

Linn Log

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

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Fall 2003

Educational Events:

Reserve Now for the September 27th Trip to the Lehigh Gorge

The Education Committee of the Linn Conservancy is offering a "once in a lifetime opportunity" to fifteen people. Interested? On September 27 we will be traveling (bring a packed lunch, snack, and beverage) to White Haven, the beginning of the 30-mile Lehigh Gorge, now part of the Rails-to-Trails Program. Reservations, accompanied by a check for \$20, are required by September 12. We'll depart the Union County Courthouse parking lot at 8 am and return to Lewisburg after dinner (on one's own) in the town of Jim Thorpe.

The entire park is characterized by its deep gorge, steep walls, and thick vegetation. It follows the course of the Lehigh River, known for its spectacular white water rafting and kayaking. The area abounds with history, including many remains from early railroading and lumbering. In addition, the gorge is a delight for photographers and those with geological interests. Waterfalls that cascade into the Lehigh River erupt dramatically from the silt stone and sandstone.

Ordinarily the railroad grade is closed to motor vehicles. However, we will be traveling the entire 30 miles in a van, accompanied by park personnel who will point out the natural and man-made historic sites. This four- to five-hour trip (from approximately 10:30 am-3 pm) has been arranged especially for the Conservancy.

The trip will culminate in the Victorian town of Jim Thorpe, the southern access point of the gorge trail. The town is surrounded by mountains and the scenery is amazing. Its architecture ranges from the Romanesque county courthouse to the Italianate homes on Millionaires' Row. There are many fine shops, galleries, and restaurants among these buildings. The group will have dinner in Jim Thorpe before heading home.

Reservations are due no later than September 12.

Invasive Plant Exhibit Opens on September 21, in the Degenstein Gallery at the Dale/Engle/Walker house

Visit the Dale/Engle Walker House when it is open on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 pm in August, September, and October. Two exhibits are being especially mounted for the public by the Linn Conservancy. The first, during August and through September 14, is an exhibit on the 1936 flood in Union, Northumberland, and Snyder counties. Beginning September 21 and running to the end of October, an exhibit on invasive plants in Pennsylvania will be displayed in the Degenstein Gallery. Put together by Clyde Peeling and Jeannette Lasansky, the exhibit includes varieties of invasive plants found here in north-central Pennsylvania. Multiflora rose and autumn olive are examples of invasive plants found right on the D/E/W property.

A Society member will greet you in the Ruhl/Deiffenderfer/Dale Gallery where, this year, there will be an exhibit drawn from the collections of the Union County Historical Society, focused on part of the Society's fine collection of Union County quilt materials. Publications and carefully selected books on subjects related to the exhibit or the property, such as the Underground Railroad, will be available to examine and/or purchase there, as well.

After viewing the exhibits, you may wish to have a guided tour of the remainder of the first floor of the house and the 1793 kitchen. A trained volunteer guide will provide information about the home's architecture, its Irish immigrant owner and builder, Samuel Dale (including Dale's 1804 library), and discuss the Dale family's connection with slavery in Pennsylvania and the Underground Railroad. One can linger and enjoy the rural landscape by sitting on one of the eleven rockers lining the long porch and, perhaps, visiting with a musician or craftsperson.

The house is handicapped accessible and there is parking right beside the house for two vehicles bringing a handicapped visitor. The regular admission charge to help with some of the expenses at the property is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children over 6 years (one dollar less in each category for current Linn Conservancy members).

Halfway Run Environmental Center Events

A number of home schooling environmental education opportunities as well as public programs have been planned for this fall. A complete schedule of events is available at the Halfway Run Environmental Learning Center or can be obtained by calling the park at 570-966-1455, weekdays between 8 am and 4 pm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 10am to 2 pm

HOME SCHOOL DAY: INSECT ADVENTURES

Insects--good, bad, beautiful, and ugly-- are a diverse and fascinating group of invertebrates. What are the major groups and orders found in Pennsylvania? What adaptations do they have which make them special? Students will explore these questions in both indoor and outdoor sessions. Please bring notebooks, pencils, and a bag lunch. All students should be dressed for outdoor conditions. Pre-registration is required.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 10 am to 1 pm

HOME SCHOOL DAY: CREEPY CRITTERS

Learn more about the animals we love to hate. Students will research some specific animals (spiders, snakes, etc.) and separate facts from all the fiction during group presentations. We may view a creepy critter video just for fun. This program is for children ages 9 to 14. Pre-registration is required.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 10 am to 11:15

STORY HOUR

Children ages 3 to 8 and their parents are encouraged to hear a story and to paint a small pumpkin during this fun fall program. Pre-registration is required.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 10 am to 2 pm

HOME SCHOOL DAY: Pennsylvania's NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE

Learn about the native cultures which inhabited Pennsylvania before 1700. This program is for students ages 9 to 18. We will look at some archaeological artifacts and view a slide program about this time period. Pre-registration is required.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 10 am to noon

BIRDS AT MY WINDOW

What can you do to attract birds to your home? Learn about feeders, preferred seeds, suet, fruit, and landscaping for the birds. This program is for adults who want to get into the hobby of bird feeding. Pre-registration is required; please call R. B. Winter State Park at (570) 966-1455.

Organized youth groups, schools, and adult civic and social organizations are encouraged to contact the park to arrange fall and winter field-learning experiences. Enjoy the beauty of fall foliage and learn why leaves turn colors, learn how to identify migrating raptors, how to snowshoe or to use a GPS unit. All programs are scheduled on a first come first served basis and are free of charge. Lists of topics for groups are available by request. We will also be happy to help you plan YOUR OWN SELF-GUIDED field trip. We have lesson plans and resources you may borrow. Wake up your group and take them on the ultimate adventure: THE GREAT OUTDOORS!!!!

Youth Natural Resources Publications Available

By Rance Harmon

Today's youth are tomorrow's landowners, voters, stewards, and policy makers for our nation's natural resources. However, "To date, most educational programs and publications about natural resources are designed for adults," according to Sanford Smith, a Lecturer in Penn State's School of Forest Resources and a Natural Resources and Youth Education Specialist. "A need exists in Pennsylvania for educational resources that address sustainable forestry and forest product awareness directly for youth."

To help meet this need, Smith and the Penn State Cooperative Extension are producing and distributing a series of educational fliers for youth. Each flyer in the "From the Woods" series contains attractive color photographs and illustrations. The flyers are written at a middle-school reading level. Although the publications are designed for youth, Smith has found that adults also enjoy them. Many of the existing publications about sustainable forestry and forest products for adults are fairly technical. The "From the Woods," flyers provide a useful introduction to natural resource issues for adults as well as youth.

Titles in the series include: Maple Syrup, Forest Stewardship, Hardwood Lumber, Harvesting Trees, White-tailed Deer, Watersheds, Paper!, Hardwood Veneer, Incredible Wood, and Sustainable Forestry.

To request a free copy of any of the titles in the "From the Woods" series, contact the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program: 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. You can also request the free publication: Forest Stewardship Bulletin #Teaching Youth about Forest Stewardship.

The "From the Woods" flyers are also available the Sustainable Forestry Teacher Resource Center (SFTRC) Web site: <<http://sftrc.cas.psu.edu>>. To assist educators in using the "From the Woods" series, lesson plans and pre- and post-tests are available from the SFTRC Web site. Educators and youth leaders can request multiple copies of the publications by contacting the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in their county.

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.

Our Environment Matters:

Montandon Marsh Easement Secured

After decades of interest on the part of Bucknell University scientists and their students, local bird watchers, and other area residents, the Linn Conservancy has secured a perpetual conservation easement on nearly 76 acres of the marsh. Warren Abrahamson, Jeannette Lasansky, attorney Terry Light, Allen Schweinsberg, and the donor Central Builders Supply and its attorney, Jeffrey Apfelbaum, have been working together over the past two years to achieve this. Not only is the easement secured, but Central Builders has stopped farming right up to the eased wetlands, thus creating a 100-plus foot buffer to minimize potentially harmful runoff.

The Conservancy is now seeking a grant through DCNR to develop a master plan for this eased area. The master plan would address perimeter fencing issues as it is important to discourage, if not eliminate, vehicle incursions and environmental disturbance, to create a boardwalk over a portion with educational signage, to allow for some off-street parking, and to envision connections to an even larger protected area 25-30 years from now, when

the sand and gravel mining operation in the contiguous area has been completed. This site is located in the designated Susquehanna Greenway.

The Education Committee is planning a series of events about the Marsh for next March and April. Watch in the next *Linn Log* for the complete schedule. The programs will be designed so that you can do one, some, or all of the events which will include walks that emphasize the geology of the complex and its animal residents, both breeding and migratory birds, butterflies, and amphibians. Programs will focus also on the hydrology or water dynamics, insects found in wetlands, what role an easement plays in protecting land, and visioning for the future, including restoration and the different types of water bodies possible, from wetlands similar to those now there to recreational.

Inserts included in this *Log* will provide you with information on this large complex north and south of Route 45 on the east side of the Susquehanna. We currently own a critical section off Housel's Run Road on the north side and now have permanently protected, through a conservation easement, another 76 acres. The Linn Conservancy has begun work on securing additional critical lands and buffers using all the land conservation tools available. Share our vision and help make it yours by attending the upcoming events.

Buffalo Creek Watershed Volunteers Move Ahead on a Number of Projects

The past several months have been very busy as the BCWA board completed several projects supported by its start-up grant. Most of these have been in the area of public education and outreach as we try to let people know about the watershed and the concerns of the Alliance. Mifflinburg resident Lorraine Lenhart led the development of "Entering Watershed" signs. Four of these attractive signs will be erected this summer at the appropriate places in the county. Shanon Burkhard designed and edited our first newsletter, which was mailed to 275 people; 225 additional copies were circulated in public places. Sue Auman worked with Mary Candland to design an attractive and informative placemat which will soon be appearing in selected local restaurants. Sue also reserved the web site address www.buffalocreek.org for the Alliance. Allan Grundstrom is constructing a BCWA web page at this address that will be seamlessly integrated with the current one on the Linn web site. An Alliance logo contest was held at the Lewisburg Area High School and a logo for the group is currently in its design phase. There was also enough money in the grant to purchase a digital camera and a GPS (Global Positioning System) device for use in stream monitoring.

On May 31 Luke Petre organized a very successful cleanup of Buffalo Creek along Campbell Mill Road, Buffalo Township, in collaboration with the Kelly-ites 4-H Club and the Leadership Susquehanna Valley Group. Several members of the board attended a workshop on *Storm Water Management* organized by the Union County Planning Office, a 'Big Bend' DEP educational presentation on *Acid Deposition*, and a DEP-sponsored *Plants for Buffers* workshop. At the last board meeting, four standing committees were approved: Public Education and Outreach, Membership, Projects, and Monitoring. One board member will serve on each these committees to recruit Alliance members, convene the group, help it get started, and remain as a liaison to the Board.

Looking ahead, the BCWA will have a booth at the West End Fair where it will distribute information about the watershed and the Alliance, including an attractive brochure designed by Owen Anderson. In September, Joan Sattler, a Watershed Coordinator in the North Central Office of DEP in Williamsport, will give the board a three-hour workshop on stream monitoring in preparation for future projects and grant applications, and the BCWA's Public Education and Outreach committee will be planning public educational meetings every two months during the school year.

New Invasive Weeds Publications

by Amy Ridenhour, Penn State Extension Assistant

Weeds not only cause problems on farms and in gardens, but are major nuisances in our forests as well. Weeds that cause economic or environmental harm are also known as invasive plants. According to David Jackson, a Forest Resources Extension Educator, invasive plants are causing a severe problem by interfering with the regeneration of native trees. Jackson has written three new fact sheets to help private forest owners and other land managers understand the issue and take action.

Most invasive plants in Pennsylvania were either intentionally or unintentionally introduced to our region from other parts of the world. Without the animals, plants, and natural processes that keep foreign plants in balance in their homelands, they can quickly invade our forests and natural areas, displacing native plants.

Jackson profiled three troublesome species for the Penn State Forest Resources Extension's Invasive Weeds series:

- Autumn olive, a large shrub introduced from Asia in the 1830s, was widely planted in the 1960s to provide food and cover for wildlife;
- Japanese barberry, introduced from Japan around 1875, was planted as an ornamental shrub for its scarlet fruit and orange-red autumn foliage;
- Tree-of-heaven, a fast growing tree with compound, sumac-like leaves, has a strong, distinct smell. A gardener in Philadelphia brought tree-of-heaven to the United States in 1874.

All of these plants are spread easily with the help of birds or wind. Other species profiled in the Invasive Weeds series include: Japanese and giant knotweed, bush honeysuckles, multiflora rose, Oriental bittersweet, and mile-a-minute.

To request a free copy of any of the titles in the Invasive Weeds series, contact the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program: 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 Invasive Weeds Fact Sheets are also available on the Penn State School of Forest Resources, Natural Resources Extension Web site: <<http://rnrext.cas.psu.edu/>>.

Northumberland County Natural Diversity Inventory Sites Assessed

In late March 2003, the science office of The Nature Conservancy in Middletown, PA, presented a final version of the county's Natural Diversity Inventory to the planning staff and the commissioners for Northumberland County. The plan identifies sites of state or local significance and it is not surprising to find that one of the top four sites in the county is the Montandon Marsh Complex. Other sites in upper Northumberland County--"our territory"--are several farms on the southern slope and foot of Montour Ridge that are home to special vernal ponds. Last winter and this summer we have begun discussion with landowners about the nature, importance, and protection of these sites. We will keep you posted as the Linn Conservancy continues to work with the results of the Northumberland County PNDI which we helped to fund.

Sheary Grant Sets Aside \$10,000 for Halfway Run Environmental Center Addition

The Linn Conservancy was partially successful in its application for Sheary funds to enlarge the Halfway Run Environmental Center at R.B. Winter State Park. The Conservancy has played a pivotal role in the construction of the amphitheater and the interior furnishing of the Center, including its equipment.

We have been presented with a challenge by Sheary in that they have not been able to provide all the funding requested. We will seek additional funds of up to \$30,000 through gifts and an additional grant from another source and hope to know by mid-winter whether or not we will be able to proceed with this project, one that impacts the environmental education of so many residents and visitors, especially children.

The Linn Conservancy is looking for individual, business, and corporate support. Blue prints and a description of the project may be secured by calling 524-8666 or writing <conserve@ptd.net>.

Application Deadlines for Environmental Adventure Award and John G. Clark Award

The Conservancy's Education Committee has announced the new award cycle for its Environmental Adventure Award which is sponsored by an anonymous donor. The application directions and form are available on the Conservancy's web site: <www.LinnConservancy.org>. The \$500 award is to be used to help provide an environmental camp or related experience by a 10th or 11th grade student in the Milton, Mifflinburg, or Lewisburg school systems. The deadline for submission is November 12.

The third grant cycle for the John G. Clark Environmental Education Award opens in December. The committee will select a recipient from among public or private school educators, home school teachers, and youth group leaders in scouting, 4-H, etc. living in the Mifflinburg, Lewisburg, or Milton school districts. That award has been supported by moneys given to the Conservancy in honor of the late botanist John G. Clark. The Clark Award application procedure and form are also on the Conservancy's web site.

Members of the Linn Conservancy's education committee who decide on the grant recipients are primarily present or retired educators and include: Bob Deffner, head of R.B. Winter State Park, Rose Ann Koons and Shirley Bingaman, both retired from the Mifflinburg district, Mark Berg and Geoff Goodenow from the Lewisburg district,

Dotti Zimmerman, retired from the Milton district, Lettie Davis, who taught in State College, and Jeff Bowers from Snyder County, as well as the committee's newest member, Jennifer Bergy, from the Milton district.

People, Businesses, and Organizations Effect Change:

Who Are We?

by John Fernsler, President

"We" is The Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy. "We" is plural, but the prior sentence rests in the organizational singular. So "we" is also "who."

We are members, financial supporters, and others with ecological and environmental viewpoints. We are volunteers, officers, directors, committees, and staff. We are also members of the general public who read or hear about the Conservancy, often having personal expectations about the Conservancy. We are members of affiliated groups, such as the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance. We are stakeholders in the Dale/Engle/ Walker property along with the Union County Historical Society (the property owner) and the Seven Mountains Audubon Society. We are members of land trust organizations on national, state, and regional levels. We are kindred spirits with all other environmental groups.

Over the past year many individuals have asked us to do things, many of them beyond our capacity or focused area of interest and commitment. The fact that the Conservancy has declined to participate in the manner requested does not indicate a lack of interest or concern. Rather, there is a need to focus on preserving local lands and waterways with our land trust, holding certain of these lands and waterways in perpetual trust, thereby pursuing public and ecological goals for ourselves and our posterity.

The officers and board are continuing to pursue the creation and implementation of a strategic plan to see us through the next three to five years. Susan and Jim Mathias helped us initiate this process early this year. We thank them for their invaluable assistance.

That process refocused our attention on the basic mission of the Linn Conservancy. That mission statement currently reads as follows: The missions of The Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy are to:

1. Protect and preserve significant natural sites.
2. Provide education about (i) conserving the environment, (ii) flora and fauna, and (iii) land and water.
3. Make available non-destructive limited recreational access to selected properties owned or managed by the Conservancy.

To accomplish these missions the Conservancy will engage its members and volunteers, partner with other organizations and individuals, secure grant funds, and obtain other resources. These missions are designed to be pursued within Union and upper Northumberland counties on a charitable basis.

These missions first find implementation through land and habitat preservation in the manner of a traditional land trust organization. In addition to the new efforts at protecting the Buffalo Creek watershed through the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, the Conservancy exercises varying degrees of land conservation control at its easements on the Walker, Koons, Bingaman, and Central Builders properties, and at the Belles property in Montandon, which we own, as well as the Mohn Mill and Shamokin trails, which we manage. Other sites, some of them quite significant, are currently being negotiated.

Secondly, the missions will be carried out through improvements in the ways in which we educate the general public including, especially, activities for school-aged children. Close ties with faculty at Bucknell University and other educational institutions continue to infuse this goal with substantive knowledge.

The rub comes in identifying particular people and the work each must do to implement the strategic goals we've set for ourselves. The other concern is how to cover our costs. Your officers and board are now at this stage of the strategic planning process. Look for future reports on our progress.

Lettie Davis is New Conservancy Board Member and Wayne McDiffett is New Vice President

Lettie Davis, a resident of Montandon, retired school teacher and environmentalist has joined the board of directors of the Conservancy. In addition to a BS in elementary education from Penn State and a master's degree in teaching from the University of Pittsburgh, Lettie has been trained at Penn State in environmental education. She has been an active member of the Linn Conservancy, working on its Education Committee and serving as a volunteer for outreach activities like those at SnowFest and Buggy Day. She has helped

organize environmental activities for the public, such as last year's trip to Hawk Mountain, and she has worked on our September 27th excursion. Lettie Davis is also active in the Central PA Dog Training Club as a board member, in the Lewisburg Civic Club as President, and works with the Lewisburg Arts Council, among other groups.

Wayne McDiffett, a Lewisburg resident, will now serve as the Conservancy's vice-president. Wayne, an *emeritus* biology professor at Bucknell University, has been a board director of the Linn Conservancy since 1989 and a past secretary of both the board and the group's site committee of which he is currently acting chair. He has been active in leading educational walks for the Conservancy, in establishing and maintaining the Shamokin Mountain walk and its trail brochure and, along with Joe Southerton, reviews annually the Koons easement in Mifflinburg.

Lettie Davis and Wayne McDiffett serve along with 13 other volunteer directors for this citizen's group established in 1988. If you would like to learn more about serving on the board or one of the active committees, please let a board or staff member know of your interest.

Dale's Ridge Trail has a New Look

A substantial amount of work was done at the Dale's Ridge trail over the spring and summer months under chief trail steward, Tom Travis. Some of the items are work efforts discussed for some time and people pulling together along with financial resources have made the changes happen.

At the bottom of the switchbacks to the ridge, a new sign has been installed warning hikers of dangers on the trail. At the two overlooks with sharp drops, new signs have been installed, which state: "Warning. Sharp Drop." These signs have been designed with the help of Bob Deffner of R.B. Winter State Park, Geoff Goodenow, Tom Travis, and Fred Wert, contractor. The trail has been re-blazed by volunteers, using a sky blue color. The paint on the posts has been standardized; the posts with numbers for the interpretative leaflet are painted differently than are trail marking posts. To clarify trail direction, two new posts with arrows have been installed in the field and, at the junction right to the forest trail, a post has been moved and new blazes added. New signs have been installed at the junction of the return trail to the switch backs and the road back to the Walker house, giving hikers an option to return via the switchbacks or return on a gentler path past the Dale/Engle/Walker House. This alternative route should ease wear on the switchbacks.

Volunteers who have worked on this aspect of the trail have been Bob Rapp and his boy scout troop, Sue Rapp and LHS students, and Albert Mabus and his boy scout troop and scout parents. Susan Travis and John Murphy have also helped with trail maintenance and Sue repainted the numbers on the trail posts. A new, more noticeable and readable statement has been placed on the kiosk, stipulating trail rules. We thank the volunteers and the trail stewards who will continue the maintenance of this much-used natural area over the late summer and fall months.

Adopt-a-Road on October 19th

If you are interested in helping to clean up the road along Penns Creek in Limestone Township, please call the Conservancy at 524-8666 or write <conserve@ptd.net> and leave your name and number. Member Jo Reilly, substituting for Geoff Goodenow who is on sabbatical this year, will get back to you. 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.

Members Help Linn Conservancy Meet Its Goals Through Gifts

Welcome to new members: Marry and Libby Lawson, Mark D. Knott, Mary Jane Stoneberg, Thomas Gibson & Jamie Hendry, Larry & Lynn Lawson, and James Swan.

Thanks to Don and Nancy Bowman who responded to our request for help on the Koons Trail in the last *Linn Log*.

Thanks to members who, since March, have made donations, additional financial gifts, or increased their level of giving: Wayne Stahl, Gary & Sandy Sojka, Anne & David Goehring, Adrienne Levin, and John & Nancy Libbey. These gifts and new memberships when combined with steady membership support ensure a better future.

In memory of his mother, Henrietta Linn, Robert M. Linn gave a donation that is to be used when the Conservancy needs to reissue one of the Rural Routes brochures.

Thanks to Carolyn Hathaway (new volunteer), Pete & Allen Mackey, Jo Reilly, and Geoff Goodenow for their recent work on our Adopt-a-Road roadway which is in Limestone Township along Penns Creek. Jo has assumed leadership responsibility this year while Geoff is away. Thank you, Jo.

Thanks to Rachel Hochman & Mark D. Knott for donating a white oak seedling in memory of botanist John G. Clark, as did the Lasanskys, while still others purchased seedlings for their own use. The remaining seedlings will be available for purchase next March and April.

Thanks to members of the Conservancy and friends of Preston Hoyle who gave memorial donations in his name to further our work: Shirley & Dahle Bingaman and William & Jeannette Lasansky.

Trail workers are those who work quietly to maintain what so many enjoy. We thank those working on the Linn Trail in the Mohn Mill Pond area, the Shamokin Mountain Trail, and the Koons and Dale's Ridge trails.

Thanks to Dave & Vicki Heberlig and Margaret Moyer who prepared this newsletter for mailing.

In Brief:

The Conservancy is looking for members who might be interested in writing on environmental issues under the Linn Conservancy logo in *The Daily Item*. Please let the coordinator know of your interest in having further information.

The Union County Conservation District is moving ahead with the hiring of a Buffalo Creek Watershed Specialist who will work with our Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance as well as the White Deer watershed group and a Penns Creek group. As we write this, Ted Retallack is conducting interviews. This will be an important asset to watershed protection in Union County.

We still hope to purchase, with \$95,000 in held DCNR grant moneys, a large parcel of riparian and farm land along the Susquehanna in Gregg Township. The land would have a conservation easement placed on it before being turned over to the Union County Conservation District. The UCCD plans for the site a major environmental center that would focus on waterways and wetlands. An archaeological assessment of the site is presently being conducted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission under Douglas C. McLearn.

Many people have had their addresses changed because of the 911 system. We would appreciate it if you would call or e-mail the office with that change because mail "forwarded" to your new address will cost the Conservancy fifty cents per forwarding, a small charge which, when multiplied, is not insignificant. Also, we want to be sure that you get your copy of the *Linn Log* promptly and efficiently. If you know you will be moving to a different address, please let us know ahead of time since our newsletter, which is sent bulk rate, would not be forwarded by the post office.