

# CountryViews

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY



### Trolley Trail Officially Opened on October 10, 2014

by: Cheryl Ellsworth, Trail Coordinator

Phase 1 of Countryside Conservancy's Trolley Trail is complete! Over one hundred guests and well wishers came out on Friday October 10th to appropriately "cut the vine" marking fifteen years of hard work and planning, to commemorate the opening of the first phase of the Trolley Trail.

Secretary Ellen Ferretti, representing the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which provided the majority of funding through the state's C2P2 grant program, stressed the importance of community connections exemplified by the linking of several small communities along the former Trolley route. Other invited speakers such as Lackawanna County's Jim Wansacz echoed these remarks and commented on the long journey to re-connect three miles of the historic Trolley's old familiar route.

Trail Coordinator Cheryl Ellsworth thanked the Trail Committee for all of the hard work and support they have given, especially over the last four years, to make founding Board member Rosamond R. Peck's dream of a community walking trail, a reality. The Conservancy hopes to create a special photo edition newsletter in the near future to chronicle this amazing story. The Trolley Trail is open year round from dawn to dusk. Those wishing more information can contact the office directly.



*Pictured above are guests, speakers, staff and Board members who recently participated in the official Vine Cutting Ceremony to open the Trolley Trail Phase 1 to the public. Bill Kern (Conservancy Director); Cheryl Ellsworth (Trail Coordinator); Abby Peck (Board); Jim Dougherty (Board Pres); Ellen Ferretti (Secretary, DCNR); Jim Wansacz (Lack Commissioner); Laura Ducceschi (Scranton Area Foundation Dir); Lorne Possinger (DCNR); Sid Michaels Kavulich (PA Representative)*



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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:

**Annual Meeting & Stewardship Award:** Thursday, May 7, at 7 pm in Evans Hall, Keystone College. Enjoy coffee and a delicious assortment of desserts, and catch up on the Conservancy's activities over the past year. Free and open to the public.

**MS Myelinator 5-mile Run on the Trolley Trail:** Monday, May 25, at 12:00 pm, at the Dalton Fire Hall. This 5-mile race and 2-mile fun walk are being held to raise awareness and money for The National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society. To register go to [www.runsignup.com/msrace](http://www.runsignup.com/msrace) or visit [www.facebook.com/msmyelinator5](http://www.facebook.com/msmyelinator5) for more information.

**16th Annual Conservancy Auction:** Saturday, July 25, Waverly Country Club. Dance the night away with Marko Marcinko's Music for Models and support the Conservancy by bidding on tons of excellent silent and live auction items!

**Nature Day Camp at Little Rocky Glen:** Monday, August 10 - Friday, August 14 at Little Rocky Glen. Join Rebecca Lesko and the Endless Mountains Nature Center for a fun-filled week of outdoor learning and exploring. Go to [www.endlessnature.org](http://www.endlessnature.org) for more information.

**21st Annual Tailgate Picnic Potluck:** Sunday, September 20, 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](http://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.



## PennDOT Announces Funding for Phase 2 of the Trolley Trail

Keystone College has been awarded a \$755,905 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to partner with the Countryside Conservancy on the joint development of a 1.5 mile segment of trail known as the Trolley Trail.



*Gathering to celebrate the \$755,905 PennDOT grant funding, from left: Cheryl Ellsworth, Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail coordinator; Bill Kern, Countryside Conservancy executive director; Sharon Burke, Keystone College Environmental Education Institute coordinator; Howard Jennings, Keystone College Environmental Education Institute director; and David L. Coppola, Ph.D., Keystone College president.*

The trail is a critical piece of Countryside Conservancy's envisioned 14-mile Trolley Trail, a public hiking and biking trail that follows the abandoned Northern Electric Railroad line. The non-motorized multi-use trail will ultimately connect Clarks Summit to Lake Winola. Phase 1 of the Trolley Trail, a three-mile stretch that runs from Clarks Summit to Dalton, was recently completed and has become a popular hiking destination.

The new 1.5 mile Phase 2 section will traverse Keystone's Woodlands Campus, which currently includes approximately seven miles of interpretive hiking trails. Among other features, the new trail will include fencing, gates, signage, landscaping, erosion and sedimentation control, and designated handicapped parking areas.

The project is a partnership between the Keystone College Environmental Education Institute and Countryside Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting land and water in and near the Tunkhannock Creek watershed.

The grant is one of 56 statewide projects receiving a total of \$33 million in federal funding administered through PennDOT. All of the projects are "transportation alternative" initiatives designed to enhance pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to public transportation, preserve historic transportation structures, create safe routes to school, and create pedestrian trail systems.

"We are extremely grateful to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for this important grant," said Keystone College President Dr. David L. Coppola. "We especially thank all those at the Keystone College Environmental Education Institute and the Countryside Conservancy for their tremendous efforts in obtaining this funding. The trail system on our Woodlands Campus is a great resource for the entire community and the improvements made as a result of this grant, including the extension of the regional trail system, will add to those benefits."



## Parking Options for Trolley Trail

Countryside Conservancy's Trolley Trail Phase 1 from Clarks Summit to Dalton has been enthusiastically received by the community. Please help us keep it a positive experience!

Please note that parking for the Trolley Trail is now available at the new trailhead located at the intersection of Ackerly Road and Waterford Road in Glenburn. Parking is also available in the upper lot of the Church of the Epiphany, the Dalton Municipal parking lot and the Ackerly Complex of Abington Little League fields. Handicap parking is available at the trailhead and at the end of Arch Avenue in Glenburn.

Parking is not allowed on Old State Road or at the former tobacco shop building across from the trail. Please utilize designated parking areas only and respect private property, and please refrain from trail use in overly wet conditions.

Countryside Conservancy would like to remind everyone that no motorized vehicles are permitted on the trail, and the complete list of rules are posted on all trail gates.

Thanks!





## 15th Annual Conservancy Auction

by: *Melissa Blase, Office Manager*

Our 15th Annual Auction, "In the Woods", was an extremely successful fundraising event. The Waverly Country Club was the setting for this magnificent event that was beautifully decorated by a gracious donation from Greystone Gardens. Over 170 people danced the night away to the talented and lively band, Music for Models.

Once again, we used interactive wireless silent auction bidding tool, BidPal. This allowed the guests to bid on items through a smart phone or iPad and gave them the opportunity to enjoy the evening without having to worry about paper bidding sheets. BidPal also allowed patrons who could not attend the auction to bid remotely for the items they desired. 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 who so generously made our event possible.

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

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, July 25th, for our 16th Annual Auction!



## Annual Auction Sponsors 2014

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## 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 Claire Swiderski:*

Martin and Cynthia Jo Stuble  
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Ellie Hyde  
Dave and Janet Crowther

### *In honor of the birth of L.P. And Amanda*

*Frieder's son, Levi Marcus Frieder:*

The Neubert Family  
Warren and Heather Acker

### *In honor of*

*Barbara Monick's 80th Birthday:*

Dave and Janet Crowther

### *In honor of Dorrance Belin's Birthday:*

Mary Rhodes  
Charles and Nancy Belin

### *In honor of Pat Acker's Birthday:*

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### *In honor of Ellie Hyde's Birthday:*

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### *In honor of*

*Pat and Will Acker for Christmas:*

Terry and Tina Haight

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### *In honor of Mary Acker for Christmas:*

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### *In honor of L.P. Frieder for Christmas:*

Warren and Heather Acker

### *In honor of Peter Frieder for Christmas:*

Warren and Heather Acker

### *In honor of*

*Pat and Will Acker for Christmas:*

Warren and Heather Acker

## Countryside Conservancy to Honor Charles “Ty” Welles with the 2015 Stewardship Award

Countryside Conservancy will recognize the winner of its 2015 Stewardship Award at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 7th at 7:00pm in Evans Hall, Keystone College. This year's ceremony will honor Attorney Charles “Ty” Welles, Scranton-based lawyer and distinguished marble sculptor, for his many years of legal work on the Trolley Trail

project. The event is free and coffee and desserts will be offered. All are encouraged to attend and show their support.

The event will include a complete update on the progress the Conservancy has made over the past year and a look ahead for the rest of 2015 and beyond. Retiring Board members – Diana Dakey,

Vi Kelly and Jack Muller – will be recognized for their invaluable service to the Conservancy, and incoming Board members – Jim Clark, Melissa Haertsch, Kim Kost Scanlon and Jim Vipond – will be welcomed and officially voted onto the Board of Directors.



## 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.*

### Jack Stroud Recently Honored by Watershed Coalition

*by: Janet Crowther, Conservancy Volunteer & Member of SBTCWC*

The South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition (SBTCWC) honored Jack Stroud for his many years of service on watershed testing during their holiday dinner held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at the Milwaukee Cafe. Ellie Hyde, the Coalition Chair, presented Jack with a framed photograph of the South Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek. Jack has provided chemical supplies, technical expertise and data record keeping over the years and has been an integral part of the testing efforts. He continues to assist with regular water testing.

The SBTCWC operates under the auspices of the Conservancy. The volunteers do regular water testing on the south branch of the Tunkhannock Creek. Lackawanna State Park and many of the Conservancy properties lie within its watershed. The regular testing helps ensure that any problems will be identified in a timely manner and the results can be sent to the appropriate authority.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Coalition can contact the Conservancy office at (570) 945-6995. Spring testing will be scheduled in April.





# COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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 almost 400 active members contributed over \$70,000 toward Conservancy operations and programs in calendar year 2014. Our Annual Auction and Go Green Bike Tour netted almost \$43,000.

Grants and donations totaling just over \$50,000 from government agencies, private and corporate foundations, and private citizens were received to complete the DCNR Construction grant for Phase 1 of the Trolley Trail. Private grant funders included the Overlook Estate Foundation, the Frieder Foundation, Prudential, and PPL. A special Trolley Trail Appeal was held in conjunction with the Trail Opening in October, and Conservancy members as well as the general public contributed over \$12,000.00, to help pay for the trail head at Ackerly and Waterford Roads. At this time, the Conservancy is awaiting final payment from DCNR in order to officially close out Phase 1 and to reimburse in house restricted accounts from where monies were borrowed.

At year's end 2014, Conservancy assets stood at over \$2.2 million dollars, almost two-thirds of which are non-liquid assets representing the value of preserved land. Approximately \$285,000 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 2015 and into the future.



### 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 2014.

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