

# 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.

## *Spring 2013*

### *For your calendar:*

Specific details about some events appear within the newsletter or at associated websites noted within. All events are open to the general public.

**\*\*April is Caring for Communities Earth Month! See our special listing for 2013's schedule\*\***

- March 28: Bucknell University Sustainability Symposium. All day. Featuring talks by Thomas Hylton (4 p.m.) and David Orr (7:30 p.m.)
- April 4: Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance monthly meeting, 7 p.m. Union Co. Gov. Center
- April 4: "Beyond Coal" 6:45 p.m., Sierra Club, Community Room, Library for Union County
- April 13: Spring cleanup at Dale/Engle/Walker property 9 a.m.–noon
- April 28: Conservancy highway cleanup
- April 27: Renewable Energy Workshop, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Larison Dining Hall, Bucknell University
- May 1: Conservancy's Annual Dinner; Shade Mountain Winery
- May 9: History of the CCC at 6:45 p.m., Sierra Club, Community Room, Library for Union County
- May 11: Conservancy Wildflower Walk, 11 a.m. pink lady slippers
- June 1 & 8: Conservancy Photography Workshop
- June 16: R. B. Winter Park Summerfest; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- June 23: Conservancy highway cleanup
- Oct. 19: Conservancy 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration event, Campus Theatre

## Events and Activities

### ***BU Environmental Center Hosts Sustainability Forum, Film Series***

**Thursday, March 28** the Bucknell University **Sustainability Symposium** will feature panels and presentations discussing questions about Bucknell's relationship to sustainability on campus and in the community. Events will conclude with two nationally-recognized speakers. At 4 p.m. **Thomas Hylton**, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist will speak and at 7:30 **David Orr**, Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics, Oberlin College will speak on "Education in a Black Swan World."

The Bucknell University Environmental Center also continues this year's Green Screen Film Series on **Tuesday, April 2** with a 7:30 p.m. showing of the 2006 documentary "**Black Gold.**" The film explores the international coffee trade from field to café. A pre-film reception featuring fair-trade products begins at 7 p.m.

This season's Green Screen concludes on **Tuesday, April 23** with the 7:30 p.m. screening of "**Burning in the Sun,**" a 2010 documentary about the introduction of solar energy to rural West Africa where 99% of households live without electricity. There will be a post-film discussion as well as a public **Renewable Energy Workshop** on **Saturday, April 27**. The workshop, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in Larison Dining Hall will feature area experts in renewable energy discussing topics of interest to educators, business owners, and homeowners. For more information on these events visit [www.bucknell.edu/x2250.xml](http://www.bucknell.edu/x2250.xml), email [environmental.center@bucknell.edu](mailto:environmental.center@bucknell.edu) or call the Environmental Center at 570-577-1490.

### ***Sierra Club Presents Two Programs***

"Beyond Coal," a program working to increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency here in Pennsylvania will be held **Thursday, April 4**, at 6:45 p.m. in the Community Room of the Library for Union County. The program will be presented by Jeff Schmidt, executive director for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club.

A second talk, "History of the CCC," will be held **Thursday, May 9**, at 6:45 p.m. in the Community Room of the Library for Union County. John Eastlake will give the background on how the Civilian Conservation Corps worked, covering the various camps in our region. The CCC is in its 80<sup>th</sup> year.



### ***Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Schedule Announced***

The Conservancy is responsible for a 2-mile stretch of state highway beginning at the north side of the Penns Creek bridge on Rte 104 south of Mifflinburg. We follow Penns Creek upstream (west) to the Limestone Township picnic pavilion (meeting place for the event) then turn north to where the road intersects with the White Springs Rd.

**Jo Reilly** will continue as our coordinator for the event through 2013. Jo has recently partnered with the Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association in this cleanup effort. Members of that group remove debris along the creek bank and within the creek as we care for the parallel roadway. You'll enjoy this scenic location along Penns Creek. Look for some wildflowers and maybe spot a Bald Eagle, an osprey or blue heron hunting along the waterway. Jo has chosen the following dates for the events: **April 28, June 23, August 25, and Oct. 20**. If you would like to help, contact Jo for specific time and other details. She can be reached at 966-4272.

### ***Pink Lady's Slipper Walk: Saturday, May 11 at 11 a.m.***

Pink Lady's Slipper (Moccasin Flower) is a large, showy wildflower belonging to the orchid family. Several colonies of this endangered flower grow on a wooded, rocky slope that is part of a Snyder County Linn Conservancy easement. For a third year **Dick** and **Donna Constant** invite hikers to walk the woods on trails that cover more than 30 acres of ridge. Although the path is good, it is steep in places and sturdy shoes are recommended for walkers.

Pink Lady's Slippers take many years to become mature plants, and seed-bearing harvest of wild Lady's Slipper root is not considered sustainable. Although Pink Lady's Slippers can live to be twenty years old or more, because of their specific habitat requirement these particular colonies are moving on the Constant property according to their light and food requirements. Other woodland flowers may be in bloom, depending on spring temperatures. Make plans to see these beautiful flowers while they are available. Light refreshments will be available for those who wish to visit together after the walk.



## Directions:

**From New Berlin:** From the four way stop in New Berlin, the drive is 5.5 miles to our house. Take Rte 204 over Penns Creek and turn right toward Middleburg. (It is 2.5 miles to the turn off for Globe Mills.) When you come to a stop sign, bear to the right. At the 2.5-mile mark, a green sign on the right side of the road indicates the left turn to the road to Globe Mills. You are 3.0 miles from our house. Our gravel road is at the bottom of a long hill near a No Passing sign and marked as Hermit Hollow Lane. Turn left onto the gravel lane, stay to the right at a "y" and drive past the old barn and on up the hill.

**From Shamokin Dam:** On Route 15 South, pass the exit for Harrisburg, cross the Selinsgrove Bridge, turn right at Route 522. Stay on Route 522 through Kreamer. At the top of a hill there is a small green road sign on the right for New Berlin/Freeburg. The next corner is Globe Mills Road on the right. Turn right between a restaurant and the Middleburg Farm & Flea Market (auction grounds). You are about one mile from our stone lane. At the stop sign, bear to the right down the hill, cross the bridge, drive through Globe Mills. On the right, pass a farm and pond. We are the next turn on the right. Our name is on the mailbox and a road sign marked Hermit Hollow Lane. Turn up the gravel lane, staying to the right at a "y" and drive past the old barn and up the hill.

## ***Conservancy Sponsors Nature Photography Workshop for Kids***

The Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy, taking an active role in reconnecting children and families with nature, will be sponsoring a Youth, Nature & Photography Workshop on Saturday, June 1 and Saturday, June 8. Nature photography helps us develop a keen eye for details and patterns in landscapes, plants, and animals. In this two-part workshop geared to children ages 10 through 14, instructor Edwena Egar will guide students in discovering camera function and the art of capturing meaningful nature photos.



Prior registration is required by calling 524-8666 or e-mailing [linn@ptd.net](mailto:linn@ptd.net). There is a \$12 registration deposit, with \$10 to be returned at the conclusion of the two-session workshop. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult who will actively participate in the program activities. Families need to provide their own digital cameras with a fresh memory card.

Session one: **Saturday, June 1**

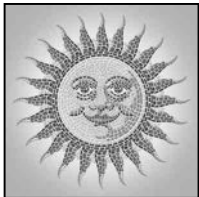
10 a.m. - noon

Union County Library

Session two: **Saturday, June 8**

10 a.m. - noon

Union County Library



## ***Summerfest at RB Winter State Park***

Come out to the 4<sup>th</sup> annual SummerFest at R. B. Winter State Park on **Sunday, June 16**.

This event will begin at 11 a.m. and run until 5 p.m. Demonstrations, crafts, games, and basic instruction in various outdoor activities are planned for children and adults. Check in at the park's website for more details and developments:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/raymondbwinter/>

## ***Watershed Protection***

### ***Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance***

The most recent newsletter of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance of the Merrill Linn Conservancy features an update on progress on the water trail from Cowan to the Susquehanna River, a report on bacterial contamination in Union County waterways and announcements about spring canoe/kayak trips in conjunction with the Conservancy's Caring for Communities events in April. The newsletter is available online at [www.BuffaloCreek.org](http://www.BuffaloCreek.org). BCWA is on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BufferoCreekWatershedAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/BufferoCreekWatershedAlliance)



The BCWA meets on the first Thursday of each month (except January) at 7 p.m. at the Union County Government Center, N. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Lewisburg.



### ***Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association***

The LPCWA will again be holding its popular **Rain Barrel Workshops** with one slated for April 18 at 6pm at the Penns Creek Adult Resource Center in Penns Creek, prior to our regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Participants can receive a rain barrel for \$10. Reservations are required by calling 837-3000, ext

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110. [note: these workshops may be full, but interested folks are encouraged to call and be put on a waitlist] Our April 18 meeting will focus on the “Bacteria in Union County Creeks” report. A joint Monroe Twp (Kratzerville Bridge/Penn Avon/Rte 204) cleanup will be on April 27, at 10 a.m. You can find our events and activities on our Facebook page – like us!

## ***Like-Minded Organizations***

### ***Seven Mountains Audubon***

Programs are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Kelly Township Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to everyone.

On **April 17**, **Carol High** and **Katie Kramer** from the Bucknell University Environmental Center will speak about the center’s innovative research methods. On **May 15**, **Jim Green** will speak about native plants.

To participate in Audubon’s first Saturday of each month outings: Meet in the parking area on the south side of the CVS Pharmacy at Rtes 15 and 192 in Lewisburg at 7:30 a.m. Destinations TBA. Visit the website for more information: [www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org](http://www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org)



### **Report on 2012 Christmas Bird Count**

Adapted from a report by Allen Schweinsberg

*“From December 14 through January 5 tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission - often before dawn. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the Holiday season.” --from [birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count](http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count)*

This year, local bird-watchers scoured a circle 14 miles in diameter centered on Vicksburg, Union County on December 15 as part of this annual event. I suppose one should expect about half of our Christmas Bird Counts to be “below average.” Well, this year we achieved that – in spades! Our total of 64 species was the lowest since 1980 and the second lowest during the “modern era,” which began when Seven Mountains Audubon was formed.

With no shortage of participants, we did manage to set a few high-count records. There were 21 Belted Kingfishers reported, besting the old mark of 20. Sixty-two Red-bellied Woodpeckers was six higher than the prior record. And 86 Carolina Wrens thoroughly shattered the previous record of 65. This species thrives when we have a sequence of mild winters only to decline again after harsh seasons.

Nice finds included Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant (yes, that has become a “rare” bird), Bald Eagle (even though we now expect them), Barn Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. Birds that we missed entirely included Ruffed Grouse, Rough-legged Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Fish Crow, Hermit Thrush, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Pine Siskin.

### ***Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition: Newly Released Survey Shows Clear Evidence of Strong Public Support for State Conservation and Recreation Funding***

The Pennsylvania Growing Greener Coalition pointed to a newly released statewide survey as clear evidence of strong public support for state funding to preserve farmland and open space, provide parks and trails and protect rivers and streams.

The survey, conducted between Oct. 1 and Nov. 4, 2012 by the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg, showed overwhelming public support for both continuing existing dedicated state funding for conservation and recreation, as well as increasing state funding to protect land, water and wildlife. Overall, the survey found that more than 92% of the 608 Pennsylvanians surveyed think that state funds dedicated to preserving farmland and open space, providing parks and trails and protecting rivers and streams should continue to be used for these purposes. In addition, the survey found that nearly 78% of respondents support increasing state funds to conserve and protect open space, clean water, natural areas, wildlife habitats, parks, historic sites, forests and farms even if would cost the average household \$10 more annually. Further, these

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high levels of support are constant throughout every geographic region and every gender, ethnic, educational and economic demographic throughout the state.

The mission of Pennsylvania's Growing Greener Coalition is to enhance the health and economic well-being of communities throughout the Commonwealth by advocating for public funding to conserve and protect land, water, wildlife habitat and historic places; and to ensure well-managed parks and recreational areas throughout the state. Established in 2008, the Coalition comprises local, regional and statewide environmental, conservation and recreation groups that have come together to collectively build awareness and educate the public and elected leaders about the critical need for conservation and preservation funding. For more information, visit [www.pagrowinggreener.org](http://www.pagrowinggreener.org).

## *Conservancy News & Notes*

### ***Board Holds Strategic Planning Session***

In January, the Linn Conservancy's board of directors along with representation from BCWA and past board members gathered for a day-long strategic planning session at the Union County Government Center. The program was conducted by Susan and Jim Mathias who donated many hours to gathering information, reviewing surveys, organizing and facilitating the program. Board members came away feeling recharged by an exciting rework of a vision for the outcomes of our efforts to kick off a second quarter century of our conservation and educational work. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters

### ***Add your comment about the Conservancy on GuideStar.org***

The Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy has recently updated its information at [GuideStar.org](http://GuideStar.org). GuideStar serves as a resource for those looking to learn more about non-profit groups such as ours. Individuals and organizations considering general membership or supporting a specific project can refer to this site to readily view an array of information to assist them in gaining knowledge about the organization and making their decision.

As supporters of the work of the Merrill Linn Conservancy your comments about us on that site could help bring to us additional support for our efforts. With that in mind, please consider visiting the GuideStar website and entering a brief comment about the Conservancy.

To enter a comment, go to [www.GuideStar.org](http://www.GuideStar.org). In the search box on the right, enter Merrill Linn Conservancy, then search. On the page that opens you will see a box on the left side where there is a link that says "write a review". That will take you to another page where you may add your comments.

Thank you for considering this request. Please reference the GuideStar site and our website to others you know would have an interest in learning more about the Linn Conservancy and supporting our work. Your brief, positive, personal remarks (perhaps highlighting an experience on one of our trails or participation in an event we sponsored) about us on the GuideStar site could be the key to expanding our membership base, opening doors to additional funding sources and motivating others to protect their land and waterways through projects with us. We appreciate your help.

### ***Conservancy Annual Dinner Set for May 1***

This year we will return to the Shade Mountain Winery for our annual dinner and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 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 p.m. with formal festivities kicking off at 6:15 and dinner at 6:45 on **Wednesday, May 1**.

S&M Caterers of Mifflinburg will provide our buffet including a vegetarian selection again this year. Following dinner, Warren Abrahamson will speak about "Landscape Connections" with a look toward our next quarter century. Abe's piece featured in this issue of the Linn Log gives a preview of his topic. Please join us for a most enjoyable and informative evening.

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 **Monday, April 22**.

## ***Financial & Committee Reports***

### **Annual Financial Summary**, by *Deb Brubaker, Linn Conservancy Treasurer*

The Linn Conservancy's 2012 operating budget of \$29,810 closed out the 2012 year with expenses exceeding income by \$4,387. This figure does not reflect the donation of \$10,000 from the estate of Mr. John Buckley. That money was placed in one of our special designated funds. Membership fees and donations (again, not counting Mr. Buckley's gift) constituted about 79% of revenues with special events and CD interest contributing significantly as well. Administrative costs (including reimbursement for the Coordinator and secretary), membership support and site stewardship constituted the bulk of the expenditures. The Conservancy also maintains restricted funding for targeted educational programs and land conservation/easement protection. Many thanks to the volunteers (Linn board members; members of committees of development, education, and site stewardship; mailing stuffers, Bucknell University students) who together donated a documented 1400 hours to Conservancy efforts: All told, in-kind donations of time, mileage and other equaled \$33,907.77 in 2012. Thanks to all for your support!!

### **BCWA Financials**, by *Edwena Egar*

In 2012 the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) had sources of revenue from memberships, donations, and checking account interest in the amount of \$342.75. Local expenses were \$566.28. The remediation site maintenance fund (established from funds provided by the Foundation for PA Watersheds) had expenses of \$243.78 but earned interest on the account in the amount of \$45.11.

The streambank fencing fund had expenses of \$161.91. (This fund is not a separate account.) This fund provides monies to support advertising the stream bank fencing programs available to the farming community, especially the plain sects.

A grant in the amount of \$10,000, received by BCWA in 2011, from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies for the Ard's wetland construction was spent upon the completion of the project in 2012. This project was designed by Bucknell University.

Complete detailed CPA-prepared financial reports for the Conservancy and BCWA are available at the Conservancy Office.

### **Membership-Development Committee Report**, by *Susan Warner-Mills, chair*

#### **Membership**

Retail Card Program: *Calling all members! Please use your retail cards and let our sponsoring businesses know we are patronizing them!* Our Business Partner Card members for 2013 are Bertoni's Pizza in Montandon; Ard's Farm Market; Canoe Susquehanna; Catherman's Home-Made Candies, Cherry Alley Café, Lewisburg Studio, Vargo Outdoors and Reptiland.

- Membership Renewal: Thanks to committee and board-member follow-up, we had a 94% renewal rate for 2012! If you haven't renewed for 2013, please do so (unless you are dying to have us call you!)

#### **Development**

- Caring for Communities: The Development committee is reaching out to organizations and individuals again this year seeking \$100 sponsorships for this year's Caring for Communities month in April. If you would like to be a 2013 sponsor, please contact Susan Warner-Mills (716-0870, swm@dejazzd.com). It would MAKE HER DAY!!! (Plus you would be supporting a mega-worthwhile event!)
- Heritage Club concept: The Membership-Development committee is developing an ongoing program to honor and bring member and community recognition to our easement holders and supporters.



## ***Why We Need Landscape Connections Among Protected Areas***, by Warren Abrahamson

*Retired Bucknell professor of Biology and Conservancy board member Warren Abrahamson will be the featured speaker at our annual dinner on May 1. His article sets the stage for that presentation and for some new initiatives for the Conservancy set in motion by our recent strategic planning session.*

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and other social media connect us to one another in a way that those of us who grew up in the 1950s and 60s never imagined. Virtually instantly, we can share our likes, feelings, or life events with friends and acquaintances even though these folks are scattered across the globe. But with the number of humans inhabiting Earth now well past seven billion and counting, humans continue to convert enormous amounts of wild landscapes to other purposes. Here in the lower 48, forests covered roughly one billion acres prior to European settlement but since 1600, a University of Michigan study indicates that roughly 90% of these forests have been cleared and most of the remaining forest area has been disturbed.

Pennsylvanians are fortunate, according the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), to live where about 60% of our landscape is forested. Of course, only a tiny fraction of our forested landscape is old-growth forest similar to pre-Colonial forests but regardless, present-day forests provide us with clean water and air, economic resources, recreation; and importantly, they afford homes to numerous species of plants and animals. But the sustainability of forests in Pennsylvania and elsewhere is threatened by conversion to other landscapes, division into smaller fragmented parcels, invasive species, acid precipitation, climate change, and more. Countering these threats in Pennsylvania's landscapes is challenging because more than half of our forestland is owned privately (DCNR) and is subject to further subdivision. In the Susquehanna Valley, much of our landscape has already been divided into small parcels and this trend continues. As a consequence, some natural lands are now isolated from other similar lands as the intervening landscape has been converted to other uses. Yet, conservation biology studies have repeatedly demonstrated the importance of landscape connections to the maintenance of nature's ecological processes.

The six-square-mile Barro Colorado Island (BCI) was created when Panama's Chagres River was dammed in the early 1900s to form Gatun Lake as part of the Panama Canal. Previously, this island was a hilltop within an expansive rainforest ecosystem. Shortly after the canal was completed, BCI was declared a biological reserve and biologists inventoried the species that lived and bred on the island. But soon, the researchers recorded rapid losses of species from BCI. First to go were the large predators including the jaguar and puma, next were bird species. Initially, 208 breeding-bird species were recorded on BCI but within 85 years of BCI's isolation from the mainland, 65 of these species were gone and the numbers of individuals comprising many of the surviving species were dangerously low. To this day, BCI's loss of connection with the mainland rainforest translates to low biodiversity relative to the level of biodiversity at the time of isolation.

Like animal diversity, plant diversity also can be impacted by fragmentation of the landscape as shown by a study from Concord, Massachusetts. Henry David Thoreau carefully documented Concord's wildflower species back in 1850 when the area was largely undisturbed. But when Richard Primack and colleagues surveyed the highly fragmented Concord area 150 years later, they found that 27% of the native species recorded by Thoreau were now absent. Furthermore, another 36% of the species that Thoreau recorded persist today in only one or two populations. Consequently, these latter species are now highly vulnerable to extirpation. Numerous other studies done in a wide variety of habitats and with a multitude of organisms have made the same conclusion – that *isolated small patches of habitat cannot preserve or maintain biodiversity*. The bottom line is that *habitat patches require connections* to similar habitats and that developing and maintaining landscape connections must be central to conservation efforts.

Landscape connections within an ecosystem have many functions. Among these are facilitating animal movement, migration, and interbreeding; enabling interbreeding of plants through movements of their seeds and pollen which assist the expansion of their populations; making possible the re-colonization of small habitat patches by plants or animals from nearby larger patches; aiding animal and plant movement in the face of climate change; and much more. Indeed, landscape connections are absolutely crucial for the well-being of plants and animals that live in our human-fragmented landscapes. Without ecological connectivity, biodiversity loss is certain.

“Connectivity Conservation” is focused on maintaining and improving the linkages of habitats within landscapes. Improved linkages can lessen the negative impacts of factors like habitat fragmentation and climate change while increasing nature's resilience to environmental changes. The Linn Conservancy and other land trusts are working not only to preserve and protect valuable lands and waterways, but also they seek to establish and maintain connections within the landscape in order to enhance the resilience of protected areas and to halt the loss of biodiversity.

The Linn Conservancy's Board of Directors is currently developing a new long-term strategic initiative that will examine existing ecological connections among our region's protected areas and then will seek to establish new connections and adjacencies among these sites regardless of whether they are protected by public ownership (e.g., state parks, state forests, game lands), foundation ownership (e.g., Degenstein Turtle Creek Park), agricultural preservation, or Linn Conservancy conservation easements. We're eager to report on this exciting initiative at our annual dinner meeting on Wednesday, May 1 as well as in the next Linn Conservancy newsletter.

## ***Enjoy Our Trails***

As spring weather tempts us more and more to take to the outdoors, we want to remind you of the Conservancy-maintained sites open for your enjoyment.

- **Dale's Ridge**, two-mile trail, located on Dale/Engle/Walker Property near Lewisburg. Offers variety of habitats – floodplain, mature hardwoods, and former agricultural fields. Please leash dogs at all times.
- **Koons Trail**, near the covered bridge on North 4<sup>th</sup> St. in Mifflinburg within the Buffalo Creek floodplain. About 1 mile, featuring wildflowers and birds.
- **Shamokin Mountain Trail**, one-mile loop off Stein Lane in Union Twp., Union County. Easy 45-minute walk with a couple of hills; nice views from state game lands southward of the Susquehanna Valley; forest and open fields.
- **Merrill Linn Trail**, a one-mile loop with access off the Mid-State Trail in secluded Mohn Mill Pond area of Bald Eagle State Park in northwestern Union County. Noted for vernal pools with beautiful stands of ferns.
- **Glacier Pools Preserve**: near Picture Rocks, Lycoming County. Featuring vernal pools, woodlands and meadows; visit [glacierpoolspreserve.com](http://glacierpoolspreserve.com) for directions.

## ***Thank you!***

Welcome to **new members Lorraine Poore**, Muncy Valley; **David Cooke**, Ellicott City, MD; **Sarajane Snyder**, White Deer; **Bill and Sharon Lynch**, Mifflinburg

**Thank you to D. Medina Lasansky** for a donation in memory of **John Dunlop**; **David Cooke**, unrestricted donation in memory of Brigitte Cooke; **Alice Kelsey** and **Jody Horn**, unrestricted donation from fall art exhibit sales; **Betsy and Allen Quant**, Canoe Susquehanna for 2 river trip gift certificates.

Also Thank You to all of the donors who supported the Conservancy during the recent "Raise The Region" online fundraising event on March 12: **George Jenks, Maurice Brubaker, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Betz, David and Jan Pearson, Ed Culver, John and Susan Tonzetich, Diane Donato, Wayne McDiffett, Kathy Rowe, Barbara Allison, Steven Miller, Marilyn Brill, Stasya Erickson, Brad Miller and Cheryl Stayton, David and Vicki Heberlig, Warren and Chris Abrahamson, Renee Sosland, Meredith Meixell, Susan Warner-Mills, Cathy Dennis, Lisa Gibson, Mary Goodenow, Deborah Smith, Susan Armstrong, Roy Fontaine, Ruth Burnham, Pat and Mike Arduini, Amy and Brooks Gronlund, Edward Kaye, John Gerdes, Richard Osman, Madge Schworer, Steve Styers, Peter Judge, Dick and Judy Ellis, Don Bowman, Allen Schweinsberg, Geoff Goodenow, Anonymous, Dick and Donna Constant, Mary Williard, Owen Anderson**

**Jim and Susan Mathias** (facilitators) and **Kathy Rowe** (arranging for food, drinks) during the board's strategic planning session

**Carl Oberheim, Kathy Rowe, Brent and Amanda Kline, Roy Fontaine, Sarajane Snyder, Geoff Goodenow** for staffing our information table at Snowfest and Cabin Fever

**Life Members Who Have Given for 2013: Kathy Rowe, Carol Ingald, Carl and Faye Oberheim, Geoff Goodenow, Jeff and Lucinda Coup, Pete and Nancy Macky, William and Jeannette Lasansky, Wayne McDiffett and Ruth Burnham**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Linn Conservancy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebratory Event!**

Saturday October 19 from 1 – 3 pm at the Campus Theatre

*Watch your email, future Linn Logs and [linnconservancy.org](http://linnconservancy.org) for further details...*



Merrill Linn Conservancy's Caring for Communities  
**Earth Month Celebration!**  
"A Decade of Caring"

2013 is a year of anniversaries and celebrations!

This year, Caring for Communities is honoring the Linn Conservancy's 25th anniversary, Union County's 200th anniversary and CFC's 10th year of presenting its program of family-oriented events exploring environmental issues that affect our communities and our world.

Join us throughout April to explore our area's rich ecology and learn about good works of the past and present!

\*\* details and updates all month at [www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org) \*\*

Tuesday, April 2, 7 p.m. **Movie: "Black Gold"** at the Campus Theatre in Lewisburg. Documentary about the international coffee trade with a pre-film reception featuring fair-trade products. Sponsored by the Bucknell University Environmental Center (BUEC) as part of its Green Screens series. \$2 admission.

Thursday, April 4, 9 a.m. **On The Mark Radio talk-show.** WKOK 1070 AM Live talk show on our 10th anniversary and Merrill Linn Conservancy's 25th anniversary. Listen and call in! Hosted by Mark Lawrence.

Saturday, April 6, 9:30 a.m. **Ard's Farm Market Tour.** Learn about the wetlands Ard's constructed to reduce stormwater runoff and erosion and how their no-till farming practices play into this. Features a hayride. Located on Route 45 between Lewisburg and Mifflinburg.

Saturday, April 6, 1 p.m. **Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure Trip**, sponsored by the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance. Travel the upper section of Buffalo Creek from Cowan to Mazeppa with a stop to tour Johnson Mill. Led by Canoe Susquehanna with reservation and fee required. Look for details and register online ([www.canoesusquehanna.com](http://www.canoesusquehanna.com)) or call 524-7692.

Sunday, April 7, 1-3 p.m. Free! **Double Feature Movie** at the Campus Theatre. "Save Our Land, Save Our Towns" takes a look at sprawl and its effects, followed by "Bag It", about plastic bags and the overabundance of plastics in our society. Co-sponsored by BUEC. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. **Owl Prowl and Astronomy Night.** Our owl walk is led by Joe Southerton, Mifflinburg teacher. Astronomy observing follows at 8:30, led by Bucknell astronomer Ned Ladd. Meet at the Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot for the Owl Prowl, at the Dale/Engle/Walker House for the stargazing.

Sunday, April 14, 1 p.m. **Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure Trip** sponsored by Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance. Canoe the lower section of Buffalo Creek from Strawbridge Rd. to St. George St. in Lewisburg. Led by Canoe Susquehanna with reservation and fee required. Look for details and register online at ([www.canoesusquehanna.com](http://www.canoesusquehanna.com)) or call 524-7692

Sunday, April 14, 1:30 p.m.: **Lewisburg stream restoration review.** We will start at Limestone Run at Vic's Pub and then bike, walk, or drive to St. Mary's Park in Lewisburg. Learn about the planting Vic's Pub has done, both to enhance the project and grow food for the restaurant. Then, learn about follow-up measures taken at the St. Mary's Park site and the results attained. Vic's Pub: 2167 Old Turnpike Rd. at Fairground Rd. St. Mary's Park: St. Mary Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

( see reverse for more events! )

(clip this page and post it up to remember all the great events happening in April!)

Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. **“Changes to the Forested Landscape of the West End.”**  
A presentation on the history of Union County's far western corner by local author and historian Tony Shively. Sponsored by the Union County Historical Society. Union County Sportsman's Club.  
50 Sportsman's Club Lane, Millmont.

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. **Walk at Montandon Wetland.** Led by Bucknell professors and Tony Markunas III of Central Builders Supply. The walk will extend on trails deep into the marsh area; rubber boots are advised. Meet at Central Builders' sand plant off Route 45, just east of Rt. 405 and the Lewisburg bridge.

Saturday, April 20, 1-3 p.m. **Buffalo Valley Rail Trail Cleanup** with the Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority. So many of us use the rail trail—now let's show it some love! For information contact LARA at 524-4774 or [director@golara.org](mailto:director@golara.org).

Sunday, April 21, 1 p.m. **UC Passport Program Bicycle Ride** on the Conservancy's Rural Routes and the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail. Led by bike enthusiast Tom Gibson. Routes will be available for two levels of experience, 15 miles and 30 miles. Park at the Dale/Engle/Walker House and meet at the Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot. Serves as the kickoff for Union County's 200-mile passport program in celebration of their 200th anniversary.

Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. **Movie “Burning in the Sun”** at the Campus Theatre. Documentary follows Daniel Dembele as he builds a solar power business in Mali. Sponsored by the Bucknell University Environmental Center as part of its Green Screens series. \$2 admission.

Friday, April 26, **Arbor Day Festivities.** sponsored by the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission.  
5 p.m. **Tree Planting Ceremony.** 6 p.m. **Tree Walk**  
Learn about notable trees in downtown Lewisburg. Meet at Hufnagle Park.

Sunday, April 28, 12:30 p.m. **Tour of Grove's Mill.** Located on Hoffa Mill Rd. near Lewisburg, this is one of the oldest water-powered grain mills in the country still operating. This is a prelude to the canoe/kayak trip coming up, so you may see some boaters.

Sunday, April 28, 1 p.m. **Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure Trip** Sponsored by the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, this will take us on the middle section of Buffalo Creek from Mazeppa to Strawbridge Rd. with a stop to tour Grove's Mill. Led by Canoe Susquehanna with reservation and fee required. Details and registration at [www.canoesusquehanna.com](http://www.canoesusquehanna.com), 524-7692.

Wednesday, May 1, 5:30 p.m. **Merrill Linn Conservancy Annual Dinner**  
Shade Mountain Winery, Middleburg. Reservations required. Open to the public.  
[www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org)

Sunday, May 5, 2 p.m. **“History of Surveying in Union County.”** Dreisbach Church on Dreisbach Church Rd. near Lewisburg. Sponsored by the Union County Historical Society.

**THANKS TO OUR 2013 CARING FOR COMMUNITIES SPONSORS!**

Bucknell University Environmental Center, Butter Crust Baking Company, Bran & Light Law Office, Coles Hardware, Lewisburg Studio, Lewisburg Garden Club, Meixell-Diehl Insurance, Wayne McDiffett, Sally Nyquist, Molesevich Environmental, Natural Food & Garden Store, PPL, Strosser Architecture, Susquehanna Life Magazine, Susan Warner-Mills, Marilyn Brill

## *Thank You for Your 2013 Membership Support*

In November, members received our request for your continuing support of the Linn Conservancy's mission for 2013. Thanks to all who have already responded to our mailing. Your prompt response in recognition and support of our 25 years of service in the area is most appreciated.

For those who have yet to reply, a membership form is included in this newsletter. You may also indicate your support for the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) of the Merrill Linn Conservancy on the form. Memberships may also be updated through PayPal which you will find on our website.

Moving? **PLEASE NOTIFY US** of any change of your address, email or phone. The post office charges us for returned and forwarded mail.



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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**YES! I/we want to join the Linn Conservancy this year as a:**

_____	Benefactor	\$5,000	_____	Contributor	\$100
_____	Patron	\$1,000	_____	Business	\$50
_____	Steward	\$500	_____	Family	\$50
_____	Sponsor	\$250	_____	Individual	\$25

new membership     renewal     add \$10 for Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance membership

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the **Linn Conservancy**  
**Send to: P.O. Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837**

The Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, with contributions tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. All monies are spent on local projects.

*"We shall never achieve harmony with the land...  
the important thing is not to achieve but to strive."*

*Aldo Leopold (Round River)*

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

The Merrill W. Linn  
Land & Waterways  
Conservancy  
P.O. Box 501  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
[www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org)

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*This issue: Caring for Communities/Earth Month, Annual Dinner, and more. . .*

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