

PLEIN AIR SITE DESCRIPTIONS/DIRECTIONS

Dale/Engle/Walker Property, 1471 Strawbridge Rd., Lewisburg

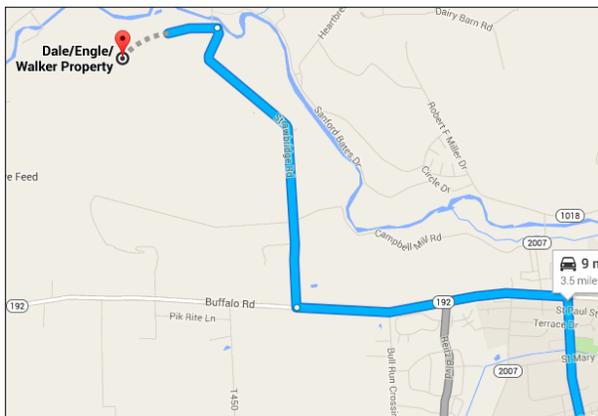


The Dale/Engle/Walker (D/E/W) property, bordered by Buffalo Creek, offers a variety of habitats including flood plain, streamside riparian buffer, mature woodlots and open fields. The property is home to Dale's Ridge Trail, which, to the north, presents scenic ridge-top views of Buffalo Valley farmland with White Deer Ridge and Nittany Mountain beyond.

In early spring, multitudes of wildflowers grace the property. Yellow trout lilies and Virginia bluebells appear in the rich soil of the floodplain. Wildflowers at the Dale's Ridge Trail switchback are white or purple hepatica, rue anemone and wild ginger. Mayapple, hepatica and eastern columbine are found in the woodlot, an old-growth stand of oak, hickories and ash, dominated by a healthy sugar maple population.

A shallow pond in the Buffalo Creek floodplain supports spring peepers, wood turtles and frogs. In springtime, jelly-like masses containing hundreds of frog eggs float just below the surface.

The Federal-style Dale/Engle/Walker House, constructed of locally quarried limestone by Samuel Dale in 1793, is a focal point of the property and a perennial favorite of artists and photographers.



Directions: 3.6 miles, 7 minutes, from Routes 15 & 45/Market St., Lewisburg

- Head north on Route 15 – 0.5 miles
- Turn left onto PA-192 W/ Buffalo Road – 1.7 miles
- Turn right onto Strawbridge Road/T450 – 1.4 miles (Destination will be on the left. Drive up the lane to the D/E/W House parking area.)

Shamokin Mountain Trail Site, Forest House Lane, off Stein Lane

The Shamokin Mountain Trail has been created and maintained for the observation of natural biological, geological and scenic features. It winds through private property that is protected by a Merrill Linn Conservancy easement and passes through a portion of State Game Land Number 193. The trail offers open fields, deciduous forest, pine woods and old fields, as well as spectacular views of Dry Valley to the south.

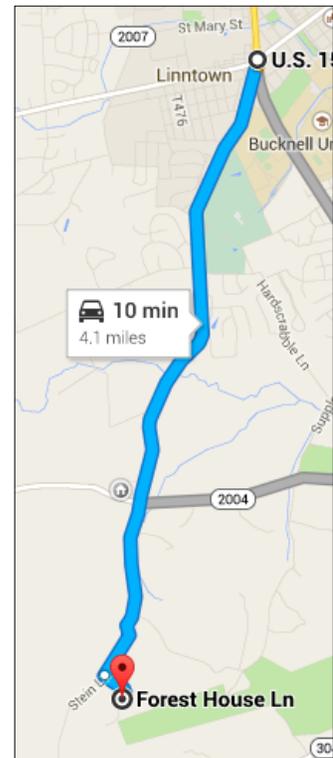
More than 20 tree species grow along the trail, including oaks, red maple, pignut, hickory and beech. Understory vegetation includes evergreen mountain laurel, mayapple, wood aster, crooked stem aster, goldenrod and round-lobed hepatica.



The site is habitat for avifauna including the beautiful pileated woodpecker that is often heard or seen in the area, as well as the hairy, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers. Other residents include the ruffed grouse, black-capped chickadee and Carolina wren, tufted titmouse and white-breasted nuthatch, screech owl and great-horned. Migratory visitors include the yellow-bellied sapsucker, wood thrush, Eastern phoebe, gray catbird, yellow-billed cuckoo and scarlet tanager.

Directions: 4.1 miles, 11 minutes, from Routes 15 & 45/ Market St., Lewisburg

- Going south on Route 15, bear right onto Stein Lane immediately after the intersection of 15 and 45.
- Continue on Stein Lane – 3.8 miles
- Turn left onto Forest House Lane – 0.2 miles



Shikellamy Bluffs, adjacent to Shikellamy State Park in Union Twp., Union Co.

The Park is closed on April 29 and will open officially to the public on May 2

Shikellamy Bluffs, purchased by the Linn Conservancy in 2015, is the Conservancy's newest land-protection project. Ownership of the 36-acre, ecologically significant property, which abuts the north edge of the Shikellamy State Park overlook, will eventually pass to the Pennsylvania State Parks system.



The property offers plain air artists breathtaking vistas of the confluence of the West and North Branches of the Susquehanna River, as well as the river valleys of both branches. (Shikellamy Bluffs also provides an elegant natural backdrop to the Susquehanna River and Lake Augusta when viewed from either Sunbury or Northumberland.)

In addition, the site provides woodland vistas along County Line Road and more than 2,400 feet of woodland buffer on the western boundary of Shikellamy State Park. A multi-tiered forest that has a canopy of red oak, chestnut oak, ash, American basswood, striped maple, red maple, sugar maple, black birch, and Virginia pine dominates areas of native vegetation. White oaks, some sizeable, occur near and in the stream corridor that



traverses the southwestern portion of the site. Wooded areas open to picturesque glades. Low bush blueberry, pink lady's slipper orchids, and various herbs and grasses make up the understory, helping to provide valuable habitat for forest mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. Ravens, great-horned owls, wood thrushes, tufted titmice, and pileated, red-bellied, and downy woodpeckers, as well as many other species, are seen and heard on the site.

Directions: 8.7 miles, 13 minutes, from Routes 15 & 45/Market St., Lewisburg

- Go south on Route 15 – 5.9 miles
- Turn left onto County Line Road. Continue on County Line – 2.4 miles
- Take a slight left onto Shikellamy State Park Road to top of hill – 0.4 miles

