

# Linn Log

newsletter of the Merrill W. Linn

Land & Waterways Conservancy

spring 2017



MERRILL W. LINN  
CONSERVANCY  
LINKING LANDSCAPES

## Mission of the Linn Conservancy

To preserve and protect significant ecological sites in Union, upper Northumberland, and contiguous counties and to educate the public on conservation issues critical to the health of our environment.

## Board of Directors

Susan Warner-Mills, President

Jeff Trop, Vice President

Bob VanHorn, Treasurer

Owen Floody, Secretary

Warren Abrahamson

Marilyn Brill

Diane Donato

Roy Fontaine

Tom Gibson

Tali MacArthur

Wayne McDiffett

Matt Roberts

Ryan Sabo

John Tonzetich

Allen Schweinsberg, Site/Stewardship Chair

Geoff Goodenow, Coordinator

Diane Donato, Editor

Tali MacArthur, Webmaster

Megan Lupek, Facebook

Ann Gelnett, Historian

## for your calendar

the short list of public events; details for many listed inside

**Saturday, March 25:** D/E/W spring cleanup, 9 am; April 1 rain date.

**Thursday, March 30 and Friday, March 31:** 5th annual Bucknell Sustainability Symposium "Generations of Power" co-sponsored by BU's Environmental Humanities Working Group. For more information, contact [BCSE@Bucknell.edu](mailto:BCSE@Bucknell.edu).

**Saturday, April 1:** Caring for Communities events begin. See page 9 for dates and details.

**Sunday, April 23:** Adopt-a-Highway cleanup

**Wednesday, May 3:** Conservancy's annual banquet (Please see the insert within your newsletter for information and registration form. If you are receiving this newsletter by email, the information and registration form will be in a second attachment.)

**Thursday, May 18:** Shikellamy Bluffs Celebration. Shikellamy State Park Overlook, 11 am.

**Sunday, June 4:** Protect, Preserve, and Play Neighbors Helping Neighbors Event, Hufnagle Park, 1 pm - 4 pm.

**Seven Mountains Audubon** third Wednesday monthly at Kelly Township Hall on Ziegler Road at 7:30 pm. **April 19:** Tips on Nature Photography; **May 17:** Madagascar.

Seven Mountains Audubon bird walks, first Saturday of month. Meet 7:30 am in front of "old Walmart" store near Panera's in Lewisburg. For details visit [www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org](http://www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org).

**Sierra Club** meets second Wednesday, 7 pm, every other month at Union Co. Gov. Center, Lewisburg.

*"By assaulting nature, we raise the odds that we will assault each other. By bringing nature into our lives, we invite humility."*

Richard Louv

## Conservancy's Annual Dinner Set For May 3 at Shade Mountain

We will return to Shade Mountain Winery on Wednesday, May 3, for our 2017 annual dinner. Join us at this delightful setting overlooking the vineyards and landscape of Snyder County. Social time, featuring Shade Mountain wines, hors d'oeuvres, and raffle will begin at 5:30 pm with formal festivities kicking off at 6:15 and dinner at 6:45.

That Kitchen Witch will provide our buffet, including a vegetarian selection. Following dinner, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Carol Parenzan will present "Protecting the Headwaters: The Role of Your Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper. Please join



*The Conservancy's 2016 annual banquet was sold out.*

us for a most enjoyable and informative evening.

Bring a Guest: We encourage members to bring a non-member guest to introduce him or her to the

Conservancy. We offer you a 20% discount on your guest's ticket. You will find a reservation form inserted within your newsletter or as a separate attachment if you are receiving this newsletter electronically. Please return it with your payment before Tuesday, April 18.

If you would like to donate an item to our banquet auction, please contact Pat Arduini asap at [pattiarduini@yahoo.com](mailto:pattiarduini@yahoo.com) to let her know what you will be donating and to arrange for pick up or delivery. Shade Mountain Vineyard/Winery is located 6 miles south of Mifflinburg on Rte 104 between Penns Creek and Middleburg. The street address is 16140 Pa Route 104, Middleburg, PA.

## Plein Air Day D/E/W House Tour

April 30 is the Plein Air day sponsored by the Merrill Linn Conservancy, the Lewisburg Arts Council, the Artists' Guild of Lewisburg, and the Union County Historical Society. One of the sites for the day is the Dale/Engle/Walker (D/E/W) House in Union County. The Union County Historical Society is very generously offering a free, guided tour of the D/E/W House for artists and members of the organizations sponsoring the Plein Air Event. The tour will begin at 3:00 pm.

Samuel Dale, a Scots-Irish immigrant to Union County, built the D/E/W House in 1793 out of limestone quarried on the site. The property was subsequently owned by the Engles who ran a dairy and the Walkers who lived there. In 2001 the property was willed to the UCHS, the Linn Conservancy, and Seven Mountains Audubon.

The tour will include architectural information, the main floor parlors, a collection of books representing Dale's library, information on the slave Dinah, and a focus on the hearth area with 1800s cooking utensils. Displays will highlight the theme of "Over There—Over Here: the home front in Union County in WWI," with military and household items circa 1915-1920. The tour will be followed by a reception on the front lawn for participating artists and members of the organizations.

## Spring Cleanup at Dale/Engle/Walker Property: Saturday, March 25

If you can assist with our spring cleanup at Dale's Ridge on Saturday, March 25, from 9 am until noon, please contact Jeannette Lasansky at [Lasansky@bucknell.edu](mailto:Lasansky@bucknell.edu). Contacting us, if you are able to assist, will help us in our planning. Our rain date is April 1 in the same time slot.

## 2017 Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Schedule

The Conservancy is responsible for a 2-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 White Springs Rd.

You'll enjoy this scenic location along Penns Creek. Look for some wildflowers and maybe spot a bald eagle, an osprey, or blue heron hunting along the waterway. The cleanup dates (all Sundays) are: April 23, June 4, August 20, and October 15. Meet at 1 pm at the location noted above. If you would like to help, please contact our office by phone at 570-524-8666 or email [linn@ptd.net](mailto:linn@ptd.net) to register.

## Conservancy/FCFP Establish Endowment

On December 8, Conservancy President Susan Warner-Mills, Treasurer Bob VanHorn, and Dawn Linn from the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania signed documents creating the Conservancy's Endowment Fund with FCFP. The Conservancy invested \$70,000 of its financial resources in the fund.



*Linn, Warner-Mills at signing.*

Ms. Warner-Mills thanked the Conservancy board's ad hoc Investment Strategy Committee for exercising due diligence in researching the Conservancy's financial options.

"Once again, I am proud to be part of this organization," Ms. Warner-Mills said. "Thank you for your input and support throughout this process."

## president's message

### SO MUCH WORTH CELEBRATING; SO MUCH WORTH PRESERVING!

*By Susan Warner-Mills*

#### ***So much worth celebrating...***

I often find myself awestruck by how much our relatively small conservancy accomplishes on a regular basis to support our organization, community, and region. Right at the moment plans are underway for

- the spring launch of the East Buffalo Township Native Plant Garden
- our annual Caring for Communities Earth Month celebration activities in April (centered around this year's theme, "Keeping our Forests Vibrant")
- our May 3 Annual Banquet at Shade Mountain Winery (look forward to catering this year from That Kitchen Witch!), AND
- the May 18 (11 am) celebration with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources of the Linn Conservancy's acquisition and gift to the Bureau of State Parks of the Shikellamy Bluffs property (the celebration will be held at Shikellamy State Park).

These activities, in addition to our ongoing easement stewardship and trail maintenance work, have all been planned and implemented by our extraordinary Conservancy volunteers, supported by our Coordinator Geoff Goodenow and office staff Elaine Wintjen. (Both are part-time staff.) Please be sure to thank our volunteers and staff when you see them. Please read on in this issue of *Linn Log* for more details about these exciting events and, equally important, PLEASE be sure to PARTICIPATE!

#### ***So much worth preserving...***

As I list all these activities, and as I credit how much else our Conservancy accomplishes on a daily basis, I am also profoundly conscious of another bedrock of the Linn Conservancy's philosophy and mission: the pursuit of sustainability. Sustainability is not the same as growth. For hundreds of years "growth" has been the ideal to which western capitalist economies have aspired. Over time that aspiration has been adopted as a value in and of itself by all sectors of society, including the non-profit sector. In recent years, however, as resources dwindle and environmental conditions deteriorate, the concept of sustainability has arisen as a new, alternative ideal.

A few internet-derived definitions for "sustainability" are

- ★ "the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level" and
- ★ "avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance."

How can our organization "walk the talk" of the ideal of sustainability to which we aspire, especially at this moment in our history when we embark on a major endowment-building "Campaign for the Conservancy?" I suggest that we need to be "conscious" as we pursue our goal of financial sustainability. The following principles will underlie our upcoming discussions with our members and friends, both individually and through other means of publicity and communication:

- We will build our endowment for the purpose of maintaining carefully managed "sustainable growth" rather than institutionalizing the pursuit of "constant growth."
- Our sights will remain focused on our founding mission of preserving and linking ecologically significant landscapes in our service area and educating the public on conservation issues critical to the health of our environment. We will seek growth only to the extent required to meet our land protection goals and to the extent that we are able to sustain it.
- We will continue to pursue our mission primarily through the contributions of passionate volunteers rather than by continually adding paid staff, thereby avoiding the need to remain in "permanent fundraising mode."
- We will ask our members and friends to contribute once and only once to our Campaign to grow our endowment fund. Of course, additional contributions will always be welcome (and we will continue to ask our members to renew each year), but once we achieve our goal, again: we will not continue to pursue a state of constant growth.

***For these reasons, and because we the members and friends of the Merrill Linn Conservancy have so much not only to celebrate, but to preserve for future generations, please...please... support our cause, this one time, at the very highest level you can possibly manage. To contribute, to include the Conservancy in your estate planning, or to talk with me personally, please call or email me at 570-716-0870 or swm@dejazzd.com. On behalf of the Linn Conservancy, please accept my profound thanks for your support.***



## Conservancy Acquires Terrafirma Insurance

When the Conservancy accepts a conservation easement, it assumes a perpetual responsibility to enforce the terms of that legal agreement. This is our obligation to those property owners with whom we have constructed easement language to protect their property as they envision it being beyond their time of ownership.

As properties pass from one owner to another, so too do the terms of that easement. While the Conservancy takes all measures to assure that potential new owners understand that there are certain restrictions on the use of the property, history shows that the likelihood of intentional or unintentional violations of the easement by an owner increase over time. In other cases, outsiders may also be responsible for transgressions of the easement. The Conservancy experienced such a case in the late 1990's when someone illegally harvested several trees on one of our sites.

If legal action becomes necessary to defend an easement, the costs could easily threaten a land

trust's solvency. To help guard against such catastrophic eventualities, land trusts are able to buy into an insurance program called Terrafirma. As a participant in the program a land trust is charged annually at a defined rate for each property under different ownership that it protects. While a land trust assumes a \$5000 deductible for legal defense for an infringement upon an easement or fee owned property, this policy covers additional costs which can very quickly accumulate well over and above this figure.

From developing an easement to monitoring it annually to assuring that the Linn Conservancy maintains its capacity to uphold the terms of its easements, protecting our land and waterways has its costs—costs that obviously do not end with the signing of a conservation easement agreement. In signing on to Terrafirma, the Linn Conservancy board of directors has taken a proactive step to assure its ability to fulfill its responsibilities to those property owners who, through their action, illustrate their commitment to protecting the natural diversity and beauty of our region and their confidence in the Conservancy to help them do so.

---

## Caring for Communities Schedule Includes Wayne Stahl Property Visit

In early fall 2016, the Conservancy celebrated its newest protected site, a 243-acre property owned by Wayne Stahl. Visitors walked and rode in a wagon to see the areas of greatest interest. The event was very well attended. Caring for Communities chair Tom Gibson is offering an opportunity to revisit the property on Sunday, May 7, beginning at 1 pm.

The Stahl conservation easement protects the property permanently from additional development while preserving its agricultural land, scenic beauty, and natural features. A major objective is to foster and perpetuate old-growth forest, meadow, and wetland for wildlife habitat. Tree-line hedgerows that border cropland are preserved for an additional benefit to wildlife. A four-acre area is maintained as a meadow. More than 150 plant species were reported on the property during field surveys conducted in October 2015. More than 80 native and transient bird species are found there.

The Velma M. Stahl Wildlife Sanctuary, named for Mr. Stahl's mother, is a mature woodland in which trails and hunting are prohibited. Hunting is allowed in other areas of the property, which borders an 80-acre parcel preserved by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program. A small stream that feeds Black Run runs through woodlands. The property is located at 138 Indian Ridge Road, north of Col. John Kelly Road between Mazeppa and Forest Hill.



*Property owner Wayne Stahl addressing visitors at our September celebration.*



*Visitors walked and rode in a wagon to see the fields, forests, and wetlands.*



*The Stahl property offers spectacular natural beauty.*

## **Do you know the hellbender? Save the remaining giant salamander populations**

*by Mizuki Takahashi, Assistant Professor of Biology  
and Animal Behavior, Bucknell*

Hellbender\* is the “honorable” name given to the fully aquatic giant salamander distributed in the eastern US including several local streams in this area. It is the largest amphibian by body mass in North America growing up to 74 cm (29 inches) in total length. Despite its size, American people in general know little about this fascinating animal. I found this to be very interesting because, in Japan where I was born and grew up, I would say nearly 100% of people know about the Japanese giant salamander, which is another giant salamander in



*Eastern Hellbender found during the survey in TN*

the same family. More importantly, Japanese people in general have a pretty positive impression about the giant salamander, which I don't think is the case in the US. So my ambitious goals here are: 1) to introduce the hellbender and my hellbender research and 2) to make you a fan of hellbenders by the end.

Contrary to popular belief, hellbenders do not attack people, are not venomous or toxic, and don't typically eat fish or trout (they love eating crayfish). Instead, they likely play an important role in a river ecosystem as one of the top predators, are sensitive to environmental conditions, and are one of the rare salamanders in which fathers provide parental care.

Unfortunately, their number has declined over the past decades due to the factors such as pollution, illegal harvesting, habitat destruction, and possibly wildlife diseases. As a result, there are a limited number of regions known to harbor healthy hellbender populations. The tributaries of the West Branch Susquehanna River represent one of them. One of the conservation challenges is to grasp their distribution range at a stream level and establish a sustainable monitoring program.

This task is challenging because of their secretive nature (they are nocturnal and hide under large

rock slabs), confusion with mudpuppies (another fully aquatic salamander), and the insufficient number of researchers available for covering the wide distribution range.

In addition, the traditional survey method, which involves physically finding them by turning rocks, requires specialized skill, time, and manpower. Such traditional methods also risk disturbing their habitats as well as accidentally causing physical harm to the animals. An environmental DNA or eDNA technique offers an exciting alternative to the traditional survey method. This relatively new technique does not require invasive sampling and assesses target populations through the detection of their genetic materials contained in the stream water. In 2014, our research lab initiated the hellbender eDNA project. We analyzed 150 water samples (including negative controls) collected from 13 sites across eight tributaries of the Western Branch Susquehanna (see the photo below).

The results were very exciting: 1) we repeatedly found hellbender eDNA from the streams known to have hellbenders, 2) eDNA concentrations tend to sharply increase in September, their breeding season, reflecting the signatures of the possible breeding events, and finally 3) we found hellbender eDNA from the streams which do not



*Sample water filtering in the lab. We then conducted DNA extraction and detection of hellbender DNA.*

have any records of their existence. Overall, the eDNA technique worked very well and we are continuing with the project to better characterize the core habitats for the newly found populations\*\*.

Giant salamanders used to be globally distributed (e.g., fossils found in Europe) and represent one of the oldest salamander lineages. There are currently three giant salamander species, Japanese giant salamander, Chinese giant salamander, and hellbender. All of them are in a state of decline. In particular, Chinese giant salamanders are next to “extinct in the wild.”

*Continued on page 6*



Continued from page 5

Now you realize that at a global scale we are among a fraction of lucky people who live in a watershed still containing giant salamanders!

This also means that we are responsible for the fate of one of the remaining giant salamander populations. The first thing you can do to help them is to talk to your friends, especially young generations, about hellbenders, its importance, harmlessness and cuteness (maybe). If you happen to find them in a stream or happen to catch one, please leave them alone and let them go. In the meantime, I would appreciate any sighting information, preferably with photos, sent to me via email ([mt027@bucknell.edu](mailto:mt027@bucknell.edu)). If you are interested in knowing more about my giant salamander research, please visit: <http://www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/mt027/pages/GiantSal.html>

\*There are two subspecies within “hellbender,” Ozark hellbender (*Cryptobranchus a. bishopi*) and eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis*). The Ozark hellbender is listed as an endangered species. A group of people is currently working to enlist eastern hellbenders as well. The eastern hellbender is the one we have in PA.



Giant salamanders sold at a local festival in Japan.



Giant salamander mascot in Nichinan Town, Japan

\*\*The information about the research sites is not disclosed to prevent poaching. Please talk to me if you if you are interested in the conservation of the animals.

## The Native Plant Garden at East Buffalo Township Property

The Conservancy’s native plant garden, to be installed at the East Buffalo Twp. (EBT) property on Fairground Road, is—after much planning—coming together. We are determined that the garden be sustainable and earth friendly. A line of leatherleaf viburnum—native to China—that were planted at the site three years ago are being recycled. They will find new homes with Lewisburg area home gardeners. We have locally sourced organic fertilizer that will be applied as soon as the snow melts. Both an insertable drain barrier and a silt sock will be installed to protect waterways when the plot is tilled.

Native bunch grasses and pollinator plants will be delivered in mid to late April. With 1,720 sq. ft. of garden space, however, donations of bunch grasses and pollinator plants would be very much appreciated. We will also happily accept donations of time and talent. Those who are willing to volunteer and share their expertise are asked to email Diane Donato at [dianeedonato@gmail.com](mailto:dianeedonato@gmail.com). We could use donations of native pollinators, including: spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*), giant blue lobelia, (*Lobelia siphilitica*) Joe Pyeweed (*Eutrochium dubium*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), northern blue flag (*Iris versicolor*), and black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*).

We would also welcome purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), ox-eye (*Heliopsis helionthoides*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), three-lobed coneflower (*Rudbeckia triloba*), Culver’s root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*), thread leaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*), garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), common boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), scarlet bee balm (*Monarda didyma*), foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*). Donations of mulch and stone for a pathway through the garden would be very helpful.



The garden, an extension of our Linking Landscapes Initiative, will be the focus of education programs aimed at encouraging landowners and home gardeners to convert some or all of their land to native landscapes.

The garden plot lies between the East Buffalo Twp. municipal building and the EBT recycling center on Fairground Road. The garden will be 1720 sq. ft. (delineated by the orange flags).



Marilyn Murphy and John Tonzetich flagged the area to be planted in the second week of March.

## Shikellamy Bluffs: Million Years Of Geologic Change, Part II

*By Jeff Trop, Bucknell University Professor of Geology, Linn Conservancy board member*

*This is Part 2 of 2 articles about the geologic history of the site. Part 1 appeared in the Winter 2017 Linn Log. The articles are running in conjunction with the May 18 celebration of the Conservancy's acquisition and transfer of 36 acres along the bluffs and the cliff face to the state park system.*

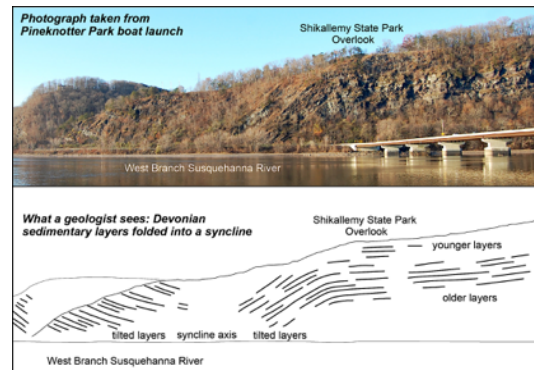
The geologic history of the Shikellamy area after deposition is impressively dynamic. The formerly horizontal strata were folded, faulted, and uplifted during collision of the North American and African tectonic plates approximately 250 to 290 million years ago. This deformation folded the strata into a prominent syncline, a canoe-shaped fold. The fold is best viewed looking across the river from Pineknotter Park or the marina section of Shikellamy State Park.

Looking towards the bluffs, note changes in the orientation of the bedrock layers exposed just below the overlook. The strata change in orientation from nearly horizontal below the overlook to a southward tilt (towards the left) near road-level halfway between the bridge and County Line road and a northward tilt (towards the right) near road-level at the intersection of County Line Road and Route 11. The axis of the fold is exposed at road-level approximately halfway between the bridge and County Line Road. Such well-exposed cross-sections of large folds are not especially common.

Following folding, the region experienced millions of years of differential erosion resulting in the present valleys and ridges, and the confluence between the north and west branches of the Susquehanna River. Over the past one million years, advance and retreat of large ice sheets shaped the upper reaches of the watershed but

rarely did ice sheets advance into central Pennsylvania near Shikellamy Bluffs.

Approximately 800,000 years ago, ice advancement formed a >100-km-long ice-dammed lake (Lake Lesley) on the West Branch at Williamsport and smaller ice-dammed lakes along tributaries near Lewisburg. Catastrophic outburst flooding from these lakes produced pools and riffles along the river that currently offer refuge for fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mussels during low water periods. Outburst floods also deposited coarse gravels that smaller tributaries cannot mobilize. Unable to be farmed, these forested habitats are important wildlife corridors.

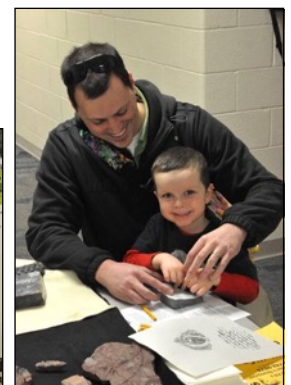


Compared to the shorter West Branch, the longer reach of the North Branch traverses extensive areas of glacial sediments that are routinely entrained into the river along with coal-bearing sediment from strip mines. The North Branch sediment does not mix together with the less turbid waters of the West Branch for tens of miles downstream. Usually visible from the bluffs, this prominent contrast in sediment load demonstrates how the geologic history of Pennsylvania continues to shape the modern environment. Many aspects of the Park geology remain largely unexplored, providing potential for future scientific discoveries, including insight on the “fin-to-limb” transition of prehistoric vertebrate animals that eventually led to reptiles, mammals, and us!

### Conservancy Gets Cabin Fever

The Conservancy was well represented at this year's Cabin Fever Expo held in mid-February at the Mifflinburg Intermediate School. In addition to our Conservancy display, we offered two children's activities this year—a native plant and animal coloring table and a fossil display, assembled by Bucknell geologist and board member Jeff Trop. Children did fossil rubbings from a variety of petrified remains with assistance from many of Jeff's geology students.

*Ben Ranck and his son James Madison (right) stopped at our children's table to do fossil rubbings. BU student Nicole Certo and Jeff Trop helped staff our booth.*





## Plein Air Event Weds Nature and Art



*Sunflower Field - Mifflinburg*  
by Simonne Roy

On Sunday, April 30, the Conservancy and our partners, the Lewisburg Arts Council, the Artists' Guild of Lewisburg, and the Union County Historical Society, will host the fourth annual Plein Air Event at three scenic and ecologically

significant Conservancy sites. Artists and plein air enthusiasts will have the opportunity to capture the natural beauty of the Dale/Engle/Walker (D/E/W) House and Dale's Ridge Trail property, the Shamokin Mountain Trail on Forest House Lane off Stein Lane, and the Montandon Wetland, open to artists for the day courtesy of the property owner, Central Builders Supply.

Artists of all ages and abilities will interact with each other while working *en plein air*—in the outdoors, rather than in a studio—at a time of year when nature is most alive, according to Marilyn Brill, Plein Air chair for the Merrill Linn Conservancy. “The first plein air artists were the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Impressionist painters who sought to capture the momentary and transient effect of sunlight by painting *en plein air*—in the open air,” Ms. Brill says. “The goal of the Plein Air Event is to preserve, with our artwork, a present moment at various Linn Conservancy sites. And, in sharing the work we have created, to build a community of artists and citizens passionate about the preservation of these sites for future generations.”

Each of the sites will be accessible from 9 am to 4 pm. Artists work at their chosen locations, staying in one place or traveling to different locations. Volunteers will be posted at each site to assist artists. During the

week of May 1 through 6, artists may return to the Conservancy's public properties—the D/E/W property and the Shamokin Mountain Trail. All work done at these sites from April 30 through May 6 may be shown at a plein air exhibition at The Public Library for Union County during the month of June.

The Plein Air Workshop held at the D/E/W House from 9 am to 11 am is always a highlight of the day. This year professional plein air artist Simonne Roy will conduct the session. (See sidebar below for more information.) The workshop is free, but space is limited. To reserve a place, email [workshops@lewisburgartscouncil.com](mailto:workshops@lewisburgartscouncil.com).

Additional activities include a show and sale of artwork from the three previous Plein Air Events at the D/E/W House from 9 am to 5:30 pm and a free tour of the D/E/W House at 3 pm for members of sponsoring organizations.

An alfresco reception at the D/E/W House from 4 pm to 5:30 pm is open to all. Artists are encouraged to bring their artwork to share with others and to spend time meeting and talking with Conservancy, Arts Council, Artists' Guild, and Historical Society members who have worked to make the event possible. Wine for the reception will be donated by Shade Mountain Winery.

Artists will receive event packets with guidelines for displaying their work in the Plein Air exhibit at The Public Library for Union County. A reception honoring the artists and their work will be held in the library's Gallery 255 on Monday, June 5, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Complete information is online at the Conservancy website, [www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org), and the Lewisburg Arts Council website, [www.lewisburgartscouncil.com](http://www.lewisburgartscouncil.com).



*Endless Mountains*  
by Simonne Roy

### Simonne Roy will present 2017 Plein Air Workshop

Noted Lewisburg-based artist Simonne Roy, presenter of this year's Plein Air Workshop, will give instruction designed to help artists get started and will answer questions about outdoor painting. She will then do a painting while describing the steps she takes. “I am inspired by nature and drawn to a subject by the emotions evoked by the scene, often linked to memories of past experiences. Composition, color, and light are all important elements in my paintings,” she says.

Workshop participants will meet inside the Dale/Engle/Walker House at 9 am and then move outdoors to a beautiful spot on the property, where Ms. Roy will paint. She encourages artists to come see a painting come to life and be inspired while seeing the landscape from an artist's perspective. “As a plein air painter, my focus is on the quality of the light (influenced by the season, weather, time of day) and how it affects the elements in the landscape. The impermanence of the scene—the impossibility to revisit that precise moment—makes every painting experience unique,” Ms. Roy says.

Ms. Roy has received recognition and praise for her paintings. She won first place in the 2011 Lewisburg Arts Festival show for “Blueberry Field,” and her painting “Sunflower Field” was accepted into the competitive juried show sponsored by Doshi Gallery held at the State Museum of Pennsylvania. She has received many honors and awards and has displayed her work in solo and group shows throughout Central Pennsylvania.



*Simonne Roy*



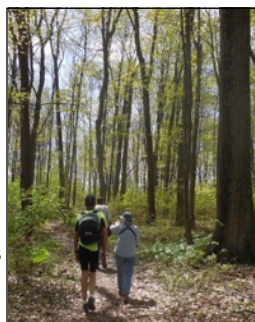
# Merrill Linn Conservancy and Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance Present

## Caring for Communities: An Earth Month Celebration!

**Caring for Communities**, our series of fun, family-oriented, environmental events on weekends in April into May, is now in its 14th year. Join us as we celebrate Earth Month by exploring critical environmental issues that affect the sustainability and well being of our communities.

**Keeping our Forests Vibrant** is our 2017 theme. We will tour Stony Run Demonstration Forest with forester Gerald Hoy, walk through the woods of Wild Goose Farm with forester Sara Street and explore the forests of Glacier Pools Preserve with owner Michael Gross. Many Caring for Communities events are held at the Dale/Engle/Walker (D/E/W) property at 1471 Strawbridge Road off Route 192, 1.7 miles west of Lewisburg.

We thank our sponsors for making Caring for Communities possible: Amami Kitchen & Espresso Bar, Marilyn Brill & Susan Warner-Mills, Bucknell Center for Sustainability and the Environment, Cole's Hardware, Diane and Tony Donato, Lewisburg Studio, Wayne McDiffett, Meixell-Diehl Insurance, Mifflinburg Bank & Trust, Molesevich Environmental, Mondragon Bookstore, Natural Food and Garden, PPL Electric Utilities, Reptiland, Thomas R. Rippon, Strosser Architecture, and *Susquehanna Life Magazine*.



### Thursday, March 30

**7:10 and 7:40 am: WKOK 1070 AM live talk show On the Mark** on Merrill Linn Conservancy and its activities and accomplishments and upcoming Caring for Communities events. Hosted by Mark Lawrence as a WKOK Sunrise segment.

### Saturday, April 1

**1 pm: Movie at the Campus Theatre in Lewisburg** *Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home*. Co-sponsored by the Conservancy and the Bucknell University Center for Sustainability and the Environment. *Hometown Habitat* is a 90-minute environmental education film focused on how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. The film raises awareness of sustainable, native, easy, and affordable land care practices that support wildlife and human life.

### Sunday, April 2

**2:30 pm: Presentation and tour on Bull Run Greenway - 6<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor** project in Lewisburg

Presentation will be held at Larison Hall on Bucknell campus (Use St. George St. entrance.), followed by a walk along 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Led by architect Sam Pearson and landscape architect Brian Auman. For complete details, visit [www.linnconservancy.org/aboutus/caring-for-communities](http://www.linnconservancy.org/aboutus/caring-for-communities).

### Thursday, April 6

**7 pm: Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance annual meeting** with Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Carol Parenzan speaking. Union County Govt. Center, 155 N. 15 Street, Lewisburg.

### Saturday, April 8

**10 am: Caring for Communities bicycle ride** on the Conservancy's Rural Routes and the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail. 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; meet at Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot.

### Sunday, April 9

**1 pm: Tour of Stony Run Demonstration Forest** Bald Eagle State Forest, Hartley Township. See experimental forestry techniques being tested. Led by forester Gerald Hoy. From Lewisburg: follow Route 45 toward Laurelton. About 100 yards before Route 235 South, Stony Run Road is a right hand turn at an old rotting house onto a dirt mountain road. The site is on the east side of Stony Run Road in approximately 1 mile.

### Saturday, April 15

**10 am: Tour of Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance acid water remediation facility in western Union County** Starting at the intersection of US 15 and PA 45, go west for 17.8 miles, turn right onto Stony Run Road (just before Laurelton Center and the junction with PA 235). After 3.2 miles you will come to an intersection of forest roads. Turn right onto Buffalo Flat Road and follow it for 1.6 miles. Immediately after crossing the stream is a sign and gate to the BCWA site. To carpool, meet at the Union County Govt. Center, 155 N. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Lewisburg at 9:15 am.



### Saturday, April 22 – It's Earth Day!

**2 pm: Forestry walk at Wild Goose Farm** Sara Street, professional forester, will take participants of all ages on a walk through the

*Continued on page 10*

Continued from page 9



wooded nature trails on the property looking at native and invasive plant species. At the end of the walk, learn how to cultivate your own shiitake or oyster mushrooms in your backyard. Wild Goose Farm is a member-based organization that provides hands-on opportunities to experiment with sustainable and regenerative ideas for green living. 2099 Beaver Run Rd. at Keefer Road. 5 miles west of Lewisburg; 1 mile north of Vicksburg.

#### **8 pm - Owl Prowl and Astronomy Night**

Owl walk led by Joe Southerton, Mifflinburg teacher, followed by astronomy observing at 9 pm led by Bucknell University astronomers. Meet at the Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot for the Owl Prowl or at the Dale/Engle/Walker House for the stargazing.

#### **Sunday, April 23**

##### **1 to 5 pm - River Road Holiday Walk It! Bike It!**

River Road in Lewisburg is closed to vehicular traffic from the Water Street/St. Anthony Street intersection to the main entrance of RiverWoods to allow for recreational pursuits such as walking, cycling, running, and inline skating.

##### **1 pm - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure Trip**

sponsored by the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance and led by Canoe Susquehanna, with reservation and fee required. Travel the lower section of Buffalo Creek from Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot to St. George Street in Lewisburg. Look for details and register online at [PaddleHappy.com](http://PaddleHappy.com) or call 570-524-7692.

#### **Friday April 28 – It's Arbor Day!**

Join the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission in their tree-related events. For complete details and updates visit [www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org).

#### **Saturday, April 29**

##### **10 am - Hike at Glacier Pools Preserve in**

**Lycoming County**, a 273-acre island of mature trees, wildflower meadows, and vernal pools. The property contains a diverse mixture of deciduous and evergreen tree species and vernal pools (at least 18) that teem with amphibians. Address: 757 Pine Tree Rd, Hughesville, PA, northwest of Picture Rocks. For directions, go to [www.glacierpoolspreserve.com](http://www.glacierpoolspreserve.com). To car pool, meet at 9 am at the Ben Franklin and Tractor Supply stores parking lot at the Route 642 intersection off Route 147 near Milton.

#### **Sunday, April 30**

**9 am - Plein Air Event** Artists will gather at three Linn Conservancy protected sites to create artwork that captures their beauty. The artwork will be

displayed at The Library for Union County during the month of June. The sites include the Dale/Engle/Walker House and Dale's Ridge, the Montandon Wetland, and the Shamokin Mountain Trail near Winfield. Professional plein air artist Simonne Roy will give a presentation at the Dale/Engle/Walker House at 9 am. A reception will be held there from 4 to 5:30 pm. (See page 8 for more about our Plein Air event.)

##### **1 pm - Susquehanna River Canoe/Kayak**

**Adventure Trip** sponsored by the Linn Conservancy will take us on the river from Milton State Park to Chillisquaque Creek near Lewisburg. Led by Canoe Susquehanna with reservation and fee required. Look for details and register online at [PaddleHappy.com](http://PaddleHappy.com) or call 570-524-7692.

#### **Wednesday, May 3**

##### **5:30 pm - Merrill Linn Conservancy annual**

**banquet at Shade Mountain Winery** Our speaker, Carol Parenzan, will present "Protecting the Headwaters: The Role of Your Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper." The event is open to the public. For more information go to page 2 or call 570-524-8666.

#### **Saturday, May 6**

##### **1 pm - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure Trip**

sponsored by the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance and led by Canoe Susquehanna, with reservation and fee required. Travel the middle section of Buffalo Creek from Mazeppa to Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot. Look for details and register online at [PaddleHappy.com](http://PaddleHappy.com) or call 570-524-7692.



#### **Sunday, May 7**

**1 pm – Tour of Wayne Stahl property** See the Linn Conservancy's latest protected property, which features forests, fields, and wetlands. 138 Indian Ridge Road, north of Col. John Kelly Road between Mazeppa and Forest Hill. (See page 4 for more about the Stahl property event.)

#### **Saturday, May 13**

##### **1 pm - Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure Trip**

sponsored by the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance and led by Canoe Susquehanna, with reservation and fee required. Paddling route and shuttle plan to be determined based on stream and weather conditions. Look for details and register online at [PaddleHappy.com](http://PaddleHappy.com) or call 570-524-7692.

# thank you!

## Welcome new members:

**Lewisburg:** James Orbison, DeeAnn Reeder, the Searles Johnson family (Ned, Michelle, Nora, and Wyatt)

## Thank yous:

To all of you who made a donation to the Conservancy during the Raise the Region event. 38 donations totaled \$3055 to benefit the Conservancy and BCWA.

**Snowfest staffers:** Brent and Amanda Kline; Ryan and Samantha Sabo

**Cabin Fever staffers:** Wayne McDiffett, Roy Fontaine, John Tonzetich, Jeff Trop, Diane Donato, Geoff Goodenow, Duane Griffin, BU Environmental Club member Amanda Craver and Bucknell Geology majors Nicole Certo, Kyle Fouke, Madison Fink, Sam Jacob, and Rae Donofrio.

**Loretta Faust** who has served as one of our easement monitors and has recently left that post due to increasing family obligations.

**Joe and Luke Southerton** for repairing and refurbishing a sign (damaged by an auto accident) identifying the location of the Koons Trail in Mifflinburg.

Bucknell students **Emma Frawley, Wes Sigl and Nicholas Diaz** who accepted a role in design of the native plant garden that the Conservancy is installing on the East Buffalo Twp. municipal grounds as a class project for Professor Amanda Wooden.

Bucknell students **Michael Mufson, Courtney Burke, Mary Margaret Kenny, Trevor Kunz** who chose the Conservancy as their subject for a website design class.

**Our Caring for Communities sponsors:** Amami Kitchen & Espresso Bar, Marilyn Brill & Susan Warner-Mills, Bucknell Center for Sustainability and the Environment, Cole's Hardware, Diane and Tony Donato, Lewisburg Studio, Wayne McDiffett, Meixell-Diehl Insurance, Mifflinburg Bank & Trust, Molesevich Environmental, Mondragon Bookstore, Natural Food and Garden, PPL Electric Utilities, Reptiland, Thomas R. Rippon, Strosser Architecture, and Susquehanna Life Magazine

## Our Business Partners for 2017

We thank these local businesses that continue supporting our Business Partner card which was enclosed with your membership materials sent in November. Each offers a specific discount to Conservancy members on particular items. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support of the Conservancy's mission.

In Montandon: **Bertoni's Pizza**, just east of the railroad crossing; **Ard's Farm Market**, Rte 45 west of Lewisburg; in Lewisburg: **Cherry Alley Café, Lewisburg Studio, Vargo Outdoors, Canoe Susquehanna**; in Middleburg: **Shaffer Landscapes, Inc.**

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Detach and mail to Linn Conservancy, PO Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837)

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

Sponsor \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Supporter \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ Friend \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Contributor \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

This is a contribution from \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

New membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

I am also adding \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_



The Merrill W. Linn  
Land & Waterways Conservancy  
PO Box 501  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lewisburg, PA  
Permit No. 64

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



www.linnconservancy.org  
(570) 524-8666  
linn@ptd.net

---

spring 2017

## In this issue:

- 14th annual Caring for Communities: Keeping our Forests Vibrant
- Preserving our Conservancy for the Future: A Call for Support  
by Susan Warner-Mills
- Conservancy's Annual Banquet — Wednesday, May 3
- Do You Know Hellbenders? by Mizuki Takahashi
- Shikellamy Bluffs: Million Years of Geologic Change-Part II by Jeff Trop

The Linn Conservancy is a member of...



like us on Facebook! Our Facebook page is a great resource for conservation news, stories and photos.