

JOHN G. CLARK, JR. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM
2002

I. Program Objectives

Encourage educational use of open space/natural resources in Union and upper Northumberland Counties, particularly those preserved by Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy (LC) and other public and private non-profit agencies in order to promote environmental awareness and a conservation ethic.

Enrich science education in Union and upper Northumberland Counties through field trips and other direct uses of local open space/natural resources. Field trips could typically enhance classroom science lessons and be a catalyst for new investigations.

Assist youth development in Union and upper Northumberland Counties through support for environmental projects. Support could typically permit individual or team activities sponsored by local youth organizations that are designed to promote environmental sensitivity and stewardship.

II. Program Description

Applications are solicited from educators and youth group leaders. A proposed project normally will include at least one field trip to one of the resources listed in Section IV or a comparable resource. Those wishing to apply to LC should secure an application form that covers the items in Section VII.

Successful applicants will receive cash grants covering expenses that are not ordinarily covered by the school or organization budget. The funds may be used for lesson preparation, transportation, supplies, equipment, payment of substitute teacher if required, registration costs, and follow-up classroom activities. It is anticipated that 2-3 grants will be awarded in the \$300-500 range. In particular cases, however, exceptions to award a higher amount may be considered.

Expense requests with appropriate documentation should be submitted to LC for reimbursement at the close of the project along with a report satisfactorily describing the project and final results. Exceptions would have to be agreed upon in advance. Final reports must be received by January 14, 2003, at the latest.

This grant program is intended to be renewed in future years should it prove successful in reaching its goals.

III. Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterway Conservancy

Merrill Linn spent much of his life exploring the woods, streams, fields, and byways surrounding his native Lewisburg. In his memory and in his tradition, the Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy was formed to protect and preserve significant sites in Union and upper Northumberland Counties. Using conservation easements, land gifts, and purchases, we work with other conservation organizations, government agencies, attorneys, estate planners, developers, and private citizens to conserve or enhance important aspects of our natural environment for present and future generations.

Providing non-destructive public access for education and recreation is an important part of many of our projects, but in recognizing our ethical obligations to the land and all its inhabitants, we also act to preserve some critical natural habitats in their pristine state, without constructed or maintained access routes.

IV. Open Space and Natural Resources

Sites in Union and upper Northumberland Counties include, but are not limited to the following:

- Koons Trail in Mifflinburg near the Hassenplug Bridge
- Dale's Ridge Trail in eastern Buffalo Township
- Montandon Wetlands in West Chillisquaque Township
- Shamokin Mountain Trail in Union Township
- White Mountain Wild Area in upper Hartley Township
- Cherry Run in upper Hartley Township
- Joyce Kilmer Natural Area in upper Hartley Township

- Raymond B. Winter State Park/Halfway Run Natural Area
- Half Way Run Environmental Center and the Sheary/Linn Amphitheatre
- The Hook Natural Area in upper Lewis Township
- Mohn Mill Area/Merrill W. Linn Trail in upper Hartley Township
- Allenwood State Game Lands in Gregg Township
- Milton State Park
- Susquehanna River sites
- Great Streams Open Space and Environmental Center (*proposed to be open on a limited basis in 2001*)
- Shikellamy State Park in Union Township

Many of these sites are described in the accompanying Rural Routes brochures designed and published by the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy.

V. Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy Profile

The Linn Conservancy is governed by a volunteer board of directors and an appointed executive committee. Staff consists of one part-time coordinator and a part-time administrative assistant. At present more than 320 families and individuals from our area support the organization through regular annual dues or land gifts. Membership is open to everyone who makes an annual contribution.

VI. Examples of Appropriate Educational and Achievement Projects

The open space/ natural resources might be used for science lessons in subjects such as: biology, botany, ecology, water resource and quality management, marine science, chemistry, or physics.

Achievement projects related to scouting or extension education courses might involve outdoor skills; for example: trail management and marking, woodland bridge-building over streams, pond and natural dam maintenance, fieldstone wall and fence mending, surveying, and mapping.

Public, private and museum schools, core and extension educational programs, and scouting, church, and community youth organizations are encouraged to utilize these resources for educational and conservation-minded recreational activities.

VII. Submission of Grant Proposals

Grant proposals should include the following formation:

- Names, addresses, and phone numbers for proposer, proposer's manager or sponsor and/or sponsoring organization.
- Project objective and description. Normally, at least one field trip for children is required to qualify for an LC grant.
- Teaching or achievement results expected.
- Target class, audience, and/or individuals.
- Expected costs, e.g. transportation, materials, lesson kits, tools, supplies, etc. Itemize all costs and highlight those that are not normally covered by your organization with an explanation by your manager or treasurer.
- Disposition of equipment or supplies after completion of project. We would require any equipment acquired under a sponsored project to be maintained for use in future projects. Equipment sharing with other groups involved in environmental projects is encouraged.
- Dates, schedule, or frequency of the classes or programs
- Agreements to indemnify LC against any liability. LC must ask users or their organization to assume all risks and the liabilities for any and all personal injury claims arising from groups or individuals leading or participating in projects using LC resources or conducted on LC property.

VIII. Schedule for Submissions and Awards

Proposals should be submitted no later than December 15, 2001, for consideration for the 2002 school year. Awards will be announced by the Public Awareness Committee of the Merrill W. Linn Conservancy on or before January 31, 2002. A final report from successful applicants is required no later than January 14, 2003. Subsequent grants can be applied for only if a final report has been received on an

earlier project. The committee is composed primarily of area educators. To request an application form please write:

conserve@ptd.net
or
Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy
P. O. Box 501
Lewisburg, PA 17837

IX. Contacts for Further Information

Additional information about the program may be obtained by contacting either:

Jeannette Lasansky, Coordinator, or
Jim Walter, Administrative Assistant, at:

phone: 570-524-8666, fax: 570-524-8743