

Heritage Club of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy

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Bequests, Land Gifts, and Conservation Easements

The Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy welcomes inquiries about how the heritage of our natural and farmland environment in Union and upper Northumberland counties can be conveyed to the generations that follow. Bequests, easements and land gifts are answers and we invite consideration of such a step.

The work of this Conservancy will expand in the future with greater emphasis on securing easements and land gifts. Easements are legally binding agreements between a property owner and an organization (such as the Linn Conservancy) which protect open space values of the property by restricting development. The property remains in private ownership, and both income and estate tax benefits may be available. Helping to protect farms as farms and other land in its natural state is vital.

To accomplish the above, as well as making outright purchases of land in special circumstances, requires financial resources. And once we take on these obligations—either as easement holders or property owners—a permanent, ongoing responsibility is shouldered by the Conservancy. While it is a responsibility to be welcomed, it is also one that must be planned and provided for. Here is where we all come into the picture.

If interested, what should you do? First, talk with your own legal and financial advisors. Decisions affecting your estate or the ownership, use and value of your property should be made only after careful consideration and professional consultation. If a conservation easement or land gift is contemplated, contact the Linn Conservancy. We can help you design a conservation plan for suitable property, and can put you in touch with attorneys, appraisers, accountants and land planners familiar with conservation easements and land stewardship.

In recognition of the above, the Conservancy's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the formation of a Heritage Club. It is open to all persons who have (1) included a bequest to the Conservancy in their will or estate plans, (2) established, in association with the Conservancy, an easement on property they own, or (3) made an outright gift of land identified as having significant conservation value.

Thank you for your consideration!