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Linn Log

SPRING 2024



2024 Spring Soirée at One Barn Farm - May 1

Photo by Owen Floody

The Merrill Linn Conservancy's annual Spring Soirée on Wednesday, May 1 from 5 pm to 8 pm will be celebrated at One Barn Farm. The scenic 90-acre property is a picturesque venue for weddings and other celebrations as well as home to Thomas Rippon, a Master Naturalist and avid Linn Conservancy supporter.

Thom has graciously donated use of One Barn Farm for our event. Weather permitting, Soirée guests are welcome to visit the property's natural habitats and stunning vistas.

Tried and True Catering by Aunt Jenny's Kitchen is preparing food for the event. The buffet dinner will be served at three food stations beginning at 5:30 pm. Wine and beer will be available at a cash bar.

Music will be provided by Nine Degrees of Syncopation with Carl Kirby and Joe

DeCristopher on guitars and Bill Flack on bass. The trio specializes in Gypsy, Latin, and traditional jazz instrumentals.

The Spring Soirée is a festive occasion, but it is also the Conservancy's most important opportunity to communicate directly with our members providing information about recent successes and plans for the year ahead. During the evening's formal presentation time, Conservancy board members and representatives from our Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance committee will talk about topics such as our current conservation projects, our work to build membership and recognition through public engagement programs, and our significant trail improvements.

One Barn Farm accommodates a significant number of guests, providing the opportunity to grow Soirée attendance. The fee to attend

this year is \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. The cost per couple is significantly lower than in previous years. If you do not choose to invite a significant other, we encourage you to bring a non-member guest as your plus one.

Registration is required. Visit the Linn Conservancy website at <https://linnconservancy.org/soiree/> to register. Our efficient registration system will shoot you an automatic confirmation and receipt in minutes. If you have questions, call Operations Manager Chad North at 570-524-2959 or email your queries to info@linnconservancy.org.

One Barn Farm is located at 2640 Red Ridge Rd. It is 4.5 miles southwest of Mifflinburg.

Linn Log

Mission of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy

To preserve and protect significant ecological sites in Union, upper Northumberland, and neighboring counties and to engage the public with conservation issues that affect the health of our environment.

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The Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy was founded in April 1988 in memory of Merrill W. Linn, a local attorney and avid outdoorsman, who spent much of his life exploring the woods, streams, fields, and byways surrounding his native Lewisburg, and sharing that experience and knowledge with others.

Merrill Linn Conservancy
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2024 Adventure Programming

From Spring Salamander Spawning to Winter Solstice

During the evening of March 6, at Glacier Pools Preserve, the temperature rose to 40 degrees Fahrenheit and remained there throughout the evening. For thousands of salamanders and frogs that was the cue conditions were just right for their annual mating ritual. Communications went out from Conservancy Adventure Coordinator Becky Stugart to those who wanted to observe this epic natural phenomenon.



Spectators scan the intense amphibian activity in a vernal pool and capture it with their smart phones.

Dan Hyde, founder of the Lewisburg Photography Club, hurried to the Lycoming Co. property to record—under challenging conditions—the mating activity in the site’s vernal pools.



An Eastern Newt swims among delicate Fairy Shrimp.

The Salamander Spawning event is one example of the exciting programs available this year. There are many more to come. The following events are scheduled through July. Go to our website at <https://linnconservancy.org/news/> for information about programs slated through the winter Solstice in late December 2024.



A photogenic Spotted Salamander was found on a trail.

Tree Walk Program Series: Arbor Day Tree Walk in Downtown Lewisburg

Friday, April 26, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Hufnagle Park, Lewisburg, PA

Family Program – All Ages Welcome

Guest Hosts: Dr. Chris Martine, Biology Chair at Bucknell University and Sara Street, Rider Park Manager and members of the Lewisburg Borough Shade Tree Commission.

Join Professor Martine on a stroll through downtown Lewisburg. Learn about the natural history and common uses of numerous tree species — from conifers to oaks and everything in-between. Co-sponsored by Lewisburg Borough Shade Tree Commission.

All ages welcome. Parent(s) required to accompany children. Suggested donation of \$5 per participant. Registration required at linnconservancy.org/registration.

Nature Painting @ Lewisburg Arts Festival

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Hufnagle Park, Lewisburg

Family Program – All Ages Welcome

Calling all artists and amateurs – no experience needed. Join us during the Lewisburg Arts Festival to get inspired by nature and create a painting to take home.

All ages welcome. Parent(s) required to accompany children. Limit one canvas per participant. Suggested donation of \$5 per participant Register at linnconservancy.org/registration.

Spring Plein Air Event

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Dale-Engle-Walker Property

Hosted in collaboration with the Lewisburg Arts Council and the Union County Historical Society, this event will promote art in nature with a plein air workshop in the morning from 9:00 am – 11:00 am, followed by artists spreading out around the property to paint or heading off to Shikellamy State Park or Turtle Creek Park to work. The day will end with an outdoor reception at 4 pm to see what each artist has done.

For more information and to register, email info@lewisburgartscouncil.com.

Nature’s Blueprint: Engineering Inspired by the World Around Us

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Dale-Engle-Walker Property

Nature’s Explorer Program – Ages 4-10 and their families
Guest Host: Kelly Salyards, Associate Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Bucknell University. Explore engineering in nature.

In coordination with the Lewisburg Children’s Museum, Bucknell University Humanities Center, and the Union County Historical Society. For ages 4-10. Parent(s) required to accompany children. Program fee \$7. Registration is required with the Lewisburg Children’s Museum at <https://www.lewisburgchildrensmuseum.org/natures-explorers.htm>.

Endangered Species and Biodiversity @ Shikellamy Bluffs

Saturday, May 25, 2024, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Shikellamy State Park Rd, Union Township, PA 17870

Living Landscape Program – Adults and accompanied children

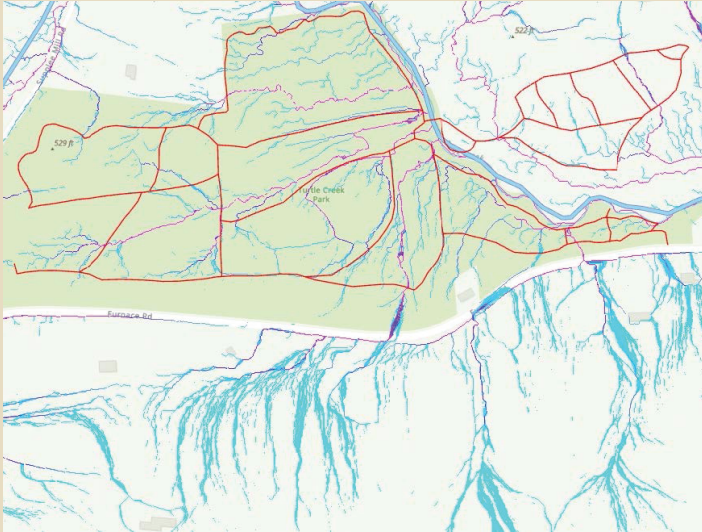
Guest Hosts: Dr. Chris Martine, Biology Chair at Bucknell University and “The Bird Man,” Michael Kuriga. This program will be broken into two parts: an endangered plant

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Plan for Turtle Creek

The Master Plan for Turtle Creek Park, developed by Brian Auman of Landscape Architecture, was approved by East Buffalo Township Supervisors at a public meeting in late March. The plan assesses the 79-acre property from both environmental and recreational perspectives.

Waterflow Routes: Turtle Creek Park wouldn't perk.



Turtle Creek was saved from development primarily by its water levels. A good portion of the property is wetland. The Water Flow Routes map included in the Master Plan drives this home. The blue plumes at the bottom of the map are a source of runoff that travels via culverts underneath Furnace from Shamokin Mountain and properties on the south side of Furnace Rd. Water from all sources holds the promise of potential catchments within the park's various habitats including:

Manicured Park Area • 3 acres

This small area, which will be home to the fenced dog park, the gazebo, the picnic area, and restrooms, will have the highest level of traditional park maintenance.

Upland Forest • 20 acres



Nearly all of the site's upland forest area has an understory dominated by aggressive invasive plants including bush honeysuckle and oriental bittersweet.

Oak Savanna • 33 acres



These are old-field agricultural fields where it is ideal to create an oak savanna with a landscape of clusters of large oak trees and a diverse understory of grasses, forbs, and wildflowers. Oak savannas are biodiverse. The biggest challenge to creating an oak savanna is controlling invasive species from outcompeting native species.

Floodplain Forest • 24 Acres



The floodplain forest is in poor condition with many standing dead ash trees and an understory of bush honeysuckle. The floodplain is also a critical groundwater recharge area and should be managed accordingly.

What Happens Next?

In July, work will resume on the restoration of Turtle Creek with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NPC) the Union County Conservation District, and Imgrund Excavating, funded by a Growing Greener grant awarded to Northcentral.

The East Buffalo Twp. board of Supervisors had applied for \$290,460 state grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development to cover "first phase" activities such as parking improvements, the enclosed dog park, and creating trails with Americans with Disabilities Act access. The grant was not awarded. EBT, however, has reapplied for the grant and is also seeking a smaller grant from the Degenstein Foundation.

We will revisit Turtle Creek Park and its Master Plan in the Summer edition of the Linn Log.

2024 Adventure Programing (Continued from Page 2)

species and biodiversity exploration and a presentation about peregrine falcons and the many environmental impacts that affect birds of prey.

In coordination with the Bucknell University Humanities Center, and the Union County Historical Society. All ages welcome. Parent(s) required to accompany children. Suggested donation of \$5 per participant. Registration required at linnconservancy.org/registration.

The Great American Backyard Campout 4:00 pm Friday, June 28, 2024 – 11: am Saturday, June 29, 2024

Glacier Pools Preserve, 757 Pine Tree Road, Hughesville, PA

Family Program – All Ages Welcome

Guest Hosts: Michael Gross, Glacier Pools Preserve Landowner; Sara Street, Rider Park Manager for the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania

Open to the public and both experienced campers and curious newcomers. Educational demonstrations by local organizations will be offered Friday afternoon. The evening will include building a campfire, cooking mountain pies and s'mores and a night hike complete with owl prowl, salamander search, and star gazing. Morning activities include hiking, bird watching and nature art. Dinner, s'mores, breakfast and beverages will be provided.

All ages welcome. Parents must accompany children. Individuals and families are responsible for providing their own camping gear. Suggested donation of \$15 per person/family discount of \$30 per family. Registration required at linnconservancy.org/registration.

Degenstein Library Outreach – PreK Storytime – Garden & Conservation Tuesday, July 9, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Degenstein Library, 40 S 5th St., #1, Sunbury, PA

Family Program – Ages 1-5 and their families

Adventure Coordinator, Becky Stugart, will host story time for preschoolers and their families. Storytime will include a garden themed book, fingerplays, songs, crafts and playtime to follow.

For children ages 1-5 years and their families. Register with the Degenstein Library in Sunbury by calling 570-286-2461 or sending an email to info@degensteinlibrary.org.

Degenstein Library Outreach – Family Centered Program – Garden & Conservation Tuesday, July 9, 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Degenstein Library, Sunbury

Family Program

Adventure Coordinator, Becky Stugart, will host a garden and conservation program with interactive activities.

For children and their families. Registration encouraged with the Degenstein Library in Sunbury by calling 570-286-2461 or sending an email to info@degensteinlibrary.org.

Berry Bramble Foraging Hike and Members Picnic

**Saturday, July 20, 2024, 9:00 am – 11:00 am
with Picnic to Follow**

Glacier Pools Preserve, 757 Pine Tree Road, Hughesville, PA

Members Only

Guest Hosts: Michael Gross, Glacier Pools Preserve Landowner; Sara Street, Rider Park Manager for the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania

Open to members only, this event will include a guided foraging hike along the trails of Glacier Pools Preserve where participants will learn to identify and safely harvest forest edibles. Members are invited to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy it while mingling with other members.

All ages welcome. Parents must accompany children. Individuals and families should bring their own picnic meals and are encouraged to bring a “berry-delicious” treat to share. Please note, food and drink will not be provided. This is a free event for Linn Conservancy members. Registration opens on July 1.

Degenstein Library Outreach – PreK Storytime – Forest Conservation Tuesday, July 23, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Degenstein Library

Family Program – Ages 1-5 and their families

Adventure Coordinator, Becky Stugart, will host story time for preschoolers and their families.

Storytime will include a tree conservation-themed book, fingerplays, songs, crafts and playtime to follow.

For children ages 1-5 years and their families. Registration encouraged with the Degenstein Library in Sunbury by calling 570-286-2461 or sending an email to info@degensteinlibrary.org.

Degenstein Library Outreach – Tween/Teen Centered Program – Forest Conservation Tuesday, July 23, 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Degenstein Library

Tween/Teen Program Ages 9-17

Adventure Coordinator, Becky Stugart, will host a forest conservation program with interactive activities.

For tweens and teens. Registration encouraged. Register with the Degenstein Library in Sunbury by calling 570-286-2461 or sending an email to info@degensteinlibrary.org.

Tree Walk Program Series: National Tree Day Walk at Bucknell Campus

Thursday, July 25, 2024, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Bucknell Campus, Lewisburg (gather at the Bucknell gate where University Ave. meets Loomis)

Family Program – All Ages Welcome

Guest Hosts: Dr. Chris Martine, Biology Chair at Bucknell University and Sara Street, Rider Park Manager and Amy Metheny of the Lewisburg Borough Shade Tree Commission

Dr. Chris Martine will lead a tree identification and natural history walk beginning with the historic Bucknell Grove, with a stop in the Wayne Manning Herbarium (Bucknell's collection of more than 25,000 plant specimens) along the way. Event is co-sponsored by the Bucknell Department of Biology.

All ages welcome. Parent(s) required to accompany children. Suggested donation of \$5 per participant. Registration opens on July 1

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 17 Iconic Canadian Wilderness Rivers program, Seven

Mountains Audubon: 7 pm—9 pm, East Buffalo Twp. building, 589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg. The presentation will be led by Dr. Warren (Abe) Abrahamson.

Saturday, April 20 3rd annual Joy to the Earth Festival, 10 am—2 pm

at East Snyder Park, Selinsgrove. Sponsored by Susquehanna Valley chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, this is a child-friendly event that offers live music, food, and interactive environmental demonstrations. An electronic school bus will be on display.

Wednesday, May 1 Linn Conservancy Spring Soirée, 5 pm—8 pm

One Barn Farm, 2640 Red Ridge Rd, Mifflinburg. See details on page 1.

Saturday, May 4 Kids Fishing Derby on Buffalo Creek, 8 am—12 noon

Near 8th St, at Buffalo Creek, Mifflinburg. The annual Children's Fishing Derby welcomes children age 12 and younger. Between 6,000 to 7,000 trout will be released, including some trophy-sized trout. Sponsors include Mifflinburg American Legion, Post 410, Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, and RB Winter Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, 1st Quarter, 2024

Lewisburg: Thomas DiStefano, Barb Fenstermaker, Tasha Hall, Kelly Harris, Lewisburg Garden Club, Taylor Lightman, David Marsh, Beverly Neidart, Betsy Noyce, Aaron Osgood-Zimmerman, Kathleen Pino, Elina Raksin, Brian Vargo, Sharon Wagner, Ann Weatherill and Farida Zaid; Cogan Station: Elizabeth Greenaway, Joyce Stugart; Middleburg: Carolyn Zimmermann; Mifflinburg: Brett Hoffmaster, Shanon Burkland Stamm; Millmont: Ralph Moyer; Milton: Lisette Ormsbee; Muncy: Sara Street; New Columbia: Julie Kintner; Selinsgrove: Jennifer Duperon, Lynn Fiedler, and Chanin Wendling; Shamokin Dam: Dennis Curtin; Williamsport: Brittany Wittmann; Winfield: Sue Mincemoyer-Gray; Rockville, MD: James Locey