

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 2019

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Diane Donato, Editor
Tali MacArthur, Webmaster

for your calendar

March 28 through May 5—16th annual Caring for Communities: Earth Month Celebration events. Please plan to join us for our annual series of family-friendly events centered on Earth Day themes and designed to help all learn more about our local natural environment. All events are free and open to everyone.

Thursday, April 4, 7 pm BCWA presentation by David Staebler—*An update on the Buffalo Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program: 11 Years of Data*, Union County Govt. Center, Lewisburg

Saturday, April 6, 10 am and Saturday, April 13 at 2 pm Community Cleanups; Hufnagle Park

Sunday, April 7, 9 am Highway Cleanup

Tuesday, April 9, 6:45 pm **Sierra Club** The Climate Crisis: Taking Global and Local, The Public Library for Union County

Thursday, April 18, 5 pm River Town Tree planting, Wolfe Field, Lewisburg landing

Friday & Saturday, April 26-27 Bucknell University's Sustainability Symposium: "Young People's World:

Making Your Future Energy, Climate and Human Rights" Questions: Contact BCSE@bucknell.edu

Wednesday, May 1, 5:30 pm Merrill Linn Conservancy Annual Banquet at Shade Mt. Winery

Sunday, May 12, 1-5 pm River Road North Holiday. For more information visit LewisburgNeighborhoods.org and WalkItBikeItLewisburg.org or find us on Facebook at Lewisburg Neighborhoods, On the River — Lewisburg. To sign up for any events, contact Samantha Pearson. Email elmstreet@windstream.net, call 570-523-0114, or text 781-366-0726

September Fossil Dig Date and location TBD

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

Sierra Club meets second Wednesday, 7 pm, every other month at Union County Govt. Center, Lewisburg. For more information, email www.otzsierraclub.org.

"I think that having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anyone could ever want to own."

Andy Warhol

Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Has Busy Spring Scheduled

Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Carol Parenzan, has quite a lineup of public events on her schedule. Starting at the end of May, watch for Floating Classroom activities on the Hiawatha Riverboat, Nature Book Club meetings and her fourth annual Sunrise and Sunset Paddle and Play at Montour Preserve. Watch for details on all events at www.MiddleSusquehannaRiverkeeper.org or Facebook (Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper). Questions: Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Carol Parenzan, 570-768-6300 or midsusriver@gmail.com

The Climate Crisis: Taking Global and Local Action

A presentation and workshop sponsored by the Sierra Club by Sandy Field from Climate Reality Project and Mick Smyer from Graying Green will be held on Tuesday, April 9, at 6:45 pm at The Public Library for Union County, Lewisburg.

Sandy Field, Chair, Climate Reality Project, Susquehanna Valley Chapter:

Dr. Field will discuss the impacts of the climate crisis, the progress being made in the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and how Americans can take action at the local, state, and national level.

Mick Smyer, Founder Graying Green:

Dr. Smyer will help you move from anxiety to action to habit on climate issues in this interactive workshop. You'll leave with a clear next step for your own action plan and a clear understanding of what will motivate you to succeed.

Highway Cleanup Dates for 2019:

Help keep our environment healthy, clean and beautiful

As of 2018, of 313 miles of state highway in Union County, 80 miles have been adopted by 34 groups. In 2018, those groups collected 444 bags of trash. Below are some statewide statistics provided by PennDOT's local coordinator for the program, Steve Gray.

Since 1990:

- 133,773,721 Pounds of trash properly disposed
- 6,375,475 Pounds of electronics recycled
- 2,344,331 Invaluable Volunteers
- 918,970 Tires properly disposed
- 180,730 Miles of road cleaned

If you would like to assist with the Conservancy's adopted highway cleanups, please contact our office 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 four dates for 2019 are April 7, June 2, August 4, and October 6. We will start at 9 am on April 7, otherwise at 1 pm and meet at the Limestone Twp. picnic pavilion. Take Rt 104 south from Mifflinburg and turn west (right) onto Wildwood Road (just before crossing the creek) then travel one mile to the pavilion.

Linn Conservancy Annual Banquet Wednesday, May 1

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 1.

Once again, **That Kitchen Witch** will provide our buffet including a vegetarian selection. Following dinner, Jeff Trop, Bucknell University Professor of Geology and a Linn Conservancy board member, will provide us with an introduction to the local geology from the perspective of the deck (weather permitting) at Shade Mountain.

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 Rte 104, Middleburg, Pa.

Bring a Guest: We encourage members to bring a non-member guest to introduce him/her to the Conservancy. We offer you a 20% discount on your guest's ticket. You will find a reservation form inserted within your newsletter or as a separate attachment if you are receiving this newsletter electronically. Please return it with your payment before **Thursday, April 18.**

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 pick up or delivery. Her email is mlmurphy3@gmail.com. We will also auction off the framed original artwork for our 30th anniversary logo. This was created in colored pencil by artist Barbara Baker.

Banquet reservation form. Please see the insert within your newsletter for information and registration form for our May 1 banquet. If you are receiving this newsletter by email, the information and registration form will be in a second attachment.



Chris Martine (second from right, above) led the Conservancy's Winter Botany Walk at the Dale/Engle/Walker property on a brisk February 24. It was a chilly winter day, but Chris found ephemerals in bloom, including snow drops and winter aconite—soon to be an early spring treat for bees.

President's Message

Remembering Peter Macky, Friend of Nature, His Fellow Creatures, and the Linn Conservancy

By Susan Warner-Mills, President

I was first recruited to join the Linn Conservancy's board of directors in the 1990s. Sitting next to me at my first meeting and at many subsequent meetings was a good-natured guy who always seemed to be smiling and quietly enjoying the entertainment value of whatever may have been happening at that moment. His light-hearted nature belied the seriousness with which he approached the issues he cared about—in this case, our common stewardship of the plentiful natural gifts all around us to enjoy, but also the plight of the less privileged, the values that more generally inform how we humans choose to treat each other, and, of course, the Phillies.

Though he never would have done so, Pete could boast an impressive academic and professional career. In 1970 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Bucknell University. He furthered his studies at George Washington University Law School where he earned his degree in 1973. While studying in Washington, D.C., Pete worked for Ralph Nader. As an original member of Nader's Raiders, he helped put together profiles on the 484 members of Congress that was part of a much larger Congressional investigation in 1972.

Returning to Pennsylvania after law school, Pete became a founding member of what is now the Sunbury office of NorthPenn Legal Services in 1974 and retired as managing attorney after 42 years of service on May 31, 2016. During his tenure with Legal Services, Pete also taught courses in law, business, and legal ethics in Susquehanna University's Departments of Accounting and Management. And he received a host of awards through the years for his commitment and advocacy on behalf of the less fortunate.

Pete loved the outdoors and all that came with it — hiking, biking, swimming, and ice skating. His wife Nancy explains the origins of this passion:

"The main thing that led to his interest in the outdoors was his father. Bud took Pete and his sister on walks, hunting for owl pellets, arrowheads, and so on. By the time Pete moved to Lewisburg, in 1974, outdoor activities had become a staple of his free time, making a point of going on as many hikes in central PA as he could. When he started teaching at Susquehanna, he noted that many of the students (at Bucknell, as well) never ventured far off of the campus to explore the surrounding natural areas. So he sent an article to the *Bucknellian* and the Susquehanna student paper, listing all of the wonderful things that the students should do and explore while they were in the area. He knew that to get students (voters) to support preservation of natural areas (especially those who live in cities), the obvious first step was to get them out into nature."

To help enhance the students' and community's enjoyment of the outdoors, Pete served on the predecessor boards to the Buffalo Valley Recreation Association (Lewisburg Area Recreation Association and Eastern Union County Recreation Association) and also became involved in the work of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy.

Long-time Dale's Ridge Trail steward Tom Duck recalls that he first met Pete when his son Jeff became friends with Pete's son Allen. Originally trail stewards through the Boy Scouts, eventually Tom and Jeff paired up with Pete and Allen in 1999, launching what was to become a long-term commitment to the activity. In fact, even after their sons graduated from high school and left for college, Tom and Pete continued to serve as trail stewards at Dale's Ridge until the summer before Pete's death in September 2016. Tom recalls:

"When you clean up the trail, the chief steward gives you a form to fill out. Usually Pete was the one who did this. Among other things, stewards are supposed to observe whether there are any safety issues on the trail. As for several years there was no fencing at either of the high look-out points along the Dale's Ridge Trail, each year, year after year, Pete would point out this safety concern on his form, followed by the comment, "but what do I know about liability? I'm only an attorney!" [Readers will be gratified to know that secure fencing now protects hikers at both of these viewpoints.]

Tom also recalls that he would look forward each year to the chance provided by their trail stewardship to catch up with Pete and share updates not only on their respective families, but also on all things related to Philadelphia, especially its sports teams. Tom always went home with complete status reports on the Phillies, the Eagles, and the Flyers and their prospects for success that year.

Continued on page 4

Remembering Pete Macky

Continued from page 3

Tom Gibson, who for many years has coordinated the Conservancy's Caring for Communities program each April, notes that in helping with that program, Pete combined his love of sporting activities with his love of nature:

"I got to know Pete when I first started with Caring for Communities. I was leading the bike ride, and Jeannette Lasansky suggested I ask Pete to help by leading one of the rides. Pete agreed to lead a ride, and he did that many times for us, as he was always glad to help. He liked to remind us that his ultimate goal was to ride a bike on all 7 continents. In the end, he managed only North America, Asia, Europe, and Africa (Morocco). Sadly, he never made it to the others."

Jeannette Lasansky remembers Pete from when he was on the Linn Conservancy Board of Directors:

"An attorney, family man and father, Pete always had his eye on making decisions that positively affected others. This was the case when he joined the Board of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy. He saw the opportunity to spread the word about the Linn Conservancy and what it could provide through a series of educational video productions like *Vision of the Valley* and to foster the support for the cause of land preservation by local foundations like the Degenstein. Hands-on trail maintenance was something he liked because it was a change from his daily legal and administrative work and it was able to be done with family. This Pete Macky did as a monthly trail steward for close to 20 years at the Dale's Ridge Trail on the Linn Conservancy's first easement—a good example of caring through action..."

These are the marks of a man who cared and acted on his instincts.

Pete Macky died unexpectedly of a heart attack in September of 2016. He was 68. His friends, colleagues and community remember with fondness and enormous respect the legacy of this stalwart champion of the less fortunate and enthusiastic reveler in the natural world.

Many thanks to the several people who contributed their recollections to this tribute to Pete Macky. A native tree planting will take place this spring on a Conservancy-protected property to commemorate the significant contribution to the Conservancy's Capital Campaign in memory of Pete by his family.

A second tree-planting ceremony will also take place this spring to commemorate the significant Capital Campaign contribution of Diane and Tony Donato.

"Live Stake" Program Benefits Streams and Wildlife

by Adrienne Gemberling

The Linn Conservancy has recently partnered with Susquehanna University, Chesapeake Conservancy, and PA DCNR to start a live stake collaborative—a pilot project beginning here in the valley at Susquehanna University. Live stakes are living shrub and tree branches that root readily when



Volunteers prep live stakes to be embedded in stream banks.

will be embedded into the banks of streams for forest restoration projects later this year. By growing trees on stream banks, we can minimize loss of land, provide critical food for stream critters, and filter upslope runoff.

Over the next two months, the collaborative—powered by students and other local volunteers will collect and distribute over 8,000 live stakes to conservation organizations in order to reforest stream banks across central PA.

On February 28th, the group hosted a kickoff event to "train-the-trainers" for the live stake project. Conservation groups and passionate volunteers gathered to learn about live staking and winter tree identification, to learn lessons from those who have done these projects in the past, and to collect the first 700 stakes for the program. On 4 collection dates during March, we will collect and store the remaining 7,300 stakes. There will be a Caring for Communities event for live stake collection and installation on April 14th in Union County. For more information, contact Adrienne at agemberling@chesapeakeconservancy.org.

LHS Student Invited To Conservancy Board Meetings

Lewisburg Area High School junior, Kara O'Rourke, has volunteered to represent the school at Conservancy board meetings. Kara joined us for the first time at our January board meeting. Kara spoke to several issues relating to our interest in working with the school to get more students aware of and involved in our mission.

A major effort will be made this spring to develop and present to the junior class a list of possible projects for students to consider as a means to satisfy their senior service requirement. We look forward to Kara's participation with us through her senior year and for other students to fill her role beyond that.

April 2019

Merrill Linn Conservancy's Caring for Communities Month: Growing Sustainably in the 21st Century

Join the **Merrill Linn Conservancy** and **Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance** as we explore sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry, gardening, and maintenance of natural areas. We will tour the Owens Farm, the Noll-Spangler National Historic Farm, Bucknell University's native plant garden and new campus farm, and Susquehanna University's Center for Environmental Education and Research. We will participate in a Live Stakes Planting session. Come also to our screening of the new documentary film *The Human Element* at the Campus Theatre and more, during the 16th annual Caring for Communities (CFC) program. Our theme: **Growing Sustainably in the 21st Century**. For complete details and updates, call 570-524-8666 or visit www.linnconservancy.org/aboutus/caring-for-communities/

Thursday, March 28, 7:10 & 7:40 am:

WKOK Sunrise 1070 AM with Mark Lawrence Linn Conservancy representatives discuss the Conservancy's achievements and the events and activities scheduled during Caring for Communities month.

Thursday, April 4, 7 pm:

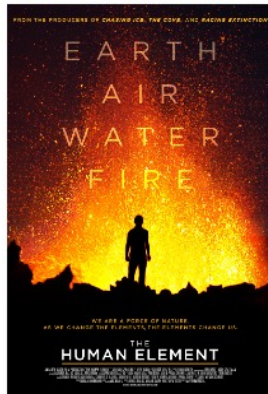
Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance's 2019 annual meeting with a presentation by David Staebler—*An Update on the Buffalo Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program: 11 Years of Data*. Water sampling along the creek, from its headwaters in extreme eastern Centre County to its mouth at Lewisburg, has been conducted quarterly for many years. Mr. Staebler will discuss the data that has been collected. In the training room at the Union County Govt. Center, 155 N. 15th Street, Lewisburg

Saturday, April 6, 1 pm:

The Human Element documentary at the Campus Theatre *The Human Element*

follows renowned *National Geographic* photographer James Balog in a visually rich journey across the United States as he covers wildfires, hurricanes, sea level rise, a coal mining community, and our air supply. The film shows how humans alter the basic elements of life—earth, air, water and fire—which in turn change human life.

This free event is co-sponsored



by the Merrill Linn Conservancy and the Bucknell Center for Sustainability and the Environment.

Sunday, April 7, 1 pm:

Hike at Glacier Pools Preserve This 273-acre property, protected by a conservation easement with the Linn Conservancy, is an island of mature trees, wildflower meadows, spectacular views, and vernal pools teeming with amphibians. Landowner Michael Gross will lead the hike with Bucknell Professor Mizuki Takahashi on hand to talk about amphibians and Professor Jeff Trop, to talk about the geology of the site. Glacier Pools Preserve, 757 Pine Tree Rd, Hughesville, PA, is northwest of Picture Rocks. Visit 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 13, 10 am:

Caring for Communities bicycle ride The Conservancy will host its annual Caring for Communities bike ride on April 13 beginning at 10 am. 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.



Saturday, April 13, 2 pm:

Tour of Owens Farm

See how this 112-acre organic farm operates in raising sheep, hogs, horses, chickens, and bees and the sustainable practices they employ. Owners David and Caroline Owens will lead the tour. Address: 2611 Mile Post Rd., Sunbury, PA. Between Sunbury and Danville.

Sunday, April 14, 9 am - 2:30 pm:

Live Stakes Planting Come learn to identify trees in winter and cut/install branch cuttings to restore forest cover along streams. Dress in layers, wear waterproof boots, and bring a bagged lunch! Led by Adrienne Gemberling of the Chesapeake Conservancy. Location: 389 Old Schoolhouse Road, Lewisburg

Continued on page 6

Saturday, April 20, 10 am:

Tour Susquehanna University's Center for Environmental Education and Research The tour will include the new solar panel array that powers the university, along with the Freshwater Research Initiative, beehives, and various research projects. Hosted by SU professors and Adrienne Gemberling of the Chesapeake Conservancy. Location: 1250 West Sassafras Street, Selinsgrove, PA

Friday, April 26 — It's Arbor Day!

Join the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission in their tree-related events to be announced.



Saturday, April 27, 10 am:

Noll-Spangler National Historic Farm Tour

Presentation by Union County Conservation District Manager Eric Nyerges. Native plant walk with Ned Smith naturalist Jerry Hassinger. 1175 Wildwood Road, Mifflinburg. Directions: From Lewisburg, take Route 45 West to Mifflinburg, go through town, turn left onto Route 104 toward Middleburg (for approx. 4 miles), turn left on Wildwood Road (just before crossing the bridge into Snyder County). Farm will be on Wildwood Road on the right (look for sign).

Sunday, April 28, 9 am – 5 pm:

Annual Plein Air Event

Artists of all abilities and ages are invited to gather at the Dale/Engle/Walker property (Dale's Ridge Trail) and the Koons Trail property in Mifflinburg to create artwork that captures the beauty of these sites, protected by conservation easements held by the Merrill Linn Conservancy. Local artist Bobby Gorby will present an optional plein air workshop at the DEW House at 9 am; a reception, which is open to all, will be held outside the house from 4 pm to 5 pm. Space for Mr. Gorby's workshop is limited; to attend, email

workshops@lewisburgartscouncil.com. The plein air artwork will be displayed at The Public Library for Union County during the month of June.

Wednesday, May 1, 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, Jeff Trop, Conservancy Board member and Bucknell geology professor, will present a program about the geology of our region. The public is invited, but reservations are required. See our insert in this issue, go to www.linnconservancy.org, or call 570-524-8666 for more information.

Saturday, May 4, 10 am:

Tour Bucknell's native plant garden and campus farm. Breanne Goldsmith, garden coordinator for the Center for Sustainability and the Environment, will lead the native plant garden tour. Biology professor Mark Spiro will conduct the tour of the new 5-acre campus farm, which will serve as a classroom and long-term research site and produce food for Bucknell's dining services. If time allows, a brief walking tour of the Bucknell Arboretum will follow. We will meet at the Sustainability Center at 835 Fraternity Road for the garden visit and then walk to the farm, located near the water tower.

Sunday, May 5, 1 pm:

Tour Shikellamy Bluffs with Jeff Trop. The tour will begin on the east shore of the Susquehanna River at the marina section of Shikellamy State Park, which



provides the best view of the bluff's strata, folded and uplifted some 250 to 290 million years ago during the collision of the North American and African tectonic plates. We will then head to Shikellamy State Park Overlook on the west shore to explore this area and enjoy the spectacular views.

Sponsored by: 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, Reptiland, Strosser-Baer Architects, *Susquehanna Life Magazine*, and Tawsty Flower Bed & Breakfast

For complete information, call 570-524-8666
or visit www.linnconservancy.org/aboutus/caring-for-communities/

Merrill Linn Conservancy, Lewisburg Arts Council, Union County Historical Society 6th Annual Plein Air Event — Sunday, April 28

Artists of all ages and skill levels are welcome to participate in the sixth annual Plein Air Event on Sunday, April 28, from 9 am to 5 pm, and to display the work they create at The Public Library for Union County during the month of June. The event provides artists an opportunity to 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, which cosponsors the event along with the Lewisburg Arts Council, the Artists' Guild of Lewisburg, and the Union County Historical Society.



Church cemetery oil painting by Bobby Gorby

The first plein air artists were the 19th-century Impressionists, who painted outdoors—in gardens, parks, and sidewalk cafes—where they could capture the momentary and transient effect of sunlight. “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,” says Ms. Brill.

Two popular sites protected by conservation easements with the Merrill Linn Conservancy—the Dale/Engle/Walker (D/E/W) property at 1471 Strawbridge Road off Route 192 and the Koons Trail property on N. 4th Street in Mifflinburg—will be open to artists from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 28. Volunteers will be posted at both sites to assist artists and transportation between the two sites will be available.

During the week of April 29 through May 5, artists may return to the D/E/W and Koons properties to complete their work. During that week they are also welcome to paint at the Shamokin Mountain Trail, located near Forest House Lane off Stein Lane, and at the scenic Shikellamy State Park. All work done at these four sites through May 5 may be shown at the plein air exhibition at the library. Detailed descriptions and directions for each site, along with guidelines for artists and general information about the Plein Air Event are available online at the Merrill Linn Conservancy website, www.linnconservancy.org, and the Lewisburg Arts Council website, www.lewisburgartscouncil.com. The annual Plein Air Workshop, to be held at the Dale/Engle/Walker House from 9 am to 11 am, will be

conducted by local artist Bobby Gorby, who will discuss subjects important to successfully painting *en plein air*. (See page Workshop Leader Bobby Gorby below.) Following the indoor presentation, participants will move outdoors where Mr. Gorby will paint while describing the steps he is taking. The workshop is free; space, however, is limited. Those who plan to attend are asked to email workshops@lewisburgartscouncil.com

A reception, open to all, will be held at the D/E/W house from 4 pm to 5 pm. Artists are encouraged to bring their artwork to the reception to share with others and to

meet the Conservancy, Arts Council, Artists' Guild, and Historical Society members who have worked to make the event possible.

Each artist will receive an event packet with guidelines for displaying their work in the Plein Air exhibit at The Public Library for Union County. On Monday, June 3, from 6 pm to 8 pm, a reception honoring the artists and their work will be held in the

library's Gallery 255 and in the large meeting room adjacent to the gallery.

Workshop Leader Bobby Gorby

Local artist Bobby Gorby will present this year's Plein Air Workshop at the Dale/Engle/Walker House on Sunday, April 28, at 9 am, as part of the sixth annual Plein Air event. A resident of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania,



Mr. Gorby

Mr. Gorby will share his insights into composition, working with a limited palette, and techniques such as dry-brush painting.

As part of a military family, Mr. Gorby lived for many years in Italy and Germany, where he was exposed to the arts. Following his service in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Gorby enrolled at Southwestern College at San Diego, where he was working toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, a curriculum that likely would have led to a career in education. “Southwestern required courses such as Spanish and math, but I was interested in learning to draw and paint.” A friend suggested the Watts Atelier in Encinitas, 30 miles north of San Diego. “The Watts Atelier is set up

Continued on page 8

Plein Air Bobby Gorby

Continued from page 7

as the art schools of 200 years ago were—all art,” he says. As a student at the Atelier, Mr. Gorby studied the art and techniques of the great masters, such as Diego Velazquez, whom he credits as the single greatest influence on his painting.



Mr. Gorby's oil painting of a mother and son in Washington Square Park, NYC.

Students at ateliers begin with drawing, then graduate to painting using a limited palette. “Painters learn more working with a limited palette, which provides a good foundation,” he says. Mr. Gorby’s classical training is reflected in his plein air landscapes, marines, and portraits.

The Atelier Movement has its roots in the Renaissance and emphasizes skill-based classical painting. The movement has grown since Mr. Gorby’s day at the Watts Atelier, with ateliers now established in nearly every major city in the U.S. and abroad.

On Tuesday evenings he frequently participates in a life drawing class at The Arts Underground at 310 Market Street in Lewisburg and is looking for life painting classes nearby or possibly to establish such classes. “I want to paint more. It is all about practice,” he says.

Report of In-kind Contributions To Linn Conservancy in 2018

Compiled and reported by Judy Ellis

The following data is for those Linn volunteer hours, mileage, and other in-kind services for which we have documentation. Although volunteers do their best at recording this data, many additional hours and in-kind services have gone unrecorded.

- Volunteer Time: 1959 hours = \$48, 370 at the IRS rate of \$24.69/hour
- Volunteer miles = \$488
- Other (unreimbursed expenses, for example) = \$4,071

Total = \$52,226

Many thanks for the time, talent, and dedication of these volunteers without whose help we could not

function as efficiently as we do.

These hours do not include the many, many volunteer hours that are donated to Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, a subsidiary of the Merrill Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy.

Judy Ellis, former Conservancy board member and treasurer, has been serving as compiler and reporter of in-kind donations for many years. Judy has decided to resign from that role and we are pleased that Nancy Macky has agreed to take over. We are sincerely grateful for Judy’s work in this capacity and for all of her service to the Conservancy.

Linking Landscapes Increasingly Important: Insect Apocalypse

(excerpt from NY Times November 27, 2018)

Several years ago, the Conservancy adopted our *Linking Landscapes Initiative* which focuses land protection efforts on maintaining connectivity of natural habitat across an increasingly fragmented (by human activity) landscape. Consider the importance of doing this as you read the short excerpt below:

Like other species, insects are responding to what Chris Thomas, an insect ecologist at the University of York, has called “the transformation of the world”: not just a changing climate but also the widespread conversion, via urbanization, agricultural intensification and so on, of natural spaces into human ones, with fewer and fewer resources “left over” for nonhuman creatures to live on. What resources remain are often contaminated. Hans de Kroon characterizes the life of many modern insects as trying to survive from one dwindling oasis to the next but with “a desert in between, and at worst it’s a poisonous desert.”

Do what you can on your property to reestablish or maintain natural connectivity. If everyone would convert some of their lawn and landscape to native shrubs and other perennial wildflowers, we can provide the corridors the bees, butterflies, birds and other animals and plants need for their survival. For ideas, visit the native plant demonstration garden that the Conservancy established in 2017 adjacent to the East Buffalo Twp. building on Fairground Rd., Lewisburg.

Conservancy Supports Wildlife Leadership Academy Students

For several years the Conservancy has provided financial assistance to students who have been accepted to the Wildlife Leadership Academy summer programs. Applicants to the Academy can select from a number of week-long programs each of which has a specific focus. The programs are open to students 14-17 years of age. All scholarships/assistance is managed through the Academy. More details and applications can be found at www.wildlifeleadershipacademy.org.

thank you!

New members: Joshua Enterline, Lewisburg

Thanks yous: The Macky family, Nancy, Allen and Annie for donation to the endowment fund in honor of husband and father Peter Macky

Marjorie Duck for donation in memory of Charles Marvin

Judy Ellis for years of service compiling our in-kind donations.



Amanda Kline at Snowfest

Chris Martine for leading our winter botany hike

Linn Log prep: Vickie and Dave Heberlig

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

Cabin Fever staffers: Peggy Lauver, Marilyn Murphy, Diane Donato, Jeff Trop, Allan Grundstrom

Thanks to Our Business Partners for 2019

Your membership renewal letter contained your business partner card for 2019. 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 services 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**, **Proforma B Creative**, Lewisburg; **Shaffer Landscapes, Inc**, Middleburg; **Ian Adrian Nature Photography**, iannaturephotography.com

Membership Renewal for 2019

In November you received our request for you to renew your support for the Conservancy's mission. Our thanks to those of you who so promptly replied to this annual appeal. If you have not yet done so, we hope you will do so soon either using the envelope provided in our mailing or by using the form below. Our land and waterways protection and educational outreach efforts depend on you. Thank you.

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 \$ _____

(Or pay via PayPal through our website—www.linnconservancy.org)

If you are interested in making a separate contribution to the Linn Conservancy Endowment Fund, contact Susan Warner-Mills at 570-716-0870.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

spring 2019

In this issue:

- Caring for Communities: Growing Sustainably in the 21st Century
- Linn Conservancy Annual Banquet - May 1
- 6th Annual Plein Air Event - April 28
- President's Message: Remembering Pete Macky
- Live Stakes Program to Benefit Streams and Wildlife

The Linn Conservancy is a member of...



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