

# Linn Log

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

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## *Spring/Summer 2002*

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### *Coming Events:*

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#### **An Evening Waiting for Woodcocks**

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Allen Schweinsberg, a board member for both the Linn Conservancy and Seven Mountains Audubon Society, will be conducting a woodcock watch on the early evening of Saturday April 6th in Hartley Township at the properties of member Margaret Moyer and her son Ralph. The group will assemble at 6:15 P.M. in front of Dreese and Associates in the Buffalo Valley Shopping Center in Mifflinburg to car pool. The group will be limited to 15 persons. To be part of this experience call the office or write conserve@ptd.net ASAP. A refundable registration fee of \$10 per person will hold one's spot.

Regarding the woodcock, Allen writes, "With its long beak, large eyes, short neck, and cryptic coloration the American Woodcock is a most curious looking bird. But you haven't really seen a woodcock until you have witnessed its courtship display. The male's dawn and dusk routine begins on the ground with several nasal "beeps" that are quite similar to the call of a nighthawk. Then he rises in the air in a towering spiral while making a twittering sound with his feathers. Suddenly he drops steeply back to earth and lands very near the place of beginning. The process is repeated again and again. Woodcocks are actually shorebirds that have adapted to a life in field and forest. Their long bills are sensitive and flexible at the tip to aid them in finding earthworms, their principal food supply."

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#### **Wildflower Walks at Dale's Ridge Trail May 5th 1:30 and 3:30 P. M.**

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Bob Deffner, superintendent of R.B. Winter State Park, will be leading two wildflower walks at The Dale's Ridge Trail in conjunction with our special open house that day. Reservations are required and each group will be limited

to 15 with refundable \$5 registration requested per person sent to the office. The walk will last one hour and will be in the riparian corridor of Buffalo Creek. Sensible footwear is advised as it can be somewhat muddy this time of year. Bob is a new member of the Conservancy's Public Awareness Committee and we thank him for volunteering to conduct these walks.

Prior to becoming Park Manager of Raymond B. Winter Park in August of 1999, Bob was Park Manager of Mt. Pisquah State Park. He has been a good supporter of the Linn Conservancy. He has degrees in Wildlife Management and Parks and Recreation with an emphasis on Resource Management. He writes, "The common violet has always been a favorite and a welcome sign of spring. But did you know that its leaves have three times the vitamin C of an orange? From trillium to trout lily, each spring wildflower is unique, having its own uses, beauty and magic. Discover the identity and personality of the season's first blooms on this afternoon walk."

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### **Open House at Dale /Walker House on May 5th 2-4 P. M.**

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Music, light refreshment, tours of the historic Samuel Dale House, soak up the atmosphere as well as have an opportunity to see the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy new office, will be offered to Conservancy members and friends on Sunday May 5th.

Performing from the porch will be the group, Back Up and Push, featuring Bob and Sue Taylor , Tom and Janna Rosencrans, and Carl Kirby. Board members of the Union County Historical Society and the Conservancy will be offering tours of the house which was built in 1793 and is now owned and operated by them. The Linn Conservancy holds a conservation easement over the entire 137-acre farm and has a two-mile walking trail over a portion of the property. The Seven Mountains Audubon Society has been working with the UCHS on a landscaping plan for the farmstead.

The Conservancy's office was moved to the house on April 1st.

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### **May 8th Annual Dinner Features the Results of the Nature Conservancy's Work in Northumberland County**

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Aura Stauffer from Pennsylvania's Science Office of The Nature Conservancy will be the featured speaker for the Linn Conservancy's annual dinner on Wednesday May 8th. A reservation form for the dinner is enclosed in the newsletter and should be returned to the office by April 30th. Please invite a friend or potential new member to the event!

Ms. Stauffer will be presenting a slide program on Northumberland County's Natural Diversity Inventory and we will get to learn what is special about Northumberland County's plants and animal habitats. We will also have some special guests that evening: both the recipient of this year's John G. Clark Environmental Education Award and some who will be honored for the work they have been doing for the local environment. Good food and fellowship will also be part of the annual event at the 4 Bell Church just west of Mifflinburg.

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### **Volunteers Needed at Mariah's Garden**

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Come anytime to Mariah's Memorial Garden on Thursdays, 4 pm-sunset, March thru October. Bring your knowledge, or your muscles, or your tools, or refreshments to share. Water, trim, weed, mulch, mow, plant, move gravel, set a memorial rock, or enjoy the flowers and the river's edge. At least one of Mariah's family or friends will be at Mariah's Garden on Walnut Alley, Lewisburg, on Thursday evenings. If you want more info, call Betsy at 524-7692, or email [betsy@canoesusquehanna.com](mailto:betsy@canoesusquehanna.com) <<mailto:betsy@canoesusquehanna.com>> .

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

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### **Conservancy is Successful Applicant for Stream Signage Grant**

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Working in conjunction with the staff of the Union County Planning Department, the Conservancy has been the successful applicant for a Stream Signage Grant from the Susquehanna River Basin. Officials in Buffalo, Gregg and Lewis townships in Union County agreed to participate with the Linn Conservancy in placing signs at specific PennDOT road crossings on Buffalo Creek, Black Run, Beaver Run, Spruce Run, White Deer Hole Creek, Spring Creek, and Rapid Run. It is hoped that should the signs be ready in time that they might be in place in May which has been designated Watershed Awareness Month or June which is Rivers' Month.

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## **April 23 Program and Update on Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance**

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Members and other interested parties Owen Anderson, Elizabeth Sterling, Eve Minson, Jeannette Lasansky, and Lewisburg High School student Luke Petre attended the Coldwater Conference on Stream Habitat at State College in February while Owen Anderson and Jeannette Lasansky attended the Big Bend Watershed meeting at Lycoming College a few days earlier. The latter group focused on the funding possibilities for streamside riparian buffers.

On March 19th, the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWSA) of the Linn Conservancy held its fourth large public meeting. The topic was the benefits of stream bank fencing and the different programs that are available for area farmers to cover all or most of the costs involved. A fifth meeting is scheduled for 7:30 PM Tuesday, April 23rd at the Mifflinburg High School's large group instruction room just off the east end parking area. The speaker then will be provided by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and will be talking about the drought we have been experiencing and what we can do.

The BCWSA is currently in the process of final approval of its ByLaws and the completion of a memo of understanding with the Linn Conservancy. A board and officers will be nominated at the April 16th meeting. Anyone interested in serving in those capacities should contact the office at [conserve@ptd.net](mailto:conserve@ptd.net) or call 524-8666. Those involved a lot to date such as Neal Woodruff, Carl Kirby, Geoff Goodenow, Betsy Quant, Joe Southerton, Shawn McLaughlin, Luke Petre, Owen Anderson, and Elizabeth Sterling are among those who might apprise you on the group's direction, opportunities, and needs.

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## **Adopt-a-Road on April 7, June 2, and August 25**

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If you are interested in cleanup beside Penns Creek in Limestone Township on the section of road that the Linn Conservancy adopted a decade ago please call Geoff Goodenow at 523-0257 and leave your name and number. Geoff will get back to you. The group usually works for an hour or so on the designated Sunday afternoons listed above. The group usually assembles at the picnic pavilion beside the creek, a pleasant place to start with lunch.

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## **Forest Leaves Provides Information for Woodland Owners**

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*by Rance Scott Harmon, Penn State School of Forest Resources Extension*

Many private woodland owners are taking steps to improve their woodlots. With the right information and assistance, woodland owners can improve access, minimize taxes, increase timber value, protect water resources and natural beauty, and provide better hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching opportunities. Woodland owners can even take actions to improve habitat for particular animals, such as grouse, woodcock, white-tailed deer, cottontails, songbirds, or squirrels.

The *Forest Leaves* newsletter provides practical information for private woodland owners, including articles about growing and tending trees, forest pests, safety in the woods, enhancing wildlife habitat, and ways to learn more about conserving forest resources. For example, recent issues have included articles about local and regional woodland owners associations, gypsy moths, efforts to restore the American chestnut tree to the nation's forests, chainsaw safety, and the benefits of forest streams. Almost all Pennsylvania woodland owners have interest in wildlife, and most issues of *Forest Leaves* include practical information about enhancing wildlife habitat.

Each issue of *Forest Leaves* includes a calendar of events to make readers aware of upcoming meetings, tours, seminars, conferences, and workshops for private woodland owners. There is also a book review in each issue that profiles recent publications of interest to woodland owners. Since three-quarters of Pennsylvania's forests are privately owned, the decisions that individual citizens make have a great impact on the present and future conditions of the state's forest resources. *Forest Leaves* provides high-quality forest management information to Pennsylvania's private woodland owners, so they can make decisions that lead to healthy and productive forests. The Pennsylvania Tree Farm System®, Sustainable Forestry Initiative® of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Forestry Association, and Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program are partners in publishing the *Forest Leaves* newsletter.

For a free subscription to *Forest Leaves* or a list of other free publications available from the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program, please call 1-800-235-WISE (toll-free), send e-mail to [RNRExt@psu.edu](mailto:RNRExt@psu.edu), or write: School of Forest Resources Extension, The Pennsylvania State University, 7 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802-4300. The Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and USDA Forest Service in partnership with Penn State's School of Forest Resources Extension, provides private woodland owners with information and assistance to promote healthy and productive forests.

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

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### **Conservancy Environmental Education Grant Recipient Announced**

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The Conservancy's Public Awareness Committee awarded an environmental education grant of \$553 to Elizabeth Sterling who teaches science to 11th and 12 graders at the Lewisburg High School. Members of the committee include educators Dotti Zimmerman, Shirley Bingaman, Rose Ann Koons, Geoff Goodenow, Letti Davis, Mark Berg, Neal Woodruff, and a new member, Bob Deffner.

This is the third grant given to a local school teacher since the grant program was initiated in the fall of 2000. This is a new Conservancy initiative for educators in the local public and private schools as well as home schoolers, and youth group leaders in Union and upper Northumberland counties. The grant is named after the late John G. Clark, botanist, Linn Conservancy past president and one who loved to share his knowledge and enthusiasm about the out-of-doors with all.

The program's objectives are to encourage educational use of open space/natural resources in Union and upper Northumberland Counties, particularly those preserved by the Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy and other public and private non-profit agencies.

Ms. Sterling's students will travel to three field sites within the Buffalo Creek Watershed: Rapid Run at R.B. Winter State Park, Buffalo Creek at Dale's Ridge Trail in Buffalo Township, and Buffalo Creek at Wolf's Field in Lewisburg. At each site the students will examine the biotic and abiotic factors to assess water quality. Students will make an inventory of micro invertebrates and perform chemical analysis of water samples. Students will then use the data to evaluate the effects of human activity on water quality at these three points in the Buffalo Creek Watershed.

Next year's grant round will open in October with a final application date of January 15, 2003.

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### **Olive Billhime Frontz Memorial Gifts Being Received**

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In mid-February, Olive Billheim Frontz of RR Allenwood died. She was nearly 100 years old. Olive was born in Turbotville and graduated cum laude from Bucknell University where she earned a degree in music and French. She did graduate work in music at Ithaca College and also attended the University of Montreal.

As Bob and Jane Russell wrote in their note accompanying a memorial gift to the Linn Conservancy in Olive Frontz's name, "She was a very special lady. Also piano teacher of our three children." Others giving to the Conservancy have been: Warren & Hattie Fisher, Debra & Craig Fisher, Thomas & Susan Snoddy, Robert & Barbara Coup, Florence Pleibel, Dianne & Clyde Peeling, William & Sarah Adams, Belmont & Elizabeth Farley, Phil & Peggy Campbell, Kennard & Ann West, and Caroline Busch as of March 5th. Dianne Peeling wrote, "Please accept this memorial gift in memory of Olive Frontz. We know her 2 older sons and have been fortunate to work with them in several community projects. Our valley is certainly a better place to live thanks to the contributions of Mrs. Frontz and her family."

Olive was an avid bird watcher and a member of the Bucknell University Ornithologic Society. She was very interested in conservation and supported her husband Leroy Frontz in his effort to promote conservation practices. The Linn Conservancy was designated for memorial gifts when Mr. Frontz died in 1990.

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### **WEB Site**

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Work is nearing the end on the Linn Conservancy web site. We will be looking for a volunteer web master and comments on the site would ultimately be directed to him/her or to the Conservancy Coordinator at [conserve@ptd.net](mailto:conserve@ptd.net). We want to hear your comments and continue to improve and update our information. Newer members might see what has been happening over the years as we have the current as well as archived past newsletters at the site. Also both *Rural Routes* brochures are there in case you have misplaced yours. The most current events are listed as well as past accomplishments. Thinking of giving land or contemplating a conservation easement? Information is at hand at [www.nextquestion.org/](http://www.nextquestion.org/) linn until we are fully operational and by summer at [www.LinnConservancy.org](http://www.LinnConservancy.org)

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### **New Editor Needed**

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Quica Ostrander has been doing a great job as editor of the *Linn Log* the last couple of years but is interested in moving on to other projects. She is willing to do the *Log* for the rest of 2002 but would like us to look for a replacement. We are producing three newsletters a year that are sent in mid-to-late January, late March/early April and in late August/early September. The writing/typing for the *Log* is done primarily by the office. For more information about the opportunity please call the office or write [conserve@ptd.net](mailto:conserve@ptd.net). We look forward to hearing from you and continuing our fine *Linn Log* tradition. Past editors have included Kate Hastings and Roger Curran.

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### **Carla Watson: New Administrative Assistant**

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Carla Watson, a member of the Linn Conservancy since 1997, is the new administrative assistant for the organization. A graduate of Mifflinburg High School, Carla has an Associate Degree in Floriculture from WACC and has been working in the office of the Union County Historical Society since late August. She joined the office to work on the capital campaign for the Dale/Walker property. She and her husband, Jace, have three children. Carla is interested in hiking and outdoor activities as well as arts and crafts and her church. We welcome her support in the office.

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

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Since late January we have received an unrestricted donation from Gail and John Dunlop as well as a gift in memory of Charley and Rosie Walker, also from the Dunlops; Robert Holman gave to the John G. Clark Environmental Education Award.

Thanks to Joseph Keller, Betsy Quant, Dorothy McRae, and Bill Becker for contributions to the Conservancy's new office.

Welcome to new member Debra Rarig of Montandon.

Thanks to members, who since mid-January have made additional financial gifts or increased their level of giving: Tom & Harriet Bresenhan, Dahle and Shirley Bingaman, Tom & Sue Travis, Judith & William Becker, and Ann & Jim Heath.

Thanks to members Roger Curran, Geoff Goodenow, John Snook, and Jeannette Lasansky who did membership outreach at our table at this year's SnowFest at R. B. Winter State Park.

Thanks to Dave & Vicki Heberlig and Joe Keller for stuffing this newsletter.

Thanks also to the Knight family and Niki Weber and Don Turner who are new trail stewards for the Dale's ridge Trail along with those returning as trail stewards there, at the Koons, Shamokin Mountain, and Mohn Mill trails.

***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.