

# Linn Log

newsletter of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy



## 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.

## spring 2018

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## for your calendar

**Tuesday, March 27:** Sierra Club to present *Wild PA*

**Thursday, March 29:** UC Conservation District Bus Tour: Stroud Research Center & Longwood Gardens

**April:** Linn Conservancy's Caring for Communities program. See calendar on page 5.

**Sunday, April 8, 1 pm:** Highway cleanup

**Tuesday, April 10:** UC Conservation District Awards Banquet with speaker Kelly Gill from the Xerces Society

**Tuesday, April 17, 7 pm:** Film—*Soylent Green*, Campus Theatre, Lewisburg

**Sunday, April 22:** Noll-Spangler Farm luncheon

**Saturday, April 28, 10 am - 2 pm:** Selinsgrove Riverfest on the Isle of Que and Selinsgrove Common

**Sunday, April 29, 9 am - 4 pm:** Plein Air Event

**Wednesday, May 2, 5:30 pm:** Conservancy annual banquet; see insert inside.

**Sunday, June 3, 1 pm:** Highway cleanup

**Sunday, August 5, 1 pm:** Highway cleanup

**Saturday, October 20, 1 - 3 pm:** Linn Conservancy

30th anniversary celebration, Campus Theatre

**Seven Mountains Audubon Society**, third Wednesday monthly at Kelly Township Hall on Ziegler Road at 7:30 pm. Seven Mountains Audubon bird walks, first Saturday of month. Meet 7:30 am in front of old Walmart store near Panera's, Lewisburg. For details, visit [www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org](http://www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org).

**Sierra Club** meets second Wednesday, 7 pm, every other month at Union County Govt. Center, Lewisburg. For more information, email [www.otzsierraclub.org](mailto:www.otzsierraclub.org).

### Rivertown Coalition Announces Riverfest

The Rivertown Coalition for Clean Air and Clean Water is sponsoring Riverfest on the Isle of Sue and Selinsgrove Commons on Saturday, April 28, from 10 am - 2 pm. Enjoy nature walks, bird watching, history of the Susquehanna River talks, fishing tips, biking and other fun activities for all ages. An "Ecology of the River" talk will be led by Carol Parenzan, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper. Learn through displays by local environmental partners.

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

Continued from page 1

**Riverkeeper events:** Check the website [middlesusquehannariverkeeper.org](http://middlesusquehannariverkeeper.org) for upcoming events through spring, summer, and fall. Join our Riverkeeper, Carol Parenzan, in celebrating our river and Loyalsock Creek as Pennsylvania river of the year. Carol's email is [midsusriver@gmail.com](mailto:midsusriver@gmail.com)

### **BCSE to Present Sci-fi Film *Soylent Green***

Join Bucknell's Center for Sustainability and the Environment at the Campus Theatre in Lewisburg on Tuesday, April 17, at 7 pm for a viewing of the 1973 film, *Soylent Green*, a post-apocalyptic science fiction thriller loosely based on the science fiction novel *Make Room Make Room* by Harry Harrison. It is set in a dystopian future of global warming, overpopulation, environmental degradation, and severely depleted natural resources. Bucknell professor of history Jay Goodale, will introduce the film. Admission \$2.



### **CFC Calendar**

Plan to join us for our annual series of family-friendly events designed to help all learn more about our local natural environment. With the exception of the canoe/kayak trips and our banquet, all events are free. Everyone is welcome! (See page 5.)

### **UCCD Announces Spring Events**

Union County Conservation District manager Bill Deitrick invites all to join in these informative programs:

1. DCNR/Penn State Extension: "The Woods in Your Backyard" workshop at the Union County Govt. Center, 155 N. 15th St., Lewisburg, on Saturday, April 7, with registration due April 2. Contact Dave Johnson at [drj11@psu.edu](mailto:drj11@psu.edu).
2. The Woman Farmer Awakening: April 12 at the Union County Govt. Center. Contact Chris Nickey at [Christine.nickey@pa.usda.gov](mailto:Christine.nickey@pa.usda.gov)
3. Annual tree sale: orders due by April 4. Contact Greg Bonsall at [gbonsall@unionco.gov](mailto:gbonsall@unionco.gov).

### **Highway Cleanup Dates Set**

Help keep our environment healthy, clean, and beautiful. If you would like to assist with our adopted highway cleanups, please contact the Conservancy office at 570-524-8666 to let us know of your interest. We have adopted a two-mile section of rural roadway, one mile of which parallels Penns Creek south of Mifflinburg. Each effort takes about one hour. Our dates for 2018 are April 8, June 3, August 8, and Oct. 7. We start at 1 pm and meet at the Limestone Twp. picnic pavilion. Take Route 104 south from Mifflinburg and turn west onto Wildwood Rd. (just before crossing the creek) and travel one mile to the pavilion.

### **Noll-Spangler National Historic Farm To Hold Spring Luncheon**

The Noll-Spangler National Historic Farm will hold a spring luncheon on Sunday, April 22, 2018. The historic farm is

extending an invitation to celebrate the blessing of spring during a very special spring event. The event will begin at 11:30 am with lunch served during a presentation by featured speaker Jerry Hassinger, wildlife biologist and lifelong nature educator. The historic farm is located at 1175 Wildwood Road, Mifflinburg. Luncheon reservations are required by March 31st. Reservations are \$20; those 16 years and under are free. All proceeds benefit educational programs held at the historic farm. For more information and to reserve your seat, call (570) 850-1677. Visit our website: [www.NollSpanglerNationalHistoricFarm.com](http://www.NollSpanglerNationalHistoricFarm.com)

### **Otzinachson To Present *Wild PA***

Michael Gadomski, professional photographer and author, will present a multi-media program that shows the beauty of Pennsylvania on Tuesday, March 27, at 7 pm at the Village Common, Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village. Mr. Gadomski is a former PA State Park Ranger with 25 years of service in our parks. Done in Ken Burns style, 400 still images fade, pan, and zoom during a running narration with subtle background music. The program will run about 50 minutes.



Michael Gadomski

### **Bucknell Classes Elect Projects To Benefit Merrill Linn Conservancy**

We are pleased that two Bucknell University classes have selected projects proposed by us to assist our conservation efforts and educational outreach. A team of four students from Professor Amanda Wooden's Environmental Studies 411 senior capstone class will focus on the Dale/Engle/Walker (DEW) property for their project.

Here is how the students described their project: "We chose this project because we are each passionate about land conservation and discovering ways to connect the community to that land. Our main goal for this project is to increase awareness about land conservation through information made easily accessible to the community. We would like to produce this through a comprehensive report of Dale's Ridge and an abbreviated pamphlet including this information that can be picked up at Dale's Ridge. We will survey users to learn what aspects of Dale's Ridge they value most and what they would like to learn more about. We plan to include information such as geographical history, land use history, local geology, GIS maps of the area, and a photo map of the Dale's Ridge hike."

A Management 101 class of 28 students has chosen to work on removal of invasive plants from portions of the Koons Trail and the DEW property. At Koons, where a stream improvement project is on tap for this summer, the students' efforts there will be counted toward matching monies that are required by the grant for the project. At DEW, in addition to invasives removal, students will assist in improving and expanding vegetable and flower garden spaces in the vicinity of the historic house in conjunction with Union County Historical Society landscaping goals for the property.

# Where Conservation Decisions Are Made – Part I

*Contributed by Shawn McLaughlin, Union County Planner*

Conservation advocates and voters often consciously follow the latest policy proposals and decisions being made by the Federal government and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. People can become outraged if bureaucrats or politicians in Washington take actions that jeopardize the quality of our National Parks or National Forests or if state lawmakers threaten our waters by loosening regulations on fracking for example.

Depending on how severe the action is perceived, it might motivate you to post a rant on social media, to email or call a legislator, or donate to a conservation organization. You may feel good doing this but in the greater scheme of the political arena in Harrisburg and Washington your voice can be quickly drowned out by big money, lobbyists, and special interests that have far more influence than a single voter or small group of constituents.

Although the thought of opening the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge to mining and other extraction industries might be contrary to the values of most conservation-minded people, the reality is many of us will never step foot in this wilderness. The irony is that we can become so passionate about places we rarely see or use and often overlook what is right in front of us. The farms, forests, meadows, wetlands, and other open spaces we bicycle around, drive by, and walk through every day here in Central Pennsylvania are no less important from a conservation standpoint but rarely garner the same level of attention. Perhaps the slow loss of critical habitat and degradation of natural resources in our immediate region is not as dramatic because it is incremental over a longer period of time and does not represent a single destructive event or major policy shift.

The reality is that conservation decisions that impact you daily are made (or not made) at the local level by municipal governments. In the Linn Conservancy coverage area of Snyder, Union, and upper Northumberland Counties, there are thousands of acres for which boroughs and townships have the authority to control future land use and resource protection through planning and tools like zoning ordinances. While zoning is not a permanent conservation solution, it can be effective in protecting important resources until such time conservation measures can be put in place.

Pennsylvania planning enabling law gives municipal governments the tools to “protect agricultural, historic, natural, and scenic values in the environment and to preserve forests, wetlands, aquifers, and floodplains.” Whether or not a municipal government decides to do this is completely voluntary. All municipalities in upper Northumberland County and 11 of 14 in Union County have some level of zoning. However in Snyder County only

5 of 21 municipalities have enacted zoning.

These types of decisions at the local level are ultimately made by the municipal governing body of elected township supervisors or borough council members. The elected officials, though often act based on the recommendations received from the municipal planning commission, which is made up of citizen volunteers that are appointed to look at conservation, development, land use, and overall community planning.

Do you know what your local government is doing to promote conservation? Have you ever attended your township or borough planning commission or elected officials meeting? Do you know what the future plan is for your community? Is there even a plan in place? Does your community have a zoning ordinance and, if so, is it effective at achieving conservation and environmental protection goals?

Local elected officials and planning commissions typically meet monthly and in most cases the seats for the public are empty. The conservation solutions are right here in our communities within a mile or two of the front door and not in Harrisburg or Washington. Local citizens, probably people you know such as neighbors, the farmer

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down the road, or a local business owner, hold these elected and appointed posts and are making decisions that impact your daily living

and resource conservation. These individuals are doing their best to make what they feel are the right decisions. Unfortunately, they all too often only hear from residents after an unpopular choice has been made. Instead of waiting to complain after the fact, constituents need to be proactive and engaged in local government to promote environmental awareness and conservation-minded decisions.

Municipalities often struggle to find volunteers to serve on their planning commission. If you want to get even more involved, submit a letter to your elected officials expressing interest in serving so you can give conservation a voice at the table. Additionally, fewer and fewer people are running for local elected positions. During the last election in Union County, a number of these offices had nobody on the ballot and the positions had to be filled by appointment after the election. If you want to make a difference locally, where the impact of decisions on conservation can be significant, take the next step. Being a Linn Conservancy member and contributing financially to the organization's mission is great yet there are still more opportunities to make a positive impact if you have the time and interest.

*This is the first of a multi-part series authored by the Union County Planning & Economic Development Office looking at conservation in local government.*

## Conservancy's Annual Dinner Wednesday, May 2

This year we will return to the Shade Mountain Winery for our 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 on Wednesday, May 2.

The **Kitchen Witch** will provide our buffet including a vegetarian selection this year. Following dinner, Adrienne Gemberling, Conservancy board member and Susquehanna Coordinator for the Chesapeake Conservancy, will present "Forest Riparian Buffers in Pennsylvania." As part of the Chesapeake Bay cleanup, the Susquehanna River has become a place of focus for water quality improvements through conservation practices. Adrienne will discuss the importance of stream-side trees (or forest riparian buffers) to our waterways and how newly collected data sets and tools are changing thinking about management practices.

Shade Mountain Vineyard/Winery is located 6 miles south of Mifflinburg on Route 104 between Penns Creek and Middleburg. The street address is 16140 Pa Route 104, Middleburg.

**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 percent 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 17**.



If you would like to donate an item to our banquet auction, please contact Marilyn Murphy ASAP to let her know what you will be donating and to arrange for pickup or delivery. Her email is [mlmurphy3@gmail.com](mailto:mlmurphy3@gmail.com)

**Banquet reservation form.** Please see the insert within the newsletter for information and registration form for our May 2 banquet. If you are receiving this newsletter by email, the information and registration form will be in a second attachment.



Photos by Jan Pearson

### Go Native! Workshop in Full Swing

The Conservancy's "Go Native!" workshop through the Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning (BILL) began in early March. Participants are learning how to convert some of their landscape into one 'friendly' to bees, birds, and butterflies through the use of native plants. If applied to their property, participants will be contributing to our **Linking Landscapes initiative** by helping establish wildlife corridors through our urban landscapes. As spring planting season comes along you too can help. How? Use native plants. Ask nursery personnel, "Where are your Pennsylvania native plant species?" They will probably be taken aback by such a question; but the more often they hear it, the more likely they will be to have such a selection (or an expanded one) in the future.



# Merrill Linn Conservancy - Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance

## Caring for Communities: Earth Month Celebration!

Merrill Linn Conservancy and Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance present the 15th annual Caring for Communities: Earth Month Celebration—a series of educational, family-oriented events and outdoor activities aimed at connecting both young and old with our natural environment.

In recognition of the Conservancy's 30th anniversary, our theme this year is *30 Years of Linking Landscapes, Promoting Sustainability*. Most events are free. For complete details and updates, call 570-524-8666 or visit [www.linnconservancy.org/aboutus/caring-for-communities/](http://www.linnconservancy.org/aboutus/caring-for-communities/)

### Saturday, March 31

**1 pm: *Chasing Coral* documentary at the Campus Theatre** *Chasing Coral* takes viewers on a thrilling ocean adventure as a team of divers, photographers,



and scientists sets out to discover why coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate and provides a look at this underwater world so few have the opportunity to see up close. This free event is co-sponsored by the Merrill Linn Conservancy and the Bucknell Center for Sustainability and the Environment.

### Thursday, April 5

**7 pm: Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance's 2018 annual meeting** features a presentation of on-going stream bank remediation within Union County. Shanon Burkland Stamm, water specialist of the Union County Conservation District, and Jason Fellon, watershed manager of the Department of Environmental Protection, will show examples of how farmers adjacent to Buffalo and Turtle Creeks in Union County and elsewhere had been losing their land to water and animal erosion, and what has been done to reduce the soil loss and restore creek water quality. In the training room at the Union County Govt. Center, 155 N. 15th St., Lewisburg.

### Saturday, April 7

**12 pm: All about seed balls** Children are invited to make and take seed balls with native pollinator seeds rolled into a mixture of clay and compost. Casual play clothes are appropriate for the activity. The free seed ball session will be held at the Lewisburg Children's Museum, located in the former Lewisburg Area High School building, 815 Market St., Lewisburg.

### Sunday, April 8

**1 pm: Caring for Communities bicycle ride** The Conservancy will host its annual Caring for Communities bike ride on April 8 beginning at 1 pm. Participants will cycle through environmentally significant areas of rural Union County as bike enthusiast Tom Gibson leads cyclists on the Conservancy's Rural Routes and the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail. 15-mile and 30-mile routes will be available. Park at the Dale/Engle/Walker House and meet at the Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot at 1471 Strawbridge Road, 1.5 miles off Route 192.

### Friday, April 13

**3 - 5 pm: Bucknell University Rail Trail work-day** Earl's Bicycle Store. Email [elmstreet@dejazzd.com](mailto:elmstreet@dejazzd.com) for more information.

### Saturday, April 14

**12 pm: All about bare-root seedlings** Children will pot Eastern white pine, American cranberry, and silky dogwood seedlings on Saturday, April 14, at a 12-noon workshop sponsored by the Linn Conservancy. They will learn how to plant the seedlings in their backyards and how to care for them as they grow. Casual play clothes are appropriate. The free bare-root potting session will be held at the Lewisburg Children's Museum in the former Lewisburg Area High School building, 815 Market St., Lewisburg.

### Sunday, April 15

**1:00 pm: River walk, talk with Carol Parenzan**

Carol Parenzan, the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper, will discuss her mission to champion clean water action for a swimmable, fishable, and drinkable Susquehanna River. Meet at 1 pm at the Shikellamy State Park Marina on the southern tip of Packers Island between Northumberland and Sunbury.



Shikellamy State Park Marina from the Outlook

### Thursday, April 19

**5 - 7 pm: Riparian Buffer Planting** St. George St. Boat Ramp. Email [elmstreet@dejazzd.com](mailto:elmstreet@dejazzd.com) for more information.

### Saturday, April 21

**10 am: Conley Run stream restoration tour**

Watershed specialist Shanon Burkland Stamm of the Union County Conservation District and other experts will present techniques used on this successful,

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innovative project. Meet at Brookside Acres Greenhouses at 600 Conley Run Road, Mifflinburg.

#### **1 pm: Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure**

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance will host a canoe and kayak trip April 21, beginning at 1 pm. Canoe Susquehanna will lead the event with reservations and fee required. Look for details and register online at PaddleHappy.com, call 570-524-7692, or e-mail [betsy@PaddleHappy.com](mailto:betsy@PaddleHappy.com).

#### **Sunday, April 22 It's Earth Day!**

**1 pm: Hike at Glacier Pools Preserve** Celebrate Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, at Glacier Pools Preserve! This property is a 273-acre island of mature trees,



wildflower meadows, spectacular views, and vernal pools teeming with amphibians. Landowner Michael Gross will lead the hike starting at 1 pm. Glacier Pools Preserve, 757 Pine Tree Rd, Hughesville, PA, is northwest of Picture Rocks. Visit [www.glacierpoolspreserve.com](http://www.glacierpoolspreserve.com) for directions. To carpool, meet at 12-noon at Tractor Supply's parking lot at the intersection of Route 642 and Route 147 near Milton.

#### **Saturday, April 28**

**10 am - 2 pm Selinsgrove River Fest on the Isle of Que and Selinsgrove Commons** Nature walks, bird watching, history of the River talks, fishing tips, biking and other fun activities for all ages. "Ecology of the River" talk led by Carol Parenzen.

#### **Sunday, April 29**

##### **9 am - 4 pm: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Plein Air Event**

Artists will gather at the Dale/Engle/Walker (DEW) property and Dale's Ridge Trail and the Shamokin Mountain Trail near Winfield to create artwork that captures the beauty of these Linn Conservancy conservation easement sites. After May 2, artists are also encouraged to go to Shikellamy State Park Outlook to paint the view from the bluffs. Professional artist Lina Ferrara will present an optional plein air workshop at the DEW House at 9 am; at 4 pm a reception will be held there. Space for Ms. Ferrara's workshop is limited; to attend email [workshops@lewisburgartscouncil.com](mailto:workshops@lewisburgartscouncil.com). The plein air artwork will be displayed at The Public Library for Union County during the month of June.

#### **1 pm: Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure**

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance is sponsoring a canoe and kayak trip on Buffalo Creek on Sunday, April 29, beginning at 1 pm. Canoe Susquehanna will lead the event with reservations 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, call 570-524-7692, or e-mail [betsy@PaddleHappy.com](mailto:betsy@PaddleHappy.com).

#### **Wednesday, May 2**

**5:30 pm: Merrill Linn Conservancy annual banquet** at Shade Mountain Winery near Middleburg. That Kitchen Witch will provide our buffet including a vegetarian selection. Following dinner, Adrienne Gemberling, Conservancy Board member and Susquehanna Coordinator for the Chesapeake Conservancy, will describe "Forest Riparian Buffers in Pennsylvania." As part of the Chesapeake Bay cleanup, the Susquehanna River has become a place of focus for water quality improvements through conservation practices. Adrienne will discuss the importance of stream-side trees (or forest riparian buffers) to our waterways and how newly collected data sets and tools are changing thinking about management practices. The public is invited, but reservations are required. See our insert in this issue, go to [www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org), or call 570-524-8666.

#### **Sunday, May 6**

##### **1 pm: Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure**

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance will sponsor a canoe and kayak trip on Buffalo Creek on May 6. Canoe Susquehanna will lead the event with reservations and fee required. Paddling route and shuttle plan to be determined based on stream and weather conditions. Register at PaddleHappy.com, call 570-524-7692, or e-mail [betsy@PaddleHappy.com](mailto:betsy@PaddleHappy.com).

#### **Sunday, May 13**

**1 - 5 pm: River Road Holiday and Protect—Preserve—Play Street Fair** North Water St. and River Road in Lewisburg will be closed to vehicular traffic from the St. John St. intersection to the main entrance of RiverWoods. The roadway is temporarily transformed into a public park, suitable for recreational pursuits such as walking, cycling, running, and inline skating. Water St. will also be the site of the Protect - Preserve - Play Street Fair. Come out for fun, community, exercise, live music, kids' activities, food, and more. Co-hosted by Walk It! Bike It! Lewisburg and the CommUnity Zone. For more information, visit [WalkIt!BikeIt!Lewisburg.org](http://WalkIt!BikeIt!Lewisburg.org) or [CommUnityZoneLewisburg.org](http://CommUnityZoneLewisburg.org).

Our 2018 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

*[www.linnconservancy.org/aboutus/caring-for-communities/](http://www.linnconservancy.org/aboutus/caring-for-communities/)*

## 5th Plein Air Event — Sunday, April 29 — for artists of all ages, abilities

The Linn Conservancy and its partners, the Lewisburg Arts Council, the Artists' Guild of Lewisburg, and the Union County Historical Society, will host the fifth annual Plein Air Event at two scenic and ecologically significant Conservancy sites on Sunday, April 29. Artists and plein air enthusiasts will have the opportunity to capture the natural beauty of the Dale/Engle/Walker (DEW) property and Dale's Ridge Trail and the Shamokin Mountain Trail on Forest House Lane off Stein Lane. In addition, the Shikellamy State Park will open May 2nd and the artists are encouraged to paint the beautiful scenery from Shikellamy Bluffs.



*Lina Ferrara's Autumn Glow*

Artists of all ages and abilities will interact with each other while working in 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 19th-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 two 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 April 30 through May 6, artists may return to the Conservancy's public properties—the DEW property and the Shamokin Mountain Trail as well as Shikellamy State Park. 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 DEW House from 9 am to 11 am is always a highlight of the day. This year professional artist Lina Ferrara will conduct the session. (See sidebar for more information.) The workshop is free, but space is limited. To reserve a place, email [workshops@lewisburgartscouncil.com](mailto:workshops@lewisburgartscouncil.com).

An alfresco reception at the DEW House from 4:00 pm to 5:00 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.

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 4, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Additional information about the Plein Air Event including directions and descriptions of each site, guidelines for artists, and detailed general 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).

### Lina Ferrara To Present Plein Air Workshop

Accomplished artist Lina Ferrara has studied fine art and decorative painting in the United States and Florence, Italy. Her paintings are held in private collections in the U.S., Italy, Holland and Germany, in addition to the White House, the Library of Congress and Woodmode Industries in Kremer, PA.

Though Lina has been painting since 1985, she did not have her first plein air experience until 2006, in Taos, NM. It was very hot and setting up the easel took extra planning. “We were on the edge of a bluff,” she says, “and the footing was uneven. I really didn't want to accidentally start painting next to a rattlesnake.

“But it was such a grand and beautiful place and a huge challenge to try to translate a sense of the vast terrain onto a small canvas. I found that I was paying



attention to the landscape in a way I never had before. That is the real draw of plein air painting. It connects you to a place with all your senses. How the painting turns out is secondary. The experience is the most important thing and that is what I think has contributed to the popularity of plein air painting.”

Lina is the author of the book *Easy Fresco*, on textural finishing for home decoration; she also collaborated on the book *Raspberry Pie*. Currently she teaches oil painting at the YMCA Arts Center in Sunbury: “Paint Along with Lina” for the beginning painter, and “Painter's Studio” for the more advanced artist.

Lina has extensive experience as a workshop instructor, having taught in such varied places as Canada, Italy, Holland, and most states in the U.S. Her presentation at the Plein Air Event will be of interest to novices and experienced painters alike. The focus will be on distilling the essential elements of the scene to tell a story in paint.

# Recycling makes great strides, but has a long way to go



By Tom Gibson

Having served as the recycling coordinator for Snyder County for three years now, I have developed a perspective on the industry and figured out why it fascinates me. As a mechanical engineer, I find recycling intriguing because it involves materials and mechanical processes for collecting, baling, and grinding materials. I've spent most of my career building things; now I deconstruct them, and I get to experience the full lifecycle of a product. The fact that recycling has social and environmental components completes the picture.

Another thing about recycling is that it is always evolving, but yet its development moves at a slow pace, largely because it's driven by legislation. This presents a real challenge, and we have a long way to go for recycling to reach its potential. An overview of the history of recycling and how we do it locally shows where we stand.

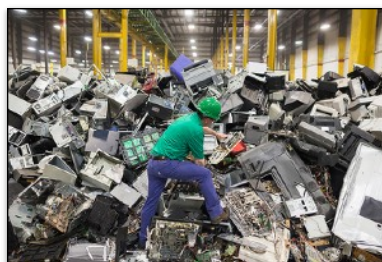
Most of us probably remember the Mobro garbage barge that went up and down the East Coast in the 1980s looking for a place to dump its contents, which nobody wanted. Then you had the Love Canal chemical spill disaster in Niagara Falls, New York. Incidents like these made us realize we needed to control our trash, which was getting out of hand because our population was booming and we were consuming more and more stuff. We lacked landfill space and technology to handle it.

In response, Pennsylvania passed Act 101, which required counties to come up with a solid waste plan and mandated recycling as a way of diverting waste from landfills. It required any town with a population over 10,000 or any town with a population of 5,000 and more than 300 people per square mile to offer curbside recycling. It created a series of grants to fund recycling, funded by a \$2-per-ton fee on landfills. These

grants are still needed because recycling is not profitable in today's markets; indeed, a large part of my job is administering these grants.

Perhaps the most difficult area of recycling right now, and one you hear a lot about, concerns electronic devices. To start with, electronics are inherently complex to recycle for several reasons. You have to disassemble many components and materials, many of which have toxic materials in them such as heavy metals. Old-style computer screens and monitors have cathode ray tubes that use glass with lead in it.

With good intentions, the Pennsylvania legislature passed the Covered Device Recycling Act in 2010 and enacted it in 2013 to facilitate recycling electronics. This held manufacturers responsible for recycling the electronic devices they sold in the state and made it illegal to landfill electronics. But this caused problems and actually backfired. Manufacturers were required to pay to recycle the weight of products they sold in a recent year, with lightweight flat-screen electronics in vogue, but people were turning in old, bulky, and heavy CRT-based devices such as console TVs. This ate up their quota and inundated recycling centers, and many had to close. Today, only 26 centers in PA remain that take electronics. This leads



*E-waste is recycling's biggest challenge.*

to illegal dumping; how often do we see a TV down the bank in the woods? Senate Bill 800, an amendment that would improve the CDRA, is going through the legislature, and this would make manufacturers more responsible for the electronics they sell in the state. Of course,

they're fighting it, so we'll keep our fingers crossed.

In our area, we've been blessed by having Unicor out of the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary to recycle electronics. When we staged collection events in the past, they would provide prison labor and trucks to collect electronics and pack them in the trailers to take back for recycling, all at no cost. In addition, many area recycling centers would take electronics there. But that changed when Unicor moved to Minersville last year. Now, while stores like Best Buy and Staples take certain forms of electronics, HandUp Foundation in Milton is the only outlet for taking TVs (they, in turn, take them to Unicor).

At the Snyder County Solid Waste Management Authority, we typically hold two recycling events every year. They used to both happen in May, but this year we're switching to a spring-and-fall format, with one event in Monroe Township and the other in Beavertown, to give all county residents easy access to these. We take hard-to-recycle items such as electronics, refrigerators, clothes, and books, and this year, we plan to add household hazardous wastes such as paint cans, insecticides, and cleaners. An outside contractor will handle the electronics and hazardous wastes; HandUp Foundation will take the rest. In its recycling network, Snyder County has six recycling drop-offs spread throughout the county. Residents faithfully source-separate their materials and deposit them in roll-off containers. Lycoming County RMS transports our materials to their recycling facility adjacent to the landfill for processing. Union County has a similar setup but with more drop-offs, and they stage events as well.

In the western parts of both Snyder and Union Counties, the

*Continued on page 9.*

## Thanks to Our Business Partners for 2018

Your membership renewal letter contained your business partner card for 2018. We thank the business owners who have agreed to participate again this year and are most grateful for their many years of commitment to this program.

Each offers you, as a Conservancy member, a special discount on service or merchandise as noted on your card. Please be sure to patronize these businesses and thank them for supporting the Conservancy's mission.

Bertoni's Pizza, Montandon;

Lewisburg Studio, Vargo Outdoors

and Canoe Susquehanna, Lewisburg;

Shaffer Landscapes, Inc., Middleburg.

## thank you!

**New members:** Joe Gyekis, State College

**Thank yous:** Staffers at our display at **Cabin Fever:** Owen Floody, Marilyn Murphy, Peggy Lauver, Susan Waggoner, Don and Nancy Bowman, MaryAnn Bierly, and Diane Donato. Marilyn Brill for staff coordination. Thanks also to Jeff Trop and BU students Nicole and Madison who staffed our Cabin Fever children's activity table.

Thank you also to all our **Raise the Region** donors.

Recycling makes great strides...  
*continued from page 8.*

rural nature makes recycling a challenge. With sparse population, tonnages are less and distances greater, making transportation of recycled materials inefficient.

One phenomenon that has hit the recycling world in recent years is single stream technology. You may know the drill: you subscribe to a service from a hauler, they give you a big tub to fill, and you fill it with all your recyclables, including ones you may have never recycled before such as yogurt cups. After starting in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas, single stream has made its way to central PA. It has its pros and cons. More materials can be recycled, but contamination increases.

It may sound like recycling has made progress since the advent of Act 101, but the national recycling rate hovers at around 34 percent, indicating we have a long way to go. Much of what we do is known as downcycling, where recycled materials are used for other products. Plastic bottles become carpet, ski jackets, or park benches. Glass goes into asphalt for roads or septic fields. Tires are ground into crumb rubber for playgrounds. This may be a step in the right direction, but we ultimately need to close the loop, so bottles go back into bottles, and everything gets recycled.

You hear reports all the time that recycling costs money. This is mainly because markets for recycled materials are down. Also, we rely on exporting many recyclables to China, and they have instituted the so-called National Sword, which bans the import of many recycled materials due to contamination.

To further editorialize, I don't see any way that using recycled materials can cost more than extracting virgin materials. It's all in how our extraction-based economy frames things. We need a new way of looking at the economics (actually, full-cost accounting and lifecycle analysis are steps in this direction). But at any rate, recycling remains the environmentally correct thing to do, so let's keep sorting our bottles, cans, paper, and boxes...or using single stream, if you prefer.

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(Or pay via PayPal through our website—[www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org))

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spring 2018

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- 15th annual Caring for Communities

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