

Linn Log

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

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Fall 2001

Coming Events:

Program on Civilian Conservation Corps Camps in Union County

A dinner at the Union County Sportsmen's Club in Weikert followed by a program on the Civilian Conservation Corps Camps in Union County will be held on Thursday, September 13th. The dinner will start at 6:00 PM and will be a buffet followed by the program at 7:30. Reservations should be made through the office by September 6th and checks should be made out to the Union County Historical Society at \$10 per person. The Sportsmen's Club was the site of one of three camps in the county that were active from 1933-1942 in building forest roads, masonry bridges, the dam at R.B. Winter State Park (the site of a second camp), and more. Join in an evening of good food and enlightenment about conservation efforts in the western part of Union County. Family and friends are welcomed. Reservation checks should be sent to the Conservancy at PO Box 501 or dropped off at the office by the 6th. Questions on directions or if you would like to car pool, please call 524-8666.

Linn Conservancy's Hawk Mountain Trip Set for September 15th

The Conservancy is now taking reservations for a one-day trip to the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Berks County for Saturday September 15th with a rain date of September 22. The group will car pool from the parking lot of the Union County Courthouse at 8 AM sharp with a return approximately 12 hours later.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, founded in 1934, was the world's first refuge for birds of prey. This 2,400-acre nature preserve is the best observation point for autumn raptor migration. Roughly 17,000 hawks, eagles, and falcons fly over the Sanctuary's North Lookout which is 1,521 feet high along the Kittatinny Ridge. In mid-September the birds seen in the greatest numbers should be the Broadwing Hawks, Bald Eagles, Ospreys, American Kestrels; also some Merlins, Peregrin Falcons, Northern Harriers, Sharpshin and Cooper's Hawks.

Non-refundable reservations of \$10 per person are to be made by September 8 to the Linn Conservancy at P.O. Box 501. Please indicate a willingness to car pool. Participants will need to pack lunch and binoculars (or they can be rented at the visitors' center), and need to wear sturdy walking shoes but not one's with hard slick soles. Windbreakers are advised and a back or fanny pack is recommended to carry gear and keep hands free. In approaching the Sanctuary's North Lookout one will do a moderately easy walk of two miles over ungraded and uneven terrain on a trail that rises 300 feet. At the North Lookout there is a 200-degree panoramic view that extends 70 miles on a clear day. The South Lookout has a graded trail that is 300 yards from the visitors' center. The visitors' center has displays on raptors, a bookstore, and an art gallery. Both lookout points have interpreters present.

The group has a 5:30 dinner reservation at Granny's Restaurant in Frackville which is a family restaurant. Call the Conservancy at 524-8666 with any questions. Reservations should be made by September 7 at the latest.

The Hook Natural Area Trip Scheduled for September 29

Conservancy members, Geoff Goodenow, Lewisburg High School biology teacher, and Carl Kirby, Bucknell University geologist, will lead a fall hike for members and friends at the Hook Natural Area in Lewis Township on Saturday, September 29. The group will be limited to 15 and will assemble at 8 AM in the parking lot of the Union County Courthouse. Those interested should send in a \$10 refundable registration fee to the office at PO Box 501, Lewisburg. Participants should wear hiking or sensible shoes. The terrain, while rocky, is relatively flat and involves some easy stream crossings.

The Hook Natural Area is 5,119 acres of second growth mixed oak forest and encompasses a complete mountain watershed containing a diversity of flora and fauna. The Hook Natural Area is a designated refuge for amphibians and reptiles. Maple, yellow birch, sweet birch, and hemlock trees give the area a different character than is typical of most of our forest land. The morning hike will follow Molasses Gap Trail. Panther Run is in the Hook and it is joined by many tributaries which eventually join the north branch of Buffalo Creek which supplies water to the residents of Mifflinburg.

Enjoy a full morning off in an area of Union County that has not been "officially" visited by a Linn Conservancy group before. Register now!

Star Party Scheduled for October 12th

Conservancy member and science teacher, Joe Southerton, will conduct a star party exclusively for Conservancy members, their families and friends on Friday, October 12th. The event, which will start at 7:30 PM, will require advance registration of \$5 per person or \$10 per family to the office or PO Box 501, Lewisburg in advance. The event is limited to 30 and one is advised to dress warmly. Hot chocolate will be on hand as the group hears a general introduction by Joe about astronomy and constellations and the mythology associated with the constellations present. There will be observing with a telescope.

In case of excessive cloud cover or inclement weather the event will be held on Saturday, the 13th. Joe's house is the first house (blue) on the left on Dreisbach Church Road going south off of Route 45. Call the office at 524-8666 if you have any questions. See Joe's column, "Making Tracks," which focuses on what we can all do about the light pollution of our local skies.

Late Summer/Fall Events at the Halfway Run Environmental Center

The following events are known at the time of the *Log* going to press, but feel free to call the center at 966-1455 to learn of events over the summer.

Saturday, September 1:

2:00-3:00 pm "Tooth and Claw." Predators depend on teeth and claws to survive. Check out some cool skulls and learn more about these interesting animals. If enough kids are interested, there will also be an exciting game of Quick Frozen Critters at 2:30 pm. Meet at the Halfway Run Environmental Learning Center

6:00-7:15 pm "Shrouded Forest." Take an evening hike through the Rapid Run Natural Area and search for some of the characteristics of an old growth tract among the trees. Meet at the beach house.

Sunday, September 2:

1:00-2:30 pm "Nature Scavenger Hunt." Collect a scavenger hunt list at the Halfway Run Environmental Learning Center and see what wild treasures you and your family can find.

8:00-9:00 pm "The Lorax." Enjoy this great Dr. Seuss story with some thought provoking environmental messages. Video at the Halfway Run Environmental Learning Center.

Our Environment Matters:

DCNR Grant Approved for Purchase of Open Space/Riparian Corridor

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced on Friday, April 20, the successful Community Conservation Partnership Acquisition Grant application by the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy. The \$95,000 grant is for a land purchase of approximately 108 acres of river frontage on the eastern edge of the Great Streams Commons just north of the village of Allenwood, Gregg Township. The land would be designated for areas of active public recreation, river access, trails, and an environmental education center.

From the inception of site planning, the goal has been the placement of a protective conservation easement on the land parcel which would be purchased from the Union County Industrial Development Corporation. The Linn Conservancy would hold the perpetual easement and turn over the purchased property to the Union County Conservation District. The UCCD, as ultimate property owner, would run an environmental education center at the site among other things.

Those assisting the Linn Conservancy Coordinator with the grant were Shawn McLaughlin, Union County Planning Director, and Bill Deitrick from the Union County Conservation District. This is the Conservancy's second successful DCNR grant for land purchase, the first being the Belles Property in West Chillisquaque Township, Northumberland County.

Conservancy Gets \$5,000 Grant to Start Buffalo Creek Watershed Group

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection has awarded the Conservancy a \$5,000 grant to start a public awareness effort in support of a citizen group interested in protecting the watershed of Buffalo Creek through volunteer efforts. This is Union County's first Growing Greener Grant. The Conservancy is urging scout, school, and other group leaders interested in learning about stream monitoring and other aspects of watershed protection to call the Conservancy at 524-866 or write conserve@ptd.net. Members who are interested should also contact the office. Watershed protection will include monitoring the health of our streams, the stabilization of their banks, the restoration of wetlands, and planting of streamside corridors.

Buffalo Creek's watershed encompasses a large part of Union County. The creek itself is approximately 28 miles in length, with a total watershed drainage area of 134 square miles. Major tributaries within the watershed include the North Branch of Buffalo Creek, Little Buffalo Creek, Rapid Run, Spruce Run, Beaver Run, and Stony Run. The watershed bisects 11 municipalities in two counties. The Union County municipalities are Buffalo, Kelly, Hartley, Lewis, Limestone, West Buffalo, and White Deer Townships, and the Boroughs of Mifflinburg and Lewisburg. The watershed enters into Haines and Miles Townships in Centre County.

The health of the Buffalo Creek Watershed and its streams impacts thousands of people and numerous businesses, industries, and governmental entities. The North Branch of the Buffalo Creek from the headwaters to the dam at the Mifflinburg intake is designated an Exceptional Value watershed and serves as a primary source for the Mifflinburg Borough water system. The Spruce Run tributary is a High Quality Cold Water Fishery that serves as a drinking water source for Pennsylvania American Water Company. Other High Quality Cold Water Fisheries are Rapid Run and Stony Run, while Little Buffalo Creek and Beaver Run are Cold Water Fisheries.

This is the second competitive government grant that the Linn Conservancy has been awarded this year, the first being a \$95,000 grant from Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to purchase about 100 acres along the Susquehanna River in Great Streams Commons, Gregg Township.

Buffalo Creek Watershed Update

Conservancy members, Luke Miller and Owen Anderson, represented Buffalo Creek and Linn Conservancy at the July meeting of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Big Bend Watershed groups. Dave Aldenderfer from DEP chaired the meeting with about 40 present from DEP and environmental groups such as the Linn Conservancy. The Susquehanna River Conservation plan was discussed by Northcentral Conservancy Director, Renee Carey. The plan includes an area seventy five miles long and 1 mile wide on both sides of the river, beginning at Lick Run to Northumberland. Representatives from local groups such as ours were asked for their status. Those replying were Muncy Creek, (bank lining for flood/erosion control on hold, awaiting Corps of Engineers), White Deer, (no progress), Lycoming, (just starting organization and plans -11 member board), Loyalsock, (seeking \$15,000 for data collection and compilation from previous studies), Eagles Mere, (doing a survey of flora and fauna of the lake) and Buffalo Creek (ourselves, who are just starting).

Toward the Light

It was a dark and stormy night. (Really, it *was* a dark and stormy night!) I was driving my '86 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme eastbound on Route 45 traveling from Mifflinburg to Lewisburg. The time was approximately eleven PM in the month of November, the year 2000. My mission at this lonely hour was to fetch yet another gallon of 2% milk from Time Markets. For me it will always be Time Markets. What can I say, I'm just a guy stuck in a rut...a deep rut. The night was foggy for this time of year, real foggy. It was so foggy that you could cut it with a...well, with a knife. Due to the hazardous driving conditions, I was taking it slow, real slow...so slow that...well you get the picture. I had just driven through that forgotten little bivouac of Lochiel, when I spotted it. There, at the signpost up ahead, in the distance, a light, no a beam, something from the sky: a cone of light, through the fog, drawing me, calling me, this warm shaft from above, at the intersection of Fairfield Road and 45. Closer, closer, right in the middle of the road, directly in the path of the '86 Cutlass Supreme! Closer! Approaching! And then, I was there, surrounded by a bright beautiful light, this glow from the heavens; my eyes wide open and relaxed, everything was clear to me now! I wanted to stay. It was peaceful and calming. You see, I had entered the...no, not the "Twilight Zone," it was the "skylight cone." You know, the streetlight, at the intersection, so you can see at night when it is dark! Every street corner has one! They're all over the place! Ok, perhaps I'm embellishing my midnight milk run just a little. But it was a dark and stormy night, it was foggy, I still call it "Time Markets," and there was a beautiful cone of light at the corner of Fairfield and Rt. 45, and it is still there, and it does come from the streetlight. However, this is no ordinary street light. Oh, I so wish it were. The lamp at Fairfield and 45 is a "Full-cutoff Cobrahead Roadway Lighting Fixture." It is designed to send all of its light to the ground, where the light belongs, and not to the eyes of on-coming drivers, or for that matter, into the bedrooms and living rooms of nearby homes. This street light represents a new type of lamp that we are just starting to see in, unfortunately, too few parts of Central PA. These lights, and others like it, are referred to as *full-cutoff* lights. There are very good reasons for utilizing such lighting. As mentioned above, the light from these fixtures goes to the ground where it belongs. Consequently, these lights are safer. They reduce glare. Because of their unique design, you can't see the bright bulb. Full-cutoff lights are cheaper to operate because a lower wattage bulb is used. Research shows that a full-cutoff fixture with a lower wattage bulb puts as much light on the ground as a conventional lamp with a higher wattage bulb. If our country embraces this type of lighting, *billions* of dollars can be saved in energy costs! In these times of rolling blackouts in California, and who knows where next, good lighting needs to be a high priority. Surprisingly, for security purposes, full-cutoff lighting and sometimes *no* lighting reduces crime. Think about it, the country church that is lit up like the proverbial Christmas tree is an inviting target for vandals. Plus, they don't need to bring their own light source. On the other hand, the church with no lighting draws the attention of neighbors and passers by when suddenly there is a light in the building at two AM. (By the way, for the best security lighting, use motion detectors.) Lately, as we look across our countryside, more and more lights are dotting the evening landscape. If you can see a distant light, and quite frankly who can't, then you are looking at a poorly designed light. The light from these fixtures is going parallel to the ground, to your eyes, and not down to the ground where it belongs. Unfortunately, these lights are on many country properties and almost every street intersection. There is a name for too much light; it's called "light pollution," and when it comes into your home at night it is referred to as "light trespass." Just step outside at night and you can easily assess for yourself the difference between good and bad lighting. By the way, many of the new malls and "marts" going up across the country actually have good lighting; it is often the "upside-down show box" type. They know it saves them money!

Lastly, we need to know that light pollution is robbing us of something very special, our night sky. Simply put, the more lights, the fewer stars. There is nothing on TV as wondrous as a clear, star-filled night sky! In a metropolitan area, because of light pollution, one can count perhaps a dozen stars or so. That's sad. In the northern counties of PA, on a clear night, 5000 stars can be counted from horizon to horizon. That's awesome! Which do you want for your back yard? When was the last time you saw stars sitting on the horizon? Fortunately, people all across the country are trying to make a difference. You, too, can help. "Hood" your existing outdoor lights, or point them more towards the ground. Talk to your public officials about good lighting. Write to your congressmen! There are efforts being made at the state level to enact good lighting in PA. Support these bills! Also check out a terrific organization called the "International Dark-Sky Association." This organization is making a real difference in the quest for good, safe lighting. They have a friendly and informative web site at <http://www.darksky.org> that is worth checking out. You will also find info about what's happening politically in PA concerning good lighting. It is important to remember that everyone benefits from good lighting! Hopefully, some night you, too, can find yourself at the signpost up ahead, entering that beautiful place, the "Skylight Cone."

Last Adopt-a-Road Dates Set for October

August 26th and October 21st are the final Sunday afternoons set aside by Geoff Goodenow for cleanup at the Conservancy's Adopt-a-Road section along Penns Creek in Limestone Township. Please leave a message including your phone number with Geoff Goodenow at 523-0257 if you can help on one or more of these dates and he will get back to you.

Simple Steps to Protect Small Streams *By Paul Brohn, Penn State Extension Program Assistant*

Small streams are treasures. They are the sources of our trout streams and major rivers. They supply clean water and support a variety of plants and animals. However, it is easy to damage small streams—they need our care and protection.

Landowners can enhance and protect streams flowing through their properties by implementing a few, inexpensive practices. These practices will reduce flooding and benefit fish, mammals, birds, and other life forms that depend on healthy streams.

The first practice to protect streams is to prevent erosion and sedimentation. Erosion from poorly managed lands and unprotected stream banks contributes large amounts of sediment to streams. Sediments harm aquatic life by covering habitat, choking gills, and raising water temperature (because cloudy water absorbs more heat from the sun than clear water).

Landowners can take steps to prevent any vehicles from fording their streams. Vehicles can destroy streamside vegetation and destabilize stream banks, causing serious erosion problems. If vehicle crossings are necessary, permitted culverts or wooden bridges can minimize erosion. Similarly, domestic animals can damage streams by trampling protective vegetation and wearing down stream banks. Fencing farm animals away from streams helps prevent erosion.

Some landowners unknowingly destroy habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms by removing logs and other woody debris from streams. Research on small streams clearly shows that woody debris benefits aquatic life, including trout. Tree trunks and other large pieces of wood create small dams that delay water flow and reduce erosion and flooding during severe rainstorms.

These dams also create a complex stream channel with series of pools and riffles, which provide habitat for a variety of aquatic organisms. Debris dams also trap leaves, twigs, seeds, and other plant matter that sustain aquatic food chains.

Some property owners believe that straightening stream channels and clearing vegetation from banks will eliminate flooding. On the contrary, these actions merely increase stream velocity, resulting in rampant bank erosion, especially downstream from the straightened area. Meandering stream channels are full of natural pools and riffles that hold fish and provide feeding areas.

Landowners can plant trees and shrubs near streams flowing through open pastures or other areas lacking woody vegetation. A few of the shrubs and trees recommended for streamside planting in Pennsylvania include smooth alder, black willow, red osier and silky dogwood, box elder, black ash, pin oak, and swamp white oak, river birch, sycamore, cottonwood, and silver maple. Streamside vegetation helps shade streams. Shading is important because it keeps water cool. Cooler water holds more oxygen and thus supports more aquatic life. Streamside trees and shrubs also help control erosion, absorb nutrients, attract terrestrial animals, and provide food to trout and other aquatic organisms when leaves and branches fall into the water.

A final suggestion for protecting streams is to avoid applying pesticides and fertilizers too close to streams. Even minute quantities of some chemicals can gravely harm aquatic plants and animals. Landowners should make prudent use of these products for their own safety, as well as for the health of stream organisms.

In summary, landowners can protect small streams by preventing soil erosion, allowing natural stream channels and accumulations of woody debris, planting streamside trees and shrubs where they are lacking, and being very careful when using fertilizers and pesticides near streams. By following these simple steps, landowners can enhance their streams and ensure the well being of plants and animals that depend on high-quality water.

The Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program—sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the USDA Forest Service—provides private forestland owners with information and assistance to promote healthy and productive forests. Call the Forest Stewardship Program toll free at (800) 235-WISE to request the following free publications: 1) Forest Stewardship Bulletin #10: Watershed Management and 2) Forest Stewardship Bulletin #12: Best Management Practices for Pennsylvania Forests

The state of Pennsylvania has emerged as a national leader in the implementation of sustainable building practices. The U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org) chose the state's first green building, an office in Harrisburg, as one of the first projects to receive its LEED certification, which rates buildings according to environmental performance. Another Department of Environmental Protection building in Ebensburg, equipped with a photovoltaic array and an advanced air distribution and heating system, has an energy consumption 60% below the industry standard. Improved energy efficiency is a key goal of the Governor's Green Government Council because commercial buildings consume 40% of the nation's electricity. "Our next focus is to encourage energy efficient renovations and green school buildings," said James Seif, secretary of the state's Department of Environmental Protection and co-chair of the council. Visit www.gggc.state.pa.us/building/scrob.html or call 717/787-4190 for information on the program or its "Guidelines for Creating High Performance Green Buildings" or "Model Green Office Leasing Specifications."

The article above appears courtesy of the January-March 2001 issue of *Common Ground*. To receive *Common Ground*, the newsletter of the Conservation Fund write *Common Ground*, 1800 N. Kent Street Suite 1120, Arlington, VA 22209

People, Businesses, and Organizations Affect Change:

Teachers are Given First Conservancy Environmental Education Grants

The Conservancy presented its first two environmental education awards. The awards which are given in the name of the late John G. Clark of Selinsgrove. John was a botanist respected for his tireless work identifying and protecting special plants and their habitats in this region of Central Pennsylvania and he was a board member and past president of the Linn Conservancy.

Sandra Baczek of the Watsonstown Christian Academy and Michael Yeager of the Milton High School are the recipients of the first John G. Clark Environmental Awards.

Ms. Baczek is a middle school math and science teacher and in 2001 was chosen one of two "Environmental Teacher of the Year" by the Northumberland County Conservation District. Ms. Baczek's award for \$495.60 will allow her to purchase discovery and field microscopes for a study that will compare and contrast the complexity of plant life and the diversity of species in both field and forest habitats. The objective will be to demonstrate to the students that the more complex the plant life, the more diverse the species inhabiting the ecosystem. The sixth and seventh grade classes will analyze the data, make comparisons, and draw conclusions based on what they find.

Michael Yeager's students in the Environmental Studies class of the Milton High School intend to compile data from three monitoring stations on Limestone Run. With the purchase of \$486 of equipment the high school students will track and assess the fluctuating temperatures of Limestone Run throughout the year. The equipment includes tidbits which monitor the water temperature every 15 minutes and the optic shuttles which transport the data from the tidbits to a computer. Tracking the water temperature in this way is one component of a larger project—to assess the biological, chemical, and physical properties of Limestone Run.

A new application period for the John G. Clark Environmental Education Grant will begin October 1, 2001 with a deadline of January 15, 2001. To be put on a list to receive an application in the fall, write the Conservancy P.O. Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837 or to conserve@ptd.net.

Mifflinburg Outdoor Education Program Garner's Conservancy Award

The Outdoor Education Program of the Mifflinburg Middle School was honored at the Conservancy annual dinner in the spring. The unique program was begun in 1970 with a government grant. A pilot program was conducted the first year with the fifth grade from Laurelton Elementary School. The second year was spent refining the program. The Mifflinburg Area School Board accepted and agreed to finance the project at the end of that school year. This program is an integrated program comprised of all those disciplines included in the fifth grade curriculum, mathematics, science, and the language arts, as examples. It has been a part of the fifth grade curriculum for thirty years.

The original team was comprised of Val (Edith) Orbison, coordinator; Shirley Bingaman; Jere Motto; and Donald Ulrich. That group was broadened to include all fifth grade classroom teachers and several other teachers from various grade levels with applicable skills. The present core staff consists of Jere Motto, Coordinator; Linda Minium; Joe Southerton; and ten other teachers on staff.

The program has received a state grant (award) from Exemplary Programs in Outdoor Education and it has been nationally recognized as well. The school district was also invited to send its Outdoor Education staff to an International Middle Schools Conference in Canada to demonstrate the concepts used. Perhaps the more significant

evidence of the impact of the Mifflinburg Outdoor Education Program is the continuing praise from parents who themselves were participants in the program and express excitement over their children sharing the experience.

Member Profiles: Annick Helbig and Chris Snyder *by Neal Woodruff*

Coming from Neal Woodruff

Conservancy Quilt Raffle

Mary Koons has again designed a very special quilt just for the Linn Conservancy to use as a fund-raiser. It was on view at our annual dinner and will be seen at a number of public events this fall before the lucky winner is chosen in mid-December. The last event where the quilt will be on display will be at the Christkindl Market in Mifflinburg. In mid September there will be membership mailing on the quilt.

Scan in image of quilt from photo or two of Jim Walters

The Ralph Charles Memorial Fund

People have been sending in memorial gifts in memory of Charlie Walker who died last December. The gifts to date have come from Ed & Mary Mastascusa, Maurice Aburdine, June & Preston Hoyle, and William & Jeannette Lasansky.

Conservancy Office to Move in 2002 to the Dale/Walker House

It is currently the plan to move our office to the Dale/Walker House by the Dale's Ridge Trail in Buffalo Township in late winter. Also, our board meetings will be held there as soon as there are furnishings for the room. The Union County Historical Society, which is the property owner, will share the board meeting space with the Linn Conservancy and the Seven Mountains Audubon Society. The Society is currently embarked on a capital campaign to upgrade the building's electrical lines and plumbing as well as provide board and meeting room furnishing.

The Linn Conservancy needs to furnish its own office and is seeking membership support so that we can purchase a work station, file cabinets, some lighting, and a couple of chairs. Since 1988 the Conservancy has used the office of the historical society in the Union County Courthouse so we have not had these needs before. There are a variety of substantial closets on the second floor of the Dale House where the office will be located which will be well used to store our educational and land preservation materials. on.eeting room for programs by the fall of next year at the very latest.

This move to the Dale/Walker House will be a big step and puts the Conservancy at the site of our first conservation easement and well-used trail. Those who would like to help the Conservancy at this time with a monetary contribution will help us make the move as soon as possible. We could use you support at this time and would greatly appreciate it: PO Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

We plan to be hosting an open house there the first weekend in May. In the meantime, come see our progress at the house!

Members Help Linn Conservancy Meet Its Goals

Welcome to new members:
Harris & Barbara Lemon
Cindy Shively
Jeff Bowers & Debi Myers
Douglas & Barbara Landwehr
Brigette M. Cooke
Tim & Jackie Goff
Dina El-Mogazi & Mark Spiro
Jim & Laurie Knight

John Snook is New President and Roger Curran is New Secretary

John Snook, who lives and farms in Limestone Township, has assumed the position of President after being President-elect for one year. Roger Curran, who has stepped down as President, has agreed to relieve Wayne McDiffet of his role as Secretary.

Kudoos to Montandon Marsh Video Team

The Conservancy has just completed the making of a 20-minute video titled "THE MONTANDON WETLANDS: A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR BACKYARD." Many worked on this project over the last two years and the "team" included Lewisburg High School science teacher, Geoff Goodenow, who wrote the script and the script editors/reviewers Warren Abrahamson, Mark Berg, Mary Ann Bierly, Craig Kochel, Rose Ann Koons, Jeannette Lasansky, Richard Nickelsen, Paul Platt, Kathy Rowe, Allen Schweinsberg, and Neal Woodruff, many of whom are educators. The project's artistic director and main narrator was actor, Joel Gori, and the head of audio recording and production was John Walter of the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit. Nancy Cleaver did the artwork that is featured on the video jacket and in the video itself.

The videography was by Paul Heinrich and the slides came from the collections of Warren Abrahamson, the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, Geoff Goodenow, Jeff Lepore, Richard Nickelsen, Allen Schweinsberg, and Seven Mountains Audubon Society while new photography was done Ed Culver. The slide sequencing was done by Jeannette Lasansky. Area students and residents who appear in the video are Erin Bennett, Michael, Joelly, and Vanessa Clemente, Kira Fawess, Thomas R. Groninger, Jesse Neitz, Lauren O'Neil, Conner Stechulte, and Lucie Whitchurch.

Join these students from the Milton School District as they discover the animals and plants that live in the large wetlands habitat near the village of Montandon, Pennsylvania. The students learn about the origin of this wetlands complex, its dynamics as well as misconceptions about its contribution to area flooding. As these students work on a school assignment, they become advocates of protecting the fresh-water wetlands and seek to enlist the understanding and help of others.

The video has been given by the Linn Conservancy to all public and school libraries in the Milton, Lewisburg, and Mifflinburg school districts. The project was made possible by grants from the Edna Sheary Charitable Trust and the Degenstein Foundation. The video is available for purchase from the Linn Conservancy by calling 524-8666.

Carl S. Kirby Joins Conservancy Board

Carl Kirby, Associate Professor and Chair of Geology at Bucknell University, is joining the board of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy. After teaching high school Latin, he returned to school to study environmental geochemistry. He has conducted numerous studies of acid mine drainage with students and colleagues since coming to Bucknell in 1993 from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Carl is a board member of the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance and maintains that group's web site. He has studied the nearby Shamokin Creek watershed extensively, and has written successful grants to assess and clean up mine pollution. He will bring the expertise of his scientific field and his experience with a watershed group to the Conservancy's Board, a group with which he has been a member for several years. Carl is also in local music groups, including a band with his wife, Sabrina.

In Brief . . .

Conservancy Board members attended professional conferences or represented the Conservancy at environmental meetings last spring: Clyde Peeling, Betsy Quant, Shirley Bingaman, and Geoff Goodenow were at the Susquehanna River Conservation Plan session held in Lewisburg; Jeannette Lasansky attended the Big Bend Watershed Planning Meeting in Williamsport and Luther Miller and Owen Anderson were at the subsequent July meeting at the Montour Preserve; Geoff Goodenow, Jeannette Lasansky, and Shirley Bingaman were at the Mid-Atlantic Land Trust meeting in Harrisburg where they attended multiple workshops on writing enforceable conservation easements, on creating imaginative easement partnerships, on fundraising by identifying major donors and writing grants, among others.

Thanks to Joe Keller, Jo Reilly, Jeff Bower, Bill Bastian, Connie Bastian, and Ed Culver who helped Geoff Goodenow on the April and June Adopt-a Road cleanup along Penns Creek in Limestone Township.

Thanks to Roger Curran who made a presentation about the Linn Conservancy to over 150 members of Ducks Unlimited at their annual dinner last spring and to Geoff Goodenow who made a similar presentation to the Mifflinburg Kiwanis and the Hemlock Council Girl Scout leaders at their leadership recognition dinner. The Conservancy Coordinator made similar presentations to the R.B. Winter Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Laurelton Women's Club, the New Berlin Heritage Association, the New Berlin Lions, members of Boy Scout Troop 3509, and the board of the Union County Sportsmen. Presentations are currently planned for the West End Lions and Buffalo Sportsmen this fall.

Thanks to members, Dick Nickelsen, John Tonzetich, Allen Schweinsberg, Wayne McDiffett, and Warren Abrahamsen who led Conservancy walks last spring in the Montandon Marsh, at the Mohn Mill ponds and at Dale's Ridge for roughly sixty people.

Thanks to all those who have been improving the Dale's Ridge Trail under the able direction of chief trail steward, Rolf Helbig. Ralph Miller donated a phone pole that straddles part of the kiosk area--in effect preventing those who like to drive into the parking area in an unauthorized manner. Harry Huff, Ryan Gabel, and Brian Mast, members of BSA Troop 512, helped clean-up and maintain the trail.

Thanks to members: William M. Weary, Carol Ingald, Barbara Zeiders, Beth Clark, and John and Nancy Libbey who recently made additional donations. Thanks to John Gardner who recently made an additional donation including new prints of the Dale House.

Thanks to June and Preston Hoyle for a contribution in memory of Jackie Weary Yeager, Merrill Linn's niece.

Thanks to Judy Becker and Dave Heberlig who stuffed the September *Linn Log*.

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