

# Linn Log



MERRILL W. LINN  
LAND & WATERWAYS  
CONSERVANCY

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The Newsletter of the Merrill W. Linn  
Land & Waterways Conservancy

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## Mission of the Linn Conservancy

To preserve land and waterways in Union, Snyder, upper Northumberland and contiguous counties for scientific, historic, educational, ecological, recreational, agricultural, scenic, or open space opportunities.

## *Fall 2012*

### ***For your calendar:***

All events open to the general public. Specific details (locations, times) about some of these events appear within the newsletter or at associated websites noted within.

**Linn Conservancy** [www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org)

- **Sept. 27:** First day of “How Green Is Our Valley?” Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning Course (see below for details)
- **Oct 7:** Adopt-a-Highway, 1 p.m. Call Jo Reilly, 570-966-4272 for details
- **Oct. 13:** Michael and Rickie Gross easement dedication. Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 14. Please register by Oct. 10.
- **Oct. 19:** Grand Opening - “Upstream: Images of Susquehanna Waterways,” exhibit at Faustina Gallery. Exhibit continues through November 17.
- **Looking Ahead:** The Merrill Linn Conservancy Celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013!!

*“In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.” ~Aristotle*

[www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org)

## Events and Activities



Michael Gross



View from Gross property



Nature Preserve sign

### ***Open House Celebrates Gross Property Agreement***

The Linn Conservancy will celebrate the signing of the **Michael and Mary (Rickie) Gross** conservation easement agreement on Saturday, October 13, at the 272-acre Gross property in eastern Lycoming County, near Picture Rocks. The event will begin at 10 a.m. with refreshments, a brief talk about the history and geology of the area, and a trail hike passing meadows, woodlands and the many vernal pools that make this property an ecological treasure. It will conclude around noon.

Public access, sponsored by the East Lycoming Recreation Authority, is being granted on 250 acres of the property, named the Glacial Pools Preserve. Currently the property offers approximately two miles of trails. According to Dr. and Mrs. Gross, the Glacial Pools Preserve is an island of mature woods, wildflower meadows, and vernal (glacial) pools, open to people in the region for walking pets, hiking, photography, bird watching, and other low-impact recreation.

“Our goal is to manage the forest so that it reaches maturity with a varied canopy of large trees and a mid-story of replacements, all in good health, with adequate forest litter and snags to please the amphibians of the pools and other wildlife. Forestry is limited to harvest with the goals of improving habitat and beauty with minimal impact. The meadows will be kept free of invasive shrubs and the margins will display the stone walls created when the fields were cleared.” Michael Gross says.

The property contains a very diverse mixture of deciduous and evergreen tree species, some of which are quite mature. The vernal pools (at least 18) provide habitat for a variety of amphibians. Some, like the Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), are species of special concern. Approximately 30 acres of meadow (old field) contain a mixture of plant species and harboring a wide variety of butterflies. The property’s High Field trail offers hikers a spectacular view to the north. Visit [www.glacialpoolspreserve.com](http://www.glacialpoolspreserve.com) for more information.

If interested in attending the celebration, please register by October 10 with the Conservancy as this will assist with the planning for the event. To register and for further information call the Conservancy office at 524-8666. The rain date for the event is October 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Directions from Lewisburg: US Rte. 45E to 147N to I-180W to Exit 13, PA 405 Muncy/Hughesville, right on 405N, left to stay on 405N. Continue on to 220N, Left on PA 864 W/Laurel Run St., 2.8 mi. to right on Pine Tree Rd.

## News and Notes

### ***Warren Abrahamson Returns to Board***, by Wayne McDiffett

After a hiatus of some ten years, **Warren Abrahamson** (Abe) has again accepted a position on the Conservancy Board. Abe was first elected to the Board in 1988, shortly after the Conservancy was founded. He stepped down as a Board member in 2001 to devote full effort to his teaching and research at Bucknell.

During his absence, Abe remained a member of the Conservancy's Site/Stewardship Committee and advised on a number of other related issues. The Conservancy is delighted to welcome his return following his retirement from the university's Biology Department.

### ***Conservancy Gains Largest Easement to Date***, by *Wayne McDiffett*

The Conservancy recently completed a conservation easement agreement with Dr. Michael and Mrs. Mary Gross. The 272-acre tract, located in Wolf Township, Lycoming County, lies near Picture Rocks. It is the largest property in terms of acreage thus far preserved by the Linn Conservancy. With this addition, the Conservancy has now preserved 15 parcels, totaling over 1,100 acres.

The tract is largely forested, containing a very diverse mixture of deciduous and evergreen tree species, some of which are quite mature. The most significant feature of the property in terms of easement value is the presence of a large number of vernal pools (at least 18), which provide habitat for a variety of amphibians. Some, like the Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), are species of special concern. Approximately 30 acres of meadow (old field) are present as well, containing a mixture of plant species and harboring a wide variety of butterflies. An open house at the property to celebrate this easement will be held on October 13. Please see details above.

### ***Exhibition/ Sale of Paintings of Union/Snyder County Streams to Benefit Linn Conservancy***

An exhibition of paintings of regional streams by area artists **Alice Kelsey** and **Jeanne McKinney** will be presented at Faustina's Gallery in Lewisburg. The exhibit, entitled "Upstream: Images of Susquehanna Waterways," includes thirty original pastel and oil paintings of tributaries to the Susquehanna, and is the culmination of a year-long project in which the artists explored local streams and rivers, and painted on location at many sites throughout the watershed. The exhibit begins with the opening reception on October 19 (6 - 9 p.m.), and runs through November 17.

With this exhibition and sale, the artists and Faustina's Gallery are collaborating with the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy to increase public awareness of and support for the group's conservation efforts. A portion of proceeds from artwork sales during the opening reception will be donated to the Conservancy, and representatives of the Conservancy will be present to share information about the group's activities. The paintings in the show focus primarily on streams within the water basin of the West Branch Susquehanna, especially those in Union and Snyder Counties. The artists hope that in bringing together this series of paintings of area streams, they will be able to share an appreciation of the watershed as a whole, and highlight the importance of stewardship of these natural resources. "What a wonderful way for the Merrill Linn Conservancy to see its efforts promoted in a venue and manner that increases awareness of the natural beauty of our area," says Linn Conservancy director **Geoff Goodenow**. "This exhibit promises to be very interesting and educational, and we hope that it will attract new supporters to join in the Conservancy's mission of protecting these land and water resources for generations to come."

As avid fly-fisher women, McKinney and Kelsey have an informed eye for the flow of current and color reflections, leading to expressive qualities in these paintings. Both artists' work has been selected for national juried shows, and is carried regularly by Faustina's Gallery. In reflecting on this series of paintings, Kelsey shares that "I've really enjoyed the sense of greater purpose, and exploration in this project. I love being in streams and finding what's around the bend, and this excitement of discovery leads me to want to paint them." In McKinney's experience, "Painting the Susquehanna watershed has been both rewarding and enlightening. By hiking into beautiful natural areas, we've been able to capture special moments of time and place in our paintings". Both artists hope that the paintings created in this project will speak to others about the ways in which our waterways add to our quality of life in both aesthetic and practical ways, and remind us of the importance of caring for them.

Faustina's Gallery (570-524-5080) is located at 229 Market St., Lewisburg, PA. The gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and by appointment. The public is especially encouraged to attend the opening reception (October 19, 6 - 9 p.m.) to support the Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy through the purchase of these unique works of art.



## *Like-Minded Organizations*

**Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy (BCWA)**  
www.buffalocreek.org meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Union County Government Center, North Fifteenth Street, Lewisburg

**Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association** www.pennscreekwatershed.org

- Meets third Thursday monthly; 7 p.m.; Adult Resource Center, 100 Richard Road, Penns Creek

**Organizations United for the Environment (O.U.E.)** www.ouenews.org

- First Monday of every month 7 p.m., at Mondragon Bookstore, 111 Market St, Lewisburg.

**Seven Mountains Audubon Society** www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org

- Programs are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Kelly Township Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to everyone. Take Rte 15 North of Lewisburg to Zeigler Rd (first light north of the Sheetz store). Turn left (west). The building will be on our left within about ¼ mile.
- Audubon's first Saturday (of each month) outings: Meet in the parking area on the south side of the CVS Pharmacy near the northwest corner of Rtes 15 and 192 in Lewisburg at 7:30 a.m. Destinations TBA.
- **September 19: The Physics of Flight, Tom Reider.** A retired pilot, teacher, and sculptor, Tom will emphasize adaptations that allow birds to specialize in things such as speed, hovering, or slow flight.
- **October 17: Adak Island in the Aleutians, Frank Haas.** Adak is an island in the Aleutian chain far out into the Pacific. It attracts visiting birders from North America anxious to observe Asian birds that regularly chance upon the island. Frank is a former park superintendent at Shikellamy State Park.
- **November 14: The Meadow Project Video: "Urban & Suburban Meadows."** The November program will consist of a Catherine Zimmerman-produced video that extols the value of meadows, large and small. The video observes that lawns require endless care and are biologically barren, but backyard meadows consisting of native plants provide excellent habitat and are a source of beauty.
- **December 19: Members Night.** Various presentations by Audubon members.

**Sierra Club** (Otzinachson Chapter) www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson

- Meets first Wed every other month at Mondragon Bookstore, 111 Market St, Lewisburg
- **Sept. 30: Frack Awareness Coalition Concert.** 4-6:30 p.m., Tabernacle at Central Oak Heights, West Milton. Tickets \$3 pp; \$10 family in advance; \$5 and \$15 at the door.
- **Oct. 9: Lecture: Shale Fracturing and Air Pollution,** Public Library for Union County

**Fall Events at R.B. Winter State Park:** Park naturalist **MaryAnn Haladay-Bierly** has lined up a number of events for all ages at RBWSP northwest of Mifflinburg along Rte. 192. Many events listed below require preregistration, which may be done by calling 570-966-1455. Some of the events: 9/16 - Trail Race; 10/12 - Leaf It to Us (for kids 4-8); 10/18 - Fall Foliage Mountain Bike Hike; 10/19 - Colonial Craft of Candlemaking; 10/25 - Home School Days - Snakey Sojourns; 11/8 - Talk Turkey; 12/5-8 - Natural Ornaments. For more details of events throughout the state park system, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us). Go to [state parks](#) then to [calendar](#).



***Frack Awareness Concert, "Songs from the Sacrifice Zone", sponsored by Sierra Club***

The concert will be Sunday, September 30, from 4-6:30 p.m., in the Tabernacle at Central Oak Heights in West Milton. Performers will include **Hannah Bingman, DePotorLand, Earl Pickens** and **Van Wagner**. Come celebrate the splendors of Central Pennsylvania and sound the call about hazards to the integrity of the place. Light refreshments available. Tickets \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Available in advance or at the door for slightly more (\$5 and \$15). Proceeds to help fund efforts to raise awareness about the local and global impacts of fracking and allied industries. For more information, call 570-522-8159.

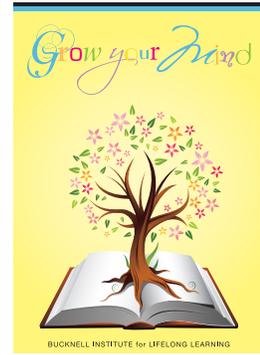
### ***Conservancy Sponsors BILL Course***

The Linn Conservancy is presenting a Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning (BILL) course exploring environmental challenges and successes in the Susquehanna Valley, with the objective of broadening and deepening participants' understanding of the many facets of conservation today. Entitled "How Green Is Our Valley: Conservation Issues In and Around the Susquehanna Valley," the six-week course—with an optional bonus session visit to a Conservancy-protected property—will be held in the large meeting room of The Public Library for Union County on Thursdays beginning September 27, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

During the course, which was coordinated by **Diane Donato**, participants will hear and interact with naturalists, scientists, educators, environmental engineers, activists, spiritual leaders, and private citizens who are deeply committed to protecting the environment and building a sustainable future. The presenters include **Warren Abrahamson**, Emeritus Professor of Biology at Bucknell; **David Ramsey**, Native-American writer and speaker; **Bill Deitrick**, District Manager of the Union County Conservation District; and **Amy Griffin**, District Forester.

Also presenting are **John and Catherine Smith**, owners of Chicory Lane Farm; **James Lesher**, landscape architect; **Stacy Richards**, Director of Energy Resource Center of SEDA-COG; and **Nicole Faraguna**, Pennsylvania Land Trust Association. Individual session topics include such subjects as natural history, spiritual aspects of ecology, habitat restoration, and ecology in the built environment.

For registration information, contact the Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning at 570-577-7006 or visit [www.bucknell.edu/x50531.xml](http://www.bucknell.edu/x50531.xml).



### ***Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning Offers Wide Variety of Courses***

In addition to the Conservancy-sponsored course above, eighteen other courses are available this term through BILL, a membership organization dedicated to engaging mature learners from a wide range of educational backgrounds in creative and intellectual activities. Fall term classes include: "Feeding the Nine Billion: Can the Current Global Food-Production System Meet the Challenge?" with former Bucknell President, **Gary Sojka**; "The Alienation of Human Beings from Our Planet and Each Other," with **Joe Detelj** and **Charles Sackrey**; "Creating a More Livable Community Through Civic Engagement," with **Farida Zaid**; "America's Gorgeous Mosaic: A Biological Portrait of the United States," with **David Pearson** [at press time this course was full]; and "Economic Issues of the 2012 Election," with **Peter Kresl**. Call BILL at 570-577-7006, or visit [www.bucknell.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.bucknell.edu/lifelonglearning) for schedule and membership/registration information.



### ***Marcellus Shale Fracturing and Air Pollution***

On Tuesday evening October 9 at 6:45 p.m. in the community room of the Public Library for Union County\*, **Nancy Parks** will present a program on the current state of air quality in our area and the effects Marcellus Shale fracturing will have on our air quality. The program is sponsored by the Otzinachson Regional Group of the Sierra Club.

Nancy Parks has been a long time activist for the Sierra Club. She has served as the Chair of the Sierra Club National Air Committee (1995-97) and a senior advisor (1998-2112). She currently is the Pennsylvania Chapter's delegate to the Council of Club leaders. She has a long and varied background in science and business. She received a BS (science and human genetics) in 1972 from Penn State, and a MS (agronomy, minor geography) in 1985 from Penn State. Her science background includes further graduate study and work as a research assistant.

Ms. Parks has been widely published in scientific publication, environmental publications, and newspapers. She has been a very involved and successful environmental activist. She currently serves as a member of the Air Quality Advisory Committee of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

\*The Public Library for Union County does not endorse outside groups

## *Watershed & Land Protection*

*The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) of the Merrill Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy, by Susan Waggoner, Chair*



### *New Officers Elected*

At its May board meeting, BCWA elected new officers for the 2012-2013 year. The officers are: **Susan Waggoner**, chair; **Allan Grundstrom**, chair-elect; **Ben Hoskins**, past-chair; and **Sue Mitchell**, secretary. **Edwena Eger** continues as bookkeeper, appointed by the Linn Conservancy board. In June, the Conservancy board appointed **Carl Oberheim** and **Warren (Abe) Abrahamson** as its liaisons to BCWA.

### *Ard's Farm Wetland Completed*

The last piece of this project was the planting of hundreds of wetland shrubs and trees by volunteers in the spring. After that, there was an anxious wait for rain and, when the rains came, it was gratifying to see the newly created wetland hold water.

The success of the project depended on the cooperation of many environmentally-minded groups as well as the Ard family. **Shanon Burkland-Stamm**, Watershed Specialist, and the Union County Conservation District took the lead and coordinated the efforts of BCWA and the Linn Conservancy and Professor **Matt Higgins** and his Bucknell students and the assistance of the U S Fish and Wildlife Service. It was funded in part by a grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.

In the near future, this wetland will be a feature at Ard's Farm and open to the public as a demonstration of what a wetland is and why it is important. Professor Higgins and his students will erect informative signage and Ard's is installing a bench as a memorial to **Ray Ard**.

The Union County Conservation District is planning work on several similar projects in the county.

### *Buffalo Creek Water Trail*

Thanks to the efforts of **Allan Grundstrom** and a committee of devoted paddlers, this project is nearing completion. The colorful brochure is in its final draft with map work by **Madeline Layos** of the Union County GIS office. It contains photos and descriptions of sites of interest along Buffalo Creek and its tributaries and directions to four launch and take-out locations from Cowan to St. George Street in Lewisburg. The next step is to secure funding to print the brochure and make it available to the public.

For more information on these and other activities of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, please see our website at [www.buffalocreek.org](http://www.buffalocreek.org) or become a member and receive the BCWA newsletter.



### *Updated Chesapeake Bay Website*

The Chesapeake Bay Program website may be of interest to those living and/or interested in the bay watershed. The revised website launched this spring, provides the public with the latest information about bay science, wildlife, pollution pressures and restoration efforts. New features include a *Learn the Issues* section alphabetized for easy browsing on topics such as agriculture, bay grasses, blue crabs, nutrients and population growth; a photo library; video library; a *Bay Field Guide* with more than 200 plants and animals of the region; an FAQ section; a database of more than 600 local watershed groups including our own Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA); a Chesapeake Bay history time line that covers important historic geologic, cultural and political events dating from 35 million years ago. Visit [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net) to learn more.



### *Jeff Bowers Awards Given to Shawn McLaughlin & Thom Fantaskey*



At the Linn Conservancy banquet in May BCWA presented its first two Jeff Bowers awards. As a member of the founding BCWA board, **Shawn McLaughlin (left)** played a major role in getting the organization started. He created the display board and contributed much to the development of our website. Both the display and the website remain in active use with only minor updates. Most importantly, Shawn was the primary author of our Watershed Management Plan, a well written and beautifully designed document which was essential to our getting several grants, especially the EPA grant for agricultural assessment and restoration.

**Thom Fantaskey (right)** has been essential to our monitoring program from its very beginning when he helped organize the volunteers to do the testing each month. He continues to monitor several sites and has taken on major responsibilities for the maintenance of the headwaters remediation site. His hands-on work in the watershed has made an exceptionally valuable contribution to the mission of the Alliance



## *Conservancy News & Notes*

### *Linn Conservancy Contest Picks Top Young Nature Photographers*

The Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy has announced the winners of its “Green and Playful World” Youth Photo Contest, which asked young people from throughout the tri-county area to submit electronically their best photo showing people engaged in outdoor activities in natural settings.

First place winners are **Marissa White** of Middleburg who won the contest’s Division I for students ages 6 to 9; **Bernon Helbig** of Mifflinburg, whose “Salamander Spring” photo won for Division II, ages 10 to 13; and **Hannah Walker** of Lewisburg who won in Division III for students ages 14 to 18. Marissa White’s photo, “A Boy Feeding Ducks,” was made near the pond at the Middleburg Fireman’s Field. Bernon Helbig shot his “Salamander Spring” photo at R.B. Winter State Park. Hannah Walker’s “Baby Foot” photo was captured in her Lewisburg backyard. Each of the three students won \$50 and a certificate from the Conservancy.

“This year we asked our young photographers to illustrate people and their relationships with local wild places and working landscapes,” says **Pat Arduini**, Chair of the Linn Conservancy Education Committee. “Young people who do not experience the outdoors do not value nature; and those who don’t value nature will not seek to protect and preserve it as adults,” she says. All the submitted photographs can be seen on the Linn Conservancy website—[www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org).



*Photo by Marissa White*



*Photo by Bernon Helbig*



*Photo by Hannah Walker*



### ***Conservancy Recognizes Joe Southerton***

Mifflinburg science teacher **Joe Southerton** received the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy Service Award at the organization's annual dinner banquet on Wednesday, May 2 at Shade Mountain Winery in Snyder County. Mr. Southerton was honored for his many years of service to the Conservancy and his advocacy for conservation of our local natural treasures. Southerton's award is a hand-carved kestrel created by artist **Jeff Keiffer**.



“Joe's commitment to the Conservancy's mission began in the early 90s with the development of the Conservancy's land trust agreement on the Koons property at the Hassenplug Covered Bridge in Mifflinburg,” says Education Committee Chair Pat Arduini, who presented the award. “Mr. Southerton designed the popular Koons walking trail, involving his middle school students in its development. He authored a descriptive guide for the trail and served as chief steward and monitor for the property.” He also served on the Conservancy's Site/Stewardship committee assisting with the evaluation of other properties under consideration for land trust agreements.

Mr. Southerton's interests include astronomy, birding, and most everything in the natural world. A number of years ago he built his very own high-powered telescope from scratch and often he invites family, friends and neighbors to his home for stargazing. He contributes time to the local chapter of Audubon, participating annually in the Christmas Bird Count and the May "birdathon," a fund-raiser in which volunteer bird watchers try to observe 100 or more species in one day.

His passion and concern for the environment follow him into the classroom. He has been a dedicated teacher in the Mifflinburg Area School District for more than 30 years and has provided conservation and environmental education to hundreds of youth throughout his career. For a number of years his sixth grade students have had the privilege to participate in the “Trout in the Classroom” program that he has arranged through the local chapter of Trout Unlimited. Months are spent in monitoring water conditions in a classroom aquarium where the brook trout are raised from eggs to fingerlings. Each spring Mr. Southerton and his students release approximately 200 brook trout into the local streams. He also contributes significantly to the Mifflinburg fifth grade outdoor education program.



### ***Dale's Ridge Trail Update***



Our thanks to head trail steward **Tom Travis** and all of his volunteers for keeping the Dale's Ridge Trail in excellent condition for users this year. We have posted warnings at trail site 10 (the western-most vista point) cautioning all to stay well back from the cliff edge. Caution tape has been placed and replaced many times throughout the summer as some thoughtless individuals continue to remove the tape.

Ground studies by Bucknell professor of geology **Rob Jacob** and students (left) indicate severe undercutting of the edge and fracturing in the underlying rock extending up to 10 meters back from the edge into the surface below. This presents a stability issue and potential danger to folks at the site when the supporting rock structure fails. Now that the data are in, measures are being discussed to address the situation in such a manner as to create awareness of the problem, define the limits of safety and retain as much of the view as possible. In the meantime, enjoy the trail and be safe.



### ***Limestone Run Project Completed***

Limestone Run (a.k.a. Bull Run) winds its way through Union County's Buffalo & East Buffalo Townships, and the Lewisburg Borough passing through farmland, residential, business, and recreational areas along its course. During the week of August 6, work was completed, except for plantings, on a seriously eroding section of the waterway at the southwest corner of the intersection of Rte. 45 and Fairground Road. Linn Conservancy coordinator, **Geoff Goodenow**, was instrumental in moving the project forward by bringing together concerned parties (**Shannon Stamm**, Union County Conservation District Watershed Specialist; the Byerly Family: **Jeff Byerly** instrumental in the planning and execution, **Mary** and **Phil Gajda**, restaurant managers along with mother and property owner **Mary Byerly**; **Craig Kochel** a Bucknell professor of geology and his students' baseline biological study; **Dave Keller** of the Fish and Boat Commission and **Jason Fellon**, DEP Watershed Manager, both helping provide technical assistance) **Rodney Hepner** of Hepner's landscaping also assisted in design of and providing materials for future plantings at the site. All groups were equally generous with matching monies in terms of volunteer time toward the project grant.

Mary Byerly, President of Victorian Lady, Inc. and owner of the properties, the site of the project, made a significant monetary investment in this effort and had restaurant manager, **Paula Deibler-Gorman** (Lewisburg Grad, '04, Bucknell Grad, '08), line up volunteer restaurant staff to assist with the labor of installation. And Shannon's work on writing a grant request paid off. Growing Greener Grant funds allowed for habitat improvement by installing log structures to stabilize the stream bank, and by creating overflow areas to slow stream flow, allow water absorption and settlement of sediment.

Appropriate plantings of native species will enhance the beauty of the site, add shade and diversify habitats in and around the stream. The Byerly family and staff are excited about making the habitat one that includes plantings that can provide food for humans and animals (birds, bees, butterflies) and be an educational and environmentally positive site for the area. Orders are being placed for elderberry, blackberry, and raspberry bushes. The fruits of these bushes will be offered in the desserts and sauces in the restaurant and pub. Development of pollination gardens, butterfly and hummingbird gardens are under consideration. The hope is to continue to make it a true community property enhancement.



*Before*



*During*



*After*

This project complements other projects in the Limestone Run watershed (and greater Chesapeake Bay watershed). One may be seen at the Lewisburg Park along St. Mary's Street. Another, a wetland development project supported by the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA), is visible on the west side of Hoffa Mill Road about 300 yards south of Rte 45. The Conservancy and BCWA are also lending support to Shannon and the Conservation District for another Growing Greener Grant, that one to encourage development of riparian buffers along a number of Union County waterways.



## ***USF&WS Continues Buffalo Creek Eel/Mussel Survey***



US Fish & Wildlife Service personnel returned to Buffalo Creek at Dale's Ridge in early August to monitor the results of their eel/mussel propagation program in the watershed. Electro-shocking was used to collect fish for species analysis (diversity, numbers), biomass and for laboratory study. The collected eels were markedly larger than when released, having grown from six-inch, pencil-thin juveniles to 13-14 inches in length with much more significant girth. Some of the eels collected this week will be taken to the lab where, among other things, investigators will look for evidence of infestation of their swim bladders by a non-native, parasitic trematode (worm). The number of eels collected was lower than that collected last year. The optimistic view of this is that it suggests that the eels are dispersing within the waterway. Where eels remain in high concentration, they tend to develop as males, so dispersal promotes development of females.

### ***State & Local Conservation News***

(Based on data published by the Pa. Land Trust Association [www.conservland.org](http://www.conservland.org))

Over the past 8 years (Jan. 2004 through Dec. 2011) Pennsylvania land trusts have expanded conserved lands from 404,033 acres to 637,636 acres—an increase of 233,182 acres (58%), the equivalent of 2.5 cities the size of Philadelphia. Twenty percent (5.6 million acres) of Pennsylvania's 28.7 million acres enjoy some degree of conservation protection with land trusts responsible for protecting 11% of that 5.6 million. Sixty-five land trusts in Pennsylvania hold a total of 2,957 conservation easements protecting 219,370 acres. Thirty-one land trusts have conveyed 338,430 acres to governmental agencies and seventy land trusts own 79,415 acres in fee. Whether through conservation easements, conveyance to government agencies and/or outright purchase, land trusts like the Merrill Linn Conservancy are playing a major role in protecting our state's land and waterways.

On the local front, the Linn Conservancy has completed 2 conservation easements so far in 2012 bringing our total to 14 easements. Along with one 32-acre parcel in the Montandon Wetlands that the Conservancy owns in fee, we now have 1,108 acres under protection. Our Site/Stewardship committee, chaired by Allen Schweinsberg, continues to work toward completion of additional protective agreements (conservation easements) through discussions with landowners. One site currently under consideration is noted for its vernal pools while another features open fields, scenic views, and wetlands. We are excited about working with these landowners to help them preserve their vision for the future of the land beyond their time of ownership. If you have questions about means to do the same, please contact the Conservancy.



### ***Membership-Development Committee Update by Susan Warner-Mills, Chair***

We are very pleased with a 94% renewal rate by members for 2012 and remind all that renewal letters for 2013 will arrive in early November. Within that mailing we will include your new "Business Partner Card" for 2013. This member benefit introduced last year will include some new businesses that have agreed to offer members special savings on various products and services. We thank each of those businesses for working with the Conservancy and encourage you to support them with your patronage.

The committee is also continuing its efforts to help local attorneys, financial planners and accountants understand how services available through the Conservancy could figure into their clients' estate planning. In addition, committee members are exploring possible types of events that would bring more widespread public awareness of and attention to the Linn Conservancy and the value of our work. Ideas from our readers would be most welcome! (e-mail Susan Warner-Mills at [swm@dejazzd.com](mailto:swm@dejazzd.com))

Please consider naming the Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy in your will.

## *Kids' Corner*

### ***How to Make Leaf Paint Prints***

Creating leaf prints will get your children outside exploring, with an end result that you can hang on the wall.

Have your kids collect a variety of leaves, focusing on different shapes and sizes. If they are collecting leaves during the autumn months, be aware that, although fallen leaves do have a very unique texture, they also crumble and fall apart quite easily. Finding leaves that aren't too dry will help maintain the leaves longer during printing.

Once you have collected all of your leaves, you will need the following:

- Paint
- Plastic or paper plates
- Construction paper
- Paper towels

You may want to use an old tablecloth or some newspapers to protect your workspace. First, fold a paper towel into fourths and lay it on the bottom of the plate. Squirt a small amount of paint onto the paper towel. Spread it around evenly to create a stamp pad. Using the backside of the leaf, dip it onto the paint-covered paper towel until the leaf is coated with paint. Try not to get too much paint on the leaf because it will produce a poor print. If you have too much paint, wipe off the excess with a paper towel.

Now, place the leaf onto the construction paper and press down lightly. This will help transfer the texture of the leaf to the paper. Keep repeating this process to create a collage of leaf prints.

Kids love mixing colors as they go, so let them experiment. Coat half the leaf with one color and half with another, or mix several colors together. Be creative and have fun. To keep the leaf intact as long as possible, try to coat only one side and use just the amount of paint that you feel you need. This will keep the leaf from soaking up too much paint; however, your leaf will eventually wear out and start to tear.

This project can be a lot of fun as well as educational if you decide to try to identify leaves as you print. You can also print your leaves onto other surfaces, such as t-shirts, plates and even walls. Just make sure you are using the proper type of paint.



## ***Thank You!***

**Donations:** **Robert Linn**, restricted donation toward our *Rural Routes* brochure series, in memory of his mother; **Cynthia Kessler**, an unrestricted donation in memory of her nephew, **Jeff Bowers**; **Dave Iddings** of Iddings Quarry, Mifflinburg, for donation of stone for use on the Koons Trail; **Cooke family**, an unrestricted donation in the name of **Brigitte Cooke**; **Mifflinburg Middle School Builder's Club**, donation toward maintenance of the Koons Trail; **Attorneys Brann & Light**, unrestricted donation; **Cheri Orndorf**, unrestricted donation.

**Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup:** **Bill Bastian, Joe Keller and Jo Reilly, Amy and Erin Graham. Penn's Creek Watershed Association** (left)



**Dale's Ridge Trail Monthly Volunteers:** **Tom Travis**, chief steward; **Brent and Amanda Kline**; **Tom Duck**; **Pete Macky**; **John Murphy**; **Harry Huff** and Scouts; **Allen Schweinsberg**; **Jim Swan**; **Allan and Ann Grundstrom**; **John Capwell**; **Phil Sosland**

**Professor Rob Jacob** and his Bucknell students who conducted a survey on the Dale's Ridge Trail to determine ground stability at certain sites

**Chris and Kate Snyder**, Natural Foods Store for new signage for Dale's Ridge Trail

**Dale/Engle/Walker Spring Cleanup Volunteers:** **Theta Chi** and **Delta Upsilon** brothers  
**Shane Thomas, Amber Lind, Micaela LaPatin, Craig and Marie Smith, Ben Hoskins, Carl Oberheim, Geoff Goodenow, Mark and Deb Wehr, Steve Wilver, Bill Deitrick, Jeannette Lasansky** (who donated three dozen doughnuts)

**Chuck Lebo**, chief steward of the Koons Trail, and **Don Bowman** for their attention to recent trail issues

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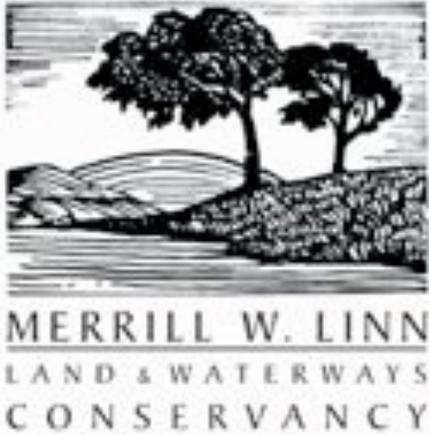
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