

Linn Log

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

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PO Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837
conserve@ptd.net (570)524-8666 or 522-0487 FAX (570)524-8743
www.linnconservancy.org

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Spring 2008

For your calendar:

- Dale/Engle/Walker Grounds Cleanup, Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m.
- April 6-27, 2008 - Caring for Communities (see insert for detailed schedule)
Notes on plants for Native Plant Sale inside.
- May 7, 2008 – Annual Meeting and Banquet, Carriage Corner, Mifflinburg, 6 p.m.
Reservation deadline April 29, 2008.
- May 18, 2008 – Chimney Rock Hike with **Kathy Rowe and Pat Arduini.**

Events and Activities

Dale/Engle/Walker Grounds Cleanup

On Saturday, April 5 beginning at 10 a.m., all who are interested in helping to clean up the grounds around the Dale/Engle/Walker House are invited to attend with their work clothes and high spirits. Volunteers from Bucknell University will be there, as well as Linn Conservancy Board members. Please contact Roger Curran (rcurran@dejazzd.com)

This cleanup will be preceded by a chainsaw massacre (of invasive species including honeysuckle and vines) at the DEW house on March 15. The objective is to clear out these invasive species from the woods behind the house.

2008 Poster/Essay Contests Explore Climate Change

The Conservancy's third annual poster contest for intermediate school students explores climate change—perhaps the most crucial environmental issue of the day. Students at Mifflinburg and Linntown Intermediate have been presented with information concerning the nature of climate changes, the factors that contribute to it, how it is affecting and will affect our local area—particularly in relation to agriculture, wildlife, and waterways—and how we can all work to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The students' posters will be installed in the Degenstein Gallery at the Dale/Engle/Walker house in time for the Linn Conservancy's Native Plant Presale and Talk held as part of Caring for Communities on Sunday, April 6. The winning posters will be announced on Sunday, April 20 during Caring for Communities' Celebration for the Family. As in previous years, each student will receive a certificate of appreciation, and top entries from each participating school will be awarded prizes. A \$50 Grand Prize will also be presented.

This year, the Education Committee has expanded its efforts to include an essay contest on the same subject matter to give students who excel in writing an opportunity to compete. Similar prizes and recognition will be given essay contest participants.



Conservancy's Annual Meeting & Dinner to be Held May 7, 2008

Join us for the Conservancy's annual dinner held at the Carriage Corner restaurant in Mifflinburg on Wednesday, May 7. This evening of good food and friendship will feature a presentation by a representative of PALTA—Pennsylvania Land Trust Alliance. **Shawn McLaughlin**, director of the Union County Planning Commission will give a brief update on Cultivating Community—the County's plan for future growth.

The buffet menu includes salad, rolls & butter, two entrees (one of which is vegetarian), two vegetables, dessert and a beverage, all for \$20 per person, tax and tip included. Social time begins at 6 p.m. with punch, cheese and crackers. A wine bar will be available. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m.

Please send the attached dinner reservation by **April 29, 2008**.



Yes! I (we) will come to the Conservancy's annual dinner on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at the *Carriage Corner* restaurant in Mifflinburg. Following dinner, Nicole D. Faraguna, Director of Outreach and Events for the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA) will give a presentation. There will be appetizers, a wine bar and socializing at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 and includes salad, two entrees (including a vegetarian option), three vegetables, dessert, and a beverage. Please indicate if you need a vegetarian meal.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ e-mail (optional): _____

Send your reservation, along with a check made out to the Linn Conservancy for ___ adults at \$20.00 each **before April 29, 2008**. Price includes tax and gratuity.



Linn Conservancy, PO Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837; call 524-8666 with any questions

Education Committee Plans May Chimney Rock Hike

Conservancy members **Kathy Rowe** and **Pat Arduini** will lead an afternoon hike to Chimney Rock in Wesley Forest near Weikert on Sunday, May 18. Along the trail, participants will find tulip poplars, oaks, rhododendrons, huckleberry bushes and mountain laurel. Trailing arbutus and hepatica may be in bloom. At the summit of the trail stands Chimney Rock, which consists of freestanding sandstone and eroded shale. The summit offers a spectacular view. Total walking distance of this intermediate trail is about two miles with a fairly steep ascent and descent. To reach the summit the group will cross a cable bridge. For further information call 523-6327.



Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) News

Annual Membership Meeting

All interested members of the Linn Conservancy, BCWA, and the public are invited to **hear Jason Fellon**, DEP Watershed Manager for the North Central District, speak about "Stormwater Management". Fellon's talk will take place Thursday, April 3, 2007, at 7 p.m. in the Mifflinburg Middle School, LGI Room. Refreshments will be provided.

Following Fellon's talk the Alliance will hold its annual meeting, where three alliance members will be elected to the Board and a change in the bylaws will be voted on. Current board members up for re-election are **Owen Anderson** and **David Pearson**. Anyone interested in becoming a candidate for the Board, is encouraged to write buffalocreek@dejazzd.com for further information. The BCWA board will also propose changing the bylaws to schedule the annual meeting in April instead of February.



Meet Our Student Intern

My name is **Andrew Hall** and I am honored to be the BCWA's first intern. I am pursuing a degree in biology from Bucknell University with a minor in political science. I am originally from Mertztown, PA in the southeast portion of the state. I am currently a senior and will be graduating in May. My post-graduate plans revolve around being a biologist for the Department of Environmental Protection and eventually working at the federal level with the EPA. I am working to set a good precedent for the interns after me. At the moment, I am arranging to meet with local municipalities as a BCWA representative to distribute media packets and better the working relationship that BCWA has with local governments. In coming weeks I will be working with Dan Wagner with the goal of arranging a riparian buffer planting with the help of Bucknell student volunteers.

Acid Remediation Project

BCWA, working through the Linn Conservancy, continues to make progress on its acid remediation project in the upper reaches of Buffalo Creek. We have reached agreement with Bureau of Forestry officials on the conditions for removing the timber and working on the site. Dietz-Gourley Consulting, LLC, has applied for all the appropriate permits, so if all goes well, bids for construction will go out this spring and construction will begin in late summer.

Assessing Agricultural Runoff

Dan Wagner, agricultural environmental specialist at the Union County Conservation District, continues to assess agricultural runoff in impaired segments of the Buffalo Creek watershed. His work is supported by the federal Clean Water Act § 319 grant program, for which BCWA was a co-applicant with the UCCD. Dan has compiled data for establishing best management practices (BMPs) in tributaries of Buffalo Creek (just outside Mifflinburg) and Rapid Run (just south of Forest Hill). He is currently at work visiting farmers along a tributary of Coal Run (northwest of Mifflinburg), with visits along Muddy Run (in Mazeppa) planned next. Dan has been finding that in many of these areas the streams are often impacted by barnyard runoff, winter spreading, unrestricted livestock access, and lack of riparian buffers.

With guidance from DEP, he will create a model to predict future water quality for each sub-watershed within the Buffalo Creek watershed. Since thirty-four percent of the watershed is farmland, assessing the streams and working with farmers to limit agricultural runoff is vital to the future health of Buffalo Creek. BCWA and the UCCD have already applied for a grant to further fund this project into the BMP implementation phase. There has been no announcement from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the status of this grant.

Stream Monitoring Program

Stream Monitoring Program: On a cold Saturday last December the volunteer stream monitors found their way to nine sites along Buffalo Creek and made the first stream test of Phase 2 monitoring. Testing will be done quarterly at nine sites; some old sites were retained and some new sites were added. Site selection was based on the goals of the revised monitoring plan and two major impacts to Buffalo Creek (acid deposition and agricultural runoff.) Near the headwaters of Buffalo Creek BCWA will be constructing a passive treatment basin in an attempt to mitigate the acid deposition problem that has drastically reduced the aquatic life in the first five miles of the stream. Three sites will be tested near this, one above the basin intake, one below the basin output, and one a few miles downstream of the basin output. Five more sites will be tested along the main stem as it flows toward the Susquehanna. One site will sample the waters of a tributary, Coal Run. Braving the winter weather our volunteers performed their stream-site tests and collected a one-liter sample which will be tested in a biology lab at a later time. This newly-implemented lab testing has reduced the amount of effort and time needed by our volunteers at the stream site. The lab testing will also provide us with more detailed analysis and is a great improvement to our stream monitoring process.

The stream monitoring section of the BCWA web site is undergoing an update to reflect Phase 2. When completed, you will be able to find more information about the monitoring program as well as access to the collected data. <http://www.buffalocreek.org/monitoring.html>

Buffalo Creek Site

- 1 near Buffalo Flat Road
- 2 Buffalo Flat Road
- 3 Aikey Road
- 4 Hoover Road
- 5 Coal Run
- 6 Forest Hill Road
- 7 Johnson Mill Road
- 8 Strawbridge Road
- 9 St Anthony Street

Monitor(s)

Thom Fantaskey
Thom Fantaskey
Dave Pearson, Bill Simpson, David A. Pearson
Edwena Eger
Dave Pearson, Bill Simpson, David A. Pearson
Dick Ellis, Tim Marsh, Janet Marsh
Jon Westfall, Steve Quarels
Tom Duck
Geoff Goodenow

Public Outreach

This year's BCWA's annual canoe trip, as part of the Linn Conservancy's "Caring for Communities" events, will take place on Sunday, April 27. We will kayak along a reach of the Buffalo Creek and learn more about the influence that the Creek has on our area and the communities in the valley. The trip will again be guided by Canoe Susquehanna.

This year's event will take us upstream from the Dale/Engle/Walker House; we will paddle from Mazeppa to Grove's Mill. A tour of the old mill to learn its history and operation as well as its tie to Buffalo Creek is included. We will then continue on to take out at Strawbridge Road. Final details are forthcoming, so be sure to check out the BCWA as well as Canoe Susquehanna's websites. (Please note: Trip itinerary may change or be cancelled due to inclement weather or low water conditions.)

Lower Penn's Creek Watershed Association

A report of the 2007 results was presented by **Dr. Jack Holt** of Susquehanna University, **Mike Bilger** of EcoAnalysts Inc., and a Susquehanna University student, **Nate Moore**, to the Lower Penn's Creek Watershed Association at their annual meeting in January. What a difference a year makes! In 2006, the creek experienced high water, and in 2007, a drought. The Association recently applied for a grant with the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds to help fund the third year of the baseline study of the main stem of the creek. The third year of study will play an essential role in determining the creek's overall health.



The Association has agreed to partner with Monroe Township concerning the restoration and stream bank stabilization along the Penn's Creek near the Penn Valley Airport. Airports must comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations concerning runway clearances. Due to the airport's runway expansion, trees along the creek were cut down to comply with these regulations.

By eliminating one safety hazard, another has been created. The township had to close part of Penn's Drive because of liability concerns. The trees acted as a natural barrier between motorists and the drop to the creek. The township is now faced with the responsibility and price tag of widening Penn's Drive and installing a guardrail. One possibility is a boat ramp that would also serve as a bank stabilizer. The airport has not responded to the letter sent regarding the LPCWA's willingness to help in the restoration of the site.

For more information about the airport, membership or volunteer opportunities please contact LPCWA at pennscreekwatershed@yahoo.com. Diane Lengle, President, can be contacted at diane45@dejazzd.com or by calling 570-966-1783.

Other News & Notes

Linn Conservancy Site Stewardship Workshop Held

Fourteen board members and site stewards attended a workshop January 12 at the Dale/Engle/Walker House that focused on the duties and responsibilities of the Conservancy and its site stewards. Organized primarily by **Geoff Goodenow**, the chair of the site steward committee, the attendees reviewed easement monitoring duties, reviewed and updated the various forms related to monitor reporting and discussed monitoring policy. Points of discussion included transition of easement property to new owners, signage, criteria for accepting easements, and the time period for doing annual easement assessments. Many Linn Conservancy policies and procedures for easement monitoring were revised as a result.

R. B. Winter's Deffner Leads "Winter Tree ID"

Sunshine and mild weather greeted the more than twenty participants in the Conservancy's "Winter Tree ID," held Sunday, February 24 at R. B. Winter State Park. **Bob Deffner**, the park's manager, introduced participants to the basics of identifying trees in winter through branching patterns, buds placement, leaf scars and bark at the Environmental Learning Center. He then led the group outdoors for a hands-on tour of many of the park's trees.



Look for Linn Conservancy in Susquehanna Life

Susquehanna Life magazine is featuring the Linn Conservancy in its Spring 2008 issue. The article, which salutes the Conservancy's 20th anniversary, reports on our history, the ongoing loss of Pennsylvania farmland and open space, and the proactive stance the Conservancy is taking toward protecting land in Union, northern Northumberland and parts of Snyder County. The publication can be found at newsstands throughout the area. Thanks to **Diane Donato** (formerly Specht), our Education Committee Chairperson, and others who developed a comprehensive look at the purpose and activities of the Conservancy, along with some great pictures.



Annual Plant Pre-Sale, Sunday, April 6, 1 p.m. - Notes on Plants

TREES

- 1) **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*) A major tree of the east coast with a slow growth rate. It prefers a moist soil but can tolerate drought. The large leaves turn bright yellow, orange or red in the fall. Tolerates sun to partial shade.
- 2) **Sweetbay Magnolia** (*Magnolia virginiana*) A small multitrunked tree (20') with a smooth gray trunk and leaves with a silvery underside. It produces fragrant creamy white blossoms in the spring. Prefers full sun to partial shade and a moist soil but is highly adaptable to various soils..
- 3) **Black Birch** (*Betula lenta*) This birch, can grow to 40' in height and has twigs and foliage with a wintergreen odor and flavor when crushed. It is also known as sweet or cherry birch and prefers moist, well drained soil but tolerant of dry soils.
- 4) **River birch** (*Betula nigra*) This average sized tree (50') has a cinnamon colored exfoliating bark and is tolerant of both wet and dry soils. It has a medium to fast growth rate and does well in full sun or partial shade.
- 5) **Tulip Poplar** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) A fast growing tall tree with golden foliage in the fall and tulip shaped flowers in the spring. It has moderate water requirements and thrives in full sun or partial sun.
- 6) **Sassafras** (*Sassafras albidum*) – An ornamental, small to medium-sized deciduous tree looking shrubby in its youth but reaching 50' at maturity. Tree features attractive greenish yellow flowers. Full sun to partial shade.

SHRUBS

- 1) **Grey Dogwood** (*Cornus racemosa*) Deciduous shrub growing 10-15' tall and featuring white flowers on red terminal stems. Whitish clusters of berries in the fall. Full sun to partial shade.
- 2) **Red Osier Dogwood**. (*Cornus sericea*) A multistemmed shrub with bright red stems and clusters of white flowers in the spring followed by white to bluish berries in the fall. Requires sun to partial shade and a moist soil.

- 3)) **Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) – A coarse deciduous shrub with an open-rounded habit that typically grows 6-12'. Features white, fragrant, pin-cushion like flowers. Full sun to part shade, & wet to medium wet soil. Bloom time: June - July.
- 4) **Winterberry** (*Ilex verticillata*) - A slow-growing, deciduous holly shrub which typically grows 3-12' tall. Full sun to part shade and wet to moist soil. Greenish-white flowers in June-July and bright red berries in late summer to fall.
- 5) **Northern Bayberry** (*Myrica pensylvanica*) – A dense branching deciduous shrub, rounded habit, reaching 6-10' tall. Yellowish green flowers and spicy scented leaves. Full sun to part shade. Bloom time: May.
- 6) **Ninebark** (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) A showy shrub with spirea like flowers which give way to reddish inflated capsules. Easily grown in average, dry to medium well drained soil in full sun to partial shade.
- 7) **Elderberry** (*Sambucus canadensis*) A multiple-stemmed shrub with large pinnate leaves, dense flat topped clusters of white flowers and juicy berries. Grows best in sun or partial shade and moist soil
- 8) **Arrowwood** (*Viburnum dentatum*) A medium sized shrub with shiny leaves, creamy white flat topped flowers and bluish purple berries. Full sun to partial shade. Highly adaptable to poor soils but prefers moist well drained soils.
- 9) **American Cranberrybush** (*Viburnum trilobum*) A medium sized shrub with white lacecap flowers followed by bright red translucent berries. Leaves are maple-like. Full sun to partial shade and moist well drained soil.
- 10) **Spicebush** (*Lindera benzoin*) – A deciduous shrub with a broad, rounded habit which typically grows 6-12' tall. Full sun to part shade. Greenish-yellow flowers in early spring and spicy scented leaves.

PERENNIALS

- 1) **Butterflyweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*) Clusters of small nectar filled orange flowers. Enjoys full sun and dry soil. Blooms May to September.
- 2) **Bottle Gentian** (*Gentiana andrewsii*) Features tight clusters of tubular deep blue flowers which never open in late summer. Best grown in moist well drained soils in partial shade. Will form large clumps if left alone.
- 3) **Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) A small spreading herbaceous plant which emerges in the spring with palmate scalloped leaves centered around a striking white flower. Leaves continue to grow during summer. A forest floor plant which prefers partial shade or full shade and medium moisture.
- 4) **Virginia Bluebells** (*Mertensia virginica*) A long-lived and slowly spreading plant forming beautiful clumps of blue pink flowers. Does best in partial sun to shade and medium to moist soil.
- 5) **Bellwort or Merrybells** (*Uvularia grandiflora*) A clump forming erect plant that grows to 2' high and features long, pendulous bell shaped yellow flowers. Medium moisture and partial shade to full shade.
- 6) **Prairie Blazing Star** (*Liatris pycnostachya*) A tall Liatris with a impressive spike of clustered lavender flowers. Best in full sun and does well in moist clay soils. Excellent cut flower.
- 7) **Ox Eye Sunflower** (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) Bright yellow 2-3" flowers in early to midsummer. Full sun and tolerates most soils. Grows 3' tall and becomes bushy in open sites.
- 8) **Ramp or Wild Leek** (*Allium tricoccum*) A plant with broad lily-like leaves and a 12" high globular cluster of white flowers in the spring. Bulbs are edible. Needs moist organic soil and partial shade.
- 9) **Dutchman's Breeches** (*Dicentra cucullaria*) A member of the bleeding heart family with pantaloons like flowers and deeply cut graceful leaves. Blooms early in spring. Prefers a well drained soil with average moisture and partial shade.
- 10) **Turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*) A nice clump forming plant producing clusters of white 1" tubular flowers pointing upward on one to two foot stems. Requires a moist soil and partial shade .
- 11) **Wild Blue Lupine** (*Lupinus perennis*) Blue pea-like flowers on spikes that are from 1-2 feet. Blooms midsummer in dry open areas.
- 12) **Green and Gold** (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) Low growing (4-6") and spreading to 12-18". Blooms for much of summer with bright yellow daisy-like flowers. Prefers partial shade and an organic moist soil.
- 13) **Blackeyed Susan 'Goldsturm'** (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) The most popular and adaptive of the native Black-eyed Susans. Tolerates full sun or partial shade and clay soils and mild droughts.
- 14) **Hyssop 'Golden Jubilee'**, (*Agastache foeniculum*) Leaves have scent of licorice-mint and flowers are a favorite of bees. Grows to about 24" in average soils and tolerates dry conditions but needs full sun.
- 15) **Dwarf Crested Iris** (*Iris cristata*) Low growing (3-6") rapidly spreading plant with lilac colored flowers. Best grown in moist well drained soil in partial shade.
- 16) **Bee-Balm 'Raspberry Wine'** (*Monarda didyma*) A clump forming perennial with red blooms that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Grows to 3-4' in full sun and average to moist soil. Aromatic foliage.
- 17) **Bee-Balm "Petite Delight"** (*Monarda didyma*) A dwarf compact cultivar (12-15") with lavender-rose flowers which bloom much of the summer. Aromatic foliage.

18)**Echinacea 'Sundown'** A warm orange cultivar of the popular purple coneflower which grows to 35" in most soils and need little water.

19)**Echinacea 'After Midnight'** A dark magenta cultivar of the purple coneflower but also of shorter height (12"). Will grow in any well drained soil and tolerates drought once established

20)**Goldie's Wood Fern** (*Dryopteris goldiana*) The largest species of our native wood ferns (up to 36"). Grows in shade to partial shade and average soil. Forms slow creeping clumps that require moderate moisture.

Regional and State News and Issues

The Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay are Sick

Nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from outdated sewage plants and farms is choking the plant and animal life in our watershed. Since most of the water in the Chesapeake Bay comes from the Susquehanna, we in Union and contiguous counties have a responsibility to clean up our own backyard.

Only about 37% of the bay's water contains enough dissolved oxygen to maintain aquatic life; only 7% of the water is clear enough to allow the growth of important aquatic plants. Bay grasses that serve as habitat for fish and crabs once covered 200,000 acres and are now reduced to ¼ of that area due to the cloudy water. In 2006 the blue crab harvest was among the lowest since records have been kept beginning in 1945. The watershed is losing 100 acres of forest land each day.

"Not enough has been done to reduce polluted agricultural runoff, still the biggest source of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the bay. In Pennsylvania, polluted agricultural runoff accounts for almost half of the nitrogen and 58% of the bay's phosphorus pollution, and most of that comes from spreading untreated animal sewage on farm fields." (PennFuture Facts, Vol 10 #2 January 24, 2008)

The most progress has been made through mandated reductions in wastewater discharge from sewage plants, as the State has begun to reduce pollution levels when issuing new sewage permits to plants. Farm pollution is currently being controlled voluntarily by stream bank fencing and stream buffers but that is not nearly enough and will control less than a quarter of the farm pollution. If voluntary compliance is not sufficient, will mandatory regulations be necessary?

A federal court order has established 2010 as a deadline by which the Environmental Protection Agency must reduce a certain level of pollution by enforcing mandates to states in the watershed (PA, VA, MD, NY, DE). While Virginia and Maryland have contributed an average of a billion dollars each to the effort, Pennsylvania has actually reduced the budget for improved wastewater treatment by \$324 million. The estimated cost for bringing PA sewage plants up to standard is now \$1.2 billion.

The State has initiated a Nutrient Credit Trading Program that sewer treatment plants are taking advantage of but the program is not well designed for farmers and much improvement must be made, including additional Conservation District staff to handle the permit process. This program allows lowering levels of pollution by cash payments by the polluter to those reducing pollution.

PA Falls Behind National Wind Boom

A record amount of wind generated power was installed in the US last year (5.3 megawatts providing power to 1.5 million homes) but only 2% of the total was in Pennsylvania. Despite generating 2,000 new jobs, PA falls behind over a dozen states, beginning with the greatest producer, Texas, followed by California, Minnesota, Iowa, Washington, Colorado, Oregon, Illinois, Oklahoma, New Mexico, New York and others. Where wind power produces 20% of Denmark's energy, it now produces only 1% of US energy. Wind energy production is extremely important in addressing global warming, as wind energy facilities reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 28 million tons compared to the same amount of electricity generated by the average portfolio of US power plants. The US market in wind energy is expected to exceed \$65 billion by 2015. SEDA-COG, based on Furnace Road in Lewisburg, is leading a regional effort to include local manufacturers in that market. Contact Ms. Stacy Richards (524-4491) for further information.

Dirty Energy

The Federal Department of Energy is still pushing for its right to declare federal eminent domain over some 52 of PA's counties if the State Energy Commission does not agree to new massive power corridors across the state. Most of these new electric power lines will carry power from carbon-producing coal mined in West Virginia across the state of Pennsylvania to the states of New Jersey and New York, who will need power in the future given their current usage rates.

The Governor, the State Legislature and the Pennsylvania representatives in Congress are all opposed to the imposition of Federal eminent domain, and are arguing that a strong conservation program coupled with clean energy

production by the recipient states and by PA will eliminate the demand for additional electric power from coal. Senator Casey is calling for Congressional hearings on the issue and has strong support. On January 10, eleven regional and national environmental organizations filed suit against the DOE for not following environmental regulations in designating the proposed energy corridors through Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, of which the Linn Conservancy is a member, was one of the agencies filing suit.

Pennsylvania Joining Suit

PA has joined 15 other states in suing the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for not approving a California request for stricter auto pollution standards than the just approved US law. PA has adopted the stricter California standards. Cars and trucks create 20% of all man-made carbon dioxide emission in the US, and at least 25% of greenhouse gasses in PA can be attributed to transportation. In the 40-year history of the Clean Air Act, the EPA has granted over 50 waivers to California for clean air innovations, and until December had never denied a waiver. Congress is now investigating whether this waiver refusal was based on political and not scientific grounds.

Clean Energy

PPL is seeking approval of a new program that will enable residential and small business customers to buy blocks of renewable energy credits to support the development of clean sources of electricity. The Electric Green Power Program will allow customers to purchase power produced by clean producers. The revenue from these purchases will go to developing more renewable energy. Contact PPL.

Global Warming Conference

On Saturday, May 17 a Global Warming Conference will be held at the University of Scranton, Brennan Hall (300 block of Madison Ave.) The main speaker will be Senator Casey, and others prominent in the field of alternative energy will be featured. This is a free event for PennFuture members and \$10 for others. Register online with PennFuture.

PA Energy Program in the Legislature

The week of February 11, the PA House took major energy independence steps by passing HB 2200 to create new electricity conservation programs in PA so that electricity customers will have the tools available to save about 20% on their electric bills each year. The Bill will help the state save \$12 billion in new coal-fired power plants that will not be needed as a result of energy conservation.

In HB 2200 all state electric utilities will have to provide customers with smart meters that award customers for using electricity when rates are the lowest (evenings and weekends). creating major energy conservation programs and by approving \$200 million for solar power. Currently, utilities reward greater energy consumption by giving cheaper rates for the more energy one uses. A PennFuture report, "Building Pennsylvania's Energy Future", states that energy conservation could cut carbon dioxide emissions by 12-14 million metric tons, acid-rain causing sulfur dioxide pollution by as much as 115,000 tons and smog-forming nitrogen oxide emissions by 21,000 tons.

The House should pass SHB 1 that provides for \$850 million for renewable energy and energy conservation at a special session in March. Please contact your Senator to ensure that these two House Bills are approved in the Senate.

Conservancy Membership

Conservancy Life Members

Gail & John Dunlop
William & Jeannette Lasansky
Martha & John Zeller
R. Jeffrey Coup
Frank Falso
Ann Gelnett
Geoff Goodenow
Eve Granick
F. B. Hanley
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2008 – 2009 Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy Members

Warren & Chris Abrahamson*	Ann Gelnett	Lewisburg Studio/John Gardner	Allan & Betsy Quant
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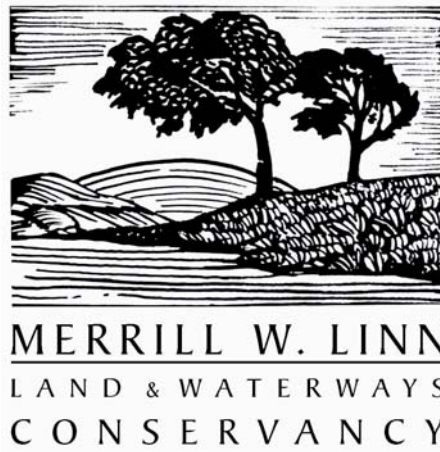
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Special thanks to Dave and Vicki Heberlig for their help with mailing this issue of the Linn Log.

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