

CountryViews

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY



Lackawanna Audubon Donates 27 Acres in Newton Township

by: Bill Kern, Executive Director

After many years as allies in local conservation efforts, the Lackawanna Audubon Society decided to guarantee the permanent protection of their Forest Acres Sanctuary by donating it to Countryside Conservancy. This beautiful property in Newton Township, Lackawanna County, contains second growth forest and a portion of Corby Swamp. The relatively level terrain makes the trails on this property accessible to a wide variety of people, and the birding opportunities are plentiful.

Located at the intersection of Forest Acres Drive and Beaver Pond Road, this preserve is just a stone's throw from the Abington Middle School and Newton-Ransom Elementary School complex - see map. The Conservancy would like to thank attorney and board member, Sandy Boyle, for her legal guidance on this property transfer, and the entire board and membership of the Lackawanna Audubon Society. Because of your forward thinking and love of this important property, the Conservancy will be able to manage and protect the Forest Acres Sanctuary for everyone to enjoy! *Additional photos on page 2.*



Photo: Michael Carey



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Countryside Conservancy

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Upcoming Events

Moonlight Snowshoeing: Thursday, January 16, at 7:00 pm at Lackawanna State Park. You can bring your own snowshoes or reserve a pair from the state park's environmental education specialist, Angela Lambert, at (570) 945-7110.

For more information on our upcoming events please visit our website at www.countrysideconservancy.org or call our office at 570.945.8895.

Forest Acres Sanctuary - Newton Township

photos: Michael Carey



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 Development Highlights 2013

by: Jim Vipond, Development Officer

My commitment to maintain and develop support for the Countryside Conservancy is derived from my passion for the successful endeavors of “our” land trust. In supporting the Conservancy, the personal benefit has been use and enjoyment of the properties and venues offered by this organization. The enjoyment is immeasurable. When the opportunity arose to help build support for the Conservancy, I enthusiastically accepted the position of Development Officer. The endeavor is rewarding as we continue to strive to build a larger committed constituency for the Conservancy. Our mission is to conserve and preserve valuable and important lands in our watershed as we seek to strike a balance between conservation and economic growth in our region. This is our task and my endeavor is to expand our outreach, educate our friends and neighbors about our work and build an expanded and engaged group of supporters.

Our work is focused on providing venues, programs and events for our current supporters and we do that with great success. Rather than

maintaining the “Status quo”, my endeavor is to expand our support, not only with larger gifts but with more participants. We can grow our support by engaging more people in our region who appreciate and benefit from our work. The attractiveness of our region is the opportunity to enjoy and utilize the many physical assets of northeastern Pennsylvania. The success to date has been the response by our existing members to commit time, resources and energy to the Conservancy. The result is that we had a very successful Annual Auction, a substantial increase in participation for our Go Green Bike Tour and wonderful support for our other activities. Our base of support is strong but the goal is to grow our support by increasing the number of members.

The challenge is to expand our outreach and inform more people about the successful work that we perform in this watershed. While many groups and individuals utilize our beautiful venues, some respond through support but many others are not aware that the Countryside

Conservancy provides and maintains these properties to be used and enjoyed by all. Therefore, my mission is to increase awareness and engage a larger constituency who appreciate our work. Thus, this first year of increasing support has been both fulfilling and challenging. I am most appreciative of our existing membership. The response by members has been good year to date; however, the goal is to involve new members, new friends of the Conservancy. It is heartwarming to be part of an organization that successfully conserves land and provides it for use to our populace. I am most grateful for the continued support of our “faithful”. You are to be commended for your interest and help. With the help of our committed members, we can disseminate our success and our triumphs so that more people will become partners with the Conservancy. Our work benefits all those who enjoy our surroundings. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to help build “our” conservancy so that we have a greater and more positive impact on our region. Thank you!



E-cycling Event

Many thanks to all of our volunteers, donors, Abington Football Team, Everything Natural, Waste Management and DeMeck Roofing for supporting our E-cycle Event on May 4th. We collected 6 TONS of electronics waste and \$430 in donations for the Conservancy!

14th Annual Auction

by: Melissa Blase, Office Manager

Our 14th Annual Auction, "In the Woods", was one of the most successful auctions we have had to date. The Waverly Country Club was the setting for this magnificent event that was beautifully decorated by the gracious donation from Greystone Gradients. Over 175 people danced the night away to the talented and lively band, Music for Models.

This year we decided to go a different route and used an interactive, wireless silent auction bidding tool, BidPal. This allowed the guests to bid on items through a smartphone or iPad and gave them the opportunity to enjoy the evening without having to worry about paper bidding sheets. Not only were guests able to bid on silent auction items, but they were also able to donate to the conservancy and see all of the sponsors that so generously made our event possible through this device.

The success of the auction can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of the chair, Elaine Shepard and the extraordinary committee members, which included Tara Atkins, Amanda Frieder, Kathleen Graff, Sue Houck, Leah Kane, Gretchen Ludders, Katie Ramey and Susie Sugerman. We would also like to thank Boulevard Rental, Ginader Jones and Co., Amanda Grace Images and the volunteers that donated their time and services for this fantastic event.



photos: Amanda Frieder



Annual Auction Sponsors 2013

Mighty Oak Level (\$2,000 & up)

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Annual Auction Donors 2013

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Amanda & LP Frieder	Elmo Rinaldi	Kyoto	Season's Restaurant
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Amy Ross Pottery	Finestra Window Design	Lavona Daniels	Soccer Plus
Avanti Cigars	Formosa	Leah and John Kane	Sole to Soul
Barbara Cohen	G. Weinberger Co.	Leslie & Harmar Brereton	State Street Grill
Bazil Ristorante Italiano	George and Eleanor	Luna Bleu	Steve Pronko
Beads and Baubles	Ginader	Marilyn Deutsch	Sue and Lou Houck
Beth Tyrell	Glen Oak Country Club	Mark Chuck	Tara and Tim Atkins
Bill and Marybeth Booth	Glint of Gold	Mary Go Round	Terrace Garden Café
Birchwood Fitness	Gretchen Ludders	Michael Harris	Terri Erickson
Birchwood Tennis	Howard Jennings	MTL Fabrics	The Epicurean Delight
Bob Daniels	Inspire	My Gym	The Ledges Hotel
Broadway Theater League	Jaclene Devine	Nada & Co.	Tom Cupillari
Burti Ceramic Studio	Jacob Radkiewicz	NEPA Philharmonic	Treat
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Corky's Garden Path	Jennifer Brandon	Peter Amato	Will Chamberlin and
Creekside Gardens	Jim and Sharon Vipond	Peter and Laura Frieder	Kathryn LeSoine
David Dinner	Joe Kluck	Peter and Sally Bohlin	William Bender
Dietrich Theater	Kate and Jim Crowley	Phil Stevens	Woods and Company
Dorrance and Susan Belin	Kathleen Graff	Posh	YMCA Dunmore
Duffy's Coffee House	Katie and Rob Ramey	Runway	Zoe Tilley Poster
Earthbox	Keystone College	Sabatelle's Fine Food Market	



photos: Amanda Frieder

Moonlight Paddle at the State Park

More than 50 kayakers joined Angela Lambert, Environmental Education Specialist at Lackawanna State Park, for a relaxing moonlight paddle on August 20.



Trolley Talk – Critical Trail Agreement Signed

by :Cheryl Ellsworth, Trail Coordinator

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Don Wydeen, of Glenburn Township, for their recent donation of a trail agreement on approximately 5,267 square feet of their property in Lackawanna County. This agreement will enable the Conservancy to connect the current Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership Trail Project, to the town of Dalton, where, incidentally, the original Dalton Trolley Station is still located. Mr. and Mrs. Wydeen are long time members of the Countryside Conservancy and Don is also a member of the Conservancy's Trail Committee.

This agreement, finalized on June 18, 2013, will allow for a custom environmentally sensitive and disability accessible boardwalk to be constructed. This boardwalk will connect the original Trolley Right of Way, bisecting the Wydeen's property in the rear, to South Turnpike Road at the Glenburn Township and Dalton Borough line.

Although the actual trail will end at South Turnpike, the town is just a few hundred yards away and walkers will be able to access it easily. The boardwalk will take pedestrians away from the ROW and through a natural area before ending at the road.

The Conservancy wishes to thank Attorney C.H. Welles IV who guided this trail agreement to completion. The Conservancy Trail committee will carry forth the conditions presented within the agreement.

Grant Work Update

This past spring and summer have continued to bring much activity for the Conservancy's Trolley committee and staff, as work on the DCNR grant for Phase 1 from (Clarks Summit to Dalton) has begun. Lead by consultant Tim Wilson, of TPW Design Studios, the Conservancy has prepared final plans

and designs and has also assembled the required construction bid package. Upon receipt of approval from the state, it is anticipated that the project will be put out to bidders in early winter with plans for a start up date in early spring 2014. It is the sincere hope of the Conservancy that the trail will be built by late summer 2014.

Check the website for additional information on all things trail or to purchase a copy of Norm Brauer's book on the former local trolley line.



Retaining wall repair work along Old State Road in preparation for Trolley Trail construction. We are grateful to Rankin Montgomery and Evan (of M and B Services out of Clarion, PA); Paul Hlavaty, a local excavator, and our own Jeff Fleming for their outstanding work and for completing the work in such a timely manner.

Go Green Bike Tour Attracts Over 100 Riders

by: Bill Kern, Executive Director

After three years of questionable weather for our Go Green Bike Tours in October, we decided to make the move to the end of August, and boy did it pay off! Without a cloud in the sky and temps in the mid-70s, we really could not have asked for a better day. We also shifted our home base for the event just up the road from the state park to the Fleetville Fire Hall - another great move! With people free to enjoy their BYOB and the smooth classic rock from Mike Lambert and Bob Strunk of the High Falls Duo, everyone had a great time winding down after riding.

Many thanks to Go Green Bike Tour Committee chair, Kristen Patchell, and all of the fantastic volunteers on the committee: Nora Buckman, Will Chamberlin, Janet Crowther, Diana Dakey, Ellie Hyde, Gretchen Ludders, Barb Phillips, Mark Ralston, Caroline Seamans and Jim Vipond. Also, thanks to all the other volunteers that helped with registering riders, painting arrows, staffing refreshment stations, taking photos, leading rides and providing on-call support for stranded riders. It takes many coordinated folks to pull off an event like this, and you all are the best!

Please check out all of our sponsors and raffle donors. Their generosity is what makes this event possible and we truly appreciate their support.



photo: Emilie Stauffer



photo: Tom Lowrie



Go Green Bike Tour Raffle Donors 2013

Cedar Bike & Paddle
Dick's Sporting Goods
Ibex Outdoor Clothing
Lackawanna Heritage Valley
Lakeland Golf Club
Manning's Dairy Farm

Nimble Hill Brewing Company
One Point
Sickler's Bike and Sport
Smith Optics
Vive Health & Fitness





photo: Suzy Mooney

Go Green Bike Tour Sponsors 2013

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Saplings Level (\$100)

Courtside Document Services
Evan Hughes Art
Foy & Murnock
Hawk Insurance Agency LLC
Kevin's Wholesale
National Running Center



19th Annual Tailgate Picnic

Our 19th Annual Tailgate Picnic Potluck at Little Rocky Glen Preserve in September drew more than 75 attendees! Many thanks to event chair & board member, Ellie Hyde; Paul Maleski for meticulously maintaining Little Rocky Glen; Margaret Hull for the use of her generator; Doug & Ali Wilson for use of their raised fire pit; and Mike Lambert & Bob Strunk of the High Falls Duo.

This was our third and final, major event of the year and once again, the weather was gorgeous. Keep your fingers crossed for a great 2014!



2013 Stewardship Award

Barry Kaplan, co-owner of Everything Natural in Clarks Summit, received this year's Stewardship Award for his lifelong dedication to living and promoting an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.



Left to right: Jim Dougherty, Board President of Countryside Conservancy; Barry Kaplan; Gretchen Ludders, Countryside Conservancy Board Member; and Bill Kern, Countryside Conservancy Executive Director.

2013 Stonewall Workshop by Ken Ely



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 Shirley Watson Antoine:
Donald E. Antoine, Sr.

In memory of Matthew Mackie:
Kathleen Graff
Edwin & Marilyn Harvilchuck

In memory of Jeffrey L. Bower:
Friends of the Conservancy

In memory of Jason Cupinski:
Kathleen Graff

In memory of Kelly Gibbons:
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Kaplan

In memory of Honorable William W. Scranton:

Jack and Gayle Muller
Nathaniel Messimer

In memory of Robert and Louise Hull:
First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit Women's Association

In honor of Dorrance Belin's Birthday:
Mary B. Rhodes
Hedrick Belin & Mary Bissell

In honor of Vi Kelly's Birthday:
Kathleen Graff

In honor of Ned Boehm's retirement as President of Keystone College:
Kathleen Graff

In honor of the wedding of Sheila Roa and Brian Elliott:
Kathleen Graff

In honor of Howard Jennings, retiring from a long career as Professor of Science and Environmental Studies and continuing as Director of Keystone College Environmental Education Institute:

On behalf of Countryside Conservancy's Board of Directors and Advisory Board

**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

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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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