

Linn Log



MERRILL W. LINN
LAND & WATERWAYS
CONSERVANCY

PO Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837
linn@ptd.net (570) 524-8666
www.linnconservancy.org

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 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

- Youth Photo Contest: now through April 15 (see our website for details).
- **April 1 – May 5:** Caring for Communities events
- **April 3, 7 p.m.:** BCWA Annual Meeting, Buffalo Township Municipal Building
- **May 2:** Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy Annual Dinner (details and reservation form below)
- **May 14:** Wildflower Walk
- **April 15, June 10, August 19, October 7:** Highway cleanups

Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance www.buffalocreek.org

- Meets on the first Thursday of each month (except January) at 7 p.m. at the Union County Government Center, N. 15th St., Lewisburg

Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association www.pennscreekwatershed.org

- Meets third Thursday monthly; 7 p.m.; Adult Resource Center, 100 Richard Road, Penns Creek
- The Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association has a number of events scheduled for this spring: “How to Fish Penns Creek” will introduce budding anglers to the equipment and bait required for fishing—and put them on the stream for supervised fishing experience. Streamside cleanups include Route 204 at Penn Avon Campground, Penns Drive near Kratzerville, and Stump Run in Middleburg. Also planned is an educational program and poster contest for school children based on the “Open Your Eyes to Litter” materials of Keep PA Beautiful. Call **Diane Lengle** (966-1783) for dates and other information.

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 Road (first light north of the Sheetz store). Turn left (west). The building will be on your left within about ¼ mile.
- Audubon’s programs for spring include April: “Brook Trout in the Classroom” with **Joe Southerton**; and May: “Pennsylvania Birds: A Century of Change” with **Allen Schweinsberg**.
- 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.

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

- Meets first Tuesday every odd month (a week later in July due to the holiday), 7 p.m., at Mondragon Bookstore, 111 Market St, Lewisburg

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.

“We must allow children to experience and love the earth, before we start talking to them about how the earth needs to be saved.” ...from *Beyond Ecophobia* by David Sobel

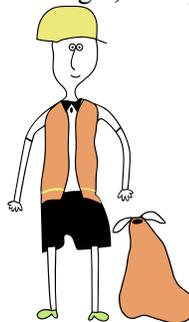
Events and Activities

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup Schedule Announced

The Conservancy is responsible for a two-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 2012. 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.

Jo has chosen the following dates for the events: April 15, June 10, August 19, and October 7. If you would like to help, contact Jo for specific time and other details. She can be reached at 966-4272. You’ll enjoy this scenic location along Penns Creek and maybe even see a bald eagle, an osprey or blue heron hunting along the waterway.



Conservancy's Annual Dinner Set for May 2

This year we will return to the Shade Mountain Winery for our annual dinner. Join us at this delightful setting overlooking the vineyards and landscape of Snyder County. Social time featuring Shade Mountain wines, hors d'oeuvres and raffle will begin at 5:30 p.m. with formal festivities kicking off at 6:30 and dinner at 7.

SM Caterers of Mifflinburg will again provide our buffet including a vegetarian selection. Following dinner, in keeping with this year's *Caring for Communities* theme, Trish Carothers from SEDA-COG will speak about the Susquehanna Greenways initiative. We are looking forward to 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 within or as a separate attachment if you are receiving this newsletter electronically. Please return it with your payment before Friday, April 20.



Susquehanna Greenway Initiative: What It Means to All of Us

Trish Carothers will present a program about the Susquehanna Greenway initiative at our annual dinner. Trish Carothers is SEDA-COG's Interim Executive Director for the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and is responsible for program development, implementation and fundraising. Trish has a passion for land conservation and being active in the outdoors, including hiking, biking and flower gardening. Prior to joining SGP she was the Membership and Planned Giving Coordinator for the Lowcountry Open Land Trust in Charleston, South Carolina. Her varied background also includes technical support to nonprofit organizations, financial services, and marketing communications. Trish grew up on her family's dairy farm near Wilmington, Delaware and earned a B.S. in Agricultural Business Management and Animal Science from the University of Delaware, and a M.Ed. in Extension Education from Penn State.

The Susquehanna Greenway is a corridor of connected trails, parks, river access points, and communities, linking people to the natural and cultural treasures of the Susquehanna River and its West Branch. Over 500 miles in the length, the Greenway is one of our state's greatest resources, conserving the environment for all living things, and creating recreational opportunities for healthy communities. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) works to implement and promote the Greenway within Pennsylvania. SGP does this through strategic initiatives that include revitalizing river towns, conservation and stewardship, water trail development, and interpreting natural and cultural assets. With support from PA DCNR, Chesapeake Bays Gateways Network, local river researchers, experts, and community members, SGP created the Middle Susquehanna Greenway Driving tour to tell some of the stories of this section of the Susquehanna River.

The Susquehanna River has been a corridor of commerce to the Chesapeake Bay from the time that Native Americans first inhabited its shores, through the canal and industrial periods, and remains so today. The Susquehanna River Watershed provides half of the fresh water entering the Bay and drinking water to over six million people! It is a critical place to protect and an interesting landscape to explore. The Driving Tour guides visitors through 95 miles of the cultural and natural history of the Susquehanna River at 22 selected stops, viewpoints, and historic river towns. Along the way audio narration provides additional information and a deeper understanding of these Susquehanna stories and landscape. The printable Guide Booklet and companion audio tracks are available on the Greenway website, and the audio can be download to a MP3 player, burned to a CD, or accessed via smartphone. Since the tour is self-guided, visitors can complete the route at their leisure. Learn more about the driving tour at www.susquehannagreenway.org/middle-susquehanna-greenway-driving-tour



Mother's Day Wildflower Walk Set for Saturday, May 12

Join the Education Committee as we walk one of the ecologically significant properties protected by the Conservancy —39.7 acres in Snyder County owned by Richard and Donna Constant. The Constants have graciously opened this idyllic setting as a truly wonderful place for an early Mother's Day celebration. The wildflower walk on Saturday, May 12, beginning at 11 a.m., is an opportunity to see spring wildflowers in bloom, including a profusion of pink lady's slipper orchids. Find out which flowers are blooming and why these flowers are so important to wildlife.

Celebrate moms, spring and the wonder of nature as the group meanders along wooded trails that cover more than 30 acres. The property is located about three miles outside of Middleburg at 167 Hermit Hollow Lane. Mothers, children of mothers and family members of all ages are welcome. Those who come should wear sturdy shoes. Afterwards Dick and Donna and the Linn Conservancy invite all to relax and enjoy light refreshments.

Directions:

From New Berlin: From the four-way stop in New Berlin, the drive is 5.5 miles to the 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 the 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 the 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. Constants' house is the next turn on the right. The 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.



Like-Minded Organizations

Farmland Preservation

Pennsylvania's farmland preservation program began in 1988. Since then it has safeguarded 459,007 acres on 4,243 farms statewide. Working through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase program, the goal is to slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. It enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements, also called development rights, from owners of quality farmland. Farmland can also be donated to the program.

According to Union County Conservation District Manager, Bill Deitrick, Union County has participated in the program since 1991. As of December 2011 the county has protected 68 farms totaling 7,028 acres. This represents about 11% of Union County's agricultural land. Bill comments that this is an excellent record in this part of the state. For more information: www.agriculture.state.pa.us and search for "farmland preservation".

On a related note, the **League of Women Voters** of the Lewisburg Area will sponsor a lecture on SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS on Wednesday, March 28 in Lewisburg at RiverWoods' Marlowe Hall. That program begins at 7:30 p.m. Penn State Professor Clare Hinrichs will speak on "Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Food Systems". For more information, contact Marilyn Brill at mfb@dejazzd.com. All are welcome.



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Limestone Run Is Set To Receive a “Face-lift”

The Victorian Lady, Inc. in East Buffalo Twp. partnered with the Union County Conservation District (UCCD) Watershed Specialist Shanon Burkland Stamm to apply for funding to address failing stream banks on the property. Shanon worked with the landowners, Merrill Linn Conservancy Coordinator Geoff Goodenow, Bucknell faculty and students, PA Association of Conservation Districts, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the Department of Environmental Protection to study the site and design a solution. A Growing Greener grant application was submitted and has recently been awarded to the Union County Conservation District to implement the project.

The ultimate goal of this project is to stabilize eroding stream banks and improve the in-stream habitat and water quality of Limestone Run (a.k.a. “Bull Run”). The entire watershed is listed on the PA Department of Environmental Protection’s List of Impaired Streams. The watershed is impaired from non-point sources of pollution. Those sources include agricultural nutrients and siltation and urban storm-water runoff. High pathogen levels have also been noted.

The actively eroding stream banks will be stabilized by utilizing a combination of techniques that include log habitat structures and riparian plantings. The establishment of the riparian buffer will filter urban runoff, allow for more storm-water infiltration, add root stability to the banks, shade the stream, and add leaf litter to the stream. This project will improve water quality by reducing excess sediment and nutrients entering our waterways and will provide additional terrestrial and aquatic habitat. Educational signage and promotion of the project benefits by the restaurant owners and staff will only enhance the value of the project to the local community and downstream users. The landowners are very enthusiastic about contributing to and completing the project.

If you would like to volunteer to help during the project or if you would like further information, please contact Shanon at the Union County Conservation District, 570-524-3860.



Watershed Protection

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) of the Merrill Linn Conservancy



The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance is Ten Years Old!!

It’s worthwhile to note that BCWA is celebrating its tenth anniversary as an organization constituted under the auspices of the Merrill W. Linn & Waterways Conservancy. Its first public organizational meeting was held on April 23, 2002. As stated in its bylaws, BCWA “has as its central purpose to encourage ecologically responsible stewardship of Buffalo Creek, its tributaries, and the environment within its watershed.” A review of the bylaws, especially the goals and activities listed there, when compared with the current and ongoing projects of the Alliance, shows the strength of the organization and the commitment of its active members as well as its ability to work closely and productively with other agencies and organizations who share its areas of concern.

We need and welcome new members to the Alliance and urge all who are members to become actively involved in one or more of our projects. A full description of BCWA activities can be found in the BCWA Current News/Fall 2011 and on the website, www.buffalocreek.org. There is still a lot of work to be done and there is a project or activity for every interest.

BCWA Annual Meeting, April 3

All members of BCWA and the Linn Conservancy as well as the general public are invited to attend the tenth annual meeting of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, on Tuesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at the Buffalo Township Municipal Building, 2115 Strickler Road, Mifflinburg.

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Bill Deitrick, District Manager, Union County Conservation District, will be the featured speaker. His talk will focus on the new regulations in DEP's *Manure Management Manual*, how to comply with them, and how to write individual compliance plans. He will also discuss projects on nitrate and bacterial levels in streams and field drainage systems. This information is of vital interest to anyone who keeps livestock of any kind. There will be time for questions following the talk.

Information about BCWA's current and ongoing projects will also be available at this meeting. There will be updates on the acid remediation site maintenance, monitoring the water quality along the stream, progress on the creation of a water trail on the creek, public service projects, and educational activities.

There will be refreshments in celebration of the Alliance's ten years of accomplishments. Door prizes from Canoe Susquehanna and the Union County Conservation District will be awarded. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, please call Ben Hoskins, president of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, at 523-0748 or Susan Waggoner, secretary, at 966-9983.

Jeff Bowers Award

The BCWA is establishing the Jeff Bowers Award to honor the memory of Jeff Bowers (1959-2004), the founding chairman of the Alliance board. Jeff took a passionate interest in the watershed and played a major role in the formation of the Alliance. He always had a positive outlook, steered the group in the right direction, and was able to keep spirits high. The work of the Alliance continues today thanks to his many contributions and sacrifices.

The award will be presented at the Linn Conservancy's annual spring banquet to a person who has made important and exceptional contributions to the preservation and protection of the environment in the Buffalo Creek watershed.

Conservancy News & Notes

Conservancy Receives Bequest, by Geoff Goodenow

In March of 2011, I received a letter from a local attorney's office stating that the Conservancy had been included in the will of a client who had passed away in February. The name did not ring any bells; I was taken aback by the dollar figure. Who was this person? I checked our membership and donor roles—not there. Why was this person making such a generous donation to the Conservancy? Why was our organization so meaningful to him? As bits and pieces of information fell into place, I finally put it all together. I had met this man; I understood the motivation for his bequest.

One day in 2009 or early 2010, I was completing some work at the Dale's Ridge trailhead parking lot when I saw an elderly gentleman come striding down the lane, walking stick in hand and into the lot. He was certainly a spry and cheery chap. I greeted him and we, well, mostly he, talked for several minutes. In that time I learned his name, his age, that he was a proud veteran, that he lived in Mifflinburg, that he still drove, and lots more that now escapes me. But mostly, he spoke about how much he enjoyed the Dale's Ridge Trail. "I come here all the time," he emphasized with delight and pride that he could still drive to one of his favorite sites. This gentleman was Mr. John Buckley. I thoroughly enjoyed my few moments with him, as I was so impressed by his vitality and enthusiasm. The encounter was an absolute pleasure and one that I hoped would be repeated another day along the trail. Unfortunately, that did not happen.

I was saddened to receive the letter last March that informed me of Mr. Buckley's passing and, as already noted, I was quite surprised when I read of his bequest to the Conservancy. While infrequent, there are still some difficult, boring, monotonous and frustrating times that we have to struggle through as we perform the day to day work that keeps our organization moving forward. But it is moments such as this that remind us that what we do is important and that it is appreciated not just by our members, but many men, women, and children who we do not know. Mr. Buckley's \$10,000 bequest will aid the Merrill Linn Conservancy to protect the spaces and trails that he enjoyed and will help preserve those sites for the enjoyment of many generations to come. The board of directors, our membership and all who benefit by the accomplishments of this organization should be extremely grateful for Mr. Buckley's thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you Mr. Buckley.



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 keep dogs on leash at all times.*
- Koons Trail, near the covered bridge on North 4th St. in Mifflinburg within the Buffalo Creek floodplain. About 1 mile; 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.



Dale's Ridge Trail Safety Concerns: Viewpoint 10; Unleashed Dogs

Trail users might already have noticed our signposts and caution tape regarding conditions at Trail Post 10, the western-most viewpoint on the Dale's Ridge Trail. Recent visits to the site by Historical Society and Conservancy staff in the presence of Bucknell professor of geophysics Rob Jacob have raised concerns about the stability of the underlying rock structure at this point. Severe undercutting of the supporting rock is readily observable from below and from either side of the point where folks stop to enjoy the view. Rob's investigation of the site will continue with his students this spring semester as they utilize sophisticated equipment to analyze subsurface characteristics of the location. Once this evaluation is completed, we will consider solutions that will address our safety concerns and still allow everyone to enjoy the spectacular view from this point.

In the meantime, please observe the posted warnings and stay behind the caution tape. We would appreciate your help in letting us know if our warnings have been vandalized.

We are also seeing an increase in the number of people who are not keeping their dogs on leash on the property. All dogs are to be on leash at all times on the Dale/Engle/Walker property. We will be changing our trail signs to make this trail rule more obvious to all users. Loose dogs, regardless of how well behaved Fido might be, are more likely to disturb wildlife and vegetation than if leashed. In addition, other trail users might not appreciate even a warm, friendly greeting by one's (oh, he's friendly) canine. Please do not put the privilege of having dogs on the trail in jeopardy -- **Keep Your Dog On Leash.**



PPL Line Work at Dale's Ridge Trail (DRT) Will Continue

Last summer PPL Electric Utilities did vegetation management work within its power line right-of-way across the Dale/Engle/Walker property, site of the Conservancy's Dale's Ridge Trail. Subsequent to that, representatives of the Conservancy, the Union County Historical Society (property owner), and PPL met to discuss some concerns about the nature of the work. More clearing will happen along the secondary line just east of the tall metal transmission line towers. This is presently scheduled to be done in 2013. As such, we

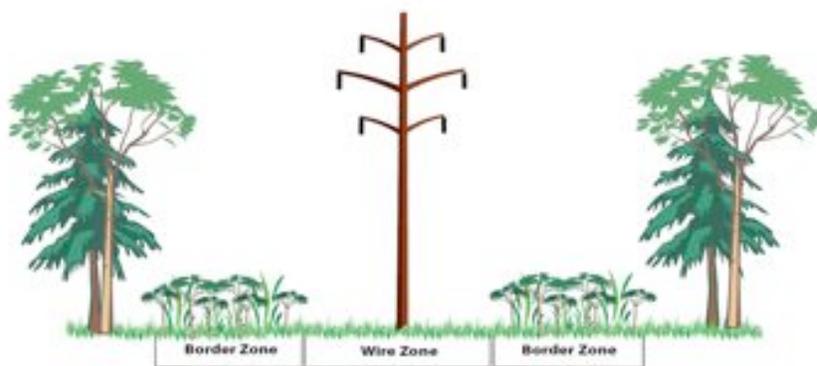
invited company representatives to submit an article to help all understand why the work is being done and to help us envision the ultimate look of the project. Neither the Conservancy nor the Historical Society is condoning or condemning the methods being implemented here or in other locations in the state. We simply want to help our readers (many of you trail users) understand what you might observe as work continues along the right-of-way. Here is the report from PPL Electric Utilities:

Utility vegetation maintenance focuses on electric system reliability:

High-voltage transmission lines are the backbone of the regional electric grid. They are vital to our economic health and our nation's security. The Northeast blackout of 2003 demonstrated how important it is to keep trees away from these power lines. About 55 million people in eight U.S. states and Canada were left without power after a tree touched a transmission line.

After the blackout, the federal government adopted strict new reliability standards for electric utilities. PPL Electric Utilities and other utility companies are required to meet these standards. PPL Electric Utilities takes a proactive approach to keeping trees away from power lines.

This means that the company or its contractors in its initial phase of the plan is now removing all vegetation in areas under and near power lines where in the past it was permitted to grow. Over time, this will result in a wildlife-friendly corridor within the right-of-way. This will consist of a grassy area immediately beneath the lines. Such space can provide suitable habitat for nesting of grassland bird species. A scrub-shrub border of bushes and small trees, marginal to the grasses, will create another level of diversity and provide habitat for other types of birds and wildlife. Outside these zones, trees would reach their full height (See diagram of power line profile, below).



The wire zone is the area beneath the wires plus an additional 10 feet on each side. Vegetation is cleared from this zone. Grasses and other low-growing plants will be permitted to grow back.

The border zone extends from the edge of the wire zone to the edge of our right of way. Depending on conditions, we will either clear this zone of all vegetation, allowing certain small trees and shrubs to grow back if they do not pose a reliability risk, or we will selectively remove incompatible plant species.

Vegetation maintenance can have benefits to wildlife by creating habitats that support certain species. Audubon Pennsylvania speaks favorably of the positive benefits of scrub-shrub habitat created near power lines after vegetation maintenance. "A host of bird species, including ruffed grouse, brown thrasher, eastern towhee, field sparrow and golden-winged warbler, are dependent on" scrub-shrub habitats like those near power lines after utility vegetation maintenance, Audubon said. Compatible plant species, allowed to grow in these zones by the utility, "provide cover and food to desirable birds and native plants".

PPL Electric Utilities is scheduled to perform the next round of vegetation maintenance on the Sunbury-Elmsport 230-kilovolt power line, in 2014. The Lycoming to Lewisburg 69-kilovolt power line (at Dale's Ridge, the lower line just to the east of the steel towers) is next scheduled to undergo vegetation maintenance work in 2013.

Additional information can be found here: www.pplweb.com/vegetation and <http://pa.audubon.org/habitat>

Anderson and Peeling Step Down from Board

We regret to announce the resignations of **Owen Anderson** and **Chris Bergesen-Peeling** from the Conservancy's board of directors. Chris will continue to support us by consulting on marketing ideas and as an easement monitor and hopes to return to the board in years to come. Owen, a board member for many years, has served on the Site/Stewardship committee, has been the chief monitor of the Oberheim easement, headed maintenance on the Merrill Linn Trail and represented the Conservancy at BCWA meetings. We thank both Chris and Owen for their service to the Conservancy.



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Annual Financial Summary by Judy Ellis, Conservancy Treasurer

The Linn Conservancy's 2011 operating budget of \$30,420 closed out the 2011 year with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$2,921. Membership fees and donations constituted almost 75% of revenues with fundraising 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 who together donated thousands of hours: Conservancy board members; volunteers on the committees of development, education, and site stewardship; and Bucknell University students.

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Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance Financial Summary by Edwena Eager

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance's (BCWA) main sources of revenue in 2011 were memberships and checking account interest in the amount of \$1,071.75. Local expenses were \$602.57. The remediation site maintenance fund (established from funds provided by the Foundation for PA Watersheds) had expenses of \$1,448.61 but earned interest on the account in the amount of \$61.41. In addition the fund received a \$1,000 grant from PADEP to reimburse the purchase of water testing supplies. The streambank fencing fund had expenses of \$204.89. (This fund is not a separate account.) Another grant in the amount of \$10,000 was received by BCWA from Community Foundation for the Alleghenies for the Ard's wetland construction. This project is being designed by Bucknell University. Construction should take place this spring.

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

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Conservancy's Business Partner Card

We hope you are using our *Business Partner* card, which was sent with your membership renewal letter in November or with your new membership. We thank these local businesses **Vargo Outdoors, Canoe Susquehanna, Cherry Alley Café, Ard's Farm Market, Lewisburg Studio, Son's Power** all in Lewisburg; **Reptiland**, Allenwood; **Emma's Food for Life**, Selinsgrove, for joining us in supporting this project. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support of the Conservancy's mission. We welcome any comments you might have about this member benefit.

Volunteers and Supporters

Rob Jacob (analysis of site stability on the DRT); **Allen and Betsy Quant** of Canoe Susquehanna (gift certificates)

Caring for Communities sponsors: Bucknell University Environmental Center; Butter Crust Baking Company, Cherry Alley Café, Cole's Hardware, The Image Center, Lewisburg Garden Club, **Terry Light, Wayne McDiffett**, McDonald's Restaurants, Meixell-Diehl Insurance, Molesevich Environmental, Natural Food and Garden, **Sally Nyquist**, Reptiland, Son's Power, Strosser Architecture, Susquehanna Life Magazine.

Information booth staffers: **Amanda and Brent Kline, Pat Arduini, Diane Donato, John Tonzetich, Carl Oberheim, Wayne McDiffett, Roy Fontaine, Carol Crichley, Geoff Goodenow,**
Children's activity: **Pat Arduini, Diane Donato, BU students Allie Kaliff and Spencer Jardine**

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!!!

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Kids' Corner

Pounded Flower Prints from *Family Fun Magazine*



Total Time Needed: 1 Hour

This pretty flower poster is its own reward, but the hammering technique — pounding flowers onto paper — can be irresistible to kids. Experiment with a variety of flowers. Primroses, pansies, and irises passed along their colors brilliantly; roses and daisies didn't print as well for us.

Materials:

- Scissors or clippers
- Jar with water
- Heavy board or sturdy worktable (one you can pound on)
- Watercolor paper
- Stack of newspapers
- Paper towels
- Hammer
- Tweezers
- Clear acrylic coating spray (available at craft and hardware stores)
- Pencil

Instructions:

1. Cut flowers from your yard or pick a few common and abundant wildflowers and weeds, such as dandelions. Place stems in the jar of water as soon as they're cut.
2. On the board or worktable, set a sheet of watercolor paper on the newspaper.
3. Place a flower on the paper and cover it with a paper towel. Use the hammer to tap it gently and repeatedly, making sure you tap the entire flower and the stem, if desired. Peel back the paper towel to see how well the color is transferring. If the paper towel looks saturated, the watercolor paper will be too. When you're satisfied with the color, remove the paper towel and the smashed flower, using tweezers if necessary.
4. Repeat step 3 with the other flowers.
5. To protect the colors, spray the paper with the clear acrylic coating and let dry, then write the flowers' names in pencil.

Earth Day Word Search

E L C O N S E R V E H
Y C W S R S A E E P T
E Q O E O N U C R L W
L A U L I I U Y E A O
Y S R M O D L C T N R
E F A T E G L L A T G
M L E R H W Y E W U V
T N E M N O R I V N E

animal
conserve
earth
ecology
environment
growth



plant
recycle
reduce
reuse
soil
water

Caring for Communities: Earth Month Celebration! “Greenways Connect Communities”

How can greenways improve the livability of communities the quality of our lives? Our 9th annual Caring for Communities Earth Month Celebration answers those questions and much more with a series of fun, family-oriented events on weekends in April as well as Arbor Day. Join us and explore critical environmental issues that affect the sustainability and well being of our communities.

All events are held at the Dale/Engle/Walker property on Strawbridge Road off Route 192, 1.7 miles west of Lewisburg unless noted otherwise. Follow brown PennDOT signs on Route 192.

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Sunday, April 1, 9 a.m.: WKOK 1070 AM Roundtable: Greenways--How They Connect Communities. Also at 6 a.m. on Eagle 107.3 FM and WVLY 100.9 FM, at 11 a.m. on WMLP 1380 AM, and 11 p.m. on 94KX 94.1 FM.

Sunday, April 1, 1 p.m.: Free double feature at the Campus Theatre in Lewisburg. The original version of *The Lorax*, a Dr. Seuss film, followed by *Mother Nature's Child*. Doors open at 12:30. *The Lorax* runs 20 minutes and *Mother Nature's Child*, 57 minutes.



Followed by a **litter pick up** at Wolfe Field starting at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, April 3, 7 pm: Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance 10th Annual Meeting/Presentation

Union County Conservation District's Bill Deitrick discusses new DEP manure management regulations at Buffalo Twp. Municipal Building, 2115 Strickler Road, Mifflinburg. Meeting follows. Light refreshments.

Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m.: Walk in Montandon Wetlands. Led by Bucknell University professors and Tony Markunas III of Central Builders Supply. Meet at Central Builders' sand plant off Route 45, 0.3 miles east of Route 405 and the Lewisburg Bridge. The walk extends on trails deep into the wetlands area; rubber boots are advised.

Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m.: Walk/Presentation by SEDA-COG. The Susquehanna Greenway: Implementing It Locally Walking tour and community mapping exercise highlights improved pedestrian and bicycle accommodations in the Lewisburg area, beginning at the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail trailhead (N. 15th St.). Explores connections to neighborhoods, Bucknell, downtown, and the Susquehanna riverfront and ends at Union-Snyder Area Agency on Aging (116 N. 2nd St.), with refreshments and greenway presentations.

Sunday April 15, 1 p.m.: Falconry Presentation. Cheri Heimbach, of Baywings Falconry, presents live birds of prey in action at the Dale/Engle/Walker house.



Saturday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.: Owl Prowl and Astronomy Night. Owl walk led by Joe Southerton, followed by astronomy observing at 8:30, led by Bucknell astronomer Ned Ladd. Meet at the Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot for Owl Prowl, at the Dale/Engle/Walker House for stargazing.

Sunday, April 22, 1 p.m.: Bicycle Ride on Conservancy's Rural Routes and Buffalo Valley Rail Trail Led by biking enthusiast Tom Gibson. 15-mile and 30-mile routes available. Park at the Dale/Engle/Walker House; meet at the Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot.

Sunday, April 22, 1 p.m.: Youth Nature Photo Contest Awards Presentation/Nature Walk . At the Dale/Engle/Walker House followed by a walk on Dale's Ridge Trail with nature photographer Matt Levanowitz.

Sunday, April 22, 1 - 4 p.m.: Cleanup on Buffalo Valley Rail Trail Sponsored by LARA.

Friday, April 27, 5 p.m.: It's Arbor Day! Tree Planting Ceremony. Sponsored by the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission. Meet at the corner of S. Front and St. George Sts. next to the boat ramp in Lewisburg.

Friday, April 27, 6 p.m.: Tree Walk Bucknell University professor Duane Griffin leads us along Miller Run near the Bucknell Golf Course to show how they're growing and planting trees to restore the stream and create a trail network. Meet at the Bucknell Art Barn, the second right on Smoketown Rd. heading west from Route 15.

Sunday, April 29, 10 a.m.: Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure. Sponsored by the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, travel on Buffalo Creek from Mazeppa to the Susquehanna River in Lewisburg. Led by Canoe Susquehanna with reservation and fee required. Meet at Mazeppa Park. Look for details and register online (www.canoesusquehanna.com) or call 524-7692.

Wednesday, May 2, 6 p.m.: Merrill Linn Conservancy Annual Dinner at Shade Mountain Winery Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner is at 7 p.m. Reservations required. Go to www.linnconservancy.org--for details. Public is welcome.

Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m.: Eel stocking and mussel propagation demonstration in Buffalo Creek. Presented by Julie Devers, fishery biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the Dale's Ridge Trail parking lot.

Saturday, May 5, 12 p.m.: Buffalo Creek Canoe/Kayak Adventure Trip (See April 29). Look for details and register online (www.canoesusquehanna.com) or call 524-7692.

Sponsored by Bucknell University Environmental Center, Butter Crust Baking Co., Cherry Alley Café, Cole's Hardware, The Image Center, Lewisburg Garden Club, Terry Light, Wayne McDiffett, McDonald's Restaurants, Meixell-Diehl Insurance, Molesevich Environmental, Natural Food and Garden, Sally Nyquist, Reptiland, Son's Power, Strosser Architecture, *Susquehanna Life Magazine*.



2012 Membership Renewal

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership support of the Conservancy for 2012. For those who have yet to renew, we have included a membership renewal form for your convenience. Remember that you may also renew via PayPal on our website.



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 _____

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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.

The Merrill W. Linn
Land & Waterways
Conservancy
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MERRILL W. LINN
LAND & WATERWAYS
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This issue: Caring for Communities/Earth Month, Annual Dinner, and more. . .
