

# 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.

## *Winter 2011*

### ***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](http://www.linnconservancy.org)

- **Saturday, January 22** – Volunteer Training Workshop at Dale/Engle/Walker House, 9 – 10:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, January 23** – Cross-country ski at Dale/Engle/Walker, 1:30 p.m.

**Seven Mountains Audubon Society** [www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org](http://www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org)

- Programs are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Kelly Township Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to everyone. Take Rte. 15 North of Lewisburg to Zeigler Road (first light north of the Sheetz store). Turn left (west). The building will be on your left within about ¼ mile.
- Audubon's first Saturday (of each month) outings: Meet in the parking area on the south side of the CVS Pharmacy near the northwest corner of Rtes. 15 and 192 in Lewisburg at 7:30 a.m. Destinations TBA.
- **Wednesday January 19 – Peru with Lois and Dave:** Piranhas, sloths, monkeys, and iguanas in the trees! Lois and Dave present the Peruvian Amazon and the Incan highlands with slides and tales. See also Machu Picchu, the mysterious hideaway of the Incas in the high Peruvian Andes, and the Incan capital of Cusco, not quite undone yet by the Spanish.

[www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org)

- **Wednesday February 16 – Birds and Aging: Bucknell biologist Mark Haussmann.** Birds live longer than similar-sized mammals despite having a number of traits that should cause them to age quickly. Given this, birds are an excellent model for the study of the aging process. Mark’s presentation will focus on how cellular aging mechanisms impact species lifespan and individual survival, and how studying aging in birds can teach us about how humans age.
- **Wednesday March 16 – Matt’s Birds:** Fans of Matt Levanowitz who have raved about his bird photos on “Mark’s List” will have a chance to meet him in person when he presents a program on bird photography that will feature many of his finest images.
- **Sunday, January 23 – Film: *Ghost Bird*, 6 p.m.** Campus Theatre

#### **R. B. Winter State Park**

- **Sunday, February 13 – Snowfest,** noon to 4 p.m.

**Sierra Club** (Otzinachson Chapter) [www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson](http://www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson)

- Meets first Wed every other month. Next is February 2, 7 p.m., at Mondragon Bookstore, 111 Market St, Lewisburg

**Organizations United for the Environment (O.U.E.)** [www.ouenews.org](http://www.ouenews.org)

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

**Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance** [www.buffalocreek.org](http://www.buffalocreek.org)

- Meets on the first Thursday of each month (except January) at 7 p.m. at the Union County Government Center.

**Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association** [www.pennscreekwatershed.org](http://www.pennscreekwatershed.org)

- Meets third Thursday monthly; 7 p.m.; Adult Resource Center, 100 Richard Road, Penns Creek

#### **Playworld Systems**

- **Sunday, January 30, 2 p.m.,** Campus Theatre, Lewisburg. Free showing of *PlayAgain*. Kids in the U.S. spend far more time in the virtual world than the natural world these days. This new documentary explores the first wilderness experience of a group of typical plugged-in teens. The film features interviews with scientists, writers, and educators and considers the personal and societal consequences of a childhood removed from nature. For more information, 522-8159, or email [info@localactionpa.org](mailto:info@localactionpa.org).

*“The protection of land is an expression of faith in the future; it is a pact between generations.”*

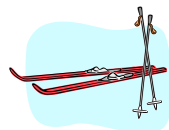
## ***Events and Activities***

### ***Cross-Country Skiing at Dale’s Ridge: Sunday, January 23, 1:30 p.m.***

Well, sometimes the winter favors those who enjoy gliding across fields and through the forest on skis and sometimes not. Last year was one of those unfavorable years, but we’re going to try it again this year. Think snow!!!

The Linn Conservancy’s “annual” cross-country ski event is scheduled for Sunday, January 23, 2011 at the Dale/Engle/Walker property. Participants will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the parking lot adjacent to the D/E/W house for the 1½- to 2-hour outing, which is sponsored by the Conservancy’s Education Committee. According to Conservancy coordinator Geoff Goodenow who will lead the activity, the D/E/W property’s forest trails, open fields and gentle downhill slopes are suitable for beginners. A brief lesson will be provided for those interested.

Participation is limited, therefore, you are urged to reserve your spot by January 20 by calling 524-8666 or emailing [linn@ptd.net](mailto:linn@ptd.net) with “xc ski” in the subject heading. Skiers must provide their own equipment.



[www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org)

### ***Workshop for Conservancy Volunteers***

Throughout the year, the Conservancy has many occasions for public outreach at various events. We would like to build the number of volunteers who would be willing and able to represent the organization effectively at those events. Accordingly, we will be sponsoring a training session to assist interested individuals to do so. The session will be held Saturday, January 22 at the Dale/Engle/Walker property on Strawbridge Road. It will start at 9 a.m. and last approximately 90 minutes. Please register by Wednesday, January 19, by calling 524-8666 or emailing [linn@ptd.net](mailto:linn@ptd.net) with “training” in the subject heading.



### ***2011 “What’s In Your Back Yard” Youth Nature Photo Contest***, by Pat Arduini

If children are in the outdoors often enough to watch and experience their ecological surroundings, they will be far more likely to care about the wellbeing of their natural environment over time, more likely to make informed decisions, and more likely to be conscientious in their actions. To encourage more interaction with nature, the Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy education committee is planning a nature photo contest to take place during the months of March and April 2011.

The “What’s In Your Backyard?” Photo Contest is designed to get kids outside and learning about nature. The contest will feature views of our valley’s environment through the eyes of children and teens. Participation will be free and open to amateur photographers who are between the ages 6 and 18 years old as of the contest period. Visit the Linn Conservancy’s website beginning in February 2011 for full details, contest rules and forms.



### ***The Conservancy’s Educational Role: An Important Element of Our Work***, by Geoff Goodenow

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending a lecture by Rick Potts. This northeast Pennsylvania native is the Chief of Conservation and Outdoor Recreation for the National Park Service. He has been with the park service for more than 25 years and currently administers five park service programs: Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance; Wild and Scenic Rivers; National Trails System; Hydropower Assistance; and Challenge Cost Share. Mr. Potts places high priority on engaging with diverse new audiences, especially youth of the “Gen Y” or “Millennial” generation, to get them reconnected to the great outdoors for active recreation and conservation.

In explaining his reason for this focus, Mr. Potts noted his perception that as a nation we are losing connection with the outdoors. Rick stated that as he grew up in the 50s and 60s there was a 50 percent chance that one would experience a “rural” upbringing; today that likelihood is just 19 percent. Furthermore, in the last 20 years, backcountry permits in national parks and wilderness areas, is down 26 percent. Unfortunately, he sees this as the beginning of the end for such areas. Without connection to our environment, who among our future legislators and other decision-makers (all voters) who will control funding for land preservation will see any of this as a priority? Who will care that the extractive industries will bare the earth’s surface and disembowel its crust?

The Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy takes pride in its efforts to offer opportunities for the reconnections that Mr. Potts promotes. Through our Education Committee, co-chaired by Pat Arduini and Diane Donato, we provide multiple opportunities throughout the year to engage families and youth in the outdoors. Our scholarship to the Penn State Outdoor Leadership School, supported by our John Clark/Jeff Bowers Education Fund, is another attempt by our organization to reconnect area teens to their environment. Look for some new initiatives in this newsletter and in our “Caring for Communities” events schedule in the spring edition of the *Linn Log* and on our website.



### **Coming in March: Our Annual Native Plant Sale**

Plan on supporting your Conservancy with a purchase of native shrubs, trees and flowers that will beautify your property and provide food and shelter for native wildlife. Watch for details including our list of offerings and ordering instructions on the website and in the Spring issue of the *Linn Log*.



## **Like-Minded Organizations**

### **Audubon to Sponsor Free Film in January**

Seven Mountains Audubon Society is sponsoring the free showing of *Ghost Bird* at the Campus Theatre, 6 p.m., Sunday, January 23, 2011. Other local environmentally-minded groups will display educational materials at tables in the lobby. *Ghost Bird* is a conservation-themed movie exploring many diverse 21<sup>st</sup>-century reactions stemming from several purported sightings of an Ivory Billed Woodpecker in Arkansas, a bird declared extinct in the mid - 20<sup>th</sup> century. The movie runs for just under 90 minutes and has been shown nationwide to good reviews.

The story ranges from remote woods and a rural town in Arkansas to Cornell University's Department of Ornithology in New York. You will walk away having seen how both modern society and science were influenced by the Ivory Billed Woodpecker. The overall message is a clear and poignant reminder of the vulnerability of species to habitat destruction, which unfortunately continues. Once they are gone, they are gone forever.

**Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning (BILL):** The Spring term of BILL begins February 28 and runs through April 8 and features thirteen three- and six-week courses on a wide variety of topics; membership is open to anyone regardless of prior education experience. Registration opens January 10. All courses are offered during the day at convenient Lewisburg locations. Check out [www.bucknell.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.bucknell.edu/lifelonglearning) or phone 570-577-7006 for more information on courses, membership, and registration.



### **Snowfest at R. B. Winter State Park, Sunday, February 13, noon to 4 p.m.**



Get out and enjoy a season which too many dread. The annual SNOWFEST at R. B. Winter State Park (18 miles west of Lewisburg on Rte 192) provides an opportunity for all to break out of the winter doldrums and experience some adventures and activities unique to the season. **Try** out one or more of the following: a hike on snow shoes, cross country skiing (equipment rental fee), ice skating (fee for rentals), horse drawn wagon rides (fee for ride), snow volleyball, broomball. **Come to see** ice rescue demonstrations, ice fishing skill demos, snow mobile safety and rides for kids, winter camping equipment and techniques, an ice sculpture demonstration, winter search and rescue using dogs. **Enjoy** a food concession and participate in a silent auction to benefit future Snowfests and other park events. Special activities for children including winter story time, nature activities and crafts will also be provided. And if all of this is not enough (or too much), just come out to enjoy the beauty of Penn's woods under a blanket of snow -- we hope. For more information, go to [rbwintersp@state.pa.us](mailto:rbwintersp@state.pa.us)

## *Pennsylvania Land Trust News*

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association's biannual census of land trusts has recently been completed. Data through December 2009 show that over the past six years, tremendous gains in conservation have been made. In this time frame, Pennsylvania land trusts increased their protected acreage by 69 percent and the number of easements by 85 percent. Ninety-one land trusts operating in the state have protected a total of 592,476 acres of farmland, forest, parks, trail corridors, wetlands and other green spaces. These lands, whether protected through conservation easements held in private hands or transferred to local or state government agencies, represent 2% of the state's land mass. By number of full-time employees, 72 percent of land trusts are considered very small (less than 1) to small (1-3). Along with members and contributors totaling over 107,000, these grassroots organizations, like the Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy, have made and will continue to make important strides in protecting the natural beauty, wildlife habitat and waterways of Pennsylvania.

## *Watershed Protection*

***The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) of the Merrill Linn Conservancy*** by Allan Grundstrom



The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) of the Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy has been an integral part of the Conservancy since BCWA's beginning in 2002. It continues to play an important role in the "waterways" portion of the Conservancy's mission: working to preserve the quality of the creek, protect the environment of its watershed, and promote awareness of the nature and value of the stream.

A team of BCWA volunteers, under leadership of **David Pearson**, **Thom Fantasky**, and **Matt McTammany**, maintains an active monitoring program, measuring the chemical quality of the water quarterly at eight sites along the main stream and monthly at two key sites below places where remediation is in progress: our headwaters remediation site and an agricultural site where the Union County Conservation District (UCCD) is working with a farmer to mitigate runoff into a tributary near Mifflinburg.

The acid remediation treatment near the headwaters, completed in August 2009, is functioning well, bringing the acid levels back to within a normal range. With the support of the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and the UCCD, the BCWA is committed to maintaining the site for at least 25 years.

Looking ahead, one of the BCWA's major goals is to reduce the polluting runoff that enters the stream with each rainstorm. The normal flow of water from the land to the stream is both slowed and cleansed by the trees and vegetation that thrive in the watershed. Unfortunately our agricultural, industrial, and residential developments tend to both reduce the natural buffers and add unwanted chemicals to the water as it heads downstream. At the same time their impervious surfaces tend to increase the rate of flow during a rainstorm, causing greater erosion and increasing the likelihood of flooding. The BCWA works toward mitigating these problems by encouraging environmentally sensitive practices on our farms, in our businesses and in our homes. We seek to inform all stakeholders—residents, farmers, business people, government officials, developers, young people—of the value of a clean healthy watershed and of the things we need to do to keep it that way. We are currently starting two new initiatives in cooperation with the UCCD. First, we will promote the installation of more fencing to keep cattle out of the streams and allow the regrowth of vegetation along the banks. We will appeal especially to plain sect farmers who prefer non-governmental programs. Secondly, we are exploring ways to reestablish wetlands at sites along the creek.

The members of the Linn Conservancy have been strong supporters of the BCWA from its early beginnings on. Your generous membership dues have always been important to our operations. Your continued interest leads us to think that several of you might be willing to join the current board members and volunteers in our activities. If you have read this far, please accept our personal invitation to come to one of our meetings, learn more about what we are doing, and see where you might enjoy pitching in. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, February 3, 2011 in the Union County Government Center. See you there!

## ***For Your Information***

***A Local and National Issue: What's Happening with the Bees?*** by Elizabeth Capaldi Evans, Associate Professor of Biology, Bucknell University

A condition known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) was identified in the autumn of 2006. David Hackenberg, a Lewisburg resident, a long-established beekeeper and businessman, observed a catastrophic decline in his colonies that he had moved to Florida for the winter season. Like other beekeepers with large operations, Hackenberg transports his colonies around the country to provide pollination services to fruit and vegetable growers. He discovered that his hives had experienced a dramatic drop-off in the bee populations in each of his colonies. Very quickly, other migratory beekeepers described the same phenomenon in colonies across the country. Formerly known as “fall dwindling disease,” the same condition had been observed for many years, but with a much less severe result.

CCD is characterized by the sudden colony death with a lack of adult bees in the colony. When a colony dies as a result of chemical exposure, there are usually large numbers of dead bees piled in front of the colony and in the bottom of the hive – this is not the case for hives affected by CCD. The adult bees just seem to disappear; no carcasses are found. Built-up food stores, honey and bee bread (stored pollen mixed with a bit of nectar), are also usually present and there is often evidence of recent brood rearing. In some cases, the queen and a small number of survivor bees may be present in the brood nest.

CCD has affected many beekeepers across North America, and similar syndromes have been recorded in other parts of the world. CCD is something real and distinct that affects bees, but it was only named in 2006. The number of honey-producing colonies in the United States, which peaked in 1989 at a little more than 3.5 million colonies, had dropped to around 2.4 million colonies in 2006.

The causes of the decline of honey-producing colonies and the factors involved with CCD are varied and complex. Parasites of bees such as mites and protozoans, viruses and a suite of agro-chemicals including pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides are likely contributing factors.

One benefit of the media attention given to CCD is that many people are now thinking deeply about where their food comes from – and this curiosity creates a terrific opportunity for education. Most Americans are completely disconnected to food production and to agricultural practices; even those folks who describe themselves as “loco-vores” may still not understand how our reliance on honeybees has created a major problem for growers of many crops.

Recent publications about the “bee crisis” tell us that one in three bites of an average American’s diet is dependent upon the action of insect pollinators, and yet we are still applying large numbers of agrochemicals to our food-growing landscapes. The use of pesticides is a major problem that affects managed populations of honeybees, but also native bees. Many of these important pollinators are ground nesters and therefore cannot escape these chemicals in the environment.

There is an increasing sentiment that we might consider reducing our reliance on honeybees for pollination and turn instead to populations of native bees for this service; however, this move will require very careful attention to these insects, which fly and work largely unseen by farmers or gardeners in comparison to the historically more populous honeybees, which often out-compete the native bees for resources.

What can be done? It is too simple to say “reduce the use of agrochemicals” in our environment, but that’s the number one advice that I have to offer. Next, learn about local native pollinators and encourage their populations. There are some terrific resources for gardeners and conservation land managers. I’ve included links to some of these resources here for easy reference. Almost all of these sites include handy fact sheets and native planting guides to encourage a diversity of pollinators in our landscapes. And finally, don’t believe everything that the media tells you about honeybee health: a recent headline in the NY Times said “Bee mystery solved”, but the paper that was reviewed did not determine anything new about CCD. Another recent headline said “all honeybee hives are collapsing” – and yet, if you speak to beekeepers, many have not ever had a colony succumb to CCD.

There is not a direct answer to the question, “what is happening with the bees?” Learning more about keeping the pollinators of the world happy and healthy is something for everyone.

### ***Pollinator Health Resources***

The Xerces Society: A nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat. Established in 1971, the Society is at the forefront of invertebrate protection worldwide, harnessing the knowledge of scientists and the enthusiasm of citizens to implement conservation programs.  
<http://www.xerces.org/pollinators-northeast-region/>

Pollinator Partnership: The Pollinator Partnership's mission is to protect pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research. Signature initiatives include the NAPPC (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign), National Pollinator Week, and the Ecoregional Planting Guides.  
<http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm>

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Pollinator Protection  
<http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/ecosystem/pollinator/index.html>

Honey Bee Information -- Pennsylvania State University: MAACER  
Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Consortium and Research Extension  
<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/index.html>

National Agriculture Library, part of US Dept of Agriculture

Follow the links to Plants and Crops or search here for terms such as pollinator, bee, or *Apis*  
<http://riley.nal.usda.gov/>



## ***Conservancy News & Notes***

### ***Conservancy Adds 130-Acre Easement***

The Conservancy has partnered with John and Melodee Persing and Amos and Corinne Persing by entering into a land preservation agreement on a property in White Deer Township, Union County, owned by the Persing family.

The property is an approximately 130-acre tract located in a rural setting of primarily agricultural land. There is a single unoccupied dwelling present, dated at around 1827. Approximately fifteen acres of the land is presently in agricultural use, but the bulk of the property (approximately 75 acres) contains a magnificent stand of mature hardwood forest. Several species of oak, perhaps 150 years old, dominate the forest. A significant feature of the conservation easement is that the old-growth forest will remain, as no commercial timbering will be permitted. The property is divided into three areas of protection: a Minimal Protection Area of approximately 16 acres; a Standard Protection Area of approximately 40 acres, where agriculture will be permitted; and a Highest Protection Area of roughly 75 acres that contains the old-growth forest. The Minimal Protection area contains the house, a pond, and a private cemetery. The Standard Protection Area, in addition to containing agricultural fields, has an abundant early successional plant community.

This property brings to ten the number of properties totaling over 800 acres protected within Union, Snyder and Northumberland counties by the Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy through conservation easements and, in one case, outright ownership of the land.

\* \* \*



### ***Linn and Fraternity Members Team Up on Trail Work***

Selected R. B. Winter State Park and Bald Eagle Forest trails were cleared on November 14 with the help of 16 Bucknell students from the **Chi Phi** and **Theta Chi** fraternities. On hand to lead work crews were **Tom Duck**, **Matt Stan** and friend **Sarah**, **Thom Fantasky**, **Geoff Goodenow**, and **Carl Oberheim**. Park manager **Bob Deffner** provided organizational support and refreshments. Here is a very nice reflection on the day by one of the fraternity participants: "I speak for my entire group when I say we had an outstanding time at the trail cleanup. It is rare that we can get off campus, and it is rarer still that we get to enjoy nature on such a

beautiful day in such a great environment. In my opinion, there is no better way to spend a good afternoon. We had such a great time at the park on Sunday that our entire fraternity is going back this Saturday for an afternoon picnic/hike. If you ever need volunteers for work in the ‘wilds’, please don't hesitate to contact us.”



### ***Linn Conservancy Hosts Youth Campfire Event***

Becoming more focused on providing programs for children and their families the Linn Conservancy’s education committee believes that childhood interaction with the natural environment sets the foundation for a lifelong love of nature and the desire later in life to protect the places in which they had so much fun. One day these youngsters will become the conservation leaders in our communities.

The Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy presented a campfire event for 50 young people attending the Western Union County Youth Center in Laurelton on Friday, October 8. The evening event included a fire starting demonstration by David Showalter of Laurelton. Mr. Showalter talked about campfire safety and demonstrated a variety of ways to start a fire. The youth cooked hot dogs over the campfire and had fun participating in a campfire sing-a-long.



### ***Conservancy Welcomes New Board Members***



**Don Bowman** and **Tom Gibson** have been elected members of the Conservancy’s Board of Directors. Don, a retired school psychologist, is a member of the Union County Planning Commission, Chair of Mifflinburg Borough Planning Commission and a member of the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail Committee.

Tom is publisher of *Progressive Engineer*, an online magazine. He also works as a consultant on projects related to green building, recycling, mechanical design and inventing. He is chair of the Conservancy’s “Caring for Communities” program, the series of family-oriented, environmental activities held annually in April for the past seven years.



### ***Membership/Development Committee Update, by Susan Warner-Mills***

Members of the Linn Membership/Development Committee are proud of their accomplishments in 2010. The most exciting of these are: revamping the Annual Dinner (including changing the venue and adding new features, such as the silent auction); designing a new Member Benefits Package (see below), building a new elegant and highly user-friendly website (has to be seen to be believed—please visit us at [www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org)!), and holding the “Rockin’ with the Reptiles!” event at Reptiland in Allenwood. This hugely fun and successful event was made possible through the extraordinary generosity of the Peeling family, who opened up their facility to us so we could share the glories of nature displayed there. Our thanks to the many members and local retailers (see below) who contributed items for the silent auction and to the volunteers (especially **Chris Bergesen-Peeling**) who worked for months to turn the concept into a reality.

[www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org)

Membership/Development Committee members have also agreed on the following priorities for 2011: initiate a new-member recruitment campaign (including personal follow-up with new members); implement our new “Member Benefits Package”; and implement a new Volunteer Recruitment and Coordination strategy.

### **Our Membership Benefits:**

In an effort to say thanks for your support and to help promote new memberships to the Conservancy, the board of directors has accepted the Membership/Development committee’s “benefits package” suggestions. In addition to your three issues of the *Linn Log* each year, we will begin offering our members discounts of up to 20 percent on certain merchandise, on gift memberships to individuals new to the Conservancy, and on pricing for non-member guests who members bring to special “ticketed” events sponsored by the Conservancy. The committee will also work in 2011 on designing a new business partner card involving area retailers as part of this package.

We encourage member feedback on our work and would be delighted to welcome any who would like to contribute to another exciting and successful year of activities in support of the Conservancy to join our committee.

### **Committee thanks to these event supporters:**

The Linn Conservancy would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the Silent Auction at our recent “Rockin’ with the Reptiles” event at Reptiland: **Sue Auman; Andrea Bashore; Cherry Alley Café; Diane Donato; Judy Ellis; Ann Gelnett; Iris Haseloff and Dick Cormell** of the Point Barn in Danville; **Bruce Fisher and Penns Creek Angler** in Millmont; **Owen Mahon and The Open Door** in Lewisburg; **The Peeling Family and Reptiland** in Allenwood; **Reba and Poncho’s Restaurant** in Lewisburg; **Erica Shames and Susquehanna Life Magazine; Laura Wolfberg of Laura Wolfberg’s Therapeutic Massage** in Lewisburg.

Thanks, too, to the **FOLK JUSTICE BAND** for providing music for the evening and for their generous donation of \$200 toward the mission of the Conservancy.

Thanks also to **Sue Auman, Pattie Arduini, Geoff Goodenow and Susan Warner-Mills** for soliciting some of these auction items and to the numerous volunteers who made this event such a success.

*THANK YOU, EVERYONE!!!*

### ***And More Thank-Yous:***

- Attorney **Terry Light** for his review of several documents related to our conservation easements;
- **Carol Crichley and Anni Longenbach** for assisting in preparing our membership renewal letters.
- Our Dale/Engle/Walker fall cleanup (photo below) was held November 6 in conjunction with the Historical Society: Approximately 30 students from these Bucknell Greek organizations: **Chi Omega Sorority; Theta Chi and Chi Phi** Fraternities. The following adults were also on hand: **Bill Deitrick, Tom Rich, Debra Wehr, Diane Meixell, Mary Jo Spangler, Carl Oberheim, David Goehring, and Geoff Goodenow.**



### ***Financial Report: Annual Budget Update for 2010, by Judy Ellis, Treasurer***

As of November 30, the Conservancy's 2010 operating budget of \$30,636 is on target to finish 2010 very close to right on budget. Membership fees and donations are a very important part of our income representing over 70 percent of revenues with fundraising and CD interest contributing significantly as well.

Administrative costs (including reimbursement for the coordinator and secretary), membership support and site stewardship constituted the bulk of the expenditures. The Conservancy also maintains restricted funding for targeted educational programs and land conservation/easement protection. During 2010, a \$5,000 grant from Con-Agra was used to completely redesign our website ([www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org)).

Not to be overlooked are the many hours of volunteer time from board members, non-board committee members of Development/Membership, Education, and Site/Stewardship and Bucknell University students.

Complete detailed CPA-prepared financial reports for 2009 for the Merrill W. Linn and & Waterways Conservancy and Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance are available at the Conservancy office and will be available for 2010 in May 2011 at the Conservancy Office.

### ***It's Membership Renewal Time***

Membership dollars, volunteer time, and additional giving, are the lifeblood of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy and our affiliate, the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance. We thank all members, new and long-time, for their support of the Conservancy's mission. As most of you know, having received our letter in November requesting your renewal of support, membership in the Conservancy is on a January-to-December basis. If you have not already done so, we hope you will continue your support by renewing your membership at your current level or at a higher level for 2011.

Please consider making an unrestricted contribution, which gives us the greatest flexibility in using our funds, or one dedicated to a specific project or goal if you so desire (see our list of designated/restricted funds below). Note that if your **new** membership came to us after July 1, 2010, you are in good standing through 2011. The Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization; your contributions are tax deductible. A membership form can be found within this newsletter.

A new feature of the Conservancy's website will soon be the means to make a secure donation through PayPal. There is a "donate" button in the "Support Us" section, which will allow you to use your credit card or bank account to safely contribute to the Conservancy. It is not necessary to be a member of PayPal or have a PayPal account in order to make your donation online. Other payments to the Conservancy, such as membership dues and banquet tickets, will still have to be made the old-fashioned way (by check) for the time being.

### **Our special designated/restricted funds:**

- **Easement Enforcement** – to provide for legal defense of terms of conservation easements
- **John Clark/Jeff Bowers Environmental Education Fund** – to promote environmental awareness through public outreach, school programs, student grants and scholarships, conference attendance.
- **Land Acquisition Fund** -- for costs of purchase, survey, appraisal of land
- **Rural Routes Brochure** -- for updating and reprinting of our Rural Routes series
- **Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance** -- for support of operating costs and special projects of this Linn affiliated organization



**Memorial Contribution Received**

The Conservancy appreciates the contribution made **Debby Meade** in memory of **Mr. Harold C. Hafer**.



**PDF Available for Your Next Linn Log**

As you know, the Linn Log comes to you three times a year. Many of our members have requested to receive this newsletter electronically. We encourage others of you who would like to receive it in pdf format to request being added to that list.

Currently, the Conservancy spends over \$300 per newsletter edition (nearly \$1000 annually) when costs of printing and mailing are taken into account. Additional staff and volunteer time goes into preparing each edition for mailing. In electronic form, we are able to reduce these costs and save material resources. You get your copy fast, in color and in a form that you can easily pass to another who you might want to encourage to support our mission. We can also communicate special notices to you quickly through this list.

We will always be printing some copies for use at various outreach functions and to send to new members. We will be happy to continue sending this to you in paper form if that is your preference. If paper hard copy is your desire, you need not do anything more. 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](mailto: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.

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**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\_\_\_\_\_

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**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.

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*This issue: **Membership Renewal Time** and more...*

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