

Linn Log

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

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Winter 1998

Coming Events:

Winter Walk on Shamokin Mountain Trail with Wayne McDiffett
Sunday , February 8th at 1:30 p.m.



Observing seasonal changes on one of our trails will be a special treat for members and guests this winter and spring. On February 8, Wayne McDiffett will lead the first 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 easy.

Winter in the Park

The second annual Snowfest will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 8 at the Halfway Run Environmental Learning Center in R.B. Winter State Park. As we go to press the program is still being developed but will include a wide range of outdoor winter activities for adults and children. Such subjects as a snow shoeing seminar, guided nature walk, ice cutting demonstration (blocks used for refrigeration in earlier days), outdoor survival, winter backpacking, ice fishing, etc. are under consideration. Also, cross country ski rentals will be available. While there, you may want to take notice of the environmental books, videos, games, models, computers and their software, etc. available inside the Center. These items were all purchased through two Edna Sheary grants by the Linn Conservancy. Incidentally,

the Learning Center is looking for volunteers for its various activities and is also accepting requests by groups for special programming in 1998.

R.B. Winter State Park is one of the Conservancy's new charter business/organization members. We enjoy working with Park Director Ed Kautz and his staff on the above and other joint endeavors and this collaboration has yielded tangible results that serve the public.

A Project Wild teacher training program will be held on two Saturdays, February 14 and 21, at the Bald Eagle State Park. This two-day environmental learning workshop will be beneficial to primary and secondary school teachers, scout and 4-H leaders and naturalists who have educational responsibilities. Please note that pre-registration is a must.

Call (717) 966-1455 for more information on any of the above subjects or for directions.

Montandon Marsh Update:

Marsh Site Purchased

A major objective of the Linn Conservancy has been met! We have completed the purchase of over 33 acres at this very special site. Starting in August, when we began by asking present and past board members for support, the Conservancy has been engaged in an ambitious solicitation for funds to cover the acquisition. As of December 24th, \$14,875 has been raised. This total matches the funds we were awarded by a grant from the State of Pennsylvania. If you haven't given or pledged to the Montandon Marsh fund, we urge you to consider doing so.

Our goal is now to secure easements or land gifts for parcels that are contiguous with or in close proximity to the Belles site. Additional contributions that come in as the Conservancy enters the general public phase of the capital campaign will be put in a restricted fund for use in the Marsh. We will keep members posted on progress and will again have educational walks on the Conservancy's land in the Marsh this coming spring for those who missed the fall events.

Securing the Belles property was a real team effort. Through the insert in this newsletter, we wish to acknowledge and thank those 110 individuals and families who have made contributions and pledges to the effort as of Christmas.

Presenting the Marsh by Roger Curran

A most interesting presentation on noteworthy Montandon Marsh features was made by Conservancy board member Warren Abrahamson on the evening of November 7. Using slides, a number of which had been taken within the preceding two weeks, Abe introduced the audience to the abundant beauty of the marsh environment and to unusual -- plant species, unusual to this region, that have found a congenial residence in these remarkable wetlands. That, and what followed, brought home the importance of an issue central to this meeting. It is necessary for organizations such as conservancies to bear in mind that "our" specific goals and interests are not the only legitimate perspectives when it comes to broad issues of how the natural environment is put to use and, as we hope our neighbors would be sensitive to Conservancy desires, we must be attentive to viewpoints that reflect other considerations.

This event, I thought, reflected the point very well. It was held in Montandon, publicized within the immediate community and had a focus of reaching out to nearby residents and landowners. Abe spoke in a comfortable non-technical manner of the marsh and its denizens. He described how a company involved in an upcoming mining operation in the marsh area plans an environmentally sound reclamation with input from Conservancy members. The message that came through to me was that this overall circumstance is not to be viewed negatively but rather as a success. After all, the company bought the land specifically to mine the ample gravel and sand resources and, of course, has every right to do so. But with cooperation to pursue a shared goal, a noteworthy result can be expected. (An article on a study of vegetation for this reclamation appears later in these pages.) During the course of the evening other ways, such as easements, were suggested for cooperation to extend preservation efforts.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the deed for the marsh tract by local attorney William W. Belford, who represented the Belles family in selling the land. Mr. Belford spoke warmly of his working relationship with the Conservancy over the last couple of years and cited, in particular, Conservancy coordinator Jeannette Lasansky and board member John Clark. At the conclusion, Mr. Belford made his own generous contribution to the marsh fund. Following the presentation and questions from the audience, there were light refreshments offered by Conservancy member Dotti Zimmerman.

Our Environment Matters:

Buffalo Creek Rechanneling Proposed *by Geoff Goodenow*

Buffalo Creek winds its way through the north side of Mifflinburg. Its channel provides shady pools where fish can hide interspersed with shallower sections where the water is riffled and oxygenated. There, insect larva and nymphs, food for those fish, scour algae covered stones and crayfish dart in search of prey. But if borough officials have their way, this will change along a portion of the waterway between 8th St. and the Hassenplug covered bridge on 4th St. This is to be done to protect the bridge and 4th street south of the bridge where the creek is undermining a retaining wall, to reduce flooding on some private property west of 4th St., and to expand the Fish-for-Fun area for children. To accomplish these things, the borough plans to straighten the creek bed and to line its banks with rip-rap. To get an idea of what Buffalo Creek may become, take a look at Bull Run in Lewisburg where it passes under Market Street at Hufnagle Park (6th Street). That is a version of what the beautiful setting in Mifflinburg could become.

The Conservancy became aware of this plan more than 20 months ago. As holders of the easement on the Koons property, we are concerned about potential impacts of the project on our adjoining land downstream of the bridge as well as environmental and aesthetic impacts upstream. Our requests for discussions, as well as our comments and suggestions to the borough manager and engineers, have been largely ignored. In June of 1997, we discovered that the Mifflinburg planning commission members had never been informed by the borough of this project. Subsequently, the planning commission put this item on its agenda. As of its November meeting, after having heard representatives from all sides of the issue, the commission members officially stated their opposition to rechanneling. They recommended that rechanneling not be done and that, as a less intrusive alternative, protection of the roadway be accomplished by repair or replacement of the existing wall along 4th Street south of the bridge.

Unfortunately, borough council is under no obligation to adhere to the planning commission's recommendations. The Conservancy has provided expert testimony and documentation from numerous sources that clearly show that rechanneling projects (1) do little to alleviate flooding, (2) do destroy wildlife habitat and (3) do generate unpredicted changes at other points along waterways that lead to new unanticipated problems. Despite this, the project is far beyond the planning stage; the engineers have done their work and the plans are drawn. All that is needed now is the go-ahead from council.

Yes, channelization might appear to be the cheapest approach -- if you don't consider aesthetic and environmental losses and potential costs for correcting unforeseen problems that may have to be addressed later. Yes, the engineer's plans have received approval by regulatory agencies. But the criteria by which they have been judged only suggest that the plans meet a broad set of standards. They do not suggest that this is the most cost-effective, the most environmentally sound or the best way to protect borough or private property at this particular site. All of these arguments have been presented to the borough council members and other interested parties.

As of its December meeting, borough council referred the project to the Union County Planning Commission for further study and recommendations. That group has 45 days to respond to council's request. Borough council will be under no obligation to accept anything suggested by the county office.

The Conservancy will continue to propose dialogue to find suitable alternatives to rechanneling that will protect the interests of all. But opposition to this project will be most effective if it comes from the citizens of Mifflinburg. We hope that such action is initiated by our resident members of the borough. You have many reasons -- environmental, aesthetic, cost -- to oppose this project.

Please contact your borough council members as soon as possible: Donald Bitner (966-2988), Mark Bowman (966-1747), Rich Bingaman (966-2070), Nevin Walter (966-0844), Alan Wagner (966-9544), Keith Wagner (966-9500) and mayor, Tom Muchler (966-0542) to voice your concerns about the project. A vote to GO on this project could come up at the next council meeting on January 20th. Once the bulldozers start moving, your community and our county will have lost a beautiful site.

If you would like to receive written documentation of the impacts of rechanneling projects, please call the Conservancy with your request for the article "Don't Change That Channel."

Conservation Easement Legislation Supported

Linn Conservancy recently contributed \$100 to the Pennsylvania Land Trust Alliance (PALTA), of which we are a member organization, for its efforts to gain passage of uniform conservation easement legislation. This is currently PALTA's highest legislative priority and one that we also view as very important. Essentially, this is legislation that will clarify and formalize the legal status of conservation easements in Pennsylvania. Such legislation has been introduced at least twice before but not enacted.

Conservation easements are agreements between a land owner and a land trust (such as Linn Conservancy) or governmental entity whereby the land owner agrees not to exercise certain property rights (usually the right to

develop or change the natural condition of a site) and to bind all future owners by those restrictions. The land trust agrees to enforce the restrictions, in court if necessary. It is a way for a land owner to affect the use of his or her land even after death. For the land trust it is a relatively inexpensive way to accomplish the goal of protecting land in a natural condition permanently.

While the use of conservation easements is a tool employed across the country, in Pennsylvania there are some legal uncertainties that are worrisome. These easements differ from more traditional types such as access and use easements. The problem is that in Pennsylvania there is no enabling legislation for conservation easements so that all judicial interpretations must be based on common law which did not anticipate such easements and traditionally has viewed the subject of easements somewhat differently than would be appropriate with conservation easements. That means that all conservation easements in Pennsylvania are vulnerable to uncertain and potentially damaging judicial decisions. Passage of uniform conservation easement legislation would clarify their legal status and would add certainty (or at least predictability) to how easements would fare in court.

Recognizing the importance of conservation easements and the need for legal clarification, forty-eight states have already adopted some version of uniform conservation easement legislation. Only Pennsylvania and Wyoming have not.

As we go to press, no conservation easement bill has been introduced yet in the current legislative session although we expect it by the time you read this. Bills introduced by PALTA in previous sessions have clarified conservation easements by:

- defining them and who could hold them;
- specifying minimum duration;
- indicating who can bring legal action affecting easements;
- giving instruction to the court regarding interpretation of easement agreements;
- indicating conditions affecting, or not affecting, validity; and
- specifying that conservation easements do not limit eminent domain.

Easement legislation should be non-controversial; it just clarifies the law relating to a very commonly used preservation tool. It gives no one new powers and reduces no one's powers.

And one final point. As it is now in Pennsylvania without such legislation, the burden of proof in court falls on the easement holder. Even when a land trust prevails, its legal costs can be high. The French Creek and Pickering Conservation Trust recently spent more than \$50,000 successfully defending an agricultural easement. With a conservation easement statute in place, the burden of proof in such a dispute shifts to the party that would challenge an established easement and legal representation expenses of the land trust would be much less.

Hopefully, now is the time for a positive outcome. We understand that work with mining and utility interests has been undertaken to alleviate their concerns in any bill that would be introduced this session. Furthermore, the Ridge administration recently gave considerable publicity to the fact that 100,000 acres have been protected for agricultural use through easements purchased with State funds. All members are urged to contact their state legislators to convey personal support for this legislation.

Trimmer Use in East Buffalo Township

East Buffalo Township has been employing a side-arm trimmer, acquired in 1996, to clear limbs and brush from along roadways in the township. Basically, the trimmer consists of a hydraulic arm that lifts from the flatbed of a truck with a rotating circular saw at the end. Use of this trimmer has caused citizen concern, primarily regarding aesthetic impact. The Linn Conservancy shares the concern and representatives of the Conservancy met with the EBT board of supervisors in June to state Conservancy views. The letter presented by the Conservancy is, in large part, quoted herewith:

"Comments about the impact of this machine along East Buffalo Township's roadways have come to the Conservancy from our members as well as non-members, both residents and nonresidents of the township. Commonly, they raise objections to the extent of cutting beyond roads' edges, to the ripping and shredding of limbs and branches of native trees and ornamental shrubbery, and to the disturbance of soils that may lead to erosion. In short, much of the work being done with the trimming machine seems indiscriminate and without respect for the scenic quality of the landscape. With this letter, we present to you copies of several letters written to the Conservancy expressing these concerns.

We call to your attention Section 2325 of the Commonwealth's Second Class Township Code, in particular the section called 'Saving Trees and Shrubbery,' which reads as follows:

"The board of supervisors or its agents shall not remove any shrub or tree growing within the right-of-way of any township road or street except those shrubs and trees the board of supervisors finds to constitute a hazardous or dangerous condition to the use of the highway or those which impair the use or maintenance of the public road or street. The board of supervisors may clear out brush and other refuse along the sides of the road to the

legal width thereof. All clearing and removal of brush and refuse shall be confined to growth that is within the right-of-way and to the removal of branches that in any way interfere with public travel. No other injury by fire, cutting, abrasion or otherwise shall be done to the standing timber.'

The aesthetic damage done by this machine is clearly evident even to the casual passer-by. This need not be so. We believe that a walk or drive through the neighborhood or countryside should treat one's eye to displays of wildflowers -- columbine and violets in spring, milkweed and yarrow in summer, asters and goldenrod in fall. One should be able to enjoy the natural symmetry of understory vegetation and the majestic form of mature oak and maple trees.

East Buffalo Township has often been a model among townships in Union County, but we hope that its current trimming practices do not set a precedent for its neighbors to follow. The board members of the Linn Conservancy urge the supervisors to evaluate carefully the need for trimming and to find more selective methods of doing whatever roadside trimming is indeed necessary to ensure safe use of the township's roadways."

EBT board chairman Lawson Fetterman indicated that the township is also concerned about the aesthetic impact of trimming and would be more selective in 1997 in how and where the trimmer is used. Pine and fir trees would not be pruned by the trimmer since they appear to be particularly susceptible to damage and the operator would seek to cut only a four-foot swath beyond the roadway. Mr. Fetterman said that the old method of trimming, involving workers using chainsaws while standing on ladders on the backs of trucks, was much too dangerous and would not be used again.

Members of the Conservancy will, of course, continue to have an interest in the new trimming procedure and it will be helpful to all parties for trimming operations to be monitored and any problems brought to the attention of the township. The Conservancy suggests that members, and especially EBT residents, who come across unsatisfactory trimming outcomes write the EBT Supervisors, 610 Fairground Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837 or call at 523-6320, with specific information that can be reviewed.

People Effect Change:

New Business Members Help Linn Conservancy Meet Its Goals

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

Classic Realty

Fairchild Brothers
Lewisburg Builders' Supply
Lewisburg Office Equipment
Mifflinburg Bank & Trust
Northern Central Bank
R.B. Winter State Park
West Milton State Bank
Walnut Acres

They join the following member businesses, professionals, and organizations, all now charter members of our business/organization category:

Brann & Light, PC
F. Pressly Shannon
JPM
The Lewisburg Garden Club
Matson & Johnson, PC
Meixell-Diehl Insurance
Stephen D. Miller/Dental Health Associates
The Natural Foods Store
The Union County Historical Society
Reed's Cleaners

New individual and family members since the fall *Linn Log* are: William W. Belford, David and Anne Goehring, Brenda Mader, Dr. Heinrich Martin, Bruce Moyer, Louis Pietrandrea, and Alice W. Totten.

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.

Bucknell Students Make a Difference



Saturday, October 18 was an eventful day. Not one but two Conservancy-sponsored initiatives received the energetic support of Bucknell students with notable accomplishments the result. At 8 a.m., more than twenty students gathered at Dale's Ridge Trail with trail steward Allan Quant to repair switchbacks leading up the 160-foot ridge above Buffalo Creek. With so many volunteers, what would have otherwise been a very lengthy and difficult undertaking was handled smoothly and efficiently. The task involved carrying donated telephone poles up the trail incline and placing them in their designated positions.

Those who have hiked the trail will recall very well the area involved where the path zigzags back and forth to the ridge summit. Allan noted that using switchbacks originated with loggers needing to have logs hauled by donkeys down from higher elevations to rail beds running along river banks to meet waiting trains. Switchbacks permit traversing at a much gentler grade and they also reduce erosion along the trail. The students, members of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, also put barricades at a few spots to prevent hikers from taking short-cuts rather than following the designated path. For those readers who have not walked the two-mile trail, try to do so if at all feasible. Other than the switchbacks, the trail is rather level. It makes for a great outing and, especially for those in or around Lewisburg, it is conveniently located.

Commencing later in the day, members of the Bucknell Outing Club and Bucknell's Alpha Phi Omega fraternity joined forces with Betsy and Allan Quant for Linn Conservancy's third annual River Clean-up. The area from St. Anthony down to St. George Street in Lewisburg yielded many catches. Old tires were in abundance, among considerable other debris, with the most remarkable item being an eight-foot PennDOT construction sign together with lights and a base stand. The volunteers were aided by a low water level that exposed items that would not have normally have seen. An encouraging note was the fact that the castaways found appeared to be old, suggesting that the dumping of items in the river has been reduced in recent years.

Many thanks to the Quants for their leadership and hard work on the projects and to the Bucknell students who, the Quants reported, displayed a textbook example of good community citizenship.

On Saturday, November 22, members of Sigma Phi Epsilon again helped the Conservancy fulfill its trail stewardship responsibilities. Sixteen men joined Warren Abrahamson for a Shamokin Mountain Trail work session. The students created diversions on portions of the trail to reduce erosion. Our appreciation is extended to all for the fine effort.

Jim Apple is Newest Linn Conservancy Board Member

Geoff Goodenow announced the appointment of James G. Apple to the Conservancy's board of directors in late September. Mr. Apple, a resident of Lewisburg, is the president of Butter Krust Baking Company, Inc., of Sunbury. Jim has long been associated with community organizations such as the Evangelical Hospital where he has been past chairman of its board of directors. He has also served on the boards of the Greater Susquehanna Valley YMCA and the Susquehanna Council Boy Scouts of America. He has received awards from the Boy Scouts of America, the YMCA, and American Legion Post 201 in part as a result of his work in the community. Jim has also been a trustee of Gettysburg College and is a member of Trout Unlimited.

In joining the Linn Conservancy, Mr. Apple will draw upon his knowledge of the community, his managerial skills, and his interest in the environment as the Conservancy seeks to advance its mission in Union and Upper Northumberland County areas.

Committee Member Profile of Joe Southerton *By Neal Woodruff*

Soon after entering Joe Southerton's 6th-grade classroom at the Middle School in Mifflinburg, one learns of his chief passions -- for nature, for kids, and for learning, anybody's learning, including his own.

He has there a handsome caged iguana, and on the cage a sign directing that anyone who touches the iguana must wash their hands with antibacterial soap before touching anything else. There are fish tanks holding fish that

his students have themselves caught in Penns Creek -- dace, shiners, bluegills. These are emblems of all three of those passions.

Invited to talk about himself, he speaks first of his passion for nature, for biology. Three of the five classes he teaches are science classes, and he tries to expose his students as much and as directly as he can to nature itself. He is not, he says, an enthusiast for education by computer, with all nature out there to be seen and touched and smelt. He instances his delighted participation -- with his wife and all five of his own children -- in the annual Christmas bird count. He speaks of placing emphasis in his classes on ecology and conservation, of an "environmental bent" in his classroom.

He speaks also of "kid power" -- of the delight he takes in watching youngsters discover and learn for themselves. Each year he takes his home room for several days running to Wesley Forest near Weikert for intensive stream study of Penns Creek. They ask whether the stream is healthy. Working as teams, they examine it visually, then test it chemically, and finally, assess it biologically. He and his students have been engaged in this Outdoor Education Program for 15 years. He says also that bird identification is a good first step toward "caring about the planet," especially seeing the way different birds behave, the way they relate to their environment. A good example is to invite his students to consider how and why house finches have grown to such a large population in recent years. He says he is always stimulated by his students.

Besides learning from and with those young people, he continues to explore and learn himself. Astronomy is a particular hobby for him, and he is in process of building his own telescope, even grinding his own lenses. He is active in the Susquehanna Valley Amateur Astronomers. He and his family hike a great deal and explore that way the outdoors he also exposes his students to. Clearly he is one of the lucky human beings whose life and work perfectly coincide, and like many such people, eager to share their enthusiasms, he is a delight to be with. "My teaching is really my life," he says, and he has been doing it in Mifflinburg for 17 years.

His service to the Conservancy has been an extension of that life: he has been the chief steward of the Koons Trail since it was established. Members of the Conservancy board planned the trail in 1991, and he and his students cleared it and have largely maintained it since it was opened in 1992. The footbridges there, he says, "were built here in this classroom. They were so heavy it was difficult to get them to the Trail." He says that putting the Trail into what he calls good shape has taken time, but he believes it has been accomplished. Every time he goes there he sees something new, and the students who accompany him come face to face with creatures they seldom or never have seen -- a scarlet tanager, an indigo bunting, a great horned owl. He has devised a plan for trail maintenance that is a model for the Conservancy's trail projects, persuading families whose homes are near the Trail to accept responsibility for keeping it up for limited times. Involving neighbors in this trail maintenance has gone on now for many months and is clearly successful. It is a plan we will do well to copy, and Joe Southerton deserves our gratitude for devising it.

Joe, his wife Marirose, and their children, 6 to 14, have a family membership in the Linn Conservancy. Others of us members might well envy and emulate their eager and generous participation in the works of the organization.

Vegetation Study Furthers Conservancy's Interest in Montandon Marsh

Ms. Michelle Zalewski, a senior Bucknell University Environmental Studies major from Coal Township, Northumberland County, is conducting research on ecologically sensitive methods of reclaiming upland vegetation near Montandon. Her work examines the specific characteristics of existing native vegetation and will determine which plants are most appropriate for reclamation efforts following upcoming sand and gravel mining by Central Builders Supply, Sunbury. The company proposes to reclaim sites as it mines (rather than waiting until the entire operation is over) to produce a number of distinct habitats including deep open water, marsh with emergent vegetation, upland woods, and islands. Native vegetation appropriate to the sites will be encouraged.

In addition to sampling herbs, shrubs, and trees, Ms. Zalewski is also compiling details of the life histories of the more abundant species. She is conducting a soil seed survey at both the proposed mining site and nearby undisturbed upland sites. These studies will aid in determining which native species are likely candidates for colonization. Ms. Zalewski will generate a ranking of potential recolonizing native species and those alien species likely to invade areas that have been mined. Such data will aid the development of detailed reclamation plans.

Ms. Zalewski's research this past summer was funded by the Katherine Mabus McKenna Foundation through a grant to Bucknell University. The McKenna Foundation seeks to encourage environmental research in the Susquehanna River BioRegion. She is currently pursuing this research as a part of her regular coursework.

Ms. Zalewski is working under the guidance of John Clark of The Wetlands Advisory Group, Selinsgrove and Dr. Warren Abrahamson of Bucknell, both of whom are Linn Conservancy directors.

Montandon Marsh is a narrow two-mile strip running along the river both north and south of Route 45. Central Builders Supply is a major landowner in the southern portion and will conduct its operation on the western edge of the marsh. The property owned by Linn Conservancy is in the northern extreme of the marsh.

Briefs:

Thanks to appraisers Mary Beth Rodriguez of the Bowen Agency as well as Lawrence P. Lawson and Philip J. Swartz from Penn One Appraisal Service, Inc., for completing below-cost appraisals on the Belles property. Thanks to attorney William Belford for preparing a certificate of title gratis for the Linn Conservancy and attorney Terry Light who represented our interests pro bono. Appreciation also to John Clark who was the key Linn Conservancy member to work with the appraisers and Attorney William W. Belford in preparation for the purchase and successful completion of the terms of the State grant.

Thanks to Allen Schweinsberg for conducting a walk in the Marsh in the fall. Twenty six persons took part on a fine fall Sunday afternoon; also, to John Clark for conducting an educational walk for 15 at the Mohn Mill ponds, all of whom worked up an appetite and stayed on for dinner at Sand Run Lodge.

Thanks to members Allen and Harry Schweinsberg for being trail stewards at Dale's Ridge for the month of September and to Pete, Nancy, Allen, and Anne Macky as well as Tom Duck for being trail stewards in October. This was our first year under this new stewardship program and it was an excellent beginning. If there are others interested in helping with trail stewardship, we would appreciate hearing from you. Enclosed is a volunteer form on which you can indicate your interests in you haven't already done so in the past year.

Thanks to Kim Daubman, Ed Culver, and Geoff Goodenow who participated in the most recent adopt-a-road cleanup in Limestone Township.

Thanks to Michael Pereira for staffing the Linn table at Bucknell's freshman activities fair this fall.



Thanks to Scout Donald E. Swartzlander III who, as part of his Eagle Scout project and member of Boy Scout Troop #509, made and erected ten blue bird houses along the Dale's Ridge Trail in late summer. Blue birds are one of forty-eight species seen at the site over the different seasons.

Special thanks to the Union County Conservation District which celebrated its fortieth anniversary at Raymond B. Winter State Park on September 21st and honored four men instrumental in its founding: G. Earl Dietrich, Robert Holman, William Rishel, and Raymond B. Winter. Winter family members were present as well as the other three honorees. With dozens assembled following a picnic meal, Ted Retallack presented framed photographs of the Montandon Marsh and citations combined with substantial gifts to the Linn Conservancy in each of their names. We thank Ted for his innovative thinking in honoring these four persons with a gift to another land preservation effort. Robert Holman and his two sons, Mark and David, have been members of the Linn Conservancy since its formative years. Mark Holman was an active board member for _ years and a past member of the site/stewardship committee. Ted Retallack previously served on the Conservancy's board and site/stewardship committee as well.

Thank you to the Mazeppa Union Church for its generous unrestricted donation this past December.

If you have a change in your address please notify the Conservancy office. We want to be sure that you get your copy of the Linn Log promptly and efficiently. If you know you will be moving, please let us know ahead of time since our newsletter, which is sent bulk rate, would not be forwarded by the post office.

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.