

CountryViews



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY

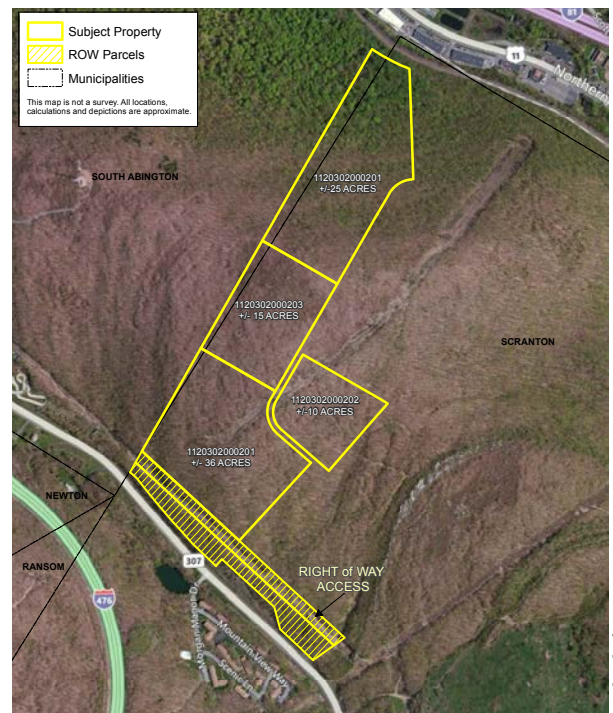
75-acre Land Donation in the Notch

By Bill Kern, Executive Director

In December, the Conservancy received a donation of a 75-acre parcel in the Notch between Clarks Summit and Scranton. The land is directly adjacent to our Shepherd Preserve, a 42-acre parcel, and altogether they represent 117 acres of preserved land in the Notch! While the Shepherd Preserve is in South Abington Township, the new addition is all within the City of Scranton and extends over the top of the mountain and down to the Morgan Highway/State Route 307. Commuters along US Routes 6 & 11, Interstate 81, and the PA Turnpike, along with residents of Clarks Summit, Chichilla and Scranton will all be able to enjoy the preservation of this striking landscape.

The gift was made by Mr. Jeffrey Bagley and his family. The Conservancy wishes to express its profound gratitude to the Bagleys and to acknowledge the great generosity of this gift. The Conservancy is honored to be chosen as the steward of this piece of the Earth.

The donated land is well forested, with a healthy ground cover. The opportunity to protect this parcel reminds us of the overwhelming importance of protecting our steep slopes from erosion and our streams from sedimentation. The best use of this land, for the greatest benefit to society, is to preserve it intact with good forest cover. This will protect a small part of the Leggetts Creek watershed from erosion, pollution and negative visual impacts, and preserve this piece of a majestic landform. The Conservancy will ensure that this property is protected forever from subdivision and development.



Josh Filad

Additionally, Mr. Bagley has agreed to allow a designated hiking access from the Morgan Highway, across the two small parcels that he still owns. This will allow hikers the opportunity to climb the steep hillside and enjoy the breathtaking views from the summit. The details of this access, along with the layout of the trails are still under development, and as such, are not yet open to the public. We will notify the community when access becomes publicly available.

We are glad to be able to help preserve this property, and deeply appreciate the honor and responsibility conferred upon us by the Bagley family.



Go Paperless

Want to view this newsletter in full-color, digital, paperless format? Email us today at william.kern@keystone.edu.



Countryside Conservancy

PO Box 55
La Plume PA 18440
(570) 945-6995

www.countrysideconservancy.org
cconserv@epix.net

Board of Directors:

James Dougherty, President
Abby Peck, Vice President
William Booth, Treasurer
Howard Jennings, Secretary
Patricia Acker
Dorrance Belin
Sandra Boyle
Walter Broughton
Will Chamberlin
George Ginader
Kathleen Graff
Margaret Hull
Lou Houck
Ellie Hyde
Vi Kelly
William Lewis
Gretchen Ludders
Jack Muller
Abby Peck
Marta Kovacs-Ruiz
Caroline Seamans
Elaine Shepard

Staff

Bill Kern, Executive Director
Cheryl Ellsworth, Trail Coordinator
Melissa Blase, Office Manager
Paul Maleski, Glen Steward
Al Deutsch, Glen Steward
Tracy Flynn, Glen Steward



Upcoming Events

With summer upon us, the Conservancy invites you to take part in some of the following events we have lined up for the next few months:

Moonlight Paddle: Monday, July 2, at 7:30pm at Lackawanna State Park. See article on page 3 for more details.

First Friday Hikes: Friday, July 6, at 3:00pm at Meadowsweet Preserve on Lily Lake Road in Dalton. A different preserve will be featured each month. Email william.kern@keystone.edu to get info on the hikes.

Online Auction: Monday, July 16 – Tuesday, July 31. In the spirit of our annual auction, this year we will feature a select few items that are always crowd favorites. Watch your mailbox and our website for how to bid and finally get that auction item that you have been after for years!

Cabot Drilling Rig Tour - Thursday, September 13. Call the Conservancy office to reserve your spot today.

18th Annual Tailgate Picnic Potluck: Sunday, September 16 at Little Rocky Glen Preserve, Lithia Valley Road, just off of Route 6 in Clinton Township, Wyoming County, from 3pm till dusk. For a new twist on an old favorite, please bring a dish to share! Free to Conservancy members.

Go Green Bike Tour: Sunday, October 7 at Lackawanna State Park. Watch our website and future newsletters for more information on this event.

For more information on these events please visit our website www.countrysideconservancy.org or call our office at 570.945.6995

GO GREEN BIKE TOUR—OCTOBER 7, 2012



Planning for Countryside Conservancy's third annual Go Green Bike Tour is well underway, 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 Sunday, October 7, 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. *(Continued on page 6.)*

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 16th

Countryside Conservancy invites you to celebrate summer's end in the great outdoors! The Conservancy will hold its eighteenth annual Tailgate Picnic on Sunday, September 16th at Little Rocky Glen Preserve, Lithia Valley Road, just off of Route 6 in Clinton Township, Wyoming County. The event starts at 3 pm and continues till dusk.

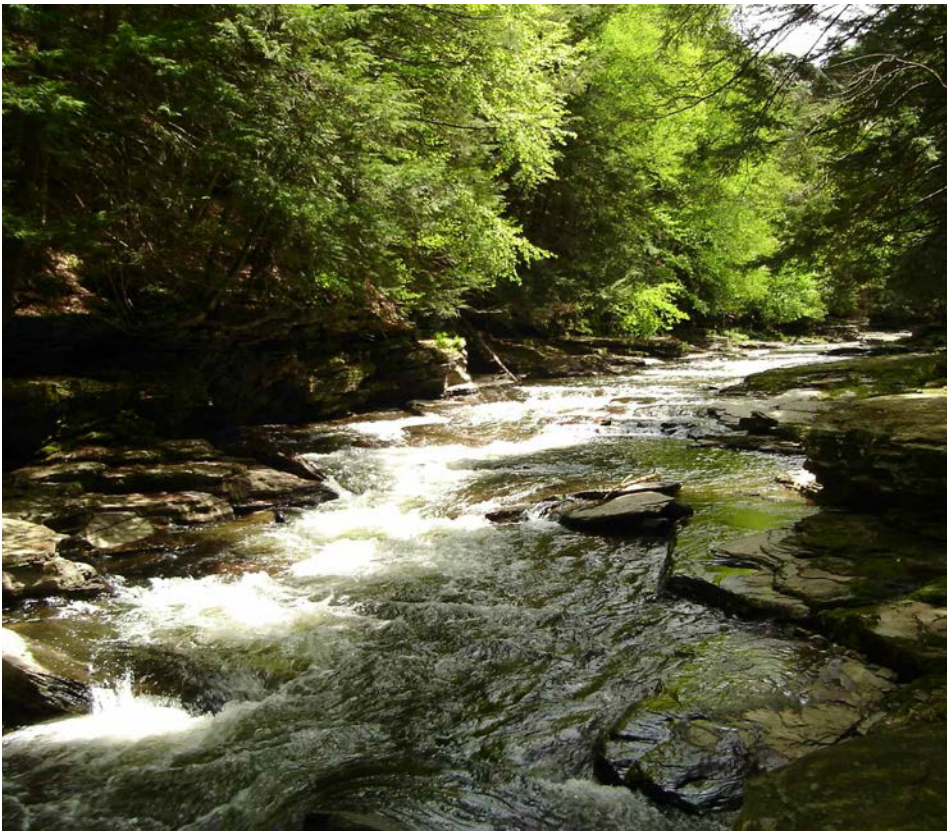
In addition to being at a new location this year, it will also be a potluck event! Pack a picnic lunch along with a dish to share and drive on out to the Little Rocky Glen Preserve to join in this great tradition!



Little Rocky Glen pavillion

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. Bring along your hiking boots, creek shoes or fishing pole to explore the extensive activities that this wonderful place has to offer.

Picnic admission is free to Conservancy members; non-members can receive a one-year membership with their \$15 admission. Little Rocky Glen Preserve is located on Lithia Valley Road in Clinton Township. Take US Route 6 west towards Tunkhannock from Factoryville for 2.2 miles, turn left onto Lithia Valley Road, and the Preserve is less than half a mile down the road on the right. Directions can also be found, along with photos, on the Conservancy's website: www.countrysideconservancy.org



Moonlight Kayaking— July 2nd

By Janet Crowther

The South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition, our water quality monitoring group, is planning a moonlight kayak in partnership with Lackawanna State Park on July 2nd. All Conservancy members are invited to join in the fun. We will paddle down Lake Lackawanna with Angela Lambert, Lackawanna State Park's Environmental Education Specialist, and enjoy the early moonrise and the sights along the lake.

No previous kayaking experience is necessary. Bring your own kayak, if you have one, or use one of the park's kayaks. If you are using your own kayak you must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD, current boat registration and a flashlight. The park has a number of kayaks for use which can be reserved ahead of time. Meet at the South Shore Boat Mooring in Lackawanna State Park, off of Route 407 at 7:30pm on Monday evening. The rain date is Tuesday, July 3rd.

To register for the event, and make kayak reservations if you want to use a park kayak, call Angela at (570) 945-7110. Previous kayak outings were enjoyed by all. Hope to see you there!



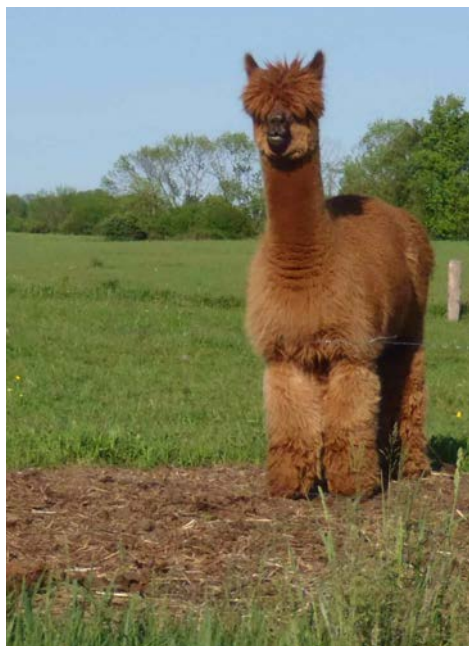
Women Teaching Women Biking Workshop

By Caroline Seamans; Outreach Committee Chair

In spite of negotiations with Mother Nature not working to our advantage rain-wise, the women's biking sessions are successfully moving ahead. They take place on Monday & Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings and usually leave from one of three venues: Keystone College, Lackawanna State Park, and Benton Township building in Fleetville, and will continue to do so through June. There is also a ride scheduled on Rail-Trail leaving from the Forest Trail Head. Because the roads of choice are mainly low-traffic, paved roads or dirt roads, mountain and hybrid bikes are used.

Staying fit, learning tips, and the camaraderie of the group are all part of the program's success; however, most will agree it's the outdoors and what it has to offer that keeps everyone coming back. Pedaling along brings with it panoramic landscapes, rainbows, wildlife, plants, and sheep farms as well as a few surprises. The entire countryside looks a bit different from the seat of a bike.

If you are interested in joining send an email to carolinerose@epix.net



We spotted this alpaca on one of our rides!

Welcome Our Newest Employee – Melissa Blase!



Melissa Blase

In February, we were saddened to learn that our beloved Office Manager, Jennifer Forster, had made the decision to move to Pittsburgh with her partner, Scott Koerber. Although we tried to convince her that five hours is really not that long of a commute, she ultimately decided to resign her position. On behalf of the entire Conservancy staff, board and membership, I want to wish Jennifer and Scott the best of luck with their new life and to thank her for two great years of hard work and dedication.

The good news is that Jennifer was able to help us find another outstanding Office Manager named Melissa Blase! After training with Jennifer for four weeks, Melissa has been on her own ever since and has been doing a fantastic job.

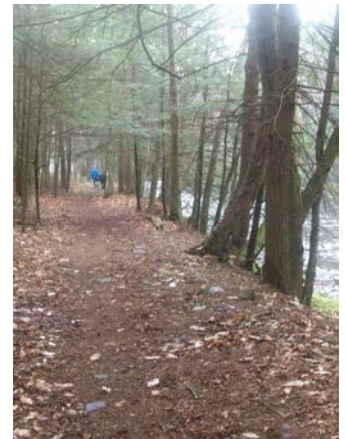
Learning all the many facets of her job and of this organization would be an overwhelming task for some, but Melissa has jumped right in and we could not be happier with her progress.

Melissa is a Clarks Summit native and has managed restaurants across Florida and here in Clarks Summit. Most recently, she was a part of the Registrar's Office at Keystone College and currently resides in Clarks Summit. It takes a certain type of personality to juggle all of the tasks that keep this office running (and maybe a slight bit of insanity), but Melissa is certainly up to the task! Welcome to the Conservancy team!

Feel free to stop by and meet her or send her an email at Melissa.Blase@keystone.edu.

Hull Conservation Easement Dedication & Hike

On Sunday, April 15th, more than thirty hikers and two dogs came out for the dedication of the conservation easement on Margaret Hull's property. While the rain threatened to dampen the festivities, it held off and actually made for a remarkably colorful hike through the Hemlocks. Ms. Hull spoke fondly of this 33-acre area and recounted childhood stories of playing in the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek. Dorrance Belin pointed out the good fly fishing spots and Lackawanna State Park Manager, Dustin Drew, noted the significance of the trail in connecting the park with the Conservancy's Messimer Preserve. Thanks to everyone that came out and to Margaret Hull for her continued dedication to conservation!



Trolley Talk – First Wyoming County Trail Easement Donated

By Cheryl Ellsworth, Trail Coordinator



On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Barbara Brown, of Clinton Township, for her recent donation of a trail easement of approximately 1,500 feet of trolley right-of-way on her property in Wyoming County (seven additional acres of Mrs. Brown's property were also preserved through a conservation easement in 2004). Barbara continues to conscientiously steward her land and is clearly committed to preserving it for future generations to enjoy. This

particular trail section abuts the Lackawanna Audubon lands at Davis Crossing Sanctuary and comprises one of the most scenic and peaceful properties along the former trail route. Original stone work, as pictured, remains intact from the trolley line which operated from 1908 until 1932.

This donation, finalized on February 22, 2012, is special to Countryside Conservancy as it represents the first trail easement in Wyoming County. This easement will one day be part of Phase 3 of our Trolley Trail project connecting Factoryville to Lake Winola. Although the current grant work is focused on Phase 1 (Clarks Summit to Dalton), the long range plan will be to connect Dalton to Factoryville and



Factoryville to Lake Winola. Work on trail easements and acquisitions continues to move forward on all three phases.

The Conservancy also wishes to thank Attorney Ty Welles who guided this trail easement to completion. The Conservancy Trail committee will carry forth the conditions presented within the agreement.



Grant Work Updates

By Cheryl Ellsworth, Trail Coordinator

This past spring and early summer have continued to bring much activity for the Conservancy's Trolley committee and staff.

Work has begun in earnest on our DCNR grant as final design plans are underway. Additionally, plans are being made by the Trail committee to schedule a trail ground-breaking event, by summer's end. Communication with local PennDOT representatives, as well as local municipalities and landowners has been occurring over the past few months.

In April, committee member Jeff Fleming and volunteers arranged a clean up and

clearing of the trail segment along Route 6 and Old State Road, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Cory Durso. This clean up coincided with the Earth Day weekend and was a part of the "Great American Cleanup of PA". The Conservancy was also present in Clarks Summit Borough this same weekend to share information on the trail project with the public in general.

Conservancy staff member Paul Maleski coordinated efforts with Mrs. Debbie Sweppenheiser and local girl scouts from the LaPlume area to tackle a clearing and clean up effort along West LaPlume Road. It is believed a small trolley station may once have stood on this site where a

small foundation remains. The Conservancy wishes to thank all for their efforts.

The Trail committee has recently completed a fundraising plan and will continue its efforts to raise the necessary match monies for grant compliance. Donations are welcome from all to assist in this endeavor.

Check the website for future trail work days as well as a formal date for the ground breaking ceremony. Once again, the Conservancy wishes to thank all who continue to support and participate in this project!

Watershed Coalition Receives DEP Grant

By: Janet Crowther



John Baidon testing for dissolved oxygen content

We are proud to announce that the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition, under the sponsorship of the Conservancy, was awarded a \$2,561 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) environmental education grant. The grant was announced on Earth Day and has since been approved. It will be used to purchase water testing equipment that can be used streamside and a display board with educational materials. The new equipment will make it feasible for the Coalition to hold educational outreach programs without the need of a lab.

The Watershed Coalition, an arm of the Conservancy made up of about twenty volunteers who have monitored the water in the Tunkhannock Creek watershed since 2004, is dedicated to preserving the health of the watershed that is at the core of the Conservancy's properties. Their primary focus is on collecting long-term chemical, physical and biological data on the condition of streams in the lower Tunkhannock watershed. The volunteers go out to eleven strategic sites once monthly from March to December, weather permitting, and collect water samples. They return to a makeshift lab and test the water for nitrates, phosphates, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved solids (TDS), pH and conductivity. With the advent of Marcellus shale drilling in the region, having baseline data has never been more important.

The grant runs from July 2012 through June 2013. During this time the Coalition will sponsor four educational activities for students on watershed testing. Angela Lambert, Environmental Education Specialist at Lackawanna State Park, will conduct a day long water testing workshop for approximately thirty students from Lackawanna Trail at the park in the fall. Coalition volunteers will use the new phosphate, nitrate and TDS meters to demonstrate water testing streamside. A similar program will be run by science teacher Megan Wolfe for 7th and 8th grade students from The Howard Gardner School at Keystone College, with Keystone education students assisting and observing.

One or two students from Lackawanna Trail High School will accompany the Coalition volunteers on their monthly sampling and testing as part of their senior project. Dale Holen, PhD and Associate Professor of Biology at Penn State University Worthington campus will mentor the students as they collect samples and perform all the same tests that our volunteers do.

In the spring we will join Cheryl Nolan, Watershed Specialist at the Lackawanna County Conservation District, at Lakeland School as part of their Earth Day Fair. The new equipment will be available for students to perform hands-on testing of water samples provided by the volunteers to demonstrate how the meters test for various water quality parameters. The new display board will provide additional watershed information at all of the programs.

If these educational activities prove worthwhile, as we expect them to, we hope to continue them in the coming years as part of our outreach to the community.

Thanks to all who are participating in the grant activities.

2012 Stewardship Award Winners

Residential Award—

Michael & Jackie Simmons

Working Farm—

Joe & Beverly Bernoske (Maple Hill Farm)

Special Use Award—

Abington Area Joint Recreational Board



Marlene Aitken, Michael Simmons, Jackie Simmons, Beverly Bernoske, Ellie Hyde, Carolyn Crowley, Gretchen Ludders, Diane Vietz, Bill Kern

GO GREEN BIKE TOUR— OCTOBER 7, 2012

(Continued on page 6.)



This event offers something for everyone, including a hiking category for non-riders that want to take part 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, hot 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, so hurry up and register now! The cost is \$30 per rider if you register by September 28, and \$40 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 towards supporting the Countryside Conservancy and their efforts to keep green spaces green. For more information or to register online visit our website www.countrysideconservancy.org.

2012 Stonewall Workshop on Ziegler Preserve

Many thanks to Ken & Debbie Ely, workshop facilitators; Ernie Keller and the Wayne Lackawanna Forest Landowners Association for providing lunch; Angela Lambert and Lackawanna State Park; PA Humanities Council; and of course, the hearty volunteers that helped to rebuild a part of our rural heritage!



The rebuilding of a stone wall—beginning to end.



Before



After

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 Henri Deutsch:

John and Diane Lenahan, Jr.
Gretchen Ludders and Robert Fleese

In memory of Whitney Chamberlin:

Kathleen Graff

In memory of Phil Graff:

Warren and Heather Acker
Dorrance and Susan Belin
Joan Belin
Marjorie Black
Peter and Sally Bohlin
F. Warren Breig, Jr. and Carol Fells
Austin and Marianne Burke
Ann Chamberlin
Gretchen Ludders and Robert Fleese
L. Peter and Laura Frieder, Jr.
Esther Friedmann
Marc and Mary Hart
Howard Hyde
Howard and Susan Jennings
Gwen Jones

Barbara Ann Kolucki

Matthew and Dorothy Mackie, Jr.

Rosalind Marks

Jack and Gayle Muller

Joan Newman

Lynn Nichols

Mary Rhodes

Barbara Scheuer

Bill and Maryla Scranton, III

Elaine Shepard

Joan Theilgard

Jerry and Debbie Thier

Peter and Mickey Tierney

Judith Weinberger

Ty and Linda Welles

Kay White

Ginader Jones & Co. LLP

Jacobson Hat Co., INC: Howard &
Claire, Jeffery & Robin and David & Gail

In memory of Fred Gardner:

Abby Peck

Lucy and John Eysenbach

In memory of Roz and Jim Peck:

Abby Peck

In memory of Mott Peck:

Abby Peck

In honor of Dorrance Belin's Birthday:

Mary Rhodes

In honor of the fine service that Jennifer Forster provided the Conservancy from 2010-2012:

Jack and Gayle Muller

In honor of Pat Acker's Birthday:

Heather and Warren Acker

In honor of the birth of L.P. and Amanda Frieder's son, Griffin:

Heather and Warren Acker

**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

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



Printed on FSC Certified paper.



Recycled



Printed with 100% VOC Free 100% vegetable based ink.

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

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

