northeast PA Environmental Partnership Award for their outstanding work in our local watershed.

Women Teaching Women Workshop

By Caroline Seamans, Board Member/Outreach Chair

Women, ask yourselves, "Why? Why don't I ride a bike?" The most common answers are: I don't have a bike; I'm afraid I can't keep up with others; I don't know how to ride a bike; I don't have time; I don't know where to bike; I don't have anyone to bike with; I don't know if I can do it; I'm too old or unfit; I'm afraid I'll get hurt. If any of these are your answers, you're in the majority; most women share your concerns. My question is, "Why not sign up for the Women Teaching Women Biking Workshop?"

We'll try to answer all your questions: who, when, where, why, how, and to what degree? You'll need a bike, a helmet, and the willingness to ride.

Who: Women ages 21 and up, up, up. **When:** Beginning in April 2012

Where: Different venues in Lackawanna, Wyoming, and Susquehanna Counties including Rail Trail in Forest City, Lackawanna State Park, and dirt and paved roads with low traffic.

Why: To gain fitness, confidence, and the pleasure of being outdoors.

How: By forming a group of women, becoming familiar with basics, riding in a group with individualized help, and working on skills and endurance.

What degree: As far as you want to go.

Here's your mission should you choose to accept it. Find a bike; get a helmet; let us know via the Conservancy's email that you are interested; grab a friend and get her interested, too. Check out our website (countrysideconservancy.org) in the near future for more information on this workshop series and we'll be in touch!

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.

Annual Tailgate Picnic *Potluck* Set for Sunday, September 18th

Countryside Conservancy invites you to celebrate summer's end in the great outdoors! The Conservancy will hold its 17th Annual Tailgate Picnic Sunday, September 18 at it's Meadowsweet Preserve on Lily Lake Road, Abington Township. The event starts at 3 pm and continues till dusk. This year's Picnic has a twist; Potluck! Pack a picnic lunch along with a plate to share and drive on out to the Preserve to join in this great neighborhood tradition!



Ellie Hyde, chair of this year's Picnic, is lining up a great afternoon. Live music will be provided by High Falls, playing classic rock. Children's activities and games, including the ever-popular sack races, will be organized throughout the afternoon. The Acker family will set up an open-air grill to roast the most tender corn in the county, with smores for dessert. Margaret Hull of Spring Hills Farm will provide horse-drawn wagon rides for young and old. Bring along your hiking boots or mountain bike to explore the extensive trail network over Conservancy and State Park lands accessible from the Meadowsweet trailhead.

Picnic admission is free to Conservancy members; non-members can receive a one-year membership with their \$15 admission. Meadowsweet Preserve is located on Lily Lake Road in Abington Township. Take PA Route 407 north for three-quarters of a mile from 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.

Spring Paddle Trip

What a blast! This May 7th paddle trip on the Tunkhannock Creek in Wyoming County launched from Nicholson and got out at Lazybrook Park in Tunkhannock. The quick-moving, 53-degree water soaked & chilled a few victims (5 out of 15 paddlers), but we also saw two bald eagles along with their nest. Next year we'll be sure to have hot chocolate at the end!

A big thank you to David Buck & Endless Mountain Outfitters and Ali Wilson for all their help with the trip.



Natural Gas Drilling Rig Tours

As part of the Conservancy's ongoing efforts to educate our staff, board and members on natural gas drilling in the region, we organized two rig tours in August. Fifteen Conservancy members attended the Chesapeake Rig Tour on August 12th and twenty-six Conservancy members came out for the Cabot Rig Tour on August 19th.

While these tours do give the industry a chance to promote itself, it also gives you

a chance to ask questions and see the operational details firsthand. If you would like to learn more about the extraction process and are interested in getting up-close and personal with a drilling rig, please let us know and we will schedule additional tours for next year.



August 19th Cabot Tour Group Photo: Laurie Stephens



Chesapeake drilling rig in operation. Photo: Bill Kern



Drilling rig floor at Chesapeake site. Photo: Bill Kern



Cabot operational well site, with the rig removed and surrounding land reclaimed. Photo: Laurie Stephens

Fair Trade Goods Sold Locally!



As I explained in the Spring newsletter, Fair Trade is an organized social movement and market-based approach that aims to help producers in developing countries make better trading conditions and promote sustainability.

Several readers wanted to know where they could purchase Fair Trade Certified products from a locally-owned and operated store, so I went to the first place that came to mind—Everything Natural in Clarks Summit. When I asked owner Barry Kaplan what Fair Trade products he had for sale, this was his response: *“Here’s just a sampling of our certified Fair Trade wares: Jewelry, clothing, food, chocolates (lots of chocolates!), coffee and tea, produce (especially bananas), accessories (scarves, hats, purses, etc.), and different kinds of gifts that vary incredibly depending on the season. We offer a lot of handmade items from individuals and craft people; it’s probably more accurate to describe them as direct trade, sometimes local. Regardless, we prefer and search for products that are kind to Earth and her inhabitants by meeting environmentally friendly criteria. That can include not only Fair Trade and Organic, but Forest Steward Certified, Cruelty Free, biodegradable, sustainable, recycled, produced with renewable energy, and more. We also carry quite a bit that we’ve researched and found to adhere to fair trade principals but are not certified.”*

You can see there is more to environmentally conscious buying than just one type of certification. While it is important to understand the meaning of these logos and certifications, it is also nice to know that when you shop at a store like Everything Natural, those products are available because they have already been vetted.

Please let me know of any other locally-owned and operated stores that provide Fair Trade and similarly certified items, and I will be more than happy to mention them in upcoming newsletters.

Stewards Of Their Land



Countryside Conservancy announced the winners of its 2011 Stewardship Awards at a ceremony on Wednesday, May 4th at Keystone College. This year’s ceremony recognized owners and caretakers of three properties as outstanding stewards of their farms, homes, lands and waters.

George Yedinak of Madison Township won the “working farm” category for his dairy farm. Peter and Laura Frieder of Dalton won the “residential” category for their restored property on Lily Lake Road. Michael and Charm Giangrieco of Montrose won the “special use” category for their property that is managed for wildlife habitat.

The Conservancy thanks all the award winners, who care so deeply for their land and have shown it through their work.

All award winners received certificates of appreciation and a one-year membership in the Conservancy. Also, our thanks to members of the Conservancy’s Outreach Committee including Ellie Hyde, Gretchen Ludders, Jack Muller, Marta Kovacs Ruiz and Caroline Seamans, who were responsible for selecting this year’s winners.

The Stewardship Awards were instituted 15 years ago to express the Conservancy’s appreciation for the efforts of good stewards of the land. The Countryside Conservancy conserves lands and water in and near the Tunkhannock Creek watershed for the public benefit now, and for the future. It is part of its mission to recognize and thank land owners and stewards who maintain their properties with respect for the land’s conservation and cultural values and thereby bring pleasure to the public.

We are currently accepting nominations for next year’s stewardship awards. If you have a friend, neighbor, relative or even a total stranger that you considered a good steward of their land, please let us know! Contact the office by calling (570) 945-6995 and we’ll get you the nomination form.

Gifts in Honor, Memory and Celebration

We offer our thanks to the following individuals who have made gifts to the Conservancy in honor of friends passing a special milestone in their lives, or in memory of friends and family members who are no longer with us. These gifts are placed in the Conservancy’s Land Fund to support our land protection activities throughout the region.

In memory of Morris Edmundson:

Ann Chamberlin

In memory of Bertha Schmidt:

F. Warren Breig, Jr.

In memory of memory of Jean Noble Colombo:

Elizabeth (Betsey) Cooper

Lynn Nichols

Peter and Sally Bohlin

The Garden Exchange

Fay Gunster

Ellie and Pete Axford

Glenwood Mausoleum

Susan and Dorrance Belin

Harmar and Leslie Brereton

Joan Wincovitch

Elizabeth Hughes

Theodore and Elaine Tacij

Jeanne Bovard

Mark and Bray Stahler

Frayda Froozan

The Board of Trustees and Staff of the Everhart Museum

F. Warren Breig, Jr. and Carol Fells

L. Peter and Laura Frieder, Jr.

Kathleen Graff

In honor of Pat & John Atkins’ 50th Wedding Anniversary:

Ann Chamberlin

Robin and Jeffrey Jacobson

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

The South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition is an arm of the Conservancy that focuses on raising awareness, connecting people with the watershed, and encouraging them to protect water resources.

By Janet Crowther (volunteer) and Ellie Hyde (Board Member and Chair of Coalition)

Members of the Watershed Coalition attended a refresher training course with Brian Oram in early June. Brian is the Laboratory Director, Center for Environmental Quality in the Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences Department at Wilkes University. Brian is also a water testing consultant with his own firm, B.F. Environmental Consultants. Brian discussed best collection practices in the field, testing protocols and interpreting testing results in the lab. We hope to have Brian return in the fall to talk about private water wells.

Other educational activities included Ellie Hyde attending the ALLARM water testing training related to Marcellus Shale impacts and presenting on our volunteer testing program at the Marcellus Shale Regional Advocacy Workshop held at Penn State Worthington by PennFuture and the Sierra Club. Several other watershed members attended sessions including the legal issues of regulating Marcellus Shale production at the local level.

Volunteers participated in an afternoon of bittersweet removal in partnership with

Lackawanna State Park, the Department of Forestry and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Oriental bittersweet is an invasive species which chokes trees and ultimately kills them. After the volunteers cut the vines at the base, Forestry applied an herbicide to kill the roots. In early June volunteers also attended a program in partnership with DCNR and Paul Bechtel on building a rain garden. Runoff from heavy rains, when diverted into a rain garden, is filtered and released slowly into the surrounding area. In late June volunteers installed a rain garden at the boat launch area in Lackawanna State Park. Please stop by the first parking lot of the park to see what we have created!

The Northeast Environmental Partnership Awards recognize outstanding accomplishments and teamwork in achieving excellence in environmental protection or conservation in NEPA. The Coalition submitted an application this year and was thrilled to be chosen as one of six recipients. The awards ceremony is Thursday October 27th, 5:00pm, at the Woodlands Inn in Wilkes-Barre.

Stone Wall Workshop

By Caroline Seamans, Board Member/Outreach Chair

What a day! As the group formed at the Lackawanna State Park's Environmental Building, we filtered into a room sporting natural memorabilia. Ken Ely of Good Neighbor Walls based in Susquehanna County had dutifully arrived early and laid out many books: both those heavy on pictures and those heavy on print for us to peruse while we informally got to know each other. Ken gave us a historical



L-R: Gerri Jesse, Mary Burkhart, Robert Sorokanich

perspective as well as a fascinating slide presentation featuring old and new walls. Toward the end of his hour presentation, we got to look at some tools of the trade and watch his demonstration of various techniques using different shaped stones. In answer to his query, "Are you ready to repair and rebuild,?" we stood up somewhat

Continued on Page 7.

Baptism at Little Rocky Glen

On Saturday, June 4th, 2011, youth Gregory J. Ellsworth, son of Conservancy staff member Cheryl Ellsworth and Gregory Ellsworth, was baptized in the waters at Little Rocky Glen. Pastor Brian Lucas, of the Factoryville and Dalton United Methodist Churches, officiated.

Upon acquiring the Glen several years ago, the Conservancy came into receipt of several historical photos showing visitors and events at the Glen. Among them were turn of the century baptism photographs, which spurred the idea. Once again, the flowing waters of the



L-R: Pastor Brian Lucas; Harold Schorr, Gregory Ellsworth Jr. and Gregory Ellsworth Sr.

Glen availed itself to family and friends for a most meaningful and memorable experience. The Ellsworth family wishes to thank the Conservancy for the privilege



Identities are unknown, but estimated to be turn-of-the-century.

and opportunity to once again experience the Glen for this purpose.

Twelfth Annual Conservancy Auction

The Conservancy's Twelfth Annual Auction took place on the lawn at Allied Services Corporate Center in Clarks Summit on July 9. For a summer dominated by unpredictable and generally wet weather, the day of the event could not have been more ideal. By the time guests arrived, the temperature had cooled to a pleasant 78 degrees, and you would be hard pressed to find a cloud in the sky.

This year we welcomed the culinary expertise of the Daniels Family's Epicurean Delight as our caterer and a major sponsor of the auction. Nimble Hill Winery once again served up their locally-produced reds and whites, and live music was performed compliments of Division Street Revival, made up of Stephen Murphy, Joel McLaughlin and Ben McLaughlin.

John Cowley, of Cowley Auction Company provided auctioneering services with Curtis Stevens as the Master of Ceremonies.

We warmly thank our Auction Chair, Elaine Shepard and all Auction Committee members—Penny Davis, Mark DeStefano, George Ginader, Kathleen Graff, Gretchen Ludders, Kristie Miller McMahon, Nancy Sarno de los Rios, Marta Kovacs Ruiz, DeDe Tersteeg and Jim Vipond

The Conservancy wishes to thank Honorary Auction Chair Bill Conaboy of Allied Services for his generosity and support. We also thank the staff of Allied Services, especially Mike DePew of the print shop. We also extend special thanks to Ginader Jones and Co. for their help with financial arrangements, and Garden Exchange for floral decorations.



We would also like to extend our most sincere thanks to all the sponsors and local artists, merchants and businesses who donated outstanding items to our Auction (see complete list below). Finally, we thank all our guests who generously supported us through their Auction purchases. It wouldn't happen without you! Auction proceeds support the Conservancy's mission of protecting lands and waters in and around the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed for the public benefit.

Thank You To Our Auction Donors

Auction Host:

Allied Services

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L-R: Ellen McGlynn, John Kane, Meg Dempsey, Terry Dempsey

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Brooke Wandall
Waverly General Store



Nimble Hill Ladies (L-R: Jennifer Durling, Debbie Snyder)

Trolley Talk

By Cheryl Ellsworth, Trail Coordinator

The staff and members of the Countryside Trail Committee have been quite busy this spring and summer. The spring season began in April with a volunteer work day where wooden bollards, custom made by committee member Jeff Fleming, were installed along a segment of trail between Ackerly and Waverly Roads. It is anticipated that the bollards will cut down the use of any non-authorized motor vehicles on the trail.

Former Conservancy Board President Jack Muller and wife Gayle lent and piloted a handsome 1928 Ford truck to bring attention to the Conservancy's participation in the annual Clarks Summit Memorial Day Parade. Jack noted that "the 1928 Ford Model AA is a one ton truck, with a flatbed body with two-foot high sides. It has 20 inch wire wheels and is quite an improvement from the final Model TT one ton truck of 1927. The 1928 Ford has a four cylinder, 40 horsepower engine, a three speed main transmission, and a two speed auxiliary transmission." The parade was well attended

and the Conservancy thanks those committee members who participated including Janine Port, event coordinator.

June brought several events including a Trolley Trail presence at the Clarks Summit Centennial Community Celebration Day held near the State Hospital. Amy Broadbent and Cheryl Ellsworth staffed an informational trail table where Norm Brauer's trolley book as well as other Conservancy merchandise was sold. Several new and interested persons signed up to learn more about Countryside. They seemed especially interested and excited about the prospects of a community walking trail coming to the area.

Most notably in June, Countryside Conservancy concluded negotiations with Anthony and Miriam Warezak, of the Dalton area, for the purchase of 1.6 acres of linear trail in LaPlume Township. This pristine segment is located adjacent to a parcel the Conservancy already owns off of Rt. 6 and West LaPlume Road (the Conservancy has a large wooden sign on this parcel which is viewable from Rt. 6).

This segment of trail is bounded at one end by the abutment of a former trolley bridge which connected to the former car barns and electric powering station which are now Dalton Lumber. The Conservancy wishes to thank the Warezaks', Attorney Ty Welles, and all the related parties who remained faithful to seeing this project to its successful completion.

Recently, committee member Jeff Fleming and Cheryl Ellsworth were fortunate to have the opportunity to research and peruse some of the fine historical collections of late historian Norm Brauer. Mr. William Byron and Mr. Robert Farrell assisted in the gathering of historic photos and memorabilia about the former Northern Electric Trolley. The Conservancy wishes to thank them as well as the late Mr. Darryl Ceccoli, Mrs. Katrina Ceccoli, and the late Norm Brauer and Mrs. Marjorie Brauer for their willing enthusiasm and generosity in sharing such wonderful historical artifacts. The Conservancy hopes to be able to share these gifts with the public in the future.

Stone Wall Workshop

Continued from Page 3

timidly and shuffled around. What I liked most was that the group consisted of men and women ranging from teens to sixties with every decade being represented. Soon a caravan of cars formed and we were off on the three minute trip to the Ziegler Preserve.

With coolers, tools, gloves, sunglasses, bug spray, and lunches, we wound around the well worn bike paths. "Are we almost there?" A tumbled down spot in the stone wall had been chosen earlier, and we landed in full force.

Four groups naturally fell in order with no accounting for age or gender. We raked leaves and debris aside, gently removed fallen stones into piles and looked to Ken for direction. Before we knew it, we were intuitively placing shaped stones into a void, accepting help from a team member,

and using the "dead man" hammer. "No fair shopping for corner stones from our pile; these are ours," and similar comments filled the air. We shared stories of why we were there: curiosity, a wall at home needed repair, a surprise Father's Day gift from sons.

It was well after noon when someone suggested we break for lunch...it was only at this point, well away from the wall, that we saw the results of our labors as a unifying force. Amid statements like, "Wow, it's really coming together," and "Look at that part over there," we realized our bunch of rag-tag, mismatched strangers were reconstructing a stone wall. That fact only spurred us on to finish.

Wiping sweat and swatting the occasional mosquito left us all with smeared dirt on our faces, arms, and legs. We began to set top stones—larger ones we had all set



End Result

aside specifically for this purpose. Ta-da! We had completed an honest morning's work, chatted about everything from novels to recipes to hobbies, and learned that we all shared the love of stone walls.

This is an event we'll continue next year. Plan to sign up, and come out and have some fun with us!

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

_____ Family \$50

_____ Friend \$100

_____ Founder \$150

_____ Patron \$250

_____ Benefactor \$500

_____ Trust Partner \$1,000 and up

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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 Bill Kern at P.O. Box 55, La Plume PA 18440. (570) 945-6995 or cconserv@epix.net



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