

CountryViews

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY



Trolley Talk - Groundbreaking with DCNR Secretary Richard Allan



Abigail Peck. (Courtesy of Abington Journal)

The Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail committee held a well attended and enthusiastic Groundbreaking Ceremony on August 27th at the Church of the Epiphany in Glenburn. This long awaited event added an official marking that work on the Trolley Trail Phase 1, from Clarks Summit Borough to Dalton, will soon be occurring.



Secretary Richard J. Allan from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was on hand to offer insightful remarks, as well as several Conservation Department professionals who have worked with the Conservancy over the years. Also speaking were Ms. Fran Pantuso,

Lackawanna County Community Outreach Manager, Attorney Charles H. Welles, Trolley Committee Chair, and Conservancy Board President James Dougherty. Abby Peck, the daughter of Trail visionary Rosamond R. Peck, shared very meaningful memoirs of her Mother and how much the day's event would have meant to "Roz". Several friends and members of the Conservancy as well as local community representatives were on hand to support the event and offer their best wishes as the project moves forward.

The Conservancy would like to offer a special thank you to all of the Trail committee members who made the event possible, especially the Church of the Epiphany who graciously allowed the use of their grounds and facilities.

The Trail committee is pleased to report that many local foundations and corporations have stepped up to the plate to pledge funds to reach the DCNR Grant match required of Countryside. As of November 2012, the Conservancy has half of a \$141,000.00 match in hand and has pledges which will span the next four years, for the remainder amount. A complete list of Trolley Trail supporters and funders can be found on page three. It goes without saying that the work accomplished on this project thus far has only been made possible by such loyal and ongoing support.

In other exciting news, the Conservancy Trail Committee held its Grant Project Kick-off meeting with Tim Wilson from Arora & Associates, on November 15th. This meeting resulted in the timeline and schedule of tasks necessary to allow for contract bidding and actual construction hopefully before year end 2013.

The Trail committee continues to be active with work on Phase 2 (Dalton to Factoryville) and Phase 3 (Factoryville to Lake Winola) while Phase 1 is in progress. For more information or to support the cause or purchase Norm Brauer's *Dalton Street Railway* book, please contact the office at 570 945-6995 or visit the Conservancy website.



A Trail Groundbreaking was held on August 27, 2012 at Church of the Epiphany in Glenburn. Pictured above are: James Dougherty, Board President Countryside; Fran Pantuso, Lackawanna County Community Outreach Mgr.; Richard Allan, Secretary PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Abigail Peck, Board Vice President and daughter of Trail visionary Rosamond Peck; Cheryl Ellsworth, Conservancy Trail Coordinator; Atty. Charles Welles, Trail Committee Chair. Photo courtesy of the Abington Journal



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Upcoming Events

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

Adopt A Highway Cleanup: Saturday, April 20 on Route 632 from Dalton to Waverly. Organized by the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition. Meet behind the Dalton Fire Hall at 9:00 am.

E-Cycling Event: Saturday, May 4, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm at Everything Natural in Clarks Summit. The Conservancy will be teaming up with Waste Management and Everything Natural to collect and recycle your electronic waste.

“Green Fire” Documentary: Saturday, May 11, at 11:00 am, at the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock. This new documentary on the life of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold will be shown for free with the support of the Overlook Estate Foundation and various local environmental groups. In conjunction, the Tunkhannock Library will host book discussions on Wednesday, May 8 and 15 at 7:00pm, for Leopold’s most popular book, *A Sand County Almanac*.

Stone Wall Workshop: Friday, June 7, for a historical slideshow presentation at Lackawanna State Park, and Saturday June 8, at the Conservancy’s Ziegler Preserve for the hands-on workshop. Call the Conservancy office to reserve your spot!

14th Annual Conservancy Auction: Saturday, July 13, Waverly Country Club. New location, new items and a new look and feel - save the date and plan to be there!

Moonlight Kayaking: Monday, July 22, at 7:30 pm at Lackawanna State Park. You can bring your own kayak or reserve one from the state park’s environmental education specialist, Angela Lambert, at (570) 945-7110.

Go Green Bike Tour: Sunday, August 25, at Lackawanna State Park. Watch our website and future newsletters for more information on this event.

19th Annual Tailgate Picnic Potluck: Sunday, September 15, at Little Rocky Glen Preserve, Lithia Valley Road, just off of Route 6 in Clinton Township, Wyoming County, from 3pm till dusk. Please bring a dish to share! Free to Conservancy members and \$10 per car for non-Conservancy members.

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

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.

Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail Acknowledgments

Easement Donations and Acquisitions: Support and Assistance Provided By:

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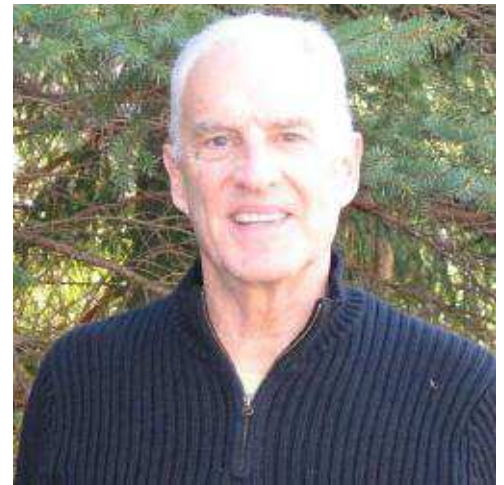
Arora & Associates, P.C
Tim Wilson Lead Consultant and
Planner

Church of the Epiphany

Members, friends and local scouting
groups and businesses

Welcome!

Development Officer Jim Vipond



Jim Vipond, Development Officer

Jim joined the Conservancy staff in November of 2012, as our first Development Officer. He is responsible for all fundraising events, membership support, corporate donations and support from foundations.

Jim is delighted to join the organization as an advocate for the stewardship of our lands in the Endless Mountains region. An avid outdoorsman who enjoys the many outdoor activities in our area, he is enthusiastically committed to increasing revenues for the Conservancy as we seek to balance land and water protection in this region with economic development. One of Jim's primary goals is to vastly increase the membership base of the Conservancy to help conserve and preserve open space for our current and future residents.

Jim previously worked in Arts Management and Architecture and was most recently Director of the Everhart Museum in Scranton. In every endeavor, his directive has been to assure growth and financial stability for the organization. Jim is excited to now help augment growth for the Conservancy.

Jim received his BA from Williams College and his MA (Architecture) from the University of Pennsylvania. He happily resides near the Conservancy's Meadowsweet Preserve with his wife Sharon and their dog, Lollie.



Trolley Trail in the near future.

Go Green Bike Tour 2012

By Caroline Seamans, Board Member

As daylight dawned on our third annual Go Green Bike Tour held Sunday, October 7th at Lackawanna State Park, it was evident that sun would be lacking, but so, too, were rain and breezes, so we had a perfect riding day. Prudential volunteers under the guidance of Mike Williamson did an excellent job putting up signs, registering riders, answering questions, and setting up pre-biking snacks including some home-made goodies from Gretchen Ludders and Ellie Hyde. Along with some board members, Prudential volunteers also manned food

and drink stations for road bike riders at the Hop Bottom and Dalton Fire Halls, and the Nicholson Pump n Pantry, as well as two stations on-site in the park for mountain bike riders. These stations were a welcome addition to the morning snacks and hot lunch provided by Keystone College.

Riders had their choice of six routes: three designed for mountain bikes and three designed for road bikes. For those of you who are not cyclists, you can tell a mountain bike by the fat, knobby tires,



Group of road bikers



Countryside Conservancy and Prudential Volunteers with demo fat bikes from Sickler's Bike & Sport Shop



Left-to-right, Trevor Dunning, Teresa Cavalier, Caroline Seamans

the dents on the frame, and all the mud the bike has picked up from fording streams, slogging through wet areas, and snagging tree trunks; the road bikes have skinnier tires and are sleeker, cleaner, and shinier because their lives are spent on pavement.

The longer the route a rider chose, the earlier he or she departed in order to make it back for lunch, music and the raffle. Many riders chose to follow the maps and cue sheets that were provided and took off solo or with a few friends. Others felt that the camaraderie provided by being in a group with a leader fit their needs better.

I rode the beginner road bike ride featuring 22 miles. Our diverse group included two moms and their kids, some friends, a solo teen, and a woman who participated in the Countryside Conservancy's biking clinic earlier this season. After we exchanged first names and a few ground rules were laid down, the ten of us were off toward Fleetville. Comments on the foliage were punctuated with observations on shifting gears, the weather and the traffic. Rolling hills, taking a layer off, a lost mirror, borrowing an Allen wrench and then the back roads took us to the

Go Green Bike Tour 2012

(Continued from page 4.)

traffic light on Routes 6 & 11. Cruising through Keystone College Campus and over a bridge closed to vehicular traffic, we hit our second serious hill followed by a long haul, a quick down and a stop in Dalton at the fire hall rest stop/snack station. Lots of laughs and a steep climb brought us to Waverly; a circuitous route through peaceful, winding roads got us back to the point of beginning, i.e. the state park. Hot food and drinks with live music by High Falls. It doesn't get much better than this. But wait, there's the raffle!

Many companies sponsored us in the form of raffle prizes ranging from biking

accessories like seat packs, sunglasses and helmets to rounds of golf, Northeastern PA Philharmonic tickets, and baskets of office supplies. Other sponsors were extremely generous and supported us monetarily to help offset the costs of printing, advertising, providing food, t-shirts and the like. Please take the time to check out these sponsors on our website; we could not have offered this event without their support and belief in our mission. We ask that you support them, if the occasion arises.

Our aim is to continue the Go Green Bike Tour; we hope that for generations to come, our descendents will ride these

same roads and enjoy these same viewsheds that you, as supporters, along with Countryside Conservancy have helped to create and maintain. Thank you, and happy trails!



Ed and Nina Russo at the Nicholson Pump n Pantry rest-stop

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 Fred Gardner:

Abby Peck
Lucy Eysenbach
Trudy Gerlach

In memory of

Wellington and Jean Colombo:
Francesca Colombo

In memory of Dr. William Peters:

Cheryl and Greg Ellsworth

In memory of Joseph Franceski:

Mary Felley

In memory of Robert and Louise Hull:

First Presbyterian Church of Clarks
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In honor of Gretchen Ludders' Birthday:

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Bill and DeDe Tersteeg

Kathryn LeSoine and Will Chamberlin

Janet and Dave Crowther

Pat and Kristie McMahon

Ed and Terry Golecki

Hank and Aggie Fells

Laurie Graham and Larry Wilson

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Elizabeth Burkhauser

In honor of Ann Chamberlin's Birthday:

Lynn Nichols

In honor of Kathryn Lesoine's Birthday:

Bill and DeDe Tersteeg

Gretchen Ludders and Bob Fleese

In honor of Shirley LeSoine's Birthday:

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Gretchen Ludders and Bob Fleese

A Christmas gift in honor of

Heather and Warren Acker:

Terry and Tina Haight

A Christmas gift in Honor of Mary Acker:

Terry and Tina Haight

A Christmas gift in honor of

Pat and Will Acker:

Terry and Tina Haight

A Christmas gift in honor of

Dorrance and Susan Belin:

Charlie and Nancy Belin

A Christmas gift in honor of

Jack and Gayle Muller:

Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Dinee, Sr.

*In honor Jack Muller's SAG Wagon on call
fine service at the Go Green Bike Tour:*

Will Chamberlin and Kathryn LeSoine

2012 Tailgate Picnic Potluck

On what was quite possibly the nicest day of the year, more than 70 members and friends of the Conservancy came out to Little Rocky Glen for our 18th Annual Tailgate Picnic Potluck. After having had the event for many years at the Meadowsweet Preserve, we felt it would be a good time for a change of scenery, and the attendees could not have agreed more! Many thanks to event chair and board member, Ellie Hyde; Bob Strunk and Mike Lambert of the High Falls Duo; Pat and Will Acker of s'mores and roasted corn fame; Paul Maleski and his meticulous stewarding of Little Rocky Glen; and all of the volunteers and attendees that helped to make this a wonderful day in a wonderful place. Please join us again this year at the same location on Sunday, September 15, 2013.



New Documentary on Aldo Leopold Showing at the Dietrich

On Saturday, May 11, at 11:00am, the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock will host a free screening of a new film called *Green Fire*, the first full-length, high definition documentary ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Aldo Leopold's life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways in which his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today.

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time is a production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires

people today. Although probably best known as the author of the conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold is also renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

Support for the screening is provided by the Dietrich Theater, Overlook Estate Foundation, Countryside Conservancy, South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition, Lower Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association, North Branch Land Trust and Endless Mountains Heritage Region. All organizations will be available at the event to answer questions and provide information about their local environmental efforts. In conjunction with the screening, the Tunkhannock Library will host book discussions on

Wednesday, May 8 and 15 at 7:00pm, for *A Sand County Almanac*.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is distributing this film to community screeners, and is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The foundation's mission is to inspire an ethical relationship between people and land through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. Learn more about the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the *Green Fire* movie at www.aldoleopold.org.



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.

The Watershed Coalition is excited to partner with the Conservancy and Dietrich Theater for a special showing of *Green Fire* at the theatre on May 11th at 11:00 am. *Green Fire* is a celebrated documentary of the life of Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac* and one of the great conservationists of the twentieth century. Please stop by our table either before or after this informative film to find out what we in the Coalition are doing to promote a healthy watershed locally!

You may remember that the Coalition received an education grant for 2012 from DEP. In the fall we partnered with Angela Lambert, Environmental Education Specialist at DCNR, for a half day hands-on seminar for Lackawanna Trail science students. Following an introductory program on the importance of water testing, Coalition

volunteers led stream side water testing for the students. A short test concluded the morning as the students overcame challenges as they wrote their answers. Several students from Lackawanna Trail also joined us to participate in monthly water testing in the fall.

This spring the program will continue as we partner with Megan Wolfe from The Howard Gardner School in another half day water testing program, this time for 7th and 8th grade students. They will have the opportunity to use our grant-funded equipment to test water samples from the Tunkhannock Creek behind Keystone College.

For the last phase of our grant, we will participate in Lakeland High School's EnviroFair in April. Our display will offer hands-on water testing using equipment

purchased through the DEP grant.

Anyone interested in joining our monthly Saturday morning water testing is encouraged to contact Ellie Hyde. For more information, email sbtcwc@gmail.com.



COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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

Growth and Sources of Support

Memberships and appeal gifts from over 400 active members contributed over \$53,000 toward Conservancy operations and programs in calendar year 2012. Our Go Green Bike Tour, Lottery Raffle and Online auction netted over \$19,000.

Grants of over \$61,000 from government agencies, private and corporate foundations were disbursed to match the DCNR Final Design and Construction grant for the Trolley Trail. Private grant funders included the Ross Family Foundation, the Frances Fuller Charitable Lead Trust, the Frieder Foundation and the Scranton Area Foundation. Corporate support was received from Marworth, Prudential, PNB and PNC banks, and PPL.

At year's end 2012, Conservancy assets stood at over \$1.6 million dollars, almost two-thirds of which are non-liquid assets representing the value of preserved land. Approximately \$400,000 of the remainder are funds temporarily restricted for land or easement purchase, and funds restricted for land and easement stewardship.

Please continue to support Countryside Conservancy, or join if you have not yet taken the opportunity, as we strive to further our efforts in this most worthy endeavor. Opportunities abound through land conservation easements and the recreational Trolley Trail. With your assistance, financially and in volunteering in our many activities, we can achieve much in 2013 and into the future.



Gateway Preserve, Lackawanna County

Thanks To Our Supporters

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and businesses who made membership contributions (including memorial and honor gifts) to the Countryside Conservancy in 2011.

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Trail through the woods at Quarry Ridge.



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Clinton Township Easement, Wyoming County

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View of Elk Mountain, North and South Knob, from the Felley easement (photo: Rylan Coker)

Mr. and Mrs. John Walker
 Rev. and Mrs. William Warne, II
 Mrs. Katherine Warriner
 Mr. and Mrs. Warren Watkins
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