

# Linn Log

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

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*Spring 1998*

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## ***Coming Events:***

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### **Top Spring Event: Annual Dinner Slated for Wednesday, May 6th**

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William H. Deitrick will speak on Union County farmland preservation at the annual dinner of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy to be held at the Christ's United Lutheran "Four Bell" Church located about 3 miles west of Mifflinburg on the south side of Rte. 45. A social time will start at 6 p.m. to be followed by a delicious country ham dinner at 6:30. (A vegetarian option is available.) A reservation form is included in newsletters for those Conservancy members living locally. Please consider bringing a new or prospective Conservancy member as a guest. The annual dinner is a great opportunity to meet others who have been working on Linn Conservancy projects over the past year and share in their enthusiasm and knowledge.

Our speaker was chosen to emphasize a long-standing interest of the Conservancy and one we need to know more about as central Pennsylvania receives increased development pressure. Two articles in the following pages discuss important aspects of farmland preservation. Mr. Deitrick is the Farmland Protection and Environmental Education Coordinator for the Union County Conservation District. He worked previously with the Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Management Program. A graduate of Penn State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Systems Management, Mr. Deitrick has also managed a beef operation on a family farm since 1988.

Come join fellow Conservancy members for dinner at a beautiful location on a late-spring evening. Those who attended last year's annual dinner were high in their praise for both the food and location. The drive toward the more rural reaches of the county is a refreshing experience after a busy day spent elsewhere. See you there!

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### **April 19th is Another Dale's Ridge Sampler with Dick Nickelsen**

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We'll assemble at 1:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Dale's Ridge Trail for a "sampler" tour with geologist, bird enthusiast, and naturalist Dick Nickelsen, Bucknell professor emeritus and former Conservancy board member. Dick worked with the late Rosie Walker, the property owner, in designing this two-mile walking loop and knows every aspect intimately. Hiking conditions are easy after walking up the switchback but one should wear suitable foot gear. Allow a couple of hours for this experience. The parking lot is on Strawbridge Road and located in the front of the

Walker farm immediately before crossing Buffalo Creek. Strawbridge Road runs north off Rte. 192 a couple of miles west of Lewisburg (just after the old Dock View Dairy.) This is a fine opportunity for those who have not joined one of Dick's previous "sampler" walks. Don't miss out!

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### **May 3rd Koons Trail Walk with Joe Southerton**

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On Sunday, May 3rd, at 2:00 p.m., the Conservancy will offer area families an opportunity to learn more about a natural jewel in the borough of Mifflinburg: the Koons Trail. We will meet at the ball fields parking lot on North 8th Street. The group will be looking for spring wildflowers, migrating and resident birds, and any other critters who happen to be in the area. Participants will be taking a slow, easy walk. Be prepared for wet conditions (mud), and bring binoculars if you happen to have a pair. If conditions permit, the group will be taking a closer look at a vernal pond. The one-mile-loop walk will take roughly one and a half hours, depending upon bird activity and wildflower conditions.

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### **May 10th is Spring Walk on Shamokin Mountain Trail with Wayne McDiffett**

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Observing seasonal changes on one of our trails will be a special treat for members and guests. On May 10th, Wayne McDiffett will lead the second in a series of walks on the Shamokin Mountain Trail in Union Township. The walk will begin at 1:30 p.m. and we will meet at the trail head. To get there, take Stein Lane south from Lewisburg and go 1.1 miles past Furnace Road. After crossing under two power lines, there will be a small green sign on the left marking the Union Township boundary. Take the first left onto the gravel road and follow it for .3 mile. Pull off the right side of the road and park near the trail head information kiosk. Walking conditions are quite easy for the approximately one hour walk.

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

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### **Joint Stewardship Program Expands**

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We are presently establishing another stewardship project on two contiguous parcels of land in Limestone Township. These properties are home to a small bush that is one of the gooseberry species. The berries aren't usually eaten out of hand because they are tart, much more so than currants, but they frequently appeared in traditional colonial jellies. This species is a plant of the mid-western U.S. with rare occurrences in the east. It is located in one other place in Pennsylvania, a section of woodlands near the Gettysburg battlefield. Why the plant is uncommon in the Northeast is speculative. The listed habitat (dry or moist upland woods) does not appear restrictive but the plants are found rarely in the region even though nearby areas are superficially similar. Also at this site are small natural ponds and dry depressions. Though such ponds are not unprecedented, they are unusual and presumably result from soils collapsing into gaps formed in the underlying limestone bedrock.

Conservancy members interested in participating in an afternoon cleanup at the site are asked to call the office. We will most likely conduct this cleanup at the end of August.

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### **International Paper Grant and Buffalo Valley Telephone Company Support Helps Conservancy Expand Koons' Trail Educational Material**

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One objective of the Linn Conservancy is to educate the public on local environmental issues and special sites in the area. The Conservancy's coordinator applied for a grant from the International Paper Company Foundation for the design and printing of a brochure on the Koons Trail suitable for grades 6-12 and out-of-door educational materials for K-3 and 4-6. Our grant application passed both local and national review and this past fall the IPC, which has operated a plant in Lewisburg since 1969, awarded the Conservancy \$1,000.00 for these projects. IPC grants are limited to one-fifth of the total cost of a project. In-kind services of Connie Timm of Market Street Associates, Jeanette Campbell, and Joe Southerton as well as some of Jeannette Lasansky's time, will be part of our match. We secured additional corporate sponsorship from the Buffalo Valley Telephone Company and hope to have the brochure included in this mailing if we make our deadlines. If not, it will be available at the trail kiosks at North 4th and 8th streets in Mifflinburg and at the annual dinner and at our Buggy Days booth.

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### **Buffalo Creek Rechanneling Update** *by Geoff Goodenow*

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Since my report in the winter newsletter, several key events have occurred with respect to the proposal by Mifflinburg borough to rechannel Buffalo Creek at the Hassenplug covered bridge.

At the request of the borough, the Union County Planning Commission reviewed the proposal at its January meeting. The commission heard from representatives of the Conservancy, the borough's engineers, and borough manager. Members also considered a review of the project by an independent engineering firm that is familiar with the project site. In February, county planners recommended that the borough consider alternatives to the proposed rechanneling in order to address the problems at Fourth Street and the bridge.

At the Mifflinburg borough council meeting in February, the Conservancy reiterated its long-standing request for the formation of a panel representative of all parties to consider options. Council agreed to do so and, accordingly, set February 25 as the meeting date.

The Conservancy hired Mr. Robert Bickhart, an engineer from Selinsgrove, to advise us in the search for a solution. At the request of Ms. Lynne Walshaw of Mid-Penn Engineering (the borough's engineering firm) several Conservancy members, along with Mr. Bickhart, met with Ms. Walshaw prior to the 25th to try to hammer out a proposal to put before the larger panel. This proved to be a very constructive meeting from which all parties departed with a sense of good will and accomplishment. Ms. Walshaw then reviewed the group's proposal with her seniors at Mid-Penn. When some critical concerns were raised, she immediately contacted the Conservancy and yet another meeting was held just prior to convening of the borough panel. In that last hour, Ms. Walshaw, Mr. Bickhart, Mr. Craig Kochel and I roughly outlined a compromise proposal to present to the full panel.

That compromise plan reduced the amount of channel displacement as originally proposed and retained some of the present meander in the stream. A new channel would be located far enough west of 4th Street so as to accommodate a 3 to 1 or 4 to 1 (slope) embankment from the street to the creek's edge. By doing so, no safety guide rail would be necessary along the roadway, the creek would no longer undercut the street, and children would have safe and easy access to this section of the fish-for-fun area. Some rip-rap, far less than first suggested, would be used to protect banks and to reduce scour at the bridge abutments.

After an hour of panel questions and discussion, council president Don Bitner requested that Ms. Walshaw draw up a new set of plans based upon this compromise. That work would be done at no additional cost to the borough. Furthermore, it was indicated that any repermitting that may be required should not prevent completion of the project by the end of this summer. Ms. Walshaw was asked to be ready to present her new drawings at the March 17 meeting of borough council for consideration by the entire council.

At that council meeting, with each plan on display for review, Ms. Walshaw and Mr. Bickhart agreed that both rechannelization proposals would serve the intent and needs of the borough. The issue then became a choice by council members between the desire of the property owner on whose land the project will take place and the position taken by the Conservancy. The land owner expressed his favor in the original plan since it displaces the creek a greater distance from his home than does the compromise alternative. Although both engineers pointed out that the increased distance would not change the flood potential at his home, the landowner's position did not waiver. I restated the Conservancy's view that by addressing the problems in the least intrusive manner (the alternative plan), the natural quality of the area could be preserved while providing adequate stabilization/protection at the landowner's property, Fourth Street, and the bridge.

The vote was called. With a roll call vote of 5 to 1, council accepted the original proposal. Essentially then, council rejected a workable compromise to accommodate the landowner's preference. Barring an outcry from borough residents, the fate of the creek seems to be sealed.

On this issue, I feel that the Conservancy took an appropriate stand that is consistent with its mission. While I am disappointed by the outcome, perhaps there is a positive note. The presentations and discussion that occurred after the creation of the special panel exemplify the kind of interaction/dialogue that should occur from the start when the interests and objectives of different parties seem to clash. There are many people -- borough and county planners, members of borough council, conservancy members, Mid Penn, among others -- to thank for their time and energy in this late effort. I (we) hope that such an approach, initiated at the outset of any proposal, will be the model for addressing differences in the future.

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### Montandon Marsh Update

Unbeknownst to the Conservancy a small portion (2.01 acres) of our Montandon Marsh property was timbered in early November - just about a month after our purchase. This portion is bounded on the East by the right-of-way of Conrail and on the West by lands of Robert C. Snyder Farms, Inc. With legal advice and assistance, the Conservancy is identifying the responsible party. Forester Mark Holman has completed a stump survey which determined exactly what was removed. Details of the resolution of this unfortunate occurrence will be included in the fall *Linn Log*.

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### Saving American Farmland

The article below by Ralph Grossi, president of American Farmland Trust, appeared in *The Daily Item* of November 29, 1997

If you are one of the millions of people traveling this Thanksgiving weekend, take a good look at the landscape you drive past or fly over. Chances are it has changed significantly since the last time you made the trip.

That endless cornfield now has a big red-and-white sign reading: for sale, zoned residential, zoned commercial.

Noisy yellow bulldozers are plowing up row after row of trees at the orchard where you used to stop for fresh-picked apples.

Closer to home, what once was a country road is now four lanes wide and lined with strip malls, housing developments and megastores.

America is losing its high-quality farmland -- the very land that produced the bounty we celebrate on Thanksgiving Day -- to scattershot, suburban sprawl.

In a report released this year, American Farmland Trust revealed that between 1982 and 1992, 4.3 million acres of prime and unique farmland were overrun by development, nearly 50 acres every hour of every day.

The report documented the loss of high-quality land in every state during that 10-year period because of fragmented urban development near major metropolitan areas, and it identified the 20 most threatened agricultural regions in the country.

The top 20 most endangered farming regions are probably represented by some of the food on your holiday table, from the green beans and squash raised in central California (the No. 1 most endangered region) to the Maryland turkey (No. 2), Wisconsin cheese (No. 3), Florida oranges (No. 6) and Idaho potatoes (No. 13).

Seventy percent of the nation's fruits, 69 percent of its vegetables and 52 percent of its dairy goods are produced on high-quality farmland in urbanized counties.

With the expected doubling of the U.S. population in the 21st century and the concurrent loss of millions of acres of high-quality farmland, American Farmland Trust projects this nation very likely will become a net food importer in our lifetime.

Imagine ordering your turkey from Mexico, your beans from Chile and your pumpkins from Afghanistan. Are the modern conveniences of strip malls and townhouse subdivisions really worth the price of our agricultural heritage and security?

And contrary to conventional wisdom, it is farmland and not new development that contributes to a local government's tax base.

In a recent study of Maryland's Frederick County, American Farmland Trust reported for every property-tax dollar collected on residential property, about \$1.14 in services was needed, resulting in a net deficit.

Farmland and open space, on the other hand, required only 53 cents in services for every tax dollar paid and helped compensate for the budget shortfall created by residential land.

Our farmland produces even more than food and fiber. When farm and ranch lands are lost, so is wildlife habitat, scenic open space, healthy watersheds and a host of other environmental and quality-of-life benefits.

In October, Vice President Al Gore was joined by state and local elected officials along Maryland's Eastern Shore to applaud a new program designed to conserve agricultural land adjacent to critical watersheds as a method of addressing nonpoint-source pollution.

Agricultural policies, which promote the transition from commodity-based farm support to conservation-based programs, should continue to serve as the model for national, state and local leaders. With public support and adequate funding, these programs can help America to continue enjoying the world's safest and most abundant food supply.

For more than 500 years, people from all over the world have come to America in search of land and freedom, two essential rights we often take for granted. Now, at the brink of a new millennium, we find our nation's land is no longer an unlimited resource.

The U.S. population is sprawling out of control onto farmland and wilderness, setting off a conflict over land-use priorities that will grow exponentially in the years ahead, threatening our national productivity and quality of life.

Let us pledge that in the coming year, we will get involved with our communities to stop sprawl.

Tell your elected officials you want an end to the destruction of productive farmland.

Attend public meetings with your elected town or county zoning board and planning commission.

Vote for initiatives establishing and funding state and local farmland-protection programs.

Contact your regional office of American Farmland Trust or our national staff in Washington for more information.

Let's work together to keep America growing. And remember to thank a farmer.

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### **Book Review** by *John Snook*

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*Your Land Is Your Legacy - A Guide To Planning For The Future Of Your Farm* is an excellent introductory primer in the field of estate planning, published by American Farmland Trust and authored by Jeremiah P. Cosgrove and Julia Freedgood. American Farmland Trust is a private, non-profit conservation organization with goals and interests similar to the Linn Conservancy. We will make this book available to any interested party upon request.

The book approaches farm estate planning with two basic goals: help farmers find the best way to transfer their operations to other farmers and keep productive land available for agriculture. One only needs to examine government census statistics to discover the increasing need for proper estate planning and farm transfer to other farmers. The average age of farmers increased from 50.5 to 53.3 between 1982 and 1992. Also, over the past 25 years, the U.S. lost 165 million acres of farms leaving a total of 946 million acres in farming. Proper estate planning often requires plenty of time to ensure that all phases are covered properly and necessary legal documents created.

*Your Land Is Your Legacy* points to four basic goals to effect a successful estate transfer.

They are:

- identify the person or persons to whom ownership and management of the business, land and other assets will be transferred;
- avoid unnecessary taxation and other expenses during the transfer;
- ensure financial security and family harmony for the next generation; and
- develop the next owners' management capacity.

If you can satisfactorily answer how all of the above will occur in your situation, you are well on your way to a successful estate plan. If not, you should get competent personal, legal, and financial advice on the subject.

A good way to start the planning process is by adding up all assets and assigning a realistic market value to those assets without a face value. Often, this total will be surprising, and will underscore the need for planning. There are many instruments outlined in the book that have been successfully used to transfer estates to succeeding generations. However, many of these choices may become costlier, or disappear, with advancing age.

One instrument that can be particularly useful in some instances is an ACE (Agricultural Conservation Easement). An ACE can do several things at once, such as devalue land, reduce taxes, and prevent unwanted development of farmland. The Linn Conservancy is a potential recipient and guardian of an ACE. Use of this instrument is outlined in detail in the many examples provided in the book.

We urge any readers who are interested in estate planning and farmland transfer to contact us at the Conservancy for more details, advice, referrals, or just a copy of this book which we think you will find motivating and filled with helpful information.

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### **Saving the Marsh** by *Tiana Pyer-Pereira*

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A few weekends ago I went on a hike with my dad and other people from the Linn Conservancy. We walked around a big part of the Montandon Marsh, which the Conservancy has bought.

When I first saw the forest close up, I began to imagine what could happen in a few years if someone did not buy the land and preserve it. A landfill, swarming with flies, the stench of rotting garbage filling the air came readily to my mind. Or a development with the pristine rows of white and yellow sided houses. Each house tries to be unique but in my mind they are all the same. Some residents plant a few trees in their yards but it will be decades until they grow to the size of the many trees that lived there before.

Saving this land will do many creatures, human and non-human, a lot of good. For the animals living there it will be a shelter, a place to raise their young, safe from the danger humans can introduce. Animals that can make their homes only in a marsh have a chance to live alongside others needing a grown forest to survive. Wild flowers and bushes thrive in the gentle shade on the forest floor. Some of these species are known to exist only in places like the Montandon Marsh. For humans it is a place to learn about nature or even about ourselves. It's a place to explore or a place to relax and for some, even a place where they will conduct their jobs. It will also enchant passers-by, who, from their cars, will be glad to have a green oasis on which to rest their eyes.

On a frigid winter afternoon, from a distance, it is hard to tell the kinds of things saving this marsh will do. But when you get to the heart of the matter, when you observe the life all around, you realize what a good thing we are actually doing.

*Note: The author, age 13, is the daughter of Conservancy board member Michael Pereira.*

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## **Pennsylvania Progress on Land Recycling**

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Pennsylvania has cleaned up 159 industrial sites in 2 1/2 years under its model land recycling program. In 1995, state lawmakers grew tired of inaction under the federal Superfund program. They passed legislation to create more realistic restoration goals, new cleanup options, stronger liability protection and standardized procedures. The program has spent \$8.5 million to assess and remediate contaminated sites. Most of the actual restoration is paid for privately. The land program ([www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) or 717/787-6264) has cleaned up PCB spills, abandoned factories and gas stations, while creating hundreds of jobs at reclaimed industrial sites. Reviving abandoned sites also is sparing green space and farmland from development. In November, the Ford Foundation gave the program its "Top Ten Innovations in Government" award, accompanied by a \$100,000 grant.

- from *Common Ground*, Jan./Feb. 1998

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## **Walking the Trail by Roger Curran**

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Scarcely would one have believed, months ago, when the date for the Winter walk was chosen, what a beautiful day February 8 would be. With bright sunshine, light breezes and temperature in the mid-40s, conditions were ideal. Fifteen hikers, including five enthusiastic youngsters, gathered at the appointed hour to walk the Shamokin Mountain Trail and learn more about our natural environment. Wayne McDiffett provided an introduction to the trail at the outset, noted points of interest along the way and fielded questions from participants of all ages.

The trail runs through both private property and state game lands supporting abundant wildlife where even an occasional bear is seen. Early in the hike, the trail ascends a ridge where vistas open up both north and south. Looking south, Wayne pointed out a mountain ridge that slopes down sharply in the area of Port Trevorton, some 25 miles away. Beyond that, two additional ridges were visible, closer to Harrisburg. At our lookout point two power lines and accompanying towers make a modern day intrusion but, as Wayne explained, the fifty foot treeless swath following the path of the lines permits grasses and shrubbery to grow that could not otherwise gain a foothold, thus attracting a sizable additional range of wildlife.

The woodlands are regrowth from previous timbering, as one would expect, but there are some large and imposing trees, primarily oak, on the state lands. We passed a small cornfield planted by the state with all the corn left to encourage wildlife. Wayne pointed out several bluebird houses and discussed the challenges of creating a suitably attractive environment. At one point there were two birdhouses close together. We learned that wrens are major competitors with bluebirds and since both species are very territorial, if wrens should take over one of these houses first, they will not take the second, thus making it more likely bluebirds will nest there.

Descending the northern slope provided a reminder of winter with a layer of snow underfoot and the loop back to the trail head yielded various points of interest. A spring sparkled in the afternoon sun with tufts of emerald green algae clinging to the bottom of the outbound stream. Wayne noted that there is water flow here even during drought conditions. A large stand of club moss was noted poking up through the snow at numerous points. Although now a protected species, it has traditionally been a favorite resource for making Christmas decorations. Two flying squirrel boxes were observed high up on tree trunks but the residents were not. These chipmunk-sized squirrels are nocturnal and rarely seen. The boxes were placed by Linn Conservancy board member Michael Pereira who teaches at Bucknell and is an animal behaviorist.

At a fork in the trail it was quickly decided to take the longer way back but even so the finish came too soon to a most pleasant and informative walk. Many thanks to Wayne McDiffett for his guidance and knowledgeable commentary. The Spring walk, announced on page 2, is recommended.

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## ***People Effect Change:***

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### **New Members Help Linn Conservancy Meet Its Goals**

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In 1997 we initiated our first business/organization membership campaign. We would like to welcome the following new business members to the Conservancy since January:

Butter Krust Baking Company  
Wayne M. Stahl Windows  
Wood-Mode Industries  
Buffalo Valley Telephone Company  
Wetlands Advisory Group

New individual and family members since the winter *Linn Log* are:

Adrienne Levin  
Christopher & Patricia Olson  
Fred & Pam Paulsen  
Steva Stowell & Steve Rowe  
Lois & William VandenHeuvel

Additional giving continues to be added to the Montandon Marsh Fund. Since January 1st those giving have been:

Owen Anderson  
John & Betty Apple  
Gail & John Dunlop  
Ann W. Gelnett  
Charles & Martha Reed  
Judy & Bill Becker

*Since a lot of mail is handled by the office, mistakes do happen. If, at any time, we do not include you or misspell a name please call us at 524-8666 as we would like to correct our mistakes. Thanks.*

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### **William W. Belford is Newest Linn Conservancy Board Member**

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Geoff Goodenow has announced the appointment of Attorney William Belford, who replaces Paul Shrivastava, to the Conservancy's fifteen member Board of Directors. Attorney Belford recently celebrated fifty years of practicing law, having started as a young man in his father's practice in Milton in 1947, and for the last twenty years has worked in association with attorney Terry Baldwin. He has been an active member of the Milton community where he helped found the Chamber of Commerce in the mid-1950s and was instrumental in starting the 715-acre industrial park off Housel's Run Road. Until two years ago Mr. Belford served as chairman of the industrial development committee of the Milton Chamber of Commerce. He has lived in both Milton and Lewisburg.

"The Linn Conservancy seeks to serve the land conservation interests of Union and Upper Northumberland County and holds conservation easements and purchased land in both counties," observed Mr. Goodenow. "These are the areas in which the newest board member has lived and worked."

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### **Spring Park Cleanup on Saturday, April 18th 9:00 A.M. to Noon**

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Help get R. B. Winter State Park in good condition after the long winter. Volunteers are needed for raking leaves in the campground, litter and brush cleanups, trail maintenance, tidying the park's butterfly and wildflower gardens, and other projects. If you would like to help, please contact the park office, (717) 966-1455, for details and to advise that you plan to attend.

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### **Sunday Adopt-a-Highway Cleanups on April 26, June 14, and August 30**

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With our April cleanup, the Conservancy begins another year as steward of its two-mile segment of state highway along Penns Creek under the state's Adopt-a-Highway program. Statewide, the program began in April 1990. Since then it has grown to include 7,900 groups involving 135,684 individuals in an effort to keep our highways litter free. Of 41,000 state highway miles, about 39% are adopted. Locally, we're doing quite a bit better than this. In Union County, there are 280 state highway miles of which 167 miles, or about 60%, are included in the program. Fifty-one groups, including Linn Conservancy, are a part of this effort.

Additional groups or individuals are welcome to join the program. To do so, contact your local PennDOT office. In Union County you will want to speak with Wayne Miller who coordinates the program here. Adopters select a two mile (minimum) stretch of highway and are responsible for four cleanups per year. The state provides garbage bags and safety vests, and picks up the collected garbage that volunteers leave along the roadside. All you have to do is provide the people power to get the job done. Why not get involved with your own group or with us?

Our next cleanup is scheduled for April 26. We will meet at 1 p.m. at the Limestone Township pavilion along Penns Creek. It is situated one mile west of Rte. 104 south of Mifflinburg. (Turn west on the creekside road just before crossing the Penns Creek bridge on Rte. 104.) It is best to wear long pants and bring your own gloves. The entire effort takes only about 1 - 1 1/2 hours. Later cleanups are scheduled for June 14 and August 30. Please contact Geoff Goodenow (523-0257) at least a week before each date if you would like to help.

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### **Buffalo Creek Canoe Cleanup on Saturday Afternoon, April 18**

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The Linn Conservancy will be carrying out its fourth canoe cleanup of Buffalo Creek under the experienced guidance of Allan and Betsy Quant. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Quants at 524-7692 or aquant@sunlink.net.

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## Koons' Trail and Dale's Ridge Stewardship Programs Enter Second Year

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We welcome both repeating and new stewards for the Dale's Ridge Trail this year. They include: April - Bob Rapp and Boy Scouts (ages 11-18); May - Sue Rapp and Lewisburg High School 9th graders; June and July - we need stewards; August - Ronald & Jessica Cohen; September - Allen Schweinsberg; October - Pete Macky and Tom & Marge Duck; November - Dave Hafer.

### **Briefs:**

Thanks to Alan Wagner, surveyor from Mifflinburg, who led a group of 17 interested Linn members as they posted portions of our new Montandon Marsh property with the new custom-made "Nature Reserve" signs on Saturday, February 14th. Geoff Goodenow, Betsy and Allan Quant, Allen Schweinsberg, Michael Pereira, Tiana Pyer-Pereira, Gil and Betty Black, Norm and Evelyn Schneider, Mark Holman, Ed Culver, Kate Hastings, John Clark, Jeannette Lasansky, and Neal Woodruff were part of the crew. Did we forget anyone?

On Saturday, March 7th the Belles posting was completed by Betsy and Allan Quant, Geoff Goodenow, John Clark, Brick Kepler, William Belford, and Jeannette Lasansky. Similar posting will be done on the Koons' property as soon as more "Nature Reserve" signs arrive. This is a pleasant way to become acquainted with one of our areas and accomplish some needed work as well.

Thanks to Ed Culver, Sue Taylor, and Warren Abrahamson who are doing photography, copy work, and text slides respectively for the upcoming Linn video. Also to John Clark, Allen Schweinsberg, and Owen Anderson who offered their slides for duplication. Geoff Goodenow has written the text and Neal Woodruff has served as editor. We hope to have a finished product out before the year's end. We are working with John Walter at CSIU on this important project.

Thanks to Nancy Curran for coloring and matting our new business/organization membership certificates and to past administrative assistant, Stephanie Zettlemoyer, who designed them.

Thanks to Deb Slade for designing the "Montandon Marsh Series -- Keeping an eye on our habitat." Look for these new items at our booth at the Lewisburg Arts Festival where they will make their debut as well as at our booth at the Mifflinburg Buggy Days. The series features drawings of seven special Marsh critters and plants by Jeanette Campbell: the spicebush and spicebush butterfly, river bulrush, cattails, jewelweed, Virginia rail, spadefoot toad, and cranberry bushes. Text is courtesy of John Clark. The drawings are available in small or large format. They sell for \$2.50 or \$5 unmatte. The smaller version is available matted - \$6 for an individual print and \$35 for the entire set. Also making a debut at the Lewisburg Arts Festival is a custom-made, limited edition full color button with a spectacular toad's eye staring out at the viewer. This also carries the "Keeping an eye on our habitat" motto. Linn Conservancy sweatshirts are available again in gray with the Linn logo in blue and green. There will be a limited supply in large and extra large. The popular Linn T-shirt is also available. After the Arts Festival and Buggy Days, these items will be at the Natural Foods Store in Lewisburg.

Thanks to Connie Timm of Market Street Group for her design and layout of the new Koons Trail brochure. Connie's work was done as her memorial gift for Marge Falso. Drawings for the brochure were done by Jeanette Campbell and the text was written primarily by Joseph Southerton. The map was courtesy of John Clark. The funding received from the International Paper Company Foundation and the Buffalo Valley Telephone Company allowed the Conservancy to insert a Koons Trail brochure in 2,000 April *News and Views* which went to Mifflinburg residents. The brochure was printed at The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

Thanks to those who have helped in preparing our *Linn Log* mailings: Ed Culver, Nancy and Roger Curran and Marge Duck.

Thanks to Carol Manbeck who works in the office of the Union County Historical Society and who now helps Roger Curran ready the *Linn Log*. Thanks again to the Society for letting us share its office space and personnel. Until there is a "non-profit center" in Union County, this arrangement helps Linn Conservancy stretch its resources.

If you have a change in your address please notify the Conservancy office ahead of time. We want to be sure that you get your copy of the Linn Log promptly and efficiently.

**Please Note:** Dues for 1998 are now payable if there is a red stamp here. You will find a handy business reply envelope enclosed for your convenience. Please help us meet our goals by replying as quickly and as generously as you possibly can this year. Thank you for your support in the past.