

Linn Log



MERRILL W. LINN
LAND & WATERWAYS
CONSERVANCY

The Newsletter of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy

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Mission of the Linn Conservancy

To preserve land and waterways in Union, Snyder, upper Northumberland and contiguous counties for scientific, historic, educational, ecological, recreational, agricultural, scenic, or open space opportunities.

Spring 2011

It is a wholesome and necessary thing for us to turn again to the earth and in the contemplation of her beauties to know of wonder and humility. ~Rachel Carson

For your calendar:

All events open to the general public. Specific details (locations, times) about some of these events appear within the newsletter or at associated websites noted within.

Linn Conservancy www.linnconservancy.org

- Now through April 22: Youth Photo Contest
- Throughout April: Caring for Communities Celebration (see inside for details)
- April 2: D/E/W spring cleanup 9am; rain date, April 9
- April 7: Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) annual meeting; rain barrel presentation
- April 17: Adopt-a-Highway cleanup, BCWA kayak/canoe trip on Buffalo Creek
- May 4: Merrill Linn Conservancy Annual Dinner at Shade Mountain Winery
- May 7: BCWA kayak/canoe trip on Buffalo Creek (rain date for April 17, if needed)

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- May 14: New easement celebration and wildflower walk
- June 11: Buffalo Creek headwaters remediation site tour
- June 12: Summerfest at R. B. Winter State Park
- June 12: Adopt-a-Highway cleanup
- August 14: Adopt-a-Highway cleanup

Events and Activities

Caring for Communities Earth Month Celebration April 2011: What's in Your Backyard?

What *is* in your backyard? Is it a habitat for wildlife and birds or home to flourishing native plants? Does it offer a healthy environment for people and pets? Join the Linn Conservancy as we help you learn more about your backyard and the communities we live in during our 8th annual Caring for Communities Earth Month Celebration. On weekends in April through May 1, we offer a series of fun family events that explore critical environmental issues that affect the sustainability and well being of our communities—and your backyard.

Unless otherwise noted, events are held at the Dale/Engle/Walker property on Strawbridge Road off Route 192, 1.7 miles west of Lewisburg. Follow the brown PennDOT signs on Route 192.

Saturday, April 2, 1-4 p.m.

7th Annual Native Plant Sale and Talk on Bees Pollinating Plants

At the Public Library for Union County. Native plant orders of shrubs and perennials will begin at 1 p.m., and the talk will start at 1:30. **Beth Capaldi Evans**, Bucknell University biology professor and honeybee expert, will present “Meet the Native Bees!”

Sunday, April 3, 9 a.m.

WKOK 1070 AM Roundtable on the question: What's in Your Backyard? Hosted by moderator **Mark Lawrence** and coordinated by **Bob Deffner**, manager of R. B. Winter State Park. The program will also be broadcast at 6 a.m. on Eagle 107.3 FM and WVLY 100.9 FM, at 11 a.m. on WMLP 1380 AM, and at 11 p.m. on 94KX 94.1 FM.

Sunday April 3, 1 p.m.

Walk at Montandon Marsh: Learn about the geological history, wildlife, birds and plants that make the Montandon wetlands unique. The walk will be led by Bucknell University professors and **Tony Markunas III** of Central Builders Supply. Meet at Central Builders' sand plant off Route 45, 0.3 miles east of Route 405.

Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m.

Playworld Systems LEED Showcase: The playground equipment manufacturer, based in Lewisburg, will give a presentation on how the company is attempting to gain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for its facilities, grounds, and operations through the U.S. Green Building Council. Meet in the parking lot at Playworld's main plant at 1000 Buffalo Rd., Lewisburg.

Sunday, April 10, 1 p.m.

Warrior Run Stream Restoration Project Presentation in McEwensville: The Northumberland County Conservation District will show how stream banks were revitalized and fish habitat implemented as part of this project. Meet at Rovendale Ag & Barn on Susquehanna Trail near McEwensville, and we'll drive/shuttle to the site.

Saturday, April 16, 11 a.m.

Bicycle Ride on the Conservancy's Rural Routes: Led by bike enthusiast **Tom Gibson**. Routes will be available for two levels of experience, 15 miles and 30 miles. Park at the Dale/Engle/Walker House and meet at the Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot.

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**Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy
2011 Native Plant Sale Order Form**



Fill in address information below.	Selling Price/Unit	Number of Units	Cost
SHRUBS			
Allegheny Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>)	\$16.00		
Red Chokeberry (<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>)	\$12.00		
Sweetfern (<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>)	\$12.00		
Silky Dogwood (<i>Cornus amomum</i>)	\$12.00		
Grey Dogwood (<i>Cornus racemosa</i>)	\$12.00		
Winterberry (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>)	\$12.00		
Virginia Sweetspire (<i>Itea virginica</i>)	\$12.00		
Northern Bayberry (<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>)	\$12.00		
American Cranberrybush (<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>)	\$12.00		
PERENNIALS (1 Quart Size)			
Achillea 'Paprika'	\$6.00		
Coreopsis 'Sienna Sunset'	\$6.00		
Echinacea 'Pow Wow Wild Berry'	\$6.00		
Heliopsis 'Summer Sun'	\$6.00		
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> 'Fried Green Tomatoes'	\$6.00		
Barbara's Buttons, <i>Marshallia grandiflora</i>	\$6.00		
Bee Balm, <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	\$6.00		
Phlox 'Starfire'	\$6.00		
Mountain Mint, <i>Pycnanthemum</i>	\$6.00		
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> 'Viette's Little Suzy'	\$6.00		
Solidago 'Little Lemon'	\$6.00		
<i>Spigelia marilandica</i> (1 Gallon Size)	\$8.00		
Foam flower, <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	\$6.00		
Culver's Root, <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	\$8.00		
Total			

Make Checks payable to: **Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy**

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Return order form with payment by **April 23** to: **Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy, P.O. Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837 (570)-524-8666**

Plants can be picked up on **May 1, between 12 noon and 4 p.m.** at the Dale/Engle/Walker House on Strawbridge Rd.

Thank You for Your Order!

www.linnconservancy.org

ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT PRE-SALE. NOTES ON PLANTS

The native plants available for this year are listed below. The order form is due by April 23. Orders will also be taken at the Union County Public Library on April 2, Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. during the presentation by Elizabeth Capaldi Evans on 'Meet the Native Bees!'

SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES

- 1) **Allegheny Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier laevis*) A small tree growing to 15-25' with showy white flowers in the spring and yellow-orange foliage in the fall. Produces a small black fruit that is a favorite of birds and other animals. Prefers full sun and average soil conditions.
- 2) **Red Chokeberry** (*Aronia arbutifolia*) A very adaptable shrub growing 6 to 10 feet with clusters of small white flowers later producing bright red berries eaten by birds in the winter. Fall foliage is a deep red. Tolerates sun and partial shade.
- 3) **Sweetfern** (*Comptonia peregrina*) A good plant for poor, rocky soils in sun to partial shade. Grows to 2-4' and has fern like foliage which is very fragrant when crushed. Flowers are small catkins. Drought tolerant.
- 4) **Silky Dogwood** (*Cornus amomum*) Grows to 6-10' in full sun in moist to average soil. Blooms with clusters of white flowers later producing blue berries. Very high food value for song birds and mammals.
- 5) **Grey Dogwood** (*Cornus racemosa*) Deciduous shrub growing 6-10' tall and featuring clusters of white flowers on red terminal stems. Whitish groups of berries in the fall. Full sun to partial shade and average soil. Good wildlife food source.
- 6) **Winterberry** (*Ilex verticillata*) - A slow-growing, deciduous holly shrub which typically grows 3-12' tall. Full sun to part shade and wet to average soil. Greenish-white flowers in June-July and bright red berries in late summer to fall.
- 7) **Virginia Sweetspire** (*Itea virginica*) A deciduous shrub with a broad, rounded habit which typically grows 3-6' tall. Full sun to part shade. Prefers moist soil but tolerates drought. Spikes of very fragrant white flowers and brightly colored foliage in the fall.
- 8) **Northern Bayberry** (*Myrica pensylvanica*) - A dense branching deciduous shrub with a rounded habit, reaching 6-8' tall. Yellowish green flowers and spicy scented leaves. Full sun to part shade. Bloom time: May.
- 9) **American Cranberry** (*Viburnum trilobum*) A very adaptable viburnum which grows to 8-12' in sun to partial shade. Blooms with white flowers and produces hanging clusters of cranberry like fruits which are very attractive to birds. Foliage is a purple red in fall.

PERENNIALS

- 1) **Yarrow**, (*Achillea millefolium*) 'Paprika' A naturalized plant rather than a native but great for pollinators. Flowers begin as pale orange and turn to red in July and August.
- 2) **Coreopsis rosea** 'Sienna Sunset' Light orange flowers in early summer which become a rich salmon color as the season progresses to fall. Arching habit. Prefers full sun.
- 3) **Echinacea** 'Pow Wow Wild Berry' Produces deep rose-purple ray petals and dark red-purple center cones. The flowers are 3-4" wide and retain their color longer than other coneflowers. Long flowering. Height of 24". A butterfly magnet.
- 4) **False Sunflower** (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) 'Summer Sun' A great plant for a sunny area producing many golden yellow daisy-like flowers from July until Sept. Grows to 3-4'.
- 5) **Cardinal flower**, (*Lobelia cardinalis*) 'Fried Green Tomatoes' Spikes with scarlet flowers attractive to hummingbirds. Leaves maroon and deep olive. Grow in sun to partial shade in a moist to average soil.
- 6) **Barbara's Buttons**, (*Marshallia grandiflora*) A plant for shade or partial shade with pink scabiosa-like flowers which bloom in July. Height of 18-24".
- 7) **Wild Bergamot**, (*Monarda fistulosa*) A vigorous plant with pink to lavender flowers. Grows in sun and partial sun in most soils. Tolerates dry soils. Excellent for bees.
- 8) **Garden Phlox**, (*Phlox paniculata*) 'Starfire' A bright red phlox growing to 3 feet with long lasting summer blooms. Prefers sun and adaptable to most soils.
- 9) **Mountain Mint**, (*Pycnanthemum muticum*). Leaves have a very fragrant minty scent. A tough plant for partial shade and any soil. Top leaves have snowy appearance. A bee magnet.
- 10) **Rudbeckia** (*fulgida*) 'Viette's Little Suzy' A dwarf black-eyed susan (15") with deep yellow flowers in July lasting until frost. Average soil and full sun.
- 11) **Solidago** 'Little Lemon' Easy to grow goldenrod with lemon yellow flowers from late summer until fall. Very compact in growth and only 8-14" in height. Attracts butterflies and bees.
- 12) **Indian Pink**, (*Spigelia marilandica*)
- 13) **Foamflower**, (*Tiarella cordifolia*). A vigorous grower with glossy deep green leaves and creamy white flowers in the spring. Prefers shade or partial shade and moist soils.
- 14) **Culver's Root**, (*Veronicastrum virginicum*). Strong vertical stems with spikes of tiny white flowers. Excellent for pollinators. Grows to 3-4 feet. Grows in sun or partial shade and most soils.

Sunday, April 17, 1 p.m.

Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure Trip: Sponsored by the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, this will take us from Strawbridge Rd. to the Susquehanna River in Lewisburg. Led by Canoe Susquehanna, reservations and a fee are required. Meet at the Dale's Ridge parking lot on Strawbridge Rd. Look for details and register online (www.canoesusquehanna.com) or call 570-524-7692.

Saturday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Owl Prowl and Astronomy Night: A 7:30 owl walk led by Mifflinburg educator, **Joe Southerton**, is followed by astronomy observing at 8:30 with Bucknell University astronomers. Meet at the Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot for the Owl Prowl and at the Dale/Engle/Walker House for the stargazing.

Friday, April 29, It's Arbor Day! 4:30 p.m.

Tree Planting Ceremony: Sponsored by the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission in Lewisburg. Site to be determined. For more information, contact **Brian Gockley** at briangockley@mac.com.

Friday, April 29, 5:30 p.m.

Tree Walk: Join Bucknell University biology professor **Duane Griffin** for a tour of the trees on campus. He has identified, categorized, and studied many varieties. Meet at the northeast corner of the Lewisburg Cemetery near the intersection of 7th St. and St. Catherine St.

Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tree rappelling at St. Mary's park in Lewisburg -- ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS!

NEW THIS YEAR! Local tree expert **Nick Duffy**, in conjunction with Penn State agronomists, will host a session that will have kids climbing trees with ropes to see them up close so they can assess their condition and look for problems such as emerald ash borers. St. Mary's Park is located at 15th St. and St. Mary St.

Sunday, May 1, 12-4 p.m.

Native Plant Sale Pickup/Activities for Kids: The Linn Conservancy will conclude its Caring for Communities Earth Month Celebration with its Native Plant Sale and pickup, a Reptiland presentation, scavenger hunt, water quality testing and bluebird house building.

Native Plant Sale, 12-4 p.m.: It is plant pickup day for those who ordered plants previously can pick them up. Additional shrubs and perennials will be available for sale throughout the afternoon.

Awards Presentation for the "What's in Your Backyard?" Photo Contest, 1 p.m.: See nature photos taken by area school students and meet contest winners at the Dale/Engle/Walker House.

Bluebird house Building at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.: An opportunity to assemble bluebird houses from precut kits.

Scavenger Hunt on Dale's Ridge Trail, 2 p.m.: A nature-related scavenger hunt for young people.

Clyde Peeling's Reptile Presentation, 3 p.m.: See an up close, live presentation of Reptiland snakes, giant turtles, and other reptilians in the Red Shed at the Dale/Engle/Walker property.



Youth Environmental Photo Contest Promotes Exploration of Nature

You can support the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy's 2011 Youth Nature Photo Contest through April 22.

"What's in your backyard?" That's the question challenging young photographers from throughout the tri-county area who submit their best nature image to the "What's in Your Backyard" photo contest sponsored by the Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy. Young photographers from ages 6 to 18 are eligible for a total of \$270 in cash prizes by capturing outstanding photos of the natural world around them.

Our website <http://www.linnconservancy.org> has been updated with the information for the Youth Nature Photo Contest. Download the rules by clicking on NEWS or EDUCATION-Teacher opportunities/student opportunities. Please pass along the information to the youth in your lives or line of work. Teachers can click the links below and go directly to the contest rules. Encourage your students to participate. Below are links to download a sign to publicize the contest in your school, and the full rules and guidelines for the contest.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in each age division. In addition each participant will receive a certificate of participation. The "What's in Your Backyard?" awards ceremony will take place at the Dale/Engle/Walker House on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 1 p.m.

For additional information about the photo contest, contact Education co-chair, Pat Arduini at pattiearduini@yahoo.com (570-966-1351) or go to www.linnconservancy.org.



Adopt a Highway Cleanup Schedule Announced

The Conservancy is responsible for a two-mile stretch of state highway beginning at the north side of the Penns Creek bridge on Rte. 104 south of Mifflinburg. We follow Penns Creek upstream (west) to the Limestone Township picnic pavilion (meeting place for the event) then turn north to where the road intersects with the White Springs Road.

Jo Reilly will continue as our coordinator for highway cleanups through 2011. Jo has chosen the following dates for the 2011 cleanups: April 17, June 12, August 14, and October 16. If you would like to help, contact Jo for specific time and other details. She can be reached at 570-966-4272. You'll enjoy this scenic location along Penns Creek and maybe even see a bald eagle, an osprey, or blue heron hunting along the waterway.



Litterbug pennsylvanicus



Annual Banquet Set for May 4

This year we will return to the Shade Mountain Winery for our annual banquet. Join us at this delightful setting overlooking the vineyards and landscape of Snyder County. Social time featuring Shade Mountain wines and our silent auction will begin at 5:30 p.m. with formal festivities kicking off at 6:30 on Wednesday, May 4.

SM Caterers of Mifflinburg will serve us this year. Our speaker will be **Julie Devers** of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Annapolis, MD). Julie will be telling us about freshwater mussel and eel studies currently being conducted in the Buffalo Creek Watershed (see related article). We are looking forward to a most enjoyable and informative evening.

Shade Mountain Vineyard/Winery is located six miles south of Mifflinburg on Rte. 104 between Penns Creek and Middleburg. The street address is 16140 PA Rte. 104, Middleburg, PA.

We encourage members to bring a non-member guest to introduce him/her to the Conservancy. We offer you a 20% discount on your guest's ticket. You will find a reservation form within or as a separate attachment if you are receiving this newsletter electronically. **Please return it with your payment before Friday, April 22.**



New Easement Celebration and Wildflower Walk: Wildflower Walk at Constant Property Set for May 14

Join the Education Committee as we walk one of the Conservancy's newest easements—the 39.7-acre Snyder County property owned by **Richard and Donna Constant**. The wildflower walk on Saturday, May 14, beginning at 11 a.m. is an opportunity to see spring wildflowers in bloom, including a profusion of pink lady's slipper orchids.

“Our property at 167 Hermit Hollow Lane, about three miles outside of Middleburg, is a horseshoe shaped hollow. We will be walking in the woods on trails that cover more than 30 acres of ridge,” says Donna Constant. She adds that the path is good, but those who come should wear sturdy shoes. Mrs. Constant plans to serve light refreshments.

Directions:

From New Berlin: From the four way stop in New Berlin, the drive is 5.5 miles to our house. Take Rte 204 over Penns Creek and turn right toward Middleburg. (It is 2.5 miles to the turn off for Globe Mills.) When you come to a stop sign, bear to the right. At the 2.5-mile mark, a green sign on the right side of the road indicates the left turn to the road to Globe Mills. You are 3.0 miles from our house. Our gravel road is at the bottom of a long hill near a No Passing sign and marked as Hermit Hollow Lane. Turn left onto the gravel lane, stay to the right at a “y” and drive past the old barn and on up the hill.

From Shamokin Dam: On Route 15 South, pass the exit for Harrisburg, cross the Selinsgrove Bridge, turn right at Route 522. Stay on Route 522 through Kreamer. At the top of a hill there is a small green road sign on the right for New Berlin/Freeburg. The next corner is Globe Mills Road on the right. Turn right between a restaurant and the Middleburg Farm & Flea Market (auction grounds). You are about one mile from our stone lane. At the stop sign, bear to the right down the hill, cross the bridge, drive through Globe Mills. On the right, pass a farm and pond. We are the next turn on the right. Our name is on the mailbox and a road sign marked Hermit Hollow Lane. Turn up the gravel lane, staying to the right at a “y” and drive past the old barn and up the hill.



Like-Minded Organizations

Seven Mountains Audubon Society: www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org

Hikes/Walks: First Saturday (of each month)

Programs: 3rd Wednesday of each month through May; 7:30 p.m.; Kelly Twp Bldg., 551 Ziegler Rd., Lewisburg

- April 20: Great British Experience by Allen Schweinsberg
- May 18: Adventure in East Africa by Wayne McDiffett

R. B. Winter State Park: Thanks to the park's staff for providing another successful SNOWFEST, with excellent winter conditions. Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming spring and summer time events such as GPS, mountain biking, nature walks and clean ups and more. All of the park's events are listed on the State Parks Calendar of Events which is accessed by going to <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>. **Click on the park's icon** on the bottom of the page **then on Calendar**. You can then view all programs going on in the state park of your choice at that time.

Organizations United for the Environment (O.U.E.) www.ouenews.org

Meetings first Monday of every month 7 p.m., at Mondragon Bookstore, 111 Market St, Lewisburg.

Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association www.pennscreekwatershed.org

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the village of Penns Creek at the Adult Resource Center.

Sierra Club: www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson

Meetings on the first Wed every other month starting in February are open to all. Meetings are at 7 p.m., at Mondragon Bookstore, 111 Market St, Lewisburg. For more information and a schedule of hiking opportunities, visit the local chapter's website.



Sierra Club to Sponsor Program Concerning Gas Development, by Jack Miller

On Tuesday, April 12 at 6:45 p.m. in the Community Room of the Public Library for Union County, the Otzinachson Regional Group of the Sierra Club will welcome Deb Nardone to present a program on the National Sierra Club's efforts to protect us and the environment from problems presented by natural gas development. Deb is the first Director of the Sierra Club Natural Gas Reform Campaign. She comes to the club from the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited as a Coldwater Resource Specialist and has worked for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Deb will bring us increased insight to the problems gas development presents and a greater understanding of the Sierra Club.

Total Outdoors Offers First Youth Camps Set for Summer

Total Outdoors in western Union County is a new non-profit organization founded by Bruce Fisher. An avid outdoorsman himself, Bruce's mission is to provide educational and leadership programs for today's youth to learn the art of fly fishing while developing a deep appreciation and understanding of environmental preservation and conservation.

Total Outdoors will launch a **pilot program of weekend fishing camps on Penns Creek beginning the weekend of June 18, 2011**. They are currently looking to recruit children (ages 10 to 17) from families of our Reserve Components and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) and the Air National Guard (PAANG). Total Outdoors is planning sixteen fishing camp weekends starting this summer. Young outdoorsmen will learn the art of fly fishing, the science of aquatic life that are the primary source of trout food, and some basic skills in outdoors field studies. These classes will emphasize environmental preservation and conservation that is all part of the sport of angling, which is critical for any outdoors sportsman. Total Outdoors will provide all the equipment, instruction, supplies, meals and lodging for the weekend programs. There will be no charge to any of the young sportsmen. Volunteers are needed. For more information call 570-922-1053 or 922-0002

www.totaloutdoors.org

Watershed Protection

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) of the Merrill Linn Conservancy



The BCWA Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. in the Union County Government Center, 155 N. 15th Street, Lewisburg. **Jason Winey**, Watershed Specialist for the Snyder County Conservation District, will present a program on making your rain barrel an attractive part of your yard or garden. After the program, the current board will present a brief overview of the Alliance activities for the past year.

www.linnconservancy.org

Buffalo Creek Headwaters Remediation Ponds

On Saturday, June 11, members of the BCWA board will lead a tour of the remediation site for members of the Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association. Members of BCWA and Linn Conservancy are cordially invited to join the tour. The site is in western Union County, northeast of Laurelton. Times and directions will be provided. RSVP to **Ben Hoskins** at bhoskins@dejazzd.com.

Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association www.pennscreekwatershed.org

Tuesday March 29 at 2 and 6pm at the Community Center, 318 Vine St, New Berlin. Two free workshops will cover rain barrel benefits, uses, and construction. Each attendee will receive a FREE rain barrel and must be prepared to take it home the day of the workshop. You must pre-register by calling Snyder Co Conservation. District office 837-3000 ext 110.

Mr. Paul Schweiger of Gannett Flemming Engineers & Planners, Harrisburg will speak regarding fish ladders at the April 21 meeting in the village of Penns Creek.

For Your Information

Banquet Speaker to Discuss Experimental Stocking of American Eels in the Susquehanna River Watershed

Julie Devers, this year's banquet guest speaker, is a fishery biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife located at the Maryland Fishery Resources Office (MFRO) in Annapolis, Maryland. A native of Montoursville, Pennsylvania, she traveled a circuitous route to eventually work in streams close to home. After several assignments elsewhere, she moved to Maryland, where she became interested in the relationship between freshwater mussels and American eels.

The American eel occupies a unique niche in estuarine and freshwater habitats along the Atlantic coast. The population has experienced a decline during recent decades. Nearly 43% of eel habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed is inaccessible due to large main-stem dams in the Susquehanna River. The MFRO has been evaluating upstream migration patterns of juvenile eels below the first dam on the Susquehanna River since 2005. Laboratory studies conducted by the USGS in Wellsboro, PA indicate that eels are an important host for the larvae of the common freshwater mussel, eastern *elliptio* in the Susquehanna River. Relative to the adjacent undammed Delaware River where eels are numerous, abundance and reproduction of eastern *elliptio* in the Susquehanna River is low. The MFRO decided to test whether the low abundance and lack of reproduction of eastern *elliptio* is related to the lack of eels in the Susquehanna River watershed. The MFRO is working to evaluate the effect of experimental eel stocking on recruitment of eastern *elliptio* and fish species composition in two tributaries to the Susquehanna River. The stocking location on one of those streams, Buffalo Creek, is adjacent to the Conservancy's Dale/Engle/Walker easement.



Court Decides in Favor of Preserving Agricultural Land

Buffalo Township recently won a major legal battle in its on-going effort to protect pristine agricultural land in our valley.

Since 2008, Buffalo Township has repeatedly denied zoning approval for a proposed municipal waste processing facility on Furnace Road in Mifflinburg, insisting that it belongs in an industrial area, not on land zoned agricultural.

Hundreds of area residents signed petitions opposing the plant, concerned that it would have a negative environmental impact on Union County, the first county in the U.S. to be designated a "green Community" by the US Environmental Protection Administration.

On February 15, the Court of Common Pleas upheld the decision of the township's Zoning Hearing Board. The court agreed with the township that the proposed biosolids facility does not qualify as an "agricultural business" and therefore should not be built on land zoned agricultural.

For more information about the proposed biosolids plant, go to www.bvneighbors.org.

Conservancy News & Notes

New Conservation Easements Completed

Late last year, work was completed on protective agreements on three properties. In our last edition of the *Linn Log*, you read about the 130-acre Persing property in White Deer Twp., Union County. We are very pleased to announce that two additional conservation easement agreements were settled in December. With these two additions, described below, the Merrill Linn Conservancy now protects over 850 acres within Union, Snyder and Northumberland counties.

Smith Property Abutting State Forest Is Protected

Eugene and Beverly Smith have entered into a land agreement with the Linn Conservancy placing a conservation easement on their property in West Buffalo Twp., Union County. Their 20-acre wooded tract abuts Pennsylvania State Forest land on the south slope of Buffalo Mountain. Located within the Seven Notch development, two miles northwest of Forest Hill, the property is entirely wooded with the exception of a house on one acre and an access driveway. Approximately ten species of trees have been identified with several species of oak dominating. The forest, which is between 40 and 50 years old, will be permitted to go to old growth. Blueberry bushes and mountain laurel are the predominant understory. The property's rocky sandstone terrain is typical of the area with the exposed rocks provide an excellent denning area for timber rattlesnakes. The forest also provides nesting habitat for several species of neo-tropical migrants. To date, 26 bird species have been identified. Deer and other mammals typical of the area have also been observed.

Constant Woodland Property Joins Conservancy Easement List

A nearly 40-acre parcel of land owned by **Richard and Donna Constant**, in Middlecreek Township, Snyder County, is now protected by a conservation easement held by the Merrill Linn Conservancy. The property is comprised of a horseshoe-shaped wooded ridge that shelters an open space containing a pond and small wetland area.

"We want to preserve the woods in its beautiful, natural form and be assured that it will not be developed," says Donna Constant. Thirty acres of extraordinarily diverse woodlands contains two dozen tree species, including Mountain and Virginia pines, as well as a variety of native perennial wildflowers such as pink lady's slipper, also known as moccasin-flower. The open space within the predominantly forested parcel contains a pond and a small wetland area. The tract provides excellent habitat for a wide variety of birds and mammals.



Conservancy Supports Conservation Leadership Scholarship

Know of an area student 15-18 years of age with an interest in conservation? Help spread the word and encourage him or her to learn more about this summer's Conservation Leadership School sponsored by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. The theme for this year is "Habitat: Your Backyard, Your Stream, and Your World". The dates are June 26-July 2 for Session 1 and July 10-16 for Session 2. More information is on their website: <http://sfr.psu.edu/events/cls>

The Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy, in conjunction with the Union, Snyder and Northumberland County Conservation Districts is offering scholarships to help support attendance at the School. Each conservation district's office has its own application procedures and criteria for awarding the scholarships. For specific information please follow links below based on the county in which you live:

Northumberland County: Info on the county website: www.nccdpa.org ; Judy Becker
jbecker@nccd.pa.org 286-7114 x 4

Snyder County: Craig Bingman cbingman@ptd.net 837-3000 x 114

Union County: Greg Bonsall gbonsall@unionco.org 524-3860

The Education Committee of the Linn Conservancy proposed this initiative to further Linn's objective of environmental education and to foster a strong conservation ethic in the next generation of decision makers. Anyone who cares to support this or similar educational programs can donate specifically to Linn's John Clark/Jeff Bowers Environmental Education Fund.

Coordinator Speaks of Linn on WKOK

On January 27, 2011, WKOK radio host Mark Lawrence aired an interview with Linn coordinator, **Geoff Goodenow**, about the Conservancy. If you would like to listen to it, visit WKOK.com and scroll to the Leaders and Lawmakers program and find the interview date. The interview with Geoff constitutes the second half of the program. It will be archived on the website for about six months following the original airing.



Gallery of Recent Conservancy Events



Skiers attending our annual Cross-country Ski Event, held on January 23 at the Dale/Engle/Walker property (left)



*Conservancy volunteers **Brent and Amanda Kline** talked with board member **Carl Oberheim** (above) at the Conservancy's Snowfest booth on February 13. Snowfest, held annually at R. B. Winter State Park, offers attendees a variety of winter activities and demonstrations such as snowshoeing basics and ice rescue.*



Spatter Painting at Cabin Fever Event at Mifflinburg Intermediate School

The National Scene

Land Trusts Have Major Role in Conserving Nation's Heritage (from www.lta.org)

For over 100 years, citizens have gathered together to voluntarily conserve farms, ranches, forestland, urban parks and gardens and natural areas - the special places that give meaning to our lives. On February 16, the White House released its America's Great Outdoors report that lauds the work of land trusts and recognizes their important role in building conservation partnerships for the 21st Century. The America's Great Outdoors Initiative is designed to "reconnect Americans, especially children, to our rivers and waterways, landscapes of national significance, ranches, farms and forests, great parks, and coasts and beaches."

At a time when our children are struggling with obesity and diabetes, lack safe places to play, and have fewer options to enjoy nature as development encroaches on green spaces, this effort could not be more important.

Today, there are 1,700 land trusts that have more than 100,000 volunteers and 2 million members, and have conserved more than 37 million acres of land in America. A land trust is a nonprofit organization that conserves land by working with landowners and the community to conserve land by accepting donations of land, purchasing land, negotiating private, voluntary conservation agreements on land, and stewarding conserved land through the generations to come.

No single measure will successfully preserve our great outdoors. But the land trust model has a clear track record of success, and the federal government could help it accomplish even more.

First, we can make the enhanced tax incentive for conservation easement donations permanent. Originally adopted in 2006, this tax incentive allows modest-income landowners –working family farmers and ranchers, for example – to receive meaningful tax deductions for donating conservation easements that protect significant natural or historic resources in the public interest. The incentive boosted donations of conservation easements on farms, ranches, forestlands and natural areas across the country to a million acres per year. This effect is expected to be even greater if the incentives are made permanent, as land owners would then be able to more accurately weigh the long term costs and benefits of donating development rights so that their land is protected in perpetuity versus selling their land for commercial development—a decision that is not taken lightly even under the most certain of circumstances, given that a farm or ranch is often a family's most valuable asset.

Second, protect funding for Farm Bill conservation programs. Thanks to critical new funding approved in 2008, the Farm Bill is now the primary federal source of conservation funding. Farm Bill easement programs like the Farmland Protection Program and Grassland Reserve Program are helping to conserve millions of acres of important landscapes across America. These programs needed to be fully funded to leverage local partners' investment in voluntary conservation of private lands.

Third, the federal government needs to coordinate its many agencies and programs and put them to work toward being a better partner for state and locally-led conservation tax incentives – which is just what the America's Great Outdoors report suggests.

For generations, people have been drawn to America by our abundant and diverse land. The rugged individualism of the frontier and the fertile soils of American farmland were, and remain to this day, part of our social and cultural fabric. We need to be purposeful in preserving what is an essential part of the American ethos... the American landscape.

Land trusts are exemplary citizen-led institutions working all across America to save the lands that provide safe food, clean water, natural habitats and places to play. They may well represent the fastest-growing sector of the environmental movement, and they need help to save the places critical to the cultural and economic fabric of their communities before they are lost forever.



In Memoriam

Remembering June Hoyle, Conservancy Co-founder, by Jeannette Lasansky

June Masters Hoyle, who died on February 11, 2011, provided support for others, was an enthusiastic teacher, and a physician's wife who took the support of the Evangelical Community Hospital seriously. These were among the many tasks she took on with a gentle smile and a twinkle in her eyes.

Starting in the late 1980s, June became passionate about a new and very different cause—that of land conservation. She would educate others about what they could do in Union County, her home since she and Preston Hoyle moved here in 1961. Her interest in preserving special land was piqued by a phone call.

In 1987, her family's long time friend, Merrill Linn, died while getting his camping gear ready for yet another year of being out of doors. June was asked by his widow Lib to call some close friends right away, and that June did. In calling the Lasanskys, June asked whether it might be good to plant a tree in Merrill's memory and the reply she got was "let's save a forest." Intrigued with what that meant and why it was the right moment, June became involved in working on forming an entirely new organization and the concept of saving open space and special lands in the area. The name given the fledgling group was *The Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy*. The Hoyles' friendship with Merrill would take June, quite literally, into new territory and acquaintances similar to Merrill's forays on Union County's ridges and into their gaps, and beyond.

June was the Conservancy's first Vice President in 1988, and headed its first education committee. She later became the conservancy's president and a tireless worker at keeping people excited about what they were doing. It was not unusual to get a call about what was being done elsewhere or to get a clipping about the land preservation in the mail so that one would follow up on her thought. June Hoyle was especially good at getting new people and businesses to join the Linn Conservancy, something that she had done before for other county organizations. June always kept Merrill Linn's family members aware of what was being accomplished in his tradition and she tried to match up people to something that they could do well and where they could make a difference.

June Masters Hoyle certainly made a difference and we will be reminded of that again and again as we go about our lives: enjoying our natural environment and preserving it wherever we may be.



Conservancy co-founders June Hoyle (left) and Jeannette Lasansky at Conservancy's 2010 annual dinner

Membership-Development Committee

New Membership Strategies Set

Members of the Linn Membership/Development Committee have set an exciting course for 2011 and are looking forward to executing several creative strategies for accomplishing the following objectives:

- Recruit new members and retain current ones through personal networking associated with new celebratory events (see our website and future *Linn Logs* for details)
- Put our Retail Partnership Card concept into practice in time for our November membership renewal cycle (this is the final component of our new Member Benefits package)
- Support and expand our vibrant volunteer base by keeping better track of—and showing our appreciation for—our current volunteers, recruiting new volunteers from among an expanding membership, and supporting volunteers who might be interested in moving into greater leadership roles

We are glad to report the success and popularity of the newly redesigned website, which features incredible photos and information as well as the opportunity to donate online!

Finally, we have been working closely with the Education Committee to put on another fun, delicious, and informational Annual Banquet in May.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!!!

BE SURE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR NEW MEMBER BENEFITS PACKAGE!

Members already get:

- *Linn Log* (currently offered quarterly to all members, either via e-mail or snail mail)
- Free Linn promotional materials (available at Linn functions)

Members now also get:

- A 20% discount on sale items (clothing, prints, etc. already in stock)
- A 20% discount on gift memberships (purchased by a current member)
- Discount for guests of current members at Linn events (Annual Banquet, fundraisers, etc.)

Call or e-mail Susan or Geoff for more information:

Susan Warner-Mills, Membership-Development Chair—716-0870, swm@coldwellbanker.com

Geoff Goodenow, Coordinator—412-3510, geoffgw2@hotmail.com

Thanks for Your Support

We thank all members, new and long time, for your support of the Conservancy's mission. A special thanks to all those who increased their level of giving, contributed to a special restricted fund, made memorial gifts and to Life Members who made additional donations in support of our efforts.

As most of you know membership in the Conservancy is on a January to December basis. If you have not yet renewed your membership support for 2011, we hope that you will do so soon. Note that if your new membership came to us after July 1, 2010, you are in good standing through 2011. Our membership form is included for your convenience. The Linn Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Your contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you for these memorial gifts: From **Patricia T. and Darinda Fisher** in memory of **Nelson Smith**; From **Warren G. Abrahamson II, Betty Absalom, Joan L. Bush, Nancy and Peter Coughlan, Roger and Nancy Curran, Rebecca Davis** of Wilmington, NC; **AGRI-Chemical**, Clifton, Va., **Robert W. Donehower, Jeannette Lasansky, Robert Linn, Teri MacBride**, and **James Yannaccone** in memory of **June Hoyle**.

Thanks to our Life Members who made additional donations for 2011: **Owen Anderson, Jeff and Lacinda Coup, Geoff Goodenow, Carol Ingald, Jeannette Lasansky, Ray Lobos, Pete and Nancy Macky, Edward and Mary Mastascusa, Wayne McDiffett, Carl Oberheim, Elsbeth Steffensen, Barbara Zeider, and Martha Zeller.**

Other special donations have been received from **Douglas and Mary Candland** through the Candland Fund and from **Madeline Peters and Betsy and Allen Quant** of Canoe Susquehanna.

Thanks to **Jeannette Lasansky** for reviewing our operations manual draft; **Brent and Amanda Kline, Susan Waggoner, Roy Fontaine, Wayne McDiffett, Carl Oberheim, Diane Donato, Don Bowman, Pat Arduini, and Geoff Goodenow** for helping to staff recent public events.

Board Service Recognition

The Board of Directors of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy wishes to thank **John Wallace** for his years of service to the organization. John has recently stepped down from the board.

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!!!

PDF Available for Your Next Linn Log

If you would like to receive the *Linn Log* electronically in the future, please let us know by sending your request to linn@ptd.net with "go pdf" in the subject line. Thank you for considering the electronic format.

What happens to your hard copy??? If you do receive a hard copy, consider passing it on to friends, neighbors, and new folks to the area when you finish with it. Help us increase our membership support by sharing the newsletter to spread the word about the mission and successes of the Conservancy. Thank you.

M E M B E R S H I P F O R M

YES! I/we want to join the Linn Conservancy this year as a:

_____	Benefactor	\$5,000	_____	Contributor	\$100
_____	Patron	\$1,000	_____	Business	\$50
_____	Steward	\$500	_____	Family	\$50
_____	Sponsor	\$250	_____	Individual	\$25

new membership renewal add \$10 for Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (work) _____ email _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Please make checks payable to the **Linn Conservancy**
Send to: P.O. Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837

The Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, with contributions tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. All monies are spent on local projects.

www.linnconservancy.org

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