

# Linn Log

newsletter of the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy



MERRILL W. LINN  
CONSERVANCY  
LINKING LANDSCAPES

## Mission of the Linn Conservancy

To preserve and protect significant ecological sites in Union, upper Northumberland, and contiguous counties and to educate the public on conservation issues critical to the health of our environment.

## Fall 2019

### Board of Directors

Tali MacArthur, President  
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Geoff Goodenow, Coordinator  
Diane Donato, Editor  
Tali MacArthur, Webmaster

## for your calendar

**Saturday, September 14, 10 am** BCWA Acid Remediation Site anniversary program

**Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 pm** Landscaping program, The Public Library for Union County

**Sunday, September 29, 11 am - 4 pm** Fossil Dig, Snyder County (See page 2.)

**Sunday, October 6, 1 pm** Walk in Penn's Woods at Dale's Ridge Trail with service forester Jeff Osborne

**Saturday, October 12, 1 pm** Highway Cleanup Meet at the Limestone Twp. picnic pavilion. Take Rt 104 south from Mifflinburg and turn west (right) onto Wildwood Road (just before crossing the creek) then travel 1 mile to the pavilion.

**Wednesday, October 16, 7 pm** Mid-State Trail presentation by Paul Shaw, sponsored by Otzinachson Group of Sierra Club. At Village Commons, Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, Lewisburg

**Tuesday, November 19, 7 pm** PA Parks and Forests Foundation presentation by director Marcie Mowery sponsored by Otzinachson Group of Sierra Club. At Village

Commons, Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, Lewisburg

**Sierra Club** meets second Wednesday, 7 pm, every other month at Union County Govt. Center, Lewisburg. For more information, email [www.otzsierraclub.org](http://www.otzsierraclub.org).

**Seven Mountains Audubon Society** meets third Wednesday monthly at Kelly Township Hall on Ziegler Road at 7:30 pm. Seven Mountains Audubon bird walks, first Saturday of month. Meet at 7:30 am in front of old Walmart store near Panera's, Lewisburg. For details, visit [www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org](http://www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org)

### Landscaping Program at UC Public Library

Brian Auman will speak in the Master Gardener Library series on Tuesday, September 24 at 6:30 pm at The Public Library for Union County, Reitz Blvd, Lewisburg.

His topic is Landscaping for Restoration and Recreation. As a landscape architect and community planner who has contributed to the enhancement of Hufnagle Park and the Rail Trail, Brian will discuss the elements of design in restoration landscaping.

*More news on page 2*

*"There is not a person alive who should not plant a tree, not for the shade that you'll enjoy, but for those who are coming after."*

Milton S. Hershey

## News

continued from page 1

### Walk in Penn's Woods with Bald Eagle State Forest service forester Jeff Osborne



—October 6

This year's Penn's Woods walk in Union County will be held at Dale's Ridge Trail, from 1 pm to 3 pm with service forester Jeff Osborne of

the PA Bureau of Forestry leading.

Address: 1471 Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg –  
N 40.98523 W 79.93202

*Walk Description:* Hike Dale's Ridge Trail through interesting and contrasting land covers, which have great diversity of tree and other plant species. A board member from the Merrill Linn Conservancy will share the history and conservation of the property, containing a stone house built in the 1790s, and the other work the Conservancy undertakes. Jeff Osborne will share information on interesting plants, as well as how to identify invasive plants, treatment options, and their impact on the environment. Trail is 2 miles long with slight to moderate inclines and two vistas. Some areas may be slippery, muddy, or have rock or roots protruding from the ground. Poison ivy may also be present. This walk is not wheelchair or stroller friendly. People-friendly leashed pets are allowed; owners must clean up after their pets. For hikes in other counties on this date: <https://sites.psu.edu/walkinpennswoods/where-are-the-walks-happening/>

### BCWA to Celebrate Success Of Acid Water Remediation Site

On Saturday, September 14, the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance of the Linn Conservancy will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the passive water treatment facility near the headwaters of Buffalo Creek in western Union County. By diverting part of the stream flow through two limestone basins, the facility has successfully reduced the acidity of the water in the first seven miles of Buffalo Creek. The reduced acidity level has created conditions favorable for a greater variety of living creatures to flourish downstream. Brook trout and insects are back!

We invite you to join us on this important occasion. Starting at 10 am, brief remarks will be made by several people who have played a role in the creation of the remediation site. Immediately following will be a tour of the project area showing how the system operates, and an opportunity to wade into the creek just below the outlet of the site to observe first-hand what critters now live there.

Come celebrate the enhancement of water quality in this part of Buffalo Creek. More information about this

project is available at [www.buffalocreek.org](http://www.buffalocreek.org).

*Directions:* Starting from the old Lewisburg High School (intersection of US 15 and PA 45) drive west on PA 45 for 17.8 miles. Turn right (north) on to Stony Run Road, a forestry road located about 100 yards east of the intersection of PA 235 and PA 45 near the Laurelton Center. Continue on Stony Run Road for 3.2 miles to the intersection of Buffalo Flat Road. Turn right on Buffalo Flat Road; drive 1.6 miles to the entrance road to the remediation site and the celebration.

### Community Fossil Dig Day! Sept 29

Due to the tremendous popularity of this event last year, the Linn Conservancy is once again sponsoring a fossil dig at Faylor Lake near Beaver Springs on Sunday, September 29, 2019. Participants can join the dig anytime between 11 am and 4 pm. Discover and collect fossils from a safe, quiet quarry containing a rich trove of ancient life.

Bucknell University Professor of Geology, Jeff Trop, and students will guide fossil hunting and identify fossil finds. Participants can expect to find marine fossils, mainly brachiopods and crinoids; less common are trilobites, bivalves, gastropods, cephalopods, corals, and bryozoans. Wear clothing and footwear that can get dirty. Bring water, snacks, and sunscreen as well as fossils that you would like to have identified. Bring a hammer, chisel (or flathead screwdriver), and safety glasses/sunglasses to aid fossil collecting; a limited supply of equipment will be available to borrow. Questions? Phone 570-524-8666, email [linn@ptd.net](mailto:linn@ptd.net), or visit [linnconservancy.org](http://linnconservancy.org).



*Fossil Dig Day 2018 drew more than 400 participants.*

*Directions to Shale Pit Road, Beaver Springs, PA:* From Mifflinburg, take PA-104 south ~4 miles to Penns Ck., turn right onto Troxelville Road, continue ~8.5 miles to Troxelville; bear left onto PA-235 for ~2.5 miles; after Beaver Springs Dragway, turn right onto Middle Creek Road, continue ~1.5 miles; turn left onto Shale Pit Road, continue ~.5 mile; fossil quarry will be on your right. From Middleburg, take PA-522 west ~9.3 miles to Beaver Springs; after Beaver Creek Tractor, turn right onto Ridge Road, continue ~1 mile; turn right onto Stage Road, continue ~1 mile; turn sharp right onto Shale Pit Road, continue ~1.2 miles; fossil quarry and parking will be on your left.

# President's Message

## Volunteering for our Communities

*By Tali MacArthur, President*

As I write this, my first message to you as the President of the Board of Directors of the Linn Conservancy (I am still in a minor state of shock over that!), August has just begun, and the days are still long and hot. Lewisburg will celebrate National Night Out, and the requests for volunteers to manage tables for various community groups have been circulating. Those requests have served as a reminder that there are so many amazing organizations and groups within our community who are actively engaged in helping to make Lewisburg and the surrounding areas places we want to call home.

We are so lucky to have safe spaces for our children to play, local businesses providing things we love to buy, agencies and people we can turn to when life throws us a curve ball, recreational centers where we can stay healthy and meet our neighbors, and so much more. The County of Union and the surrounding counties also have the Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy, an organization dedicated to preserving the land and waterways that make this area a special place to live, explore, recreate, and enjoy, and that also provides valuable ecological services for the people who call the area home. And like so many of the other organizations you will see at National Night Out and many you might not, the organization depends on volunteers to carry out its critical mission.

As you read this, and as you return to the “routine” that fall often brings after the more laissez-faire summer months, please think about ways you can get more involved in efforts to make your community fabulous. The Linn Conservancy needs the skills and talents of people like you. Whatever your interests are, there is a place for you at Linn—whether you would like to help support our educational efforts, assist with protecting precious open spaces, coordinate membership drives, or help with PR, outreach, and social marketing, we would love to have you join us.

That being said, we also recognize and value all the other amenities and opportunities that exist in this community, and should you decide to volunteer your time and skills elsewhere, we at the Conservancy thank you for all that you do and all the time you commit to those causes and efforts.

In that case, we hope you will continue your financial support of your Conservancy's mission and participate in an upcoming event. Perhaps we will bump into one another and share an idea for a partnership or coordinated event that will create new links, new connections, and new opportunities to engage and give a little something back. I hope you had a wonderful summer and have fun plans outdoors as the days grow cooler and the colors of fall emerge.

### **Kathi Hannaford, Carol Kearney High Join Linn Conservancy Board**

This spring, the Linn Conservancy Board welcomed two new members—Kathi Hannaford and Carol High, both of whom bring a wealth of conservation and environmental experience.

Kathi Hannaford, who has lived in Lewisburg for almost 35 years says, “For as long as I can remember I have been fascinated by the landscapes that I've lived in and visited, and the interaction of those landscapes with the people in them. Turns out this a pretty good definition of the broad field of geography, and eventually I earned a graduate degree in that discipline. Quite a few years later I was a member of the first class of CORE

Susquehanna (AmeriCorp), turning my interest and education into a career in GIS, first at Union County GIS, and most recently, at SEDA-COG.

“Working on an array of education and GIS projects took me, both physically and virtually, to many landscapes in central Pennsylvania, and to a broad understanding of the various partners and challenges to conservation and environmental stewardship in this area. Living in the Susquehanna Valley I've come to realize that environmental stewardship is most effectively accomplished at the local level, preserving one piece of land at a time, working with local advocates on one project at a time.

“I'm looking forward to participating in a variety of projects with the board and the broader community.

*Continued on page 4*

## Kathi Hannaford, Carol High

*continued from page 3*

One of my specific goals as a board member is to complete an online map that can be linked to the Conservancy website, including photos, stories and other information about our easements, trails and significant places. In the larger picture I'm anxious to contribute to the legacy of conservation and preservation that is the hallmark of the Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy -- protecting land through cooperative conservation easements, educating the community about the importance of land and water conservation, and increasing awareness and access to the special landscape we find ourselves in."

Carol Kearney High works as the grants and operations manager for the NASA Pennsylvania Space

Grant Consortium within Penn State's Earth and Environmental Systems Institute. Previously employed as operations manager of Bucknell University's Center for Sustainability and the Environment and as public relations manager for the Union County Library System, Carol has had an interest in communication and nature for as long as she can remember. For several years she participated in Conservancy activities, and the success of the Linking Landscapes: Natural Areas Network Initiative inspired her to take a more active role within the organization. Carol lives along Penns Creek in a cabin built by her father, where she writes literary nonfiction and enjoys outdoor sports.

One vacant seat remains on our board of 15. If interested in learning more about what such a position entails or to learn of other ways to participate in the organization, please contact us.

## Linking Landscapes: PennDOT in on the Act

Now, according to an article in the June 2019 issue of the *Bay Journal* ([www.bayjournal.com](http://www.bayjournal.com)), PennDOT is altering its roadside management plan to help pollinator species. The *Journal* article states the following: "To do its part, PennDOT will modify its mowing techniques on roughly 58,000 acres of rural roadside rights of way -- which is to say, there will be less of it, allowing milkweed and other native plants favored by pollinators to grow up. This is a way of enhancing pollinator habitat and the diversity of these species throughout the state."

Several years ago, the Linn Conservancy adopted its Linking Landscapes Initiative as a guiding principle in its conservation efforts. As we work with property owners with significant acreage on conservation easements, we have also tried to encourage homeowners and municipalities to convert portions of their properties to wildlife friendly habitat to maintain/create wildlife friendly corridors. Our native garden on the East Buffalo Twp. grounds on Fairground Rd, Lewisburg, now in its third season, illustrates what all of us can do to provide corridors of natural habitat for bees, butterflies and other important pollinator species throughout our neighborhoods and communities. We are pleased that PennDOT has adopted similar thinking.

What can you do to aid this program? (1) Consider questioning your municipality's mowing policies and suggest that managers follow PennDOT's example. (2) Volunteer for the state's program. An application can be found online at: [dot.state.pa.us/public/PubsForms/Forms/M-461A.pdf](http://dot.state.pa.us/public/PubsForms/Forms/M-461A.pdf). (3) And, of course, consider what you can do in your own backyard to help these important species -- we can help you.

## Native Gardens: Essential Links In Wildlife Friendly Corridors

More organizations and individuals are recognizing that native plants are essential to the survival of pollinators and other wildlife species. Native gardens, such as the Conservancy's Go Native garden at the East Buffalo Twp. property on Fairground Road, are key to creating corridors of wildlife habitat. Anyone with an interest in nature and a few square feet of land can do native gardening.

Visit the Go Native garden at 589 Fairground Road while it is still in bloom and check out our native gardening website —[www.gonativegardens.org](http://www.gonativegardens.org). Or learn by volunteering at the garden; for information, email [dianedonato@hughes.net](mailto:dianedonato@hughes.net).



*Scarlett beebalm, nodding wild onion, blue false indigo, and butterflyweed each have their season at the Conservancy's native plant garden.*

# MAKING TRACKS AGAIN

by Neal Woodruff

*Editor's note: Neal is a former board member of the Linn Conservancy whose thoughtful insights about our mission and programs over the years were invaluable to the organization.*

The title above echoes that of some newspaper columns I wrote some years ago. They concerned travels, were suggested by Jeanette Lasansky, and aimed to draw awareness and participation to the Linn Conservancy, then new. Recently, Geoff Goodenow turned them up and asked if I had anything in mind for a latter-day sequel. Being wheelchair-bound in my nineties, I am no longer actively making tracks, but memories of travel are vivid. Especially some memories of the family camping that the four of us - Sukie and Dave, Chris and I - did in the VW camper that was our family car.



*The Woodruff family's explorations led far afield to such sites as the Grand Canyon...*

Driving sixty miles away from paved road and all sources of supply, we joined the rattlesnakes at a tiny campground at the north rim of the Grand Canyon, in what was then the National Monument. The views of the multicolored south wall of the Canyon were breathtakingly wide. From the sharp rock edge of the cliff one could see the silver ribbon of the Colorado River thousands of feet straight below.

There were other geological journeys. We went by ferry to Kelly's Island in Lake Erie to examine the spectacular glacial grooves there. On the coast of Maine, we explored what is reputed the only true fjord in North America.

We saw many animals too. At Florence Lake in the Sierra we watched trout actually leaping up a small waterfall that connected us to the next lake. At the aptly named Clear Lake in central Oregon we could

see the trout so clearly in the water that we could stalk them before tossing in a lure. Animals responded differently to headlights in the dark. A black bear in Yosemite was scared off after failing to credit her own senses that our kitchen box contained only gear, nothing edible. But a pair of bull elk encountered on the north coast of California continued their contest of strength with tangled antlers as our lights shone on them.

And there were the lovely mountain evergreen forests and wildflower decorated meadows of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and Montana. In the so-called "snowies" of southeastern Wyoming we were blocked from a campground in August by the same snowbank that had excluded us in June.

I love these memories for their own sake, but also in these times for a cautionary message that they have. We all four value them, but are aware of current challenges to possibilities that others may have and value experiences like them. They were all afforded by the protections of the National Parks Service and the National Forest Service.

There is a challenge being mounted to the federal government's preserving and making available such experiences to all of us. They hold such places in trust for everyone and we believe it should be so. Some of the protections for our natural world and its wonders have originated and do originate with organizations like the Merrill Linn Conservancy. They stand in the way of "privatization," which probably means really, "commercialization." A fare-paid elevator ride to see Mesa Verde or explore Mammoth Cave would not substitute for any experiences such as we actually had. The appropriate view of our sharing these rare experiences begins right here at home in our lovely, if tamer, landscapes saved by the Conservancy.



*...and to natural wonders closer to home—such as the view from Dale's Ridge Trail.*

## Penn State Student Studies Local Muskrat Population

*Laken Ganoë, master's degree candidate at Penn State, provided a very interesting program related to the decline of muskrats at the Conservation Union meeting in June. She provided this summary of her research work in Lewisburg.*

"Look, mom! Is that a muskrat?"

It's a cool fall morning in Lewisburg, and you are on your way to pick up some groceries at Giant or maybe you're even walking your dog around the Recreation Park running along Bull Run. Up ahead you see what appears to be a groundhog gnawing on some grass just off the bank of one of the mitigation ponds. As you get closer it runs down to the water's edge and SPLASH! That's not a groundhog! Low and behold, you're standing there as you watch a juvenile muskrat swimming off to rejoin its family in the safety of their hut. Yes, the muskrats have colonized the ponds off of St. Mary Street and they're doing quite well there.

In the summer of 2018, I was able to study this thriving muskrat population in conjunction with Penn State and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. We were able to catch a total of 28 muskrats from the small wetland complex throughout late summer and fall. We implanted 17 of these muskrats with a radio-transmitter and monitored their movement, space-

use, and survival during the fall and winter months. It turns out that our Lewisburg muskrats like to live the communal lifestyle. One bank burrow served as a refuge for up to eight muskrats at one time! On average, muskrats within this population used nine different lodging structures (i.e., huts or burrows). Over the course of the study, we observed six muskrats die as a result of mink predation. Another predator we saw frequenting the site were bald eagles, and we speculate that they may be snatching up some of the muskrats as well.

Other than understanding local population dynamics, the main reason for this study in Lewisburg is to try and piece together what is influencing muskrat survival. Although the Lewisburg 'rats are thriving in their urban landscape, across the United States muskrat populations have been in decline in the past 30 years. In Pennsylvania, we are seeing over 85% harvest declines, indicative of population declines. It's through research such as this that we can begin to pinpoint areas of conservation effort needed to preserve our muskrat populations into the future. So, the next time you're walking around the wetland and you see a muskrat munching on a cattail, count your town lucky to have an ecosystem that is able to support such a wonderful little critter!

### Koons Trail Reopened

The Koons Trail in Mifflinburg at the covered bridge on North 4th St. was closed for a couple weeks this summer for a stream restoration project on Buffalo Creek. While the beauty of the trail still suffers from



*The banks of Buffalo Creek along Koons Trail in Mifflinburg were restored this summer.*

the loss of the ash trees that once dominated the site, the trail is now open. The creek work stabilized the banks and increased the variety of stream habitats within the corridor that will encourage population of this section by a diversity of aquatic macro-invertebrate and vertebrate species. Access to the creek from the trail was also enhanced.

### Endowment Donors Honored

This past spring, tree plantings honored donors to our endowment fund: a white oak for Tony and Diane Donato at Dale's Ridge (top photo) and an American Chestnut for the Peter Macky family at the Abrahamson-Burnham-McDiffett easement (bottom).



Expanding Educational Aspect of Our Mission:

## **PARTNERING TO PROMOTE NATURE PLAY**

Over the years, the Linn Conservancy has had the opportunity to partner with Bucknell University on a number of projects. This past spring, Susan Chlebowski, a nature-based early childhood educator and Linn Conservancy board member, submitted a proposal to Andrew Stuhl (Associate Professor of Environmental Studies) and his students in the Environmental Community Projects course.

Working with Susan and Geoff Goodenow, Linn Conservancy coordinator, the students identified project goals and methods to research, raise awareness and advocate for nature play and its benefits. Starting with an in-depth literature review, the students drew the following conclusions:

“Unsupervised and unstructured play in nature has been misguidedly and unfortunately established as unconventional. Modern parenting and education have taken a more conservative role due to fear of over-representation of realistically infrequent issues like ‘stranger danger’ in the media. However, it is clear that nature play is able to offer benefits that conventional play and education cannot, including practice in additional capabilities, independence, growth in competency, behavioral therapy, and environmental stewardship.” (Cook, Edmonds, Gao, Savage and Winter, 2019)

### **Attitudes about Nature Play in the Lewisburg Area: Survey Results**

Results of an online survey (154 respondents) coordinates with the literature, showing that approximately 50% of respondents are familiar with the term “nature play.” In addition, adults (mostly parents) understand nature play to be a healthy option with physical and mental benefits for any child.

The survey demonstrated the high regard area residents have for the *importance* of nature play. In reaction to the following statement: “*nature play is any activity that gets children active outdoors, with the goal of building different skills and the ability to play without the need for parental control,*” 90% rated nature play as “extremely important,” with 9% rating nature play as “somewhat important.” In another question, 45% had “concerns” (safety, ticks, injury, etc.) about nature play and 55% had no concerns. It is encouraging to note that a whopping 94% of respondents believe that local schools should incorporate nature play and learning into their programming. The students are hopeful and optimistic that the work they did will set a strong foundation for a future where nature play and exploration will be incorporated into the public school system.

### **Attitudes about Nature Play in the Lewisburg Area: Public Event Results**

The group also hosted “Nature Play Day” public events during which attendees learned more about nature play through the profiling of five different nature-based children’s programs throughout the United States. Following this, the “Best Day Ever” documentary trailer was shown, giving attendees a glimpse into the exciting Forest Days public school programs in Vermont. It was an empowering, inspiring event that laid a foundation for future conversations and effort to develop local initiatives to expand nature play and nature-based learning.



*Standing from left to right: Bucknell students Alex Gao, Mike Savage, Abbie Winter, Jordan Edmonds, Courtney Cook.*

### **Looking Forward**

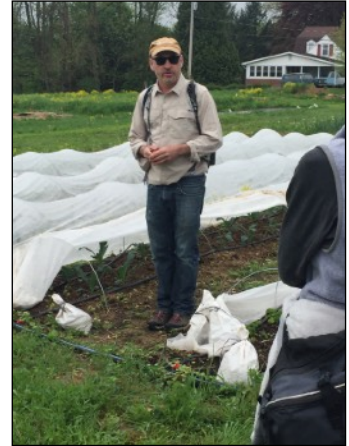
This project gave students relatable, real-world experience and offered valuable research and resources to the educational mission of the Linn Conservancy and the communities it serves. The Linn Conservancy is grateful to Professor Stuhl and Bucknell University for initiating and supporting such partnerships, and looks forward to many more mutually-supportive opportunities to work together to promote conservation in a multitude of ways.

Connecting children to nature is some of the most important work any conservation organization can undertake, and the foundational work accomplished through this project has the potential to connect more children to the natural world, and therefore create the likelihood that they will become lifelong environmental stewards.

*Project results shared with permission from Professor Andrew Stuhl, and the enthusiastic, hard working senior environmental studies students who took this project on: Courtney Cook, Jordan Edmonds, Mike Savage, Alex Gao, and Abbie Winter. You should all be proud of the work you've done!*

For more information on nature play, please follow the Facebook page **Nature Play PA** that was created through this project.

## Our 2019 Caring for Communities Celebration



Clockwise from top left: The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Caring for Communities kicked off in early April with a screening of *The Human Element* at the Campus Theatre. Events continued into May. Geologist Jeff Trop, Geoff Goodenow, Glacier Pools easement owner Michael Gross, Allen Schweinsberg, and Biologist Mizuki Takahashi at Glacier Pools Preserve where geology and amphibians were the topic during Caring for

Communities. Bucknell Professor of Biology, Mark Spiro, describes the university farm during CFC. Jeff Trop describes the sedimentary layers that form Shikellamy Bluffs. Adrienne Gemberling describes the “how to” of live staking at the East Buffalo Twp. property of Marilyn Murphy. Naturalist Jerry Hassinger discusses the habitat surrounding the Spangler-Noll National Historic Farm.

### Scout Troop Assumes Merrill Linn Trail Maintenance

With the departure of the Priestley Unitarian Fellowship as maintainers of the Merrill Linn Trail after 25+ years of service, their role has been assumed by Scout Troop 642 from Watsonstown, Pa. Members



*Priestly Unitarian Fellowship and Scout Troop 642 members*

of both groups met at the trail in late May to jointly tend to the 1-mile loop off of the Mid-State Trail in northwestern Union County.

The trail features numerous vernal pools and beautiful stands of cinnamon

fern in mid to late spring. We are grateful to the Fellowship for its many years of service and to the scout troop for taking over.

### Dale's Ridge Trail (DRT) -- A Heavily Used Site

As many of you know, the DRT is very popular and at times the parking area is overflowing with vehicles.

Such recently happened when a sports team used the trail for a training run. We do not condone this type of use of the trail; we maintain it for those seeking a quiet, peaceful refuge for walking, painting, wildlife viewing, and other leisurely activities.

In any case, we do request that groups of more than 15 contact the Conservancy office well ahead their outing to help assure that the trail is not going to be overwhelmed with visitors at one time and/or that we can suggest alternative parking arrangements for vehicles.

Please remember that this is private property open to all by permission of the owner, the Union County Historical Society (UCHS). The Linn Conservancy maintains the trail for you at its expense. We need your help to keep it attractive, enjoyable and safe for everyone. Thank you.



# thank you!

**New Members:** Rebecca Perez, Jennifer Stevenson, Lewisburg; Gail Brouse, Northumberland; Charles Ragland, Selinsgrove

**Thank you to:** the estate of **Karl Patten** for bequest to the Conservancy; all of our Raise the Region donors; the **Joseph Priestly Unitarian Fellowship** for Linn Trail maintenance; **John Carpenter** for gift in memory of Jean Armstrong of West Chester, PA; donation from **Elsbeth Steffensen**; **Ella Jane Kunkle** for a donation in memory of Charlie Marvin; **Warren and Chris Abrahamson** for a donation in memory of Tony Donato; **Marilyn Murphy** for hosting a walk through her native flower meadows; Girl Scout **Ellis Reed**, sister **Orissa**, and father **Matt** for weeding at the Dale/Engle/Walker house.

**Consider Donating to our Endowment Fund** Your Conservancy's endowment fund continues to grow in the hands of the First Community Foundation Partnership PA in Williamsport. The endowment helps assure the Linn Conservancy's ability to protect the central PA environment that we enjoy today and see that it will be here for your children and grandchildren as well. If you would like information pertaining to contributing to the long-term sustainability of the Conservancy through gifts of property, stocks, cash or estate planning, please contact our office.

## Chesapeake Conservancy's Giving Tree Campaign Supports Live Stake Cooperative

Help support costs of getting 27,000 live stakes to partner organizations free of charge. Visit <https://chesapeakeconservancy.org/giving-tree/> to learn more and give.

## Thanks to Our Business Partners for 2019

Your membership renewal letter contained your business partner card for 2019. We thank the business owners who have agreed to participate again this year and are most grateful for their many years of commitment to this program.

Each offers you, as a Conservancy member, a special discount on services or merchandise as noted on your card. Please be sure to patronize these businesses and thank them for supporting the Conservancy's mission.

**Bertoni's Pizza**, Montandon; **Lewisburg Studio**, **Vargo Outdoors**, **Proforma B Creative**, Lewisburg; **Shaffer Landscapes, Inc**, Middleburg; **Ian Adrian Nature Photography**, [iannaturephotography.com](http://iannaturephotography.com)

## Conservancy's Annual Banquet Held at Shade Mountain Vineyards:

Nearly 70 guests enjoyed an evening of fine food, our regular auction supplemented by a special art piece by Barbara Baker, and a presentation about local geology by board member and Bucknell professor of Geology, Jeff Trop.

Departing president Susan Warner-Mills and membership-development chair, Marilyn Brill, were recognized for their service to the Conservancy and Tali MacArthur was introduced as our new president. A service award was presented to Union County Commissioner John Showers for his years of support of Linn Conservancy programs.

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance and the Conservancy jointly presented a service award to Allan, Betsy, and Jeremy Quant of Canoe Susquehanna for their many years as leaders and educators of water-borne adventures throughout the region and state. Their service in that capacity will surely be missed by all who paddled lakes, streams, and rivers with them.



*Susan Warner-Mills presented John Showers with his award.*



*Betsy and Allan Quant accepted their award from Allan Grundstrom.*

## PA Legislation Supports Conservation

The PA Land Trust Association (PALTA) has successfully campaigned to increase the protection of conserved land from eminent domain. With the exception of projects requiring federal review, school districts, county and local governments and utilities must convince the county orphans' court that there is no reasonable and prudent alternative before taking a conservation easement. According to PALTA "the act establishes PA as the nation's leader in protecting conservation easements from irresponsible exercise of eminent domain."

On another front, PALTA's efforts to better protect those who open their land to the public for recreation from liability was achieved through amendments to the PA Recreation Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA).

The Linn Conservancy proudly supports the work of PALTA staff through our annual membership donation to the organization.

The Merrill W. Linn  
Land & Waterways Conservancy  
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[linn@ptd.net](mailto:linn@ptd.net)

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## Fall 2019

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The Linn Conservancy is a member of...



like us on Facebook! Our Facebook page is a great resource for conservation news, stories and photos.