

# Linn Log

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

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## *Fall 2004*

### *Educational Events:*

#### **Hickory Run Trip on October 9**

Register now! The Linn Conservancy has organized a one-day trip to the western foothills of the Poconos, an area formed by the Laurentian Continental Glacier as it moved south 30,000 years ago. The 15,500-acre park includes the awesome boulder field which has been designated

a national natural landmark, according to Conservancy member Lettie Davis who has organized the trip. This area was a thick forest that was lumbered in the late 1700s/early 1800s, but which has been protected since.

The boulder field, approximately 400 feet wide by 1800 long is composed of thousands of stones ranging from inches to 25 feet long. A stream flows under the boulders which lay about 10 feet deep.

The group will walk on several trails and visit Hawk Falls, created by the floodwaters from the ancient glacier. Participants are advised to bring a good walking stick and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Bring a jacket, as well as a packed lunch and a drink, as the park tends to be ten degrees cooler than nearby White Haven. The walking is not difficult, but good shoes are required.

Hickory Run is a joy for anyone interested in geology, early American history, natural beauty, wildlife, and photography. Cameras and binoculars are recommended; a back pack, for carrying lunch and drink, will keep one's hands free

Trip participants will be provided with a packet of information and a map. Reservations are required; to hold one's place, send a check for \$10/person to the Linn Conservancy, PO Box 501, Lewisburg 17837. The group will have a Dutch treat, early evening meal at a nearby eatery before heading back to Lewisburg. We will carpool from the parking lot of the Union County Courthouse on South Second and St. Louis Streets and the morning departure time will be 8:30 AM sharp. If you have questions, call 524-8666.

### **Montandon Marsh Walk on November 6**

Geologist Dick Nickelsen and hydrologist Craig Kochel will be conducting a very special 2-3 hour walk in Montandon Marsh on Saturday, November 6 starting at 1:30 PM. "Montandon Marsh geology -dunes, groundwater, origins of the marsh, quarrying and preservation of the natural habitat," the walk will include three major stops. One of the stops will be the site of Central Builders' Supply sand and gravel mining operation in the marsh and will be hosted by Tony Markunas Jr. of the family-owned company. Those who plan to attend should send a check for \$5/person to the Linn Conservancy to reserve one's place for this special event. The group will assemble at the parking lot of the Union County Courthouse at 1:30 pm and we will carpool from there.

### **Halfway Run Environmental Center Reptile Event on September 5 at 2 PM**

#### *REPTILES AROUND US!*

Learn more about Pennsylvania's fascinating reptiles. We are home to 21 species of snakes, 4 kinds of lizards and 13 types of turtles. Separate the fact from the fiction during this one hour talk at the Halfway Run Environmental Learning Center at RB Winter State Park.

A complete schedule of ELC events is available by calling the park at 570-966-1455, weekdays between 8 AM and 4 PM and at their website. All programs are free and open to the public.

### ***Our Environment Matters:***

**A Look at Caring for Communities** *by Diane Specht*

Twelve-year-old Ed Reish stood on the Maynard St. Bridge in Williamsport looking down into the Susquehanna River. From his vantage point he could see a cast iron sewer pipe. He watched as raw sewage spewed from the pipe into the once pristine river.

The year was 1942, but for Reish, now the director of Farragut Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Montoursville, the memory is still fresh. It was a defining moment for the adolescent for he realized that serious environmental problems existed, that changes had to be made, and that he was responsible for being part of the solution.

Reish was one of many presenters who shared their messages of environmental achievement, hope, and concern during the Merrill W. Linn Conservancy's Caring for Communities program held April 25 through May 1. The week-long series of family-oriented environmental events aimed to educate its young, and not-so-young, audiences about today's environmental challenges and inspire them to take active roles in meeting those challenges.

Caring for Communities participants learned about the crucial roles waterways and watersheds play in our environmental well-being during presentations conducted by Shanon Burkland, Union County Watershed Specialist, Gil Hirschel, Environmental Outreach Coordinator for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and Milton High School Environmental Studies teacher Mike Yeager.

Caring for Communities also focused on the environmental impact of farming with visits to Dersham Farm, a wildlife habitat development along Buffalo Creek owned by Mark Dersham and his family, and Paradise Valley Organic Farm which is owned and operated by Bucky Zeigler. Zeigler led participants on a tour while discussing what his farm does to protect the waterways and control soil erosion and how his organic operation has evolved. And for those who tuned in to WKOK's *Leaders & Lawmakers* show on April 28, Union County Commissioner Preston Boop, owner of Briar Patch Farm, discussed his organic farm's operation and increased consumer demand for organic foods.

The importance of healthy trees to our environmental balance was the focus of Caring for Communities' Arbor Day activities. Urban tree walks were conducted in Watsontown, Mifflinburg, and Lewisburg with certified arborist Micki Kahler and certified horticulturist Sam Griffith, both of Dogwood Hill, DCNR Service Forester Tom Strausbaugh, and Brian Gockley and the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission leading the tours and providing information.

Caring for Communities participants spotted screech owls, heard pickerel frogs, and grasshopper sparrows as they joined Mifflinburg science teacher Joe Southerton for an evening nature walk. And they learned about the geological features of the Buffalo Creek area, as they walked with Bucknell University assistant professor Jeffrey Trop. For those who prefer combining environmental learning with outdoor sports, Betsy Quant of Canoe Susquehanna led canoe trips on the Susquehanna River while writer Tom Gibson escorted bicycle rides through the Union County countryside with fellow cyclists and Linn Conservancy members Pete Macky and John Fernsler.

Among the most popular events, animal presentations held during Caring for Communities kickoff event on April 25 gave participants insight into the struggles of native wildlife. Jen Mative of T&D's Cats of the World, the animal rescue operation in Penns Creek, presented a bobcat that had been kept as pet until its owners no longer wanted it. Clyde Peeling of Reptiland intrigued his audience with an array of reptiles and amphibians including a cobra, rattlesnake, alligator, and turtle. And Ed Reish brought a barn owl and a screech owl, both of which have lost wings and now serve as surrogate mothers to rescued baby owls at the Farragut Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

Reish, whose concern for the environment was ignited over 60 years ago as he watched sewage spilling into the waters of the Susquehanna, offered his young audience a message of hope and optimism. "We have come one long way in straightening out our environment," he

said. "But, it was an uphill battle to get industries, towns and cities to adapt to water treatment facilities so we could get our waterways fixed up."

Reish has also seen a turn-around in the birds-of-prey population. Once decimated by bounties and the effects of DDT and other pesticides, eagles, ospreys, and peregrine falcons are making a comeback. "In 1980 there were three bald eagle nests in the state, in 1997 there were 27, and last year there were 70 pairs of nesting bald eagles in Pennsylvania," Reish says. "It's a pleasure to look back over the years and think that my wife Tink and I had a part in trying to turn that around."

While much progress has been made, many environmental challenges lie ahead. Many of the laws that have helped reverse the ecological decline are now threatened. And today, new problems, such as unplanned development, loom. While Pennsylvania's population has remained nearly constant, the state ranks fifth in loss of open space to development, posing serious challenges to communities, both in economic and environmental terms.

Now, more than ever, we need to inspire our young people to become concerned and involved with the environment.

**Those who are planning Caring for Communities for 2005 ask that Conservancy members assist them by filling out the enclosed survey. This will be helpful, particularly in determining dates for next year's program. Thanks in advance for taking the time and returning the survey.**

### **"You Are What You Drink," Buffalo Creek Watershed Video**

The Conservancy has just completed a 20-minute video and DVD about the Buffalo Creek Watershed, which encompasses nearly 60% of Union County's land mass. The video has been made available for loan at area schools and public libraries. It is also available for purchase for \$10 and \$15 respectively at the office of the Union County Historical Society in the Union County Courthouse or by writing the Linn Conservancy at PO Box 501, Lewisburg. Please include \$5 for packaging and mailing.

The video features live shots starting at the creek's headwaters at Union County's western border and several hundred beautiful slide images that merge with the text. It is titled "You Are What You Drink: Reasons to Know and Protect the Buffalo Creek Watershed." The Conservancy produced the video with grant support from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Cora Brooks Foundation. The principal writer was Union County resident Shawn McLaughlin.

Chief members of the production team were Jeannette Lasansky, production head, with responsibilities for slide and video sequencing; John Walter, video production; and Scott McVicar, videography. Conservancy members provided editorial assistance: Owen Anderson, Geoff Goodenow, Jeannette Lasansky, and Neal Woodruff. Primary new photography was by members Owen Anderson and Ed Culver. The photo archives of the Union County Historical Society, the Union County Conservation District, the Union County Planning Commission, the Cornell University Ornithological Laboratory, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the work of local photographers and members Allen Schweinsberg, Dick Nickelsen, and Geoff Goodenow were utilized.

If you have questions about the video or about having a member of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance make an accompanying presentation to your group, please write to the Linn Conservancy, PO Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837, or call 524-8666.

## **Winter Home for Wildlife** *by Elizabeth Webster*

Anyone who has endured one Pennsylvania winter can tell you: It gets awful cold. As the cold weather approaches, Pennsylvanians prepare by donning winter coats, hats, scarves, and mittens. We may even try to keep from spending time outdoors at all. Pennsylvania wildlife share these same instincts. Animals that don't migrate or hibernate will spend the season searching for warmth in the snow-covered forest.

Rock walls, brush piles, grapevine tangles, briar patches, tree cavities, downed wood, and bark crevices, are all examples of what natural resource professionals call "winter thermal cover," i.e., places for animals to take shelter from the cold. According to Gary San Julian, professor of wildlife ecology at Penn State, developing good wildlife habitat means providing all of the elements that animals need: food, water, and shelter.

"Animals are looking for a place out of the wind, a place to stay dry, and a place to stay insulated," San Julian says. Where does such a place exist? For deer, a cluster of evergreen trees makes the perfect hide-away from the snow and cold. Places that leave animals vulnerable to the cold, such as the transitional area between field and forest, can be made more wildlife friendly by leaving a couple of rows of crops along the edges. San Julian adds, "That's especially important if there is some thermal cover nearby. You don't get your best crops there anyway, and it has a great benefit for wildlife, and also has a benefit for erosion."

You don't have to be a farmer or forest landowner to provide winter habitat for animals. San Julian has built a brush pile, a loose collection of fallen twigs and branches, in his backyard for resting rabbits, and other small mammals. He notes that birds are attracted to open sources of water, such as heated birdbaths (or in the forest, spring seeps), when fresh water is in short supply.

For more information about providing wildlife with winter cover, request a free copy of "Forest Stewardship Bulletin #5: Wildlife" or "Pennsylvania Wildlife #1: Wildlife-Habitat Relationships." Contact your county's Cooperative Extension office or the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program for these or other free publications: 1-800-235-WISE (toll free); RNRExt@psu.edu; Forest Stewardship Program, Forest Resources Extension, The Pennsylvania State University, 7 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802. The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and USDA Forest Service, in partnership with the Penn State's Forest Resources Extension, sponsor the Forest Stewardship Program in Pennsylvania.

## ***People, Businesses, and Organizations Effect Change:***

### **Members June Hoyle and Ed Culver Cited for Their Conservancy Efforts**

The Linn Conservancy honored two of its members for their service to the Conservancy and to the community at the Conservancy's annual dinner in Mifflinburg. The dinner also saw the debut of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance's new video, "You are What You Drink: Reasons to Know and Protect the Buffalo Creek Watershed," written by area resident Shawn McLaughlin, who was the dinner speaker.

The first award recipient was Ed Culver of Kelly Township. Jeannette Lasansky, who had worked with Ed for seven years, read the citation, part of which said:

Ed Culver exemplifies the influence and importance of skilled and dedicated retirees in our area. Born at the Geisinger Hospital and matriculating from Danville High School, Ed graduated from Bucknell with Bachelor and Master's degrees. He returned to central

Pennsylvania after a career in microelectronics research and application, having lived in diverse places. In these places and along the way, he developed interests in hiking, camping, sailing, and photography. It is no wonder that Ed's interests meshed with those of the Conservancy.... He has shared his photographic archives with the Conservancy and has gone on some unusual assignments for the three Conservancy videos that he has been associated with: *Vision of a Valley*, *The Montandon Wetlands: A Special Place in Our Backyard*, and the newest video, *You are What You Drink: Reasons to Know and Protect the Buffalo Creek Watershed*.

June Hoyle of East Buffalo Township was honored for long years of service to this community and, in particular, to the Linn Conservancy, named after her long-time friend and mentor, the late Merrill W. Linn, of which she was co-founder. Geoff Goodenow, like Hoyle a past president of the Conservancy, made the presentation and remarked, "June Masters Hoyle has left her gentle and devoted mark on the Lewisburg and Union County communities, and we celebrate that." In addition to teaching, scout work, the League of Women Voters, AAUW, and extensive Evangelical Hospital and church work, he said:

June was a member of the Lewisburg Garden Club where she shared her latest interest, the Conservancy. June and members of her family were charter members of the Linn Conservancy in 1988 and she was involved as many learned about what conservancies were and could accomplish. She served as its first Vice President for five years and as its sixth President. June has been especially active on the Conservancy's Development Committee and has been particularly effective in securing new members and corporate support. For many years she was in charge of the annual dinner and was known for sending on to others her "clippings" on various conservation topics as she learned about the field and its activities nationwide. The Linn Conservancy honors June Masters Hoyle for getting immersed in a new interest after serving so well in so many others. We are, as a community, so much better for her gentle but persistent ways.

Each year the Linn Conservancy honors one or two individuals or organizations that have done important work for the Conservancy and the larger area community as pertains to the environment. Past recipients have included the Union and Northumberland County Agricultural Preservation boards, Richard Nickelsen, John G. Clark, the Dersham Family farm, Warren Abrahamsen, the Joseph Priestly Unitarian Fellowship, Neal Woodruff, and JPM.

### **Wayne McDiffett and Roy Fontaine Provide New Leadership for the Conservancy**

Wayne McDiffett of Union Township, Union County, and Roy Fontaine of Watsonstown, Northumberland County, each a long-time member of the Conservancy and a current board member, have taken the top leadership positions of president and vice president respectively.

Wayne McDiffett is a recently-retired professor of biology and chair of the Department of Biology at Bucknell University. He is active within the Conservancy on the site/stewardship committee, which reviews properties for consideration for protection through conservation easements and other voluntary stewardship arrangements. He was involved in the establishment of the Shamokin Mountain Trail in Union Township, which he actively manages, and has served as a leader of hikes there and at the Mohn Mill ponds in northwest Union County. Wayne also serves on the board of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance.

Roy Fontaine is a resident of Delaware Township, Northumberland County, and a

professor in the Social Sciences and Humanities Department at Pennsylvania College of Technology. He received an M.S. from Bucknell and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He is a behavioral primatologist, with research in New World primates in Florida, Panama, Peru, and Guatemala. Fontaine served many years on the board of the local Sierra Club. He was involved in execution of the Conservancy's Caring for Communities week last April.

### **Owen Anderson, Diane Specht and John Tonzetich Join Conservancy Board**

Owen Anderson, Diane Specht, and John Tonzetich have joined the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy Board of Directors. Owen Anderson lives outside of Vicksburg while Diane Specht and John Tonzetich live in East Buffalo Township, Union County.

Owen Anderson is a Life Member of the Linn Conservancy and a member and acting chair of the site/stewardship committee. Chief trail steward of the Linn Trail near the Mohn Mill ponds, he is also chief steward for the newest Conservancy easement on the Oberheim property in Hartley Township, Union County. Owen has been a member of the board of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance since its founding, currently serving as its secretary, and he provided text and photography for the recently released video on the Watershed. He and his wife have been living for 37 years on twenty acres of a now-wooded, old farmstead in the middle of Buffalo Township. Their property has a Soil Conservation Plan, is in Clean & Green, is a Tree Farm, and a Pennsylvania Stewardship Forest. A native of Adams, Minnesota, and a graduate of St. Olaf College and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Owen worked at IBM in New York before coming to Lewisburg where he is a retired professor of physics at Bucknell University.

In 2002, Diane Specht returned to her hometown, Lewisburg, after more than 30 years of life in New York City. Utilizing degrees in journalism from Penn State and marketing from the Fashion Institute of Technology, she worked in publishing as editor of *Earnshaw's*, a children's fashion magazine, and as founder and publisher of *Plus Sizes*, a trade magazine serving the women's fashion industry. For ten years Diane has worked as a freelance writer specializing in marketing and corporate communications for the fashion and home furnishings markets. Working with author Kathy Yohalem, Ms. Specht wrote "Thinking Out of the Box: How to Market Your Company into the Future," a strategic marketing book published by John Wiley & Sons. Diane Specht is also co-founder and Vice President of Donato-Specht Music Inc., a music production company. This year she headed the publicity effort for the Linn Conservancy's Caring for Communities and also has served as the coordinator of *The Daily Item's* monthly column on the environment. She recently joined the Conservancy's development committee.

John Tonzetich, a native of British Columbia, Canada, has been a resident of Union County since 1970 when he came to teach in the Department of Biology at Bucknell University. John Tonzetich received a BS from the University of British Columbia and a PhD from Duke University in Zoology. Until he retired this past June, he taught biology, conducted research in genetics, and was pre-med advisor at Bucknell. A member of the Conservancy since 1991, he has led walks at the Dale's Ridge Trail.

### **Making Tracks** *Jeannette Lasansky, coordinator*

Life changes bring me to closure in a leadership role in the Linn Conservancy this December. As I spend more time in Maine, where I have gone for a part of the year nearly every year since 1967, my responsibilities need to be refocused. The Vinalhaven Land Trust, the island's historical society, and other new areas of interest will occupy my time now as will research and the Union County Historical Society when I am in Union County. It will indeed seem strange

not to be involved with the Linn Conservancy to the extent I have been since its founding in 1988, serving as its first President and then as first Coordinator, but change is necessary for me personally. This change comes at a time when the leadership of the Linn Conservancy is in the very capable and experienced hands of Wayne McDiffett, who has been a valued member of the board since the organization's early days. The old and the new combine, and fresh faces on the board have joined June Hoyle and Geoff Goodenow with whom I have worked from the beginning.

All times are dynamically changing and, currently, this is very much the case for the Conservancy; but much remains the same, as well. For instance, there is still much to be done in the areas of land stewardship and environmental education in upper Northumberland and Union counties— our service area— and the board, the Conservancy's committees and members' support always grow and respond to the tasks at hand. I hope, for instance, to stay involved with our Caring for Communities effort which was initiated last year and about which many fellow environmental groups are excited.

As I look at 36 years (to date) of serving non-profits, I hope that others, too, will make time and find pleasure in serving that sector. I have felt privileged to serve and to have grown in knowledge and experience through such service. I thank my family in particular for their encouragement and understanding. I thank other families who have supported such public sector causes and the volunteers who make them function and thrive.

You all are making tracks through membership, physical work, and donated special services. So am I. Thanks for the opportunity.

### **Adopt-a-Road on October 24**

If you are interested in helping to clean up the road along Penns Creek in Limestone Township, please call Jo Reilly who heads these efforts. She can be reached at 966-4272, or write to her at <HYPERLINK "mailto:dickreilly@hotmail.com" [dickreilly@hotmail.com](mailto:dickreilly@hotmail.com) >. Jo is always interested in having new workers join those who have helped before. The group usually assembles for lunch at the picnic pavilion beside the Creek and then works for an hour or so on the section of road that the Linn Conservancy adopted more than a decade ago.

### **Dale's Ridge Trail Update**

Tom Travis, chief trail steward, reports additional work on the trail. He mowed the entire trail, two feet on each side and the trail has remained unobstructed. Under his supervision, a gate has been placed on the alternative exit from the trail due to lots of unauthorized vehicle traffic up to the trail area and upper farm fields this past spring. There had been some vandalism, so a decision was made to eliminate the access. In April, Eastern Industries did major fill operation along the entire length of the riparian part of the trail. Several employees with large equipment spent a full day and used many tons of limestone to fix areas that have traditionally been filled with water. Their gratis work and materials have kept water off the lower trail, even in periods of heavy rain. Since April, adopt-a-month trail stewards have been working with the earlier groups having the most to do, like painting the parking lot fencing. These steward groups for 2004 include two boy scout troops, a Lewisburg High School social studies class and families headed by Bob & Sue Rapp, Harry Huff, Albert Mabus, the Knights, the Mackys, the Ducks, Allen Schweinsberg, and Jim Swan.

### **Rural Routes Brochures to Be Reissued**

Butter Krust Bakery, a Conservancy member, is totally underwriting the reissue of our very

popular *Rural Routes* brochure, first issued through memorial funds for LeRoy Frontz, Sr. With underwriting received to date from Robert Linn, the Conservancy plans to reissue *Rural Routes II* later in 2005, in memory of Mrs. Merrill (Henrietta) Linn. Anyone interested in helping to fund that project may send a check with *Rural Routes II/Henrietta Linn* designated on the memo line. We thank members and friends of the Linn Conservancy for such support.

### **Members Help Linn Conservancy Meet Its Goals through Gifts and Time**

Thanks to Jo Reilly, Joe Keller, and Pete & Allen Macky for doing the April and June Adopt-a-Road cleanups. Also to Jo Reilly who has assumed the leadership for Adopt-a-Road responsibilities.

Thanks to Judy Anderson and Bill Bastian who continue to resupply our brochure racks at area businesses:

Thanks to members who since early March have made donations, additional financial gifts, and/or increased their level of giving: Andrew Mack, the Rev. Mark McCullough, Robert Linn, Robert McDonald & Janice Butler, and Margaret Mathias.

Thanks to member Ann Gelnett who maintains our historical scrapbooks for the Linn Conservancy.

Thanks to David & Vicki Heberlig, Doris Keene, and Margaret Moyer who prepared this newsletter for mailing.

Welcome to new members: Edwena Eger, Lena Shannon, and Bill Lynch.

Thanks to Geoff Goodenow, who this past spring, personally did roadside cleanup on Strawbridge Road near the Dale's Ridge Trail, near the Koon's Trail entrance, and at Geneva Chamber's very special vernal pool property on which we have done cooperative stewardship work in the past.

Thanks to Walter, Patricia, and Darinda Fisher who gave to the land purchase fund in memory of their friend and fellow preservationist, Helen Mahalsky, who died on March 22.

Thanks to Lewisburg Social Studies teacher, Sue Rapp, who had her students paint all the fencing at the Dale/Engle/Walker property along Strawbridge Road and to Tom Travis who scraped and primed in anticipation of the painting crew.

Thanks to members Tom Gibson, Veronica Ciavarella, Jeannette Lasansky, Tom Travis, and Geoff Goodenow who worked on a beautiful Saturday to get the Dale/Engle/Walker property ready for the kick-off event for Caring for Communities.

Thanks to Eastern Industries for two days of work with men and heavy-duty graders and rollers to make the trail, parking lot, and farm lane just right.

Thanks to WalMart for a substantial contribution to the Conservancy.

Thanks to Jean Ruhl who allowed us to use some of her parking area for the parking and vendor staff at Caring for Communities kick-off.

Thanks to members who staffed our food and outreach stands at Caring for Communities: Roger & Nancy Curran, Sue Travis, Jan Peterson, Geoff Goodenow, Dotti & Terry Zimmerman, Lettie Davis, Roy Fontaine, Jeannette Lasansky, Ted Retallack, David Goehring, and to John Snook and Jace Watson, who supervised the parking along with Union County Historical Society helpers Tony Shively, Jake Engle, and Gary Slear.

Thanks to Allen Schweinsberg who led a bird walk into Montandon Marsh on Saturday May 29 as part of Montandon Community Days and to Lettie Davis who has worked tirelessly with the town's planning committee and who headed our efforts there along with Jeannette Lasansky. We showed the Montandon Marsh video there on the hour from 11-2 and Lettie had an outreach table set up and staffed by fellow members Owen Anderson, Allen Schweinsberg, Allan & Ann Grundstrom, Katherine Kopchik & Steven Styers, Wayne McDiffett, and DeeGee Keene.

Thanks to Mark Holman who found homes for our last John G. Clark oak seedlings. It was a wonderful idea of John's that was faithfully executed by Mark with support from several Conservancy members who sponsored public plantings or purchased the seedlings for their own use.

Thanks to members Steven Styers and Diane Specht who have written our most recent *Item* column that appears every other month in the Sunday edition. Diane Specht coordinates the column; she also did all the publicity that helped to make Caring for Communities such a successful event.

Several persons have made contributions to the Conservancy in memory of Jeff Bowers, former chair of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (see insert): Robert and Judy Miller, Boyce and Ann Heilman, Elaine Morrison, Joanne B. Austin, Williams and Sanoma Associates, AFS Co-workers, Shirley Hudders, Martha Musselman, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Fosselman, Charles Bowers, Automated Financial Services, Owen and Judy Anderson, Kenneth and Patricia Brame, and contributions collected at the memorial service for Jeff.

### ***In Brief:***

Mary Koons has donated to the Conservancy, as a fundraiser, a one-of-a-kind lap quilt/large wall hanging to be raffled off at Mifflinburg's Christkindl Market in December. In rust and green and with an animal and habitat theme, the quilt may be seen at area events between now and December. Seeing first hand is the best way to understand how wonderful the piece is and how beautiful the fabric choices are (always evidenced in a Koons' quilt). Members will have an opportunity to match Mary's generosity, and to win the quilt, through a mailing in the fall.