

Linn Log

newsletter of the Merrill W. Linn

Winter 2021

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.

Board of Directors

Jeff Trop, President
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Wayne McDiffett
Chad North
Matt Roberts
Ryan Sabo

Allen Schweinsberg, Site/Stewardship Chair
Geoff Goodenow, Coordinator
Diane Donato, Editor

for your calendar

Sunday, April 25, Plein Air event sponsored by Lewisburg Arts Council, Merrill Linn Conservancy and Union County Historical Society at Dale-Engle-Walker property.

Audubon For event information visit <http://sevenmountainsaudubon.org/>

The **Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association** is looking to compile a "paddling playlist" of original songs about the Susquehanna River or the waterways that feed into it.

"We are encouraging musicians throughout the 11,000-mile middle Susquehanna watershed (including all areas that feed into the North and West branches of the river) to write and record songs about the river's benefits, beauty, threats facing the river and/or chronicling special moments spent on our waterways. Musicians whose songs are

ultimately selected for the final playlist will be eligible for incentives/prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. More info can be found here: [Song Project - Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper](#)" John Zaktansky (Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper)

Note: In April, we began sending a weekly e-blast to those of you for whom we have an email address. It was initiated to help keep in touch with our members and friends in light of cancellation of many events we had planned for 2020. We hope that they have been informative and interesting to all. We have reduced our volume through the holidays, but hope to resume with more frequency in the new year. If you have not provided us with an email address and care to do so, please send that information to our office email -- Linn@ptd.net

"There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness; that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy and its charm. There is delight in silent places, unworn by man and changed only by the slow changes of the ages through time everlasting."

Teddy Roosevelt

Chad North and Beth Capaldi Join Conservancy Board

*We are pleased to welcome **Chad North** to the board of the Linn Conservancy. Homegrown, Chad brings experience in business, personnel management skills, and enthusiasm for the outdoors that will make him a valuable contributor to the organization. Here, Chad introduces himself to members and friends of the Conservancy:*

I was born and raised in the Central Susquehanna Valley where I spent much of my time outdoors in and around the valley. After graduating from Lewisburg High School ('02), I attended Bucknell University ('06) where I earned a B.A. in Religion, which also included coursework in environmental ethics.

From 2006-2010, I worked for an industry-leading student development organization (non-profit) where I helped to recruit, train, and support over 16,000 undergraduate new members and several hundred adult volunteers, including key donors, from over 250 colleges and universities. I specialized in developing strategy, building strategic relationships, and creating member development programming.

In early 2010, I co-founded, co-owned, and co-operated an award-winning specialty grocery store near San Francisco, CA where I learned more about marketing and programming for current and potential customers.

Then in mid-2012 I returned to Lewisburg to work for Vargo Outdoors, a specialty outdoor gear manufacturer, as the marketing manager for the company and their retail store, Buffalo Valley Outfitters (which was sold off in 2013). As a small company, I wound up doing many different things from assisting with product design, to shipping, to customer service, to website design and analytics. My main focus was on growing Vargo's customer base and sales through email, digital, and in-person marketing efforts, as well as media outreach and paid advertising. It was also here that I got introduced to the larger outdoor industry including its retail, political, and goodwill efforts.

Though I worked for Vargo Outdoors until 2018, I started my own outdoor specialty apparel company, North x North, in 2016 and which I now operate full time.

Since my return in 2012, I've thru-hiked the Mid State Trail and regularly volunteer as a trail maintainer for the Keystone Trails Association and the Mid State Trail Association where I'm also currently a regional manager.

My passion lies with the outdoors and I know that conservation is our only hope of maintaining the outdoors for the next generations. Between my business and personal experiences, I know I can help the Linn Conservancy grow their membership, increase giving, and perpetuate stewardship efforts.

*We are pleased as well to welcome **Elizabeth (Beth) Capaldi** to our board. Beth, a 20-year resident of the area, is a professor of Biology at Bucknell University and Director of the University's Neuroscience Program. She enjoys the outdoors and welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the efforts of the Conservancy to benefit our environment.*

Here's Beth:

I'm a broadly trained zoologist who's known locally as the Bucknell "bee lady." I'm on the faculty in Biology and Animal Behavior at Bucknell and I've lived in Lewisburg since 2000. I study the behavior of honey bees and teach college courses about behavior, ecology, evolution, as well as in the nexus of these areas.

I earned my bachelor's degree from Trinity College (CT) and my PhD in Zoology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Michigan State University. My postdoctoral training was at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in Entomology and Neuroscience, and in Panama at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. I'm an avid lover of nature, and I think nothing's better than exploring natural habitats and "biologizing." I've recently taken up both gravel and mountain biking, and have been able to explore even more of our local open spaces as a result.

I am interested in joining the Linn Conservancy Board of Directors in an effort to support the goals of the organization. The time on the bike, in combination with events of this unprecedented year, has given me a lot of time and space to think about how I want to spend my time going forward living in the Susquehanna Valley. It would be deeply satisfying to continue the tradition of land stewardship of the Conservancy. Nothing is more important to me than promoting education about and conservation of our local lands and waterways.

Native Plant Event Benefits Conservancy

While fall is a great time to plant, finding a selection of native plants can be a challenge late in the year. In mid-October, the Conservancy helped remedy that situation by working with Steve Kidd, owner of Perennial Gardens Nursery in New Bloomfield, PA. (Until recently, Mr. Kidd was the native plant vendor at the Lewisburg Farmers Market.)

The Conservancy publicized the event in local media, on Facebook, and by email. Customers ordered trees, shrubs, and perennials directly from the Perennial Gardens website. "Steve fulfilled orders from his nursery stock, delivered them to Lewisburg, and shared a portion of his profits with the Conservancy," said Geoff Goodenow, Conservancy coordinator.

The plants were delivered to East Buffalo Twp. municipal

property adjacent to the Linn Conservancy's demonstration native garden, where Mr. Kidd and Conservancy members were on hand to answer questions about the plants and fall planting. "Perhaps more important than supporting the Conservancy's conservation and educational efforts, those who purchased plants are helping support native wildlife as they introduce diversity and new beauty to their home's landscape," Geoff says.



In addition to the pre-ordered plants, Mr. Kidd brought a selection of natives for impulse buyers.

President's Message

Adapting

by Jeff Trop, president

Greetings Linn Members and Friends,
Judging from deep time geologic records, life has adapted to abrupt environmental change over the course of hundreds of millions of years. Often those adjustments led to remarkably successful organisms, including diverse flora and fauna that we appreciate and rely upon today.

Similarly, the Conservancy team has been adapting to changes resulting from the ongoing pandemic. Our dedicated board of directors, committee members, and volunteers have been adjusting logistics in order to safely continue the Conservancy's mission. Such adaptability, together with the generosity of partners, allowed for continued work toward expansion of our protected lands throughout 2020. Harris Lemon and Donna Ward donated significant land in Mifflinburg (see related article below) and we anticipate completing another 60-acre easement in proximity to another preserved parcel in East Buffalo Twp. (Lewisburg area) in early 2021.

Together, these additions bolster our Linking Landscapes initiative, which fosters natural habitat corridors that facilitate movement of plants and animals across the landscape. The generosity of partners Susan Chlebowsky, Claire Campbell, the Lewisburg Children's Museum, and the Union County Historical Society is enabling children to safely study nature on our conservation easements. And donations from members and friends continue to grow our Endowment Fund, which will eventually allow the Conservancy to bolster our paid staffing capacity.

At a time when we are all experiencing the pandemic, generosity is an impactful way to promote unity and positivity. Without generous partners like you, protected land and waterways would go unmonitored, nature trails unmaintained, ecologically significant land unidentified, and degraded land unrestored. Your generosity of time or treasure and shared passion for protecting nature will help the Conservancy to continue to adapt and thrive.

Conservancy Receives Land Donation

We are pleased to announce the acquisition by way of donation of 11.84 acres of property within the borough of Mifflinburg. To be known as the Ward-Lemon Addition, the land was given to the Linn Conservancy by Mrs. Donna Ward and Mr. Harris Lemon with the understanding that it should remain in a relatively natural and undeveloped state. Mrs. Ward, in reflecting upon an appreciation for nature acquired in her childhood, expressed her desire to know that the land's natural qualities would be protected by the Conservancy.

This acreage is in close proximity to a 28-acre property protected as open, natural space through a conservation easement held by the Merrill Linn Conservancy, Lewisburg. That easement was donated by former Mifflinburg resident and business woman Mary Koons in the 1990's as the second such protective agreement held by the Conservancy. The so-called Koons Easement offers visitors a network of trails along Buffalo Creek and its floodplain, through a wildflower meadow, and among restored wetlands—all of this in the vicinity of the historic Hassenplug Covered Bridge. The proximity of this 11-acre addition lends itself to possible expansion of the trail system through other wetland areas.

We are most grateful to Mrs. Ward and Mr. Lemon for their gift to the Conservancy. It fits perfectly into our Linking Landscapes initiative which focuses on expanding and restoring open space connections for

wildlife habitat. In adding to already protected natural space, Mifflinburg has an enlarged oasis of natural beauty within its bounds that few communities can claim. We hope that residents and visitors alike will find this site one of enjoyment, peace, solace, and reflection now and forever.



The Ward-Lemon Addition resembles the natural state of the Koons Trail.

Growing Linn Conservancy's Endowment

Our campaign to grow the Linn Conservancy's Endowment Fund to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization and the benefits it brings to the area depends on your support. Donations can be made through Paypal on our website, check mailed directly to the Conservancy, and through bequests. Another way to contribute is through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. This is a great way to make a tax-free gift to support the Conservancy.

To qualify, you must be 70.5 years of age or older; the gift from your IRA account must go directly from your IRA to the Linn Conservancy; the gift may not exceed \$100,000 per year. Even if you do not itemize, your QCD receives all the benefits of an income tax charitable deduction. Since the QCD is not counted toward your income, it is a tax-free gift. Please consult your tax advisor. Thank you for supporting the Conservancy's mission.

Outdoor Learning at the Dale-Engle-Walker Property

By Jeff Trop, Conservancy president and Bucknell University geology professor

In November, families explored the long-term history of the Dale-Engle-Walker property through two collaborative outings hosted by the Union County Historical Society in collaboration with the Merrill Linn Conservancy and the Lewisburg Children's Museum with the theme of how the landscape and human history in the area has been shaped by geology and "deep time." Ellen Chamberlin and Jeff Trop (Bucknell University Professors of Geology and Environmental Geosciences), Susan Chlebowski (outdoor education specialist), and Claire Campbell (Bucknell University Professor of History) guided small groups of socially distanced, masked participants along Dale's Ridge trail.



Participants gathered outside the DEW House to review data sheets the students used to record their findings.

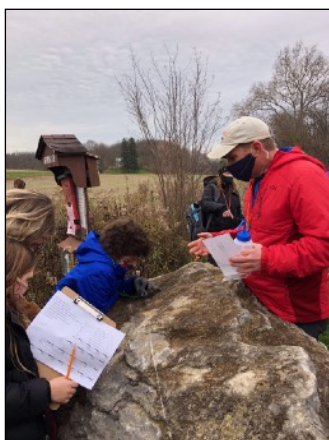
The children observed differences between soil and limestone bedrock and discussed how weathering of the limestone produces soils of high agricultural quality as well as underground caverns/sinkholes. At a trailside viewpoint, the group learned how folding and differential erosion of bedrock produced the prominent valley and ridge topography. Beside Buffalo Creek, the group discussed how the limestone influences groundwater and surface water chemistry, which in turn impacts the flora and fauna observed on the property. The group observed the riparian buffer along Buffalo Creek that reduces sediment runoff from adjacent farm fields.

At the trailhead parking lot, the young scientists, armed with hand lenses, discovered marine fossils in the large gray boulders that were quarried elsewhere from the same limestone bedrock that underlies the trail. The outing wrapped up with groups finding the same marine fossils in limestone blocks that make up the Dale-Walker-Engle farmhouse and were quarried near the trail.

These afternoons were sponsored by a grant from the Mellon Foundation highlighting "confounding problems" in the public humanities and arts. We hope to make this a monthly event in the spring, as part of the "Museum WOW: Without Walls" program, giving children an opportunity to learn more about their local landscapes through different fields of science, art, and history.



At the trailhead parking lot, Jeff demonstrated how carbonic acid dissolves limestone.



The students discovered marine fossils in the large gray boulders placed this year at the trail head parking lot.



Above left: Beside Buffalo Creek, the group discussed how the limestone influences groundwater and surface water chemistry, which in turn impacts the flora and fauna observed on the property. Above right: Students found the same marine fossils in limestone blocks that make up the Dale-Walker-Engle farmhouse and were quarried near the trail.



Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance

Report from the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) of the Linn Conservancy by Dave Staebler, chairperson.

With the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, many seminars, forums, and conferences were moved to ZOOM or similar remote learning platforms, making them accessible from home. In the last few months, a few included watershed ecology and restoration.

Bucknell's Annual River Symposium was held online for the first time, with great success. Cindy Dunn, head of Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, gave the keynote address Friday evening. She included a personal note on Allan Quant's important role in her life, and of many others, in guiding them on a learning journey on paddling sojourns on the Susquehanna River. Sadly, Allan passed away the following morning from a long illness. Allan and his wife Betsy, who ran Canoe Susquehanna, were presented with a service award in 2019 from Linn Conservancy and the BCWA for their long-time support of paddling on Buffalo Creek and many other waterways in Pennsylvania. Our condolences to Allan's family and friends.

The Bucknell River Symposium included many technical posters and papers on water quality and stream ecology, as well as interesting discussions and presentations on diversity and methods for improving communications to the general public. Subjects included the importance of gravel riffles in streams, which assist the life cycle of aquatic insects necessary in a healthy stream. Another session covered Precision Conservation, using high resolution mapping to efficiently choose parcels best suited for watershed restoration, and also Live Staking, an efficient and cost-effective way to plant trees next to streams. Another topic was the lack of biodiversity and problem of non-native species in suburban environments (lawns for example) and suggestions on how to improve them. All session recordings can be viewed online by going to the conference webpage <http://riversymposium.scholar.bucknell.edu/session-recordings/>.

The Stroud Water Research Center had extensive webinars on Stream and Buffer Ecology. One highlight was a review of riparian buffer projects over the last 20 years. Their effect on water quality was less than

expected, suggesting work on upslope areas such as farm fields where no till and cover crop practices are very important. Another highlight was the use of stone mulch placed around newly planted trees in buffer zones to improve their viability while minimizing the use of pesticides. Links to the recordings of the sessions were sent to those who signed up, and can be shared. If interested, contact buffalocreekalliance@gmail.com. In addition, many other learning opportunities are available from Stroud's website. <https://stroudcenter.org/education/virtual-learning-resources/>.

Finally, the **Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers** also held online events. Although not recorded, one on the geology of Streams and Rivers in Pennsylvania has its presentation viewgraphs accessible. A more recent one on PA DEP's Integrated Water Quality Report was recorded and may be available in the future. Visit www.pawatersheds.org/resources/education.

We all can learn more about our environment, and how to take care of it, even during these difficult times.

Linn Conservancy's Business Partners for 2021

Thank you to those business owners who have joined our Business Partner program for 2021. Your membership renewal letter contained your 2021 partner card indicating participating businesses for the current year and the discounts they offer to you. Please patronize them as we hope that both they and our members benefit by this relationship.

Bertoni's Pizza, Montandon; **Lewisburg Studio**, Vargo Outdoors, Mondragon Books, Lewisburg; **Brookside Bikes**, Mifflinburg; **Shaffer Landscapes**, Middleburg; **Ian Adrian Nature Photography**, iannaturephotography.com

GLORIOUS OVERLOOKS OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

by Thom Travis

The following article, which will be presented in multiple parts, was provided by Thom Travis. The former Bucknell University professor is an avid explorer of the outdoors whether here in central Pennsylvania or elsewhere around the world.

Thom has served the Conservancy as chief steward of the Dale's Ridge Trail for many years and does an excellent job at keeping this very popular site safe and enjoyable for all.

While some of the locations he describes might require a considerable drive as well as a difficult hike (watch for those in our spring and fall issues), all are worth the effort. But don't despair, here are some that are close by and easily accessed by your vehicle. (Directions to each of these overlooks are described on a website:

directionstocentralpaoverlooks.blogspot.com.)

Here's Thom:

I'm what might be called a view "freak" in that I search for glorious vistas and gaze adoringly at them for a long time. During my almost fifty years of exploring the ridge and valley country of central Pennsylvania by foot, kayak and bicycle, I have discovered many beautiful overlooks to which I repeatedly return.

DALE'S RIDGE TRAIL



A charming, well-groomed two-mile loop trail along Buffalo Creek and Dale's Ridge is situated only a few miles west of Lewisburg. Half-way along the trail is a cliff from

which a uniquely elegant vista of central Pennsylvanian ridge and valley country can be seen. Buffalo Valley forms a V, bordered by the long Penns Mountain to the southwest and a series of individual ridges and gaps to the northwest, including the full bulk of Jones Mountain, the highest elevation in the area.

Between the mountains is the lush, undulating valley, with a patch-work of green, yellow and brown fields, farms with sturdy, traditional houses, barns and silos, cows grazing in the pastures, and the sounds of the carriage bells and trotting horses of the



Mennonite farmers. On Sunday afternoon Mennonite families, in their traditional dress, hike this trail.

RB WINTER STATE PARK & JONES MOUNTAIN VISTAS



A twenty-minute drive on Route 192 west of Lewisburg takes one to the Bald Eagle State Forest wilderness. A left turn off the highway ascends Jones Mountain on Jones Mountain Road.

Just past the summit is an overlook that offers a 180 degree view of a vast, unpopulated wilderness of ridges and mountains to the north and west. Gazing at the view I think of all the wildlife, including bears and bobcats, that must be lurking out of sight.

A vista near an unobtrusive powerline offers fine views to the north and south that few visitors are aware of. Walk to the north a half mile along the flat powerline trail and soon after the trail dips, a beautiful, wide view of ridges and gaps will appear. Return to the road and then stroll south along the trail to a fine vista of Buffalo Valley and Mifflinburg.

Return to Route 192 and drive a few minutes further to R.B. Winter State Park. One can drive or hike up to a lovely



viewpoint that overlooks Halfway Lake, a gap cut by a stream, and the bulk of Jones Mountain. Two more splendid wilderness vistas are located on nearby Cooper Mill and Engle mountain roads. The autumn colors in this entire area are spectacular.

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER OVERLOOKS

Perhaps the most interesting of the overlooks of the middle Susquehanna River can be found atop Blue Hill at Shikellamy State Park. What makes this vista unique is that the west and north branches of the river, often of different color, meet immediately below the 350 hundred foot high bluff. One can look up the west branch, with views of the Winfield islands, the tall, new river bridge, and the church spires of Lewisburg, all the way to Bald Eagle



Ridge above Williamsport. Then gaze up the north branch, along the 1450-foot-high Montour ridge as far as Danville. Below the cliffs, across the river, is the town of Northumberland, looking like a toy train set, with its railroad and shops, and its Victorian houses rising up a hill. Packers Island, a former Indian village site, lies at the confluence of the river branches. The park on its western end of this island offers walking trails providing fine views of the river and the bluffs above it. During the summer the river is full of boaters.



Fifty miles to the south are two more wonderful vistas of the Susquehanna. These wilderness overlooks are on the Appalachian Trail, one from rock piles on Peters Mountain above the east side of the river and the other across the river from Hawk Rock on Cove Mountain. Both overlooks portray the wide river, full of islands, sweeping gracefully around a curve to a dramatic water gap; the Juniata River flowing into the Susquehanna; the quaint town of Duncannon, and creeks and farmlands on the valley floor, all framed by attractive mountains.



Precision Conservation Yields More Bang for the Buck

by Adrienne Gemberling

In October the Precision Conservation Project started in Union County, PA with facilitation by Chesapeake Conservancy. The purpose of the Precision Conservation Project is to accelerate implementation of best

management practices to improve the quality of streams like Buffalo Creek and Turtle Creek. Merrill Linn Conservancy has been an active participant in these discussions and is trying to connect our Linking Landscapes Initiatives with priorities other conservation-minded organizations have.

Over the next few months, a parcel-scale map will be developed to help partners identify where water quality gains can be made the fastest. The types of problems the group is trying to address include upslope runoff from urban areas and farm fields containing sediment and nutrients and stabilization of eroding streambanks to prevent further sediment contributions to our waterways. Overall, the partnership will function to strengthen all steps of the restoration process including prioritizing locations to work, engaging landowners, fundraising, implementing restoration projects from on-farm practices to streambank stabilization, and maintaining installed restoration practices.

You may see Precision Conservation at work locally through the work of the Live Stake Collaborative. Live stakes are an innovative way to get more streamside trees in the right places through the work of volunteers.

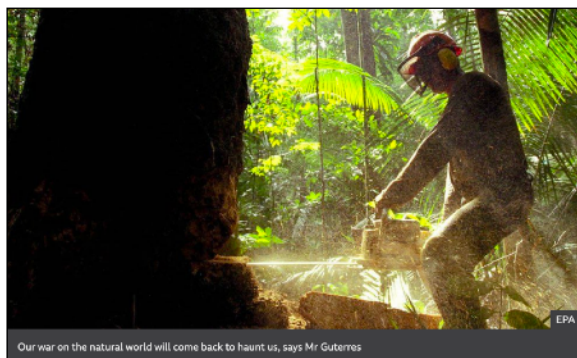
This is just one way conservation groups are collaborating to get more trees on the ground in the right places. The Live Stake Collaborative will be working over the winter and spring months to collect live stakes for installation on streambanks across central PA. Stay tuned to the Linn Conservancy Facebook page for updates on live stake collection volunteer opportunities during the winter/spring. This will be subject to change according to COVID-19 guidelines.

See related article in Dec 2020 issue of the Bay Journal, page 10. www.Bayjournal.com



<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55147647>

[United Nations chief Antonio Guterres issues a stark warning to world leaders about the state of the planet](https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55147647)



Secretary General Antonio Guterres says our "war" on the natural world will come back to haunt us.

www.bbc.com

News from the Bay Journal

The following three articles are adapted from the October 2020 edition of the Bay Journal Vol. 30 No. 7. This is a free publication. Visit www.bayjournal.com

Streamside Forests Matter (Pg. 3)

Riparian buffers are vital to the health of our streams. Among the benefits they provide for stream health are cooling shade and reduction of rapid temperature fluctuations; food and habitat in the form of logs, leaves, and twigs for aquatic insects and other macro-invertebrates and small fish; reduction of bank erosion and influx of polluting runoff. Depending on the setting, forest buffers can reduce 19-65% of nitrogen and 30-45% of phosphorus pollution. In 2014, an agreement within the Chesapeake Bay watershed called for planting buffers along 900 miles of stream annually. The latest report from 2017 shows that only 56 miles were planted.

Elsewhere in this edition of the *Linn Log*, you read of local and regional efforts by Chesapeake Conservancy staff person and Linn board member Adrienne Gemberling to address this matter. Along with Adrienne's live stake program over the past few years and stream bank stabilization work in conjunction with PA DEP and local conservation districts (both of these featured in an e-blast last summer), much has been done in our area to improve water quality.

Switchgrass Packs Carbon Away (Pg. 11)

Native switchgrass, a tall, warm season grass, shows promise as a very suitable and economically viable planting for streamside buffers and other underperforming farmland. The fast-growing grass has been found to be good for soil health, good as a wildlife habitat, and quite suitable for a variety of pollinators. As a plus for farmers, switchgrass proves itself a profitable vegetative cover for their stream margins.

It has been shown that switchgrass stores carbon at levels similar to trees and much better than other native grasses, giving it the potential to take off as a biofuel replacing the questionable value of corn-based ethanol as a biofuel. Many other uses for the product—cat litter, fuel pellets, cattle feed, medium for mushroom growing, poultry bedding, silt socks—are in practice or viewed with potential.

Dan Arnett of Ernst Conservation Seeds (a PA-based company) suggests that giving landowners a profitable incentive to improve their land environmentally could be a game changer and winner for all.

Absorbing Carbon: Shale Forests Do It Better! (Pg. 17)

A fall Linn Conservancy e-blast featured the diversity of soil types that lie beneath our feet here in central PA. What lies beneath really makes a difference, as a Penn State study published in *Forest Ecology and Management* notes. As trees grow, they absorb the

greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and store carbon. It turns out that forests that grow on shale-derived soils grow faster and store 25% more carbon and do so 55% faster than forests growing above sandstone soils. Why? Shales break down into soils with finer texture allowing trees to access more moisture during the growing season. Also, greater species diversity makes these forests more resilient in the face of invasive pests and climate change.

The study makes a case that shale forests should be high priority for management and conservation. This suggests that private landowners may have an incentive to protect their trees. There are several private incentives associated with alleviating climate change that pay landowners who keep their forests and provide carbon credits elsewhere.

As an example, Amazon and the Nature Conservancy, American Forest Foundation and Vermont Land Trust announced a \$10 million program to help family forest landowners in the Appalachian Mtn. regions of Pennsylvania and Vermont to sequester carbon by keeping their land forested.

DEAD TREES SERVE THE LIVING FOREST

An article about "The Living Dead" in the latest issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* brings to light the importance of standing dead trees.

The *Frontiers* article makes a number of excellent points:

- Removal of dead and dying trees often results in major losses of forest biodiversity
- Halting forest degradation requires protecting and restoring key attributes of forest structure, especially large deadwood structures with long persistence times
- Public awareness about the importance of deadwood for biodiversity is lacking
- Enhancing public understanding of the ecological importance of deadwood is critical

We've long known about the importance of deadwood in forests -- such "living dead" resources are crucial habitat for numerous species (e.g., a number of birds, a huge number of insects & fungi). Several of the Conservancy's conservation easements protect these trees.

Vote for Pennsylvania River of the Year

Here is your chance to celebrate and advance the awareness, conservation, and recreation wonders of PA's fabulous and iconic rivers and streams.

Though there is not one nominee local to our region (one of the nominees is a Buffalo Creek, but not "ours"), this is still a chance to support water resources in PA.

For more about this year's slate of rivers: <http://pariveroftheyear.org/2021-river-of-the-year/2021-river-of-the-year-nominees/>

You can read a lot more about the ROY program at www.pariveroftheyear.org

thank you!

New Members: Chad North, Jennifer Handlan, Lewisburg; Lance Miller, Philadelphia; Robin Barbour, Mifflinburg; Shirley Davis, Orono, Maine

Thank you to:

Steven Miller and **Ellen Gauthier**, unrestricted donation
Emily Heuer, donation of award received from employer
Steve Kidd, donation from proceeds, native plant sale
Warren and **Chris Abrahamson**, to BCWA in memory of Allan Quant

Joyce Bower, donation in memory of Jeff Bowers

Owen Floody, **Mark Graff**, **Judy Ellis**, **Ellen Herman**,
John Tonzetich, **Adrienne Gemberling**, **Ann Longanbach**, and **Lance Miller**, Endowment Fund

William Roll, donation to Endowment and Stewardship Funds

Gale Duque, Linn Log proof reader

Marilyn Murphy and **John Tonzetich**, on-going work on the Conservancy's native plant garden at the East Buffalo Twp. property on Fairground Rd.

Allen Schweinsberg, work on easements and boundary markings with **Warren Abrahamson** and **Rob Jacob**

Joe Keller, **Geoff Goodenow**, highway cleanup

Tim Goff, **Cindi Hron**, **Diane Lengle**, **Tom Travis**, **Owen Floody**, **Geoff Goodenow**, fall cleanup at Dale's Ridge
Tom Duck, assistance with invasive plant control and tree planting at Dale's Ridge

Betsy Noyce and **Jeff Scheckter**, use of their property for an in-person meeting of our board

Claire Campbell and **Susan Chlebowski**, arranging "Meet a Geologist" event at Dale's Ridge

Ellen Chamberlin and **Jeff Trop**, the geologists at the above event

Maren Yamada, work-study student, Bucknell fall 2020

Duane Griffin, **Nancy & Larry Shinn**, **Nancy Macky**, testimonials on behalf of Conservancy

Correction: Credit for a donation to our 2020 Caring for Communities (CFC) events should have been given to **Service 1st FCU (Federal Credit Union)**

It's Time to Renew Your Membership for 2021

We are most grateful to those of you who promptly responded to our membership renewal letter for 2021 sent in early November. If you have not already done so, you may use the membership form below or access our website for payment through Paypal.

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 — <https://linnconservancy.org/support-us/donate/>

If you are interested in making a separate contribution to the Linn Conservancy Endowment Fund, email linn@ptd.net or call 570-524-8666.

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Winter 2021

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The Linn Conservancy is a member of...



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