

Merrill Linn might not have appreciated being put in the spotlight by having an organization like the Merrill Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy named after him. But he would have appreciated the group's efforts, and his friends and family could think of no better tribute to him than to make sure the woods and waters he loved were preserved for all time. In the words of his son Bob, "If you ever doubt why you want to preserve all those green leaves, just come to New York and drive 50 miles in any direction and see how little of that green stuff is left — it's bumper-to-bumper traffic and bumper-to-bumper houses, gas stations, malls, etc."

Our Land, Ourselves: Readings on People and Place

The Linn Conservancy offers members a chance to purchase the soft-cover book *Our Land, Ourselves*, a collection of essays on the many themes of people and place, by authors such as Aldo Leopold, Wendell Barry, Robert Coles, and Harry Truman. The themes visited in the anthology include the protection of wilderness and the idea of the wild, the nature of "home," the purpose of work, and the meaning of community. These voices suggest a way of viewing land conservation as the process of building values and positively shaping human lives.

Members can purchase this handsome 240-page book at the office of the Union County Historical Society or by mail for \$19.95 (including shipping) by sending a check to PO Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Members Help Linn Conservancy Meet Its Goals

We welcome two new members who have joined since the last issue of the *Linn Log* came out: Raymond Goehring from Wexford, Pennsylvania; and Jay C. Shaffer from Fairfax, Virginia. Jay writes: "My wife and I discovered (and hiked) the Dales Ridge Trail while on a country drive recently and were delighted to learn of the Linn Conservancy and its efforts to protect local natural areas. I've enclosed a membership application. I would appreciate receiving a copy of the Shamokin Mountain brochure and any printed information you might have available on the Montandon Marsh. I became acquainted with the marsh while a biology student at Bucknell back in the early 60s and am thrilled that something is being done to preserve it."

If you are planning a donation to the Linn Conservancy, please remember that many employers have a program through which they match a charitable donation made by an employee. If you work for or have worked for any of the following companies, please contact them to see if they will supplement your gift to us, as these companies have had a record of doing that in the past. This is a nice way of doubling your interest in supporting the Conservancy's work.

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In Brief . . .

Thanks to Conservancy members Margaret Mathias and Thom Rippon, who have recently given gifts.

Thank you to those who helped to maintain the Koons Trail in Mifflinburg in 1999: Brad Huntington; Rick and Viv Bailey; Lyle and Susan Hobart; the Southerton Family; and Martha Hockenberry and the New Berlin 4-H. This year they will be joined by a Girl Scout troop. Other work on the Koons property will be done this spring by students in a Bucknell University Management 101 class. As we go to press we are planning a day in early April at the site, during which over 60 students will be helping to move one section of the trail to higher ground; placing nature reserve signs along the perimeter of the property and making new sign standards; doing a general cleanup over 18 acres; removing saplings from three ditches that run across the western side of the property — and more! (Isn't all that youthful energy a wonderful thing!)

Thanks to member Ed Culver, who continues to take additional photos and slides for the Conservancy's use, and to Allen Schweinsberg, Dick Nickelsen, and Warren Abrahamson for use of slides from their personal collections.

Thanks to member Jean Ruhl, who maintains the brochure supply at the Dale's Ridge Trail kiosk.

Thanks to members of the public — among them Cindy Shively, Ray Kern, Jr., Mike Johnston, and Linda Stover — who have called the Conservancy directly or spoken to one of the Board members to express their concerns about possible land abuses or violations along Penns Creek, in Northumberland County's Brush Valley, and at the Belles site. Thanks also to the many people who called about the clear cutting they saw south of Route 45 near Montandon (see the article on page 2 about this). We appreciate the calls and have responded to them all.

Please Note: Your dues for this year are due if there is a red stamp here; if so, you should 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. Giving to the Linn Conservancy makes a difference that matters. Membership support is our major financial underpinning.

