

# Linn Log

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

*Board of Directors*

Wayne McDiffett, *President*  
Roy Fontaine, *Vice-President*  
Sue Travis, *Co-Treasurer*  
Judith Ellis, *Co-Treasurer*  
Roger Curran, *Secretary*  
Owen Anderson  
Lettie Davis  
Geoff Goodenow  
June Hoyle  
Carl Oberheim  
Clyde Peeling  
Jan Peterson  
John C. Snook  
Diane Specht  
John Tonzetich

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

Sue Auman, *Coordinator*  
Carla Watson, *Administrative Assistant*  
Judith Becker, *Editor of Linn Log*

## *Spring 2006*

### *Educational Events:*

---

#### **Conservancy's Annual Meeting & Dinner to be Held April 26, 2006**

---

Please join us for the Conservancy's annual dinner held at the Carriage Corner restaurant in Mifflinburg on Wednesday, April 26. The annual dinner will feature an evening of good food and fellowship shared with members and friends of the Linn Conservancy. The menu includes salad, Chicken Amandine or Pasta Primavera, 3 vegetables, dessert and a beverage, all for \$18.00, tax and tip included. Social time begins at 6 pm with punch, cheese, and crackers, and a wine bar will be available; dinner is at 6:30 pm.

Our guest speaker this year will be Tom Boop, President of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Tom's presentation is entitled Mission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission: Donation of Real Estate to Agency.

The annual dinner will be the finale of our "Caring for Communities" events held in the month of April (see next page). Please send the enclosed dinner reservation form by April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope to see you there!

---

## Caring for Communities 2006

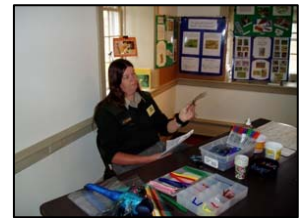
---

Caring for Communities, the Linn Conservancy's free, family-oriented series of educational events, enters its third year with a lineup of exciting activities scheduled for Sunday afternoons throughout April as well as Earth Day and Arbor Day. This year's Caring for Communities introduces new events and activities as well as new faces and voices to illuminate the critical animal, plant, and habitat issues that reflect the well-being of our communities.

On **Sunday, April 2 at 1:30 p.m.** Caring for Communities explores the **Montandon Marsh** for the first time. A Montandon Marsh geological walk, conducted by Bucknell geology professors Jeff Trop and Craig Kochel, begins at Central Builders' Supply on Route 45 east of the Lewisburg Bridge. Preceding the walk Central Builder's Tony Markunas, Jr. will present a description of the company's work at this site and its long range plans for the area.

**Sunday, April 9, at 1:30 p.m.** Caring for Communities moves to the Dale Engle Walker House with the opening of a new exhibit on the Conservancy's work called "**Conserve for All Seasons**" and the launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual native plant sale. Attendees will be able to order from a new and expanded variety of native trees, shrubs and perennials. A special feature of the event is the presentation "**Garden Design Using Native Perennials**" by noted landscape designer Larry Weaner, who works extensively with native plants. Mr. Weaner, whose landscape projects have appeared in national gardening magazines, and who lectures to both horticultural and environmental organizations throughout the U.S.

On **Sunday, April 16 at 2 p.m.** Caring for Communities will present its first one-hour video program at DEW. The featured videos are *Freshwater Wetlands and You Are What You Drink*. Participants will have time to view the new Conservancy exhibit.



**Caring for Communities' Celebration Day** will be held on **Sunday, April 23 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.** at the DEW property. The afternoon will be packed with new hands-on activities and events. Special additions to the afternoon are presentations by **Native Americans David Blackbear Ramsey and Ona Fleming**. Mr. Ramsey will offer the Native American view of animals and nature while Ms. Fleming will conduct two sessions on Native American use of natural materials.

Celebration Day events and activities on the DEW grounds include:

**Noon to 4 p.m.**

- Hot lunch foods, healthy snacks, and beverages are available.
- The new Conservancy display "Conserve for All Seasons" is on view.
- The Native Plant Sale continues with pre-ordered plants available for pickup.
- The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance poster contest artwork will be on display in the newly-built wagon shed.

**Noon to 2 p.m. - Hands-on planning workshop** for young people, who will construct paper houses and help create a community. The event will be conducted in the red shed by Neal Fogle, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and Shawn McLaughlin, Union County Planning Commission.

**2 to 3:30 p.m. - David Blackbear Ramsey's Native American life presentation.**

Celebration Day events will be conducted simultaneously inside the DEW house located on Strawbridge Road off Route 192 west of Lewisburg 1.7 miles.

**1 p.m.** award-winning animal rehabilitator Robyn Graboski from State College with live birds.

**2 p.m.** Robyn Graboski: on rehabilitating bats with live bats. Back by popular demand!

**2-3:30 p.m** bird nesting box-building with Union County Conservation District's Greg Bonsall.

**3 p.m.** Allen Schweinsberg, Bucknell professor presents a session on area butterflies.

**4 p.m.** Clyde Peeling with his fascinating reptiles. Back by popular demand!



---

## Buffalo Creek Posters to Appear at Caring for Communities Celebration

---



Art work created by local elementary school students for the Buffalo Creek Watershed Poster Contest will be on display at the Caring for Communities Celebration Day, Sunday April 23, in the newly-constructed carriage shed at the Dale Engle Walker House. Students from the Lewisburg Area School District, Mifflinburg School District, and Shady Grove Christian School have created posters that raise awareness of the vital importance of Buffalo Creek to our area. The winning posters, which will be selected by members of the Linn Conservancy Education Committee and the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, will be judged based on originality, artistic ability, and understanding of the subject matter. The

posters will also be displayed at R.B. Winter State Park, the Historical Society Office at the Union County Court House, and other venues. For more information, call (570) 524-8666.

---

## Montandon Marsh Community Days in the Planning *by Jeannette Lasansky*

---

Conservancy members Lettie Davis and Jeannette Lasansky have been working as members of the Montandon Community Days Committee over the last three years. Their participation with over a dozen Montandon residents has resulted in the marsh complex being one of the themes of the community's annual Memorial Day celebration since its inception in 2004. In the first year, the planning for this totally new two-day grass roots event, was nearly monthly. Now, the planning sessions begin in earnest around the first of the year and by March the final details are determined.



The Montandon post office had made a special issue cancellation stamp, featuring an aspect of the marsh, for three consecutive years. The stamps each year have been products of local school competition. Last year the many fine entries were submitted and then exhibited at Montandon Community Days where people voted for their favorites.

An early morning bird walk in the Montandon Marsh has been the Saturday leadoff each year and for the last two years the Linn Conservancy showed its Montandon Marsh video in the West Chillisquaque Township building and has had a stand. This year the bird walk is scheduled again.

Lettie spearheaded the committee's effort to order and then install a banner over Route 45 and Jeannette has organized the event's *Standard/Journal* tabloid that features historical and environmental articles as well as entertainment, parade, and vendor information.

Be sure to add to your calendar the Montandon Community Days Memorial Day Weekend events.

---

## Butterfly Walk Set for June 25 at 1 PM

---



Bucknell University professor Allen Schweinsberg will lead a butterfly walk at the Dale Engle Walker Property on Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. Enjoy a fun nature walk while learning about butterfly habitat and species with friends of the Conservancy. The Dale Engle Walker Property is located on Strawbridge Rd. off Route 192 west of Lewisburg 1.7 miles.

*Photo by Allen Schweinsberg*

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

---

### Legislative Update

---

Senators Santorum (R-PA) and Lieberman (D-CT) introduced the CARE Act of 2005 (S.1780) in fall 2005 with seven cosponsors: Senators Frist (R-TN), Hatch (R-UT), Lugar (R-IN), Inouye (D-HI), Bunning (R-KY), Coleman (R-MN), and Smith (R-OR).

The bill expands a number of tax incentives for charitable giving and includes two provisions that directly benefit land trusts.

⊙ **Increased Deductions for Conservation Easement Donations (Sec. 105)** – makes it easier for donors to realize the full value of their donations. Easement donors are currently allowed to deduct up to 30% of the adjusted gross income (AGI) per year, for up to 5 years. The bill would allow donors to deduct up to 50% of their AGI for up to 15 years. Farmers and ranchers would be allowed to deduct up to 100% of their AGI for 15 years.

⊙ **Capital Gains Exclusion (Sec. 106)** – reduces capital gains tax when landowners sell land to qualified conservation organizations. When a sale is made to a conservation organization, 25% of the value of the sale is excluded from capital gains tax.

The bill also includes some items intended to curb abuse of the tax law by nonprofits (Title II). They focus on public disclosure of information about a nonprofit's tax exempt activity and do not directly affect land trusts, conservation easements, or other conservation transactions. A similar bill (including both conservation incentives) passed the Senate in 2003.

Source: Pennsylvania Land Trust Association <http://conserveland.org/features/care2005>.

---

### **Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference to be Held April 28 and 29.**

---

The Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference is Pennsylvania's annual training, networking, and inspirational event for those involved in private & public conservation. This year's conference features keynote speaker Stephen J. Small, Esq., the nation's leading authority on private land protection options and strategies. All day seminars are held on Friday and concurrent workshop sessions on Saturday.

Learn more at <http://conserveland.org/conferences/2006/index>.

---

### **Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up Plans Set**

---

The Adopt-a-Highway cleanup effort features litter pick-up on a two-mile stretch of Wildwood and Red Ridge Road along Penns Creek west of Route 104 on April 9, June 11, August 20 and October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteers are asked to meet at 1 PM at the pavilion and plan to work for an hour or two.

Thanks to Jo Reilly for leading the clean up effort. New participants are needed and welcomed. Call or email for more information.

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

---

### **Making Tracks** *by Teal Zeisler, Bucknell University Student Intern*

---

You may not know it, but if you've hiked the Dale's Ridge Trail, you've benefited from the volunteer efforts of Bob & Sue Rapp. Bob & Sue are Trail Stewards of the Month for Dale's Ridge Trail during the months of March through May. The Rapps have been involved in the maintenance of the trail since its inception in 1989. The two-mile long trail is located on the property of Rosemary and Charles Walker and has been placed under a conservation easement with the Conservancy. It begins on the south side of Buffalo Creek and from there, runs west and up onto the ridge. During the course of the trail, one passes through a variety of habitats, including floodplain, mature hardwoods, and former farm fields.

Bob, a mechanical engineer employed at Bucknell University as a project manager, is also an assistant boy-scout manager for Troop 538. He takes his group of scouts to the trail once spring arrives in March and then throughout April. Bob and the scouts are the first group to volunteer after the winter season, and they work to clear out any debris that flooding and storms may have left behind. Sue, an American history and government teacher at Lewisburg High School, said that she stresses the importance of volunteering for one's local community to her students and encourages them to engage in volunteer activities. In May, she takes them out to the trail to do their share of maintenance work, which involves activities such as picking up garbage, pruning growth along the trail, and repainting fences and trail markers on trees.

“When we first started the maintenance program,” Sue commented, “we hauled four trailer loads of trash from the site. Now, my students can hardly come close to filling a garbage bag after walking the entire trail.” She attributes this to the dedicated volunteers from the community who keep the trail maintained from spring to fall.

As an extension of the trail maintenance, Sue also takes her students out to Strawbridge Road in April, before Earth Day, to do a roadside clean-up. Sue said that she and Geoff Goodenow, a very active member of the Conservancy, came up with this idea. She and her students work their way from Route 192, past the Dale’s Ridge Trail parking lot, and up to Colonel John Kelly Road.

Many thanks to Bob and Sue for their dedication to the Conservancy and the Dale’s Ridge Trail!

### **Buffalo Creek Stream Monitoring Program to Complete First Year**

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance’s stream monitoring program is about to celebrate its first anniversary. Since April 2005, teams of volunteers have been monitoring water quality at eight sites along Buffalo Creek, from the headwaters in Bald Eagle State Forest to the St Anthony’s Street in Lewisburg.

The teams monitor several important measures of water quality during their monthly site visits: color, odor, temperature, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nitrate levels, alkalinity, and phosphate levels. One item of concern revealed by the monitoring is the low pH (high acidity) of the stream from the headwaters all the way to Pleasant Grove. The pH along this stretch is too low for the survival of the aquatic life that would otherwise populate the stream.

As the bank of data grows, it will be reviewed alongside baseline assessments carried out by the Clean Water Institute (CWI) of Lycoming College in order to identify trends and prioritize restoration efforts. The monitoring data, the results of the CWI assessments, and a map showing the monitoring sites are all available on the BCWA’s website: <http://www.buffalocreek.org/monitoring.html>.

Volunteer Thom Fantaskey is managing the monitoring program and making sure it is well-showcased on the BCWA website.

The monitoring program was established with funding from a Growing Greener Grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

According to Thom Fantaskey, “All of our stream monitors can be classified as 'outdoor people' who care about the environment and they have all shown a great deal of dedication. While the winter months can create some nasty weather it has rarely kept anyone from performing the monthly test. Site #5 is located on Rapid Run at its confluence with Buffalo Creek near the village of Cowan. The responsibility for testing at that site belongs to Judy and Dick Ellis along with Tim and Janet Marsh. This is a nice arrangement because if one couple has another obligation on the test date then the other couple can still complete the test. Often they perform the stream tests together. During the warmer months their testing site resembles more of a picnic than of a chemistry lab.”

More volunteers are needed! Our sincerest thanks to the current monitoring teams listed on the following chart. If you would like to help on this project by becoming a member of a team or a substitute monitor, please call 524-0966 or write [buffalocreek@dejazzd.com](mailto:buffalocreek@dejazzd.com).



<i>Monitoring Sites</i>	<i>Monitoring Teams</i>
Buffalo Flat Rd	Jake Engle, Thom Fantaskey, George Matthews
Pleasant Grove Rd	Karen Musser
Eighth St, Mifflinburg	Dave Himes
North Branch, Forest Hill Rd	Kim & Chris Wheeler
Rapid Run, Cowan	Judy & Richard Ellis, Tim & Janet Marsh
Beaver Run Rd, Vicksburg	Sue Goddard
Strawbridge Rd	Tom Duck and BSA Troop 538
St Anthony St	Geoff Goodenow

---

## Support the Conservancy through Arts from the Earth Raffle

---

Support the Conservancy by purchasing "Arts from the Earth" raffle tickets. Prizes include a merino throw, hand knit by Ruth Burnham, a stoneware leaf vase by Kim Monteverde and a ceramic river otter by Eileen Keefer.

The throw, hand-spun and hand-knit by Ruth Bradford Burnham of Forest House Fiberworks features classic Shetland lace stitches in both its border and center. It was knit diagonally, from the bottom corner to the top, using approximately 1,427 yards of handspun natural-colored California variegated mutant wool.

The stoneware leaf vase was wheel thrown by Kim Monteverde. The vase features a red satin matte glaze. Geranium leaves were used for shaping the applied decorative handles.

Eileen Keefer's River Otter named Oswego, is #9 of the river tribe. Eileen's art work can be seen at the Magpie in Lewisburg, Eaglesmere Gallery of Art, Eclectika in Selinsgrove, and Village Artisan in Boiling Springs.

Tickets are included in this newsletter along with a return envelope. Simply fill out the ticket stubs and drop them in the mail along with \$5. Additional raffle tickets can be purchased at the Bleu Plate Café, Brushstrokes, the Magpie and Mya's Cafe located on Market Street in Lewisburg as well as the Courthouse office of the Union County Historical Society or by calling 570-524-8666. The cost for tickets is one for \$1 or six for \$5 and winners need not be present to win.



Ruth Bradford Burnham

---

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

---

Thanks to the *Caring for Communities Planning Team*: Pictured from top left: Mark Berg co chair, Bob Deffner of RB Winter State Park, Dotti Zimmerman, Lettie Davis, Jeannette Lasansky, chair. Not shown, Greg Bonsall, Tom Gibson, Neal Fogle, Shawn McLaughlin, and Diane Specht, overall publicity. Thanks also to Union County Planning Department and Union County Conservation District for *underwriting funds*. Thanks to Brian Gockley and the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission for their work on the *Arbor Day Tree Walk*. Thanks to Gary Slear/Union County Historical Society and others for the *property clean up* prior to the event. Thanks to Roy Fontaine and Terry & Dotti Zimmerman for the *food stand*. Thanks to presenters Greg Bonsall, Bill Dietrick, Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance, Ona Fleming, Neal Fogle, Tom Gibson, Robyn Graborski, Mark Lawrence of WKOK, Shawn McLaughlin, Clyde Peeling and Reptiland, David Blackbear Ramsey, Allen Schweinsburg, and John Tonzetich.



Thanks to Connie Timm and Market Street Group for assisting with the Conservancy's *new graphic display* and the exhibit *Conserve for All Seasons*.

Thanks to Saskia Madelener, Danielle Monteverde, and Teal Zeisler for their leadership of the *Art from the Earth* raffle. Thanks to Jason Nyrop for creating the *Arts from the Earth flyer*.

Thanks to Brushstrokes, the Bleu Plate Café, The Magpie, and Mya's Café for serving as *Arts from the Earth raffle sales locations*. Thanks also to our featured artists Ruth Bradford Burnham, Kim Monteverde, and Eileen Keefer for donating beautiful handcrafted items to the *Art from the Earth Raffle*.

Thanks to Faye Oberheim for her help with *Linn Log planning*.

Thanks to board member John Tonzetich for his *leadership of the 2006 Native Plant Sale*.

Thanks to Country Cupboard Restaurant, Lewisburg Garden Club, Mifflinburg Garden Club, Milton Garden Club, Molesevich Environmental Services, Susquehanna Garden Club, Sue Iddings, Meixell-Diehl Insurance, West Milton State Bank, and WoodMode, Inc. for their donations to the *2006 Native Plant Sale*.

Thanks to volunteers who helped staff the Conservancy and BCWA booth at *RB Winter State Park's Snowfest 2006*: Owen Anderson, Lettie Davis, Edwena Eger, Geoff Goodenow, Allan Grundstrom, Saskia Madelener, Richard Morrison, and Carl Oberheim.

*Welcome to new members through early March* Larry Bottiger, Edward & Ann Kaye, Glenn & Claudia Gerhard/Kasales, Homer Folk, Brooks & Amy Gronlund, Tom & Cindi Martin, Sally Nyquist, Bryan & Christina Oberheim, Mary Russin, Tom & Marie Simpson, Susan Waggoner, and John & Christina Wallace.

Thanks to members who, from mid- December to early March, have made *additional financial gifts, and/or increased their level of giving* in order to help better support the Conservancy's work: Bill & Judy Becker, Anni's Inn & Outings, Thomas Duck, Russell Fairchild, June Hoyle, Jeffrey Hoyle, Joan Krick, William & Jeannette Lasansky, Ed & Mary Mastascusa, Steven Miller, DDS, Michael Nailor, Ann Sherpick & Walter Stewart, and Barbara Zeiders.

A *gift in honor* of Wayne McDiffett was given to the Conservancy by Phoebe Oshirak.

A *memorial gift* was received from member Nancy Bernstein in memory of Robert Bernstein, from Carl & Sabrina Kirby in honor of William Kerr, and Donald & Janice Snyder in memory of Isabelle Patten.

**We can send the *Linn Log* to you in vivid color as a PDF file instead of through the mail. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter in a PDF format, let us know by emailing [conserve@ptd.net](mailto:conserve@ptd.net) and we will start sending them that way starting with the next *Log*. Thanks to those members who have elected to do so:** Maddie Blamble, Catherine P. Blair, Donald & Dorothy Douglas, Rosaria Gabriele, Arlene Hoyt, E. Rachel Hochman, George M. Jenks, Peter Judge, Carl & Sabrina Kirby, Karin Knisely, Jeannette & William Lasansky, Medina Lasansky, Andrew Mack, Fredrik Paulsen, Paul Susman & Libby Meadows, Allen Schweinsberg, David & Margaret Wilder, Terri & Dottie Zimmerman.

---

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale Order Form**



Reserve your Linn Conservancy native plants in advance by submitting the form below with a check for payment in full to the Conservancy. Orders are on a first come, first serve basis. Plants can be picked up at the Caring for Communities Celebration Event on April 23<sup>rd</sup> between Noon and 4 PM. (see page two for more details) **Order now, plants**

**sell out quickly!**

Fill in address information below.	Selling Price per Unit	Number of Units	Cost
<b>Perennials</b> Size: 1-quart containers			
Eastern Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)	\$8.00		
Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)	\$8.00		
Blue Lobelia (Lobelia siphilitca)	\$8.00		
Wild Geranium (Geranium maculatum)	\$8.00		
Black Snakeroot (Cimicifuga racemosa)	\$8.00		
Pink Phlox (Phlox paniculata 'Flamingo')	\$8.00		
Smooth Aster (Aster laevis)	\$8.00		
Foamflower (Tiarella cordifolia)	\$8.00		
Foxglove Beardstongue (Penstemon digitalis)	\$8.00		
Wild Ginger (Asarum canadense)	\$8.00		
<b>Trees/Shrubs</b>			
Black Birch (Betula lenta)	\$15.00		
Hornbeam (Carpinus caroliniana)	\$15.00		
White Ash (Fraxinus americana)	\$15.00		
Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)	\$15.00		
Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)	\$12.00		
Spicebush (Lindera benzoin)	\$12.00		
Winterberry (Ilex verticillata)	\$12.00		
Witch hazel (Hamamelis virginiana)	\$12.00		
Silky Dogwood (Comus amomum)	\$12.00		
<b>Total</b>			

**Make checks payable to: Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy**

Name:  
 Address:  
 City:  
 State:                                  Zip:                                  Phone:

Return order form with payment to:  
**Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy**  
**P.O. Box 501**  
**Lewisburg, PA 17837 (570) 524-8666**



**Thank you for your order!**