

## Roy Kraynyk

Executive Director  
Allegheny Land Trust

Roy Kraynyk has been involved with the land one way or another for most of his life. "I grew up on six acres," explains Kraynyk, "so I was always outdoors—camping, horseback riding, sledding in the winter."

After working as an estate caretaker and a real estate agent, in 1988 Kraynyk earned a Bachelor's with Honors in Landscape Architecture from Penn State. He worked for a local landscape architecture firm, as a Project Manager in the Allegheny County Department of Planning and Economic Development, and as Director of Community Conservation Planning with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

With each position, he was pulled closer to conservation-oriented projects. He initiated several studies, including:



Allegheny County Greenways Report and the Conservation Corridors Plan. He served on the county's Agriculture Preservation Board, the Strategic Parks Planning Initiative, and the DEP Citizen Volunteer Water Monitoring Panel.

The test of his commitment to land preservation, however, came in what he did with his free time.

In 1990, he founded the Hollow Oak Land Trust (HOLT). As president for nine years, he helped conserve six parcels totaling 300 acres in the airport area. In all, HOLT protected land worth \$1 million for less than \$150,000. The experience fueled Kraynyk's desire to make land conservation a career.

"I wanted to be identifying valuable land and organizing conservation agreements," says Kraynyk. "When I came to Allegheny Land Trust, I was ready to hit the ground running, and I wasn't disappointed."

Kraynyk and his family live in Sewickley and enjoy south-western Pennsylvania's many opportunities for walking, hiking, boating and exploring nature. ALT

# VISTAS

A publication of Allegheny Land Trust

Spring 2002

## Trust Fledges Nest, Hires First Executive

Showing great foresight, the Allegheny County commissioners created the Allegheny Land Trust in 1993. The county provided capital funds, clerical and technical support and a part-time director who reported to a board of outside directors. The public/private arrangement fostered the young organization's growth as it devoted itself to conserving this region's natural areas.

By the fall of 2000, with 650 acres owned, 100 more held in conservation easements, and recognition within the conservation community, the Trust had matured. When Director Andrew Loza took a new position with the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, the county and the board agreed that it was time for Allegheny Land Trust to fledge the nest.

### Board Members Rolled Up Their Sleeves

Sue Gold, president of the organization today and then, describes the board's feelings. "We had been aware for a number of years that we needed a full-

time organization to capture all the good opportunities, but independence was new territory for us."

The Allegheny Land Trust was created with a working board, but becoming independent meant more work than members had bargained for. Nonetheless, they rose to the challenge with skill and eagerness.

"It has been overwhelmingly satisfying," says Gold, "to see board members willing to put in time and to collaborate with one another. They handled everything from financial and legal matters to human resources. As a result, I believe we are going into the future with a very strong and more enthusiastic board."

Gold also acknowledged, "The landowners we were working with during the transition were wonderful, and their patience was greatly appreciated."

### Transition Is Successful

"A major step in the transition was hiring a full-time director in early 2001," notes Henry Ewalt, past president and a board member since late 1993. The search brought scores of good candidates from across the country.

"Roy [Kraynyk] has made a tremendous contribution this year. He is creative and knowledgeable about getting things done. He is constantly looking for additional ways to support the mission of the Trust," states Ewalt.

Adds Gold, "The board did not take this hiring lightly. We were seeking someone with an excellent background, and we were lucky that Roy's experience was local and that he was ready to step into the position."

### Helping People Save Land

Bill Lawrence, an original board member and long-time activist with the Audubon Society, Sierra Club and others, observes, "We in this region are so used to looking outside and deciding, 'It's a beautiful day, I'll go do something outdoors.'"

"But if we take it for granted, we'll soon wake up and see homes or stores, instead of fields and wooded trails."

Continued on page 3

Allegheny Land Trust Officers	
<b>Chair and President</b> Susan M. Gold Former Chair Marshall Twp. Supervisors	<b>Secretary</b> Thomas M. Schmidt, Esq. VP & General Counsel, retired Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
<b>Treasurer</b> Sigo Falk Chairman, Maurice Falk Medical Fund	<b>Executive Director</b> Roy Kraynyk Allegheny Land Trust
Directors	
<b>William J. Bates, AIA</b> Vice President, Real Estate & Building Services Marconi Communications	<b>Bill Lawrence</b> Planner, County of Beaver Treasurer, Friends of the Green and Seldom Seen
<b>Robert Beynon</b> President, Beynon & Company Inc.	<b>David K. Leviansky</b> State Representative Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
<b>Susan D. Craig</b> President, Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association	<b>John T. Rago, Esq.</b> Associate Dean Duquesne University School of Law
<b>Jerry V. DeRosa</b> Assistant Vice President Environmental Services PNC	<b>Ronald C. Schipani, ASLA</b> Vice President & Treasurer GWSM, Inc.
<b>Henry W. Ewalt, Esq.</b> Attorney/Mediator	<b>Stevan R. Schott</b> Vice President & Controller, DQE
<b>Richard Florida, Ph.D.</b> H. John Heinz III Professor of Regional Economic Development Heinz School of Public Policy and Management Carnegie Mellon University	<b>Dan Sentz</b> Riverfront Development Coordinator Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
<b>Lynn L. Heckman</b> Senior Deputy Director Allegheny County Dept. Economic Development	<b>Lisa L. Smith</b> Former Director of Stewardship Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
<b>William C. Kirk Jr.</b> Project Director Marconi Communications	<b>John W. Ubinger Jr., Esq.</b> Partner, Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue
<b>Editor:</b> Sharon Yeager	<b>Davitt B. Woodwell, Esq.</b> Vice President, W. Pa. Pennsylvania Environmental Council
<b>Designer:</b> Kari Miller	
Allegheny Land Trust • 1901 Glen Mitchell Rd • Sewickley, PA 15143-8856 Ph: 412-749-4882 Fx: 412-749-4883 E: preserve@stargate.net www.alleghenylantrust.org	
VISTAS ©Copyright 2002 Allegheny Land Trust	



1901 Glen Mitchell Road  
Sewickley, PA 15143-8856  
www.alleghenylantrust.org



Helping local people save local land

Printed on recycled paper

Issue 1

**From the President**

Dear Allegheny Land Trust Supporters,

On behalf of the entire Board, I am so pleased to send you this first issue of VISTAS. In the past, our communiques have been even less predictable than Western Pennsylvania weather, and we appreciate your support in spite of this.

For the Trust, publication of VISTAS is a milestone in our journey toward a full-fledged, publicly recognized professional organization.

For you, VISTAS is a new connection; one that we hope you will find informative and entertaining. At a minimum, it will be a quarterly reminder that your help is appreciated and the work of preserving the wild and beautiful areas of our region is being attended to.

Although VISTAS uses low-impact recycled paper and modest production, if you would prefer to receive the most cost-effective electronic version, please write to us at [preserve@stargate.net](mailto:preserve@stargate.net).

And, of course, I would love to hear your comments and questions regarding VISTAS—we promise to keep in touch!

Susan Gold



Donated Paintings Help Fund Land Purchase

The Wingfield Pines purchase was the Allegheny Land Trust's largest transaction to date. It took the work of an energetic conservation group, individual contributors, a large corporation, a creative donor and a legendary Pittsburgh artist together to make it happen.

The Wingfield Pines property is 80 acres of wooded and fertile floodplain that fronts the Chartiers Creek in Upper St. Clair and South Fayette townships. It was named by former owners who, for a time, ran a golf and swimming club.

The club has been closed since the 1980s, and an active conservation group, the Upper St. Clair Citizens for Land Stewardship (USCCLS), was interested in the property.

Says USCCLS President Tracey Buckman, "The property presented so many opportunities for things we need. There's potential for fishing, hiking, hunting and perhaps even organized overnight camping. It complements the adjacent 500-acre Boyce-Mayview Park, which has tremendous habitat, but relatively little room for human activity because of the steep slopes, wetlands and limited creek access."

Opportunity Knocks

One day in 1999, one of the USCCLS members called Buckman and said, "Did you know that the Wingfield property is going up for auction?"

USCCLS didn't know exactly how it could save the property, but the board approved expending some effort to find out. "We knew we couldn't buy it, because we aren't a land trust," says Buckman, "but we called Allegheny Land Trust, and (then-Director) Andy Loza agreed that it would be good for his organization to own."

It took almost two years to get an agreement, and although the Trust would own it in fee simple, the process of the closing was very complex. "When Andy left, Sue Gold (Trust president) took over," says Buckman. "Her diligence and concern and support got the bargain nailed down."

The agreement, which was an option to purchase for \$450,000, was signed in March of 2001. "In the nick of time to receive a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant," describes Roy Kraynyk who, by then, was the Trust's new executive director.

There was an immediate need to raise an additional \$230,000 to match the DCNR grant. USCCLS and Allegheny Land Trust began a grassroots fundraising campaign in the community.

Youngblood Works Donated

Then, in a stroke that was as creative as it was generous, USCCLS members Rob and Nan MacLachlan offered to donate a series of French and Indian War paintings by Nat Youngblood to be sold to raise funds. "You could have knocked me over with a feather," declares Buckman.



The MacLachlans, Rob, Nan, Sarah and Melody, inherited the paintings from Rob's father whose architecture firm designed the Fort Pitt Museum. "With art, as with Nature, you are more a steward than you are an owner," says Rob MacLachlan.

Explains MacLachlan, "I had hiked on the Wingfield property even before I knew it might be purchased. It's very quiet and spacious, and I just fell in love with it. Almost anytime I go down there, I see geese zooming along the Chartiers, blue heron, fox, herds of deer running at full speed—things you never see in your back yard. When USCCLS began talking about raising money to buy the property, I saw a way to make it happen."

The paintings were appraised at \$30,000. The Trust and USCCLS began the search for a buyer.

One of those interested, Mellon Financial Corporation, agreed to buy the paintings. Not only did they offer the full \$30,000, but they also shared the MacLachlans' hope that

the paintings would be displayed at the Fort Pitt Museum.

According to a Mellon spokesperson, "Mellon was extremely proud to be a part of this effort to preserve both historically significant local art and the Chartiers Creek watershed."

Finally—on December 28, 2001, the property was officially saved.

Space To Plan

A site planning charette was held in early April. The brainstorm involved representatives of the Trust, USCCLS, PennDoT, CMU, and Upper St. Clair and South Fayette townships. It was facilitated by two senior landscape architecture students from Penn State's Hamer Center for Community Design Assistance.

Ideas include refurbishing the clubhouse for a new Trust office, establishing a canoe launch, using the former swimming pool as a hydroponic community garden, and turning the bathhouse into a laboratory for an abandoned mine drainage (AMD) mitigation project.



On October 8, with the participation of the property owner, the groups held an "exhibition" of the paintings on the Wingfield property. Nat Youngblood himself attended.

Continued on page 3

Donated Paintings Continued from page 2

"Of course, all of these ideas require funding," notes Kraynyk. "Stewardship is one of the ongoing needs we have for all of our properties."

Whatever the future holds, the conservation of the site is appreciated. "Allegheny Land Trust is a true partner," states the USCCLS's Buckman. "We are very pleased that they were able to help fulfill one of our dreams for the township and the region." ALT

**Prints for Sale?** With the help of donor Rob MacLachlan of USCCLS, Allegheny Land Trust is looking at selling limited edition prints of the Youngblood paintings to raise funds for stewardship of the Wingfield property. If you would be interested in purchasing prints, write to [preserve@stargate.net](mailto:preserve@stargate.net). To see images, visit [www.uscls.org](http://www.uscls.org) and click on "Photo Album."

Trust Fledges Nest Continued from page 1

As a professional planner, Lawrence understands that the natural places are what keep our towns and cities livable. "I always feel sick at heart when a wonderful piece of land is developed rather than preserved. For me and other supporters, Allegheny Land Trust provides a means to do something about it."

Trust Is Ready To Fly

Confirms Ewalt, "More and more landowners are becoming interested in 'doing the right thing.' Foundations continue to grant funds, Allegheny County provides in-kind support, and individuals are not only contributing money but volunteering their time toward grassroots organizing and stewardship."

Peer-to-peer support is also vital. "In encouraging conservation," says Gold, "land trusts should act together as a unit. We will continue building relationships with other groups."

For the near future, the Trust has several goals: to remain good stewards of the 900 acres we now hold in trust; to add to the roster of significant properties; to continue exploring with governments and the general public ways to conserve land that benefits them; and to build the Trust's base of community supporters.

Says President Gold, "We have excellent opportunities knocking at our door. Now, with a full-time director, we can afford to set higher goals. It's a good position to be in!" ALT

**Blue Grass for Green Space Music Festival**  
A collaboration benefiting Allegheny Land Trust and Fern Hollow Nature Center

**Saturday, July 20, 2002  
4 to 10 p.m.**

To volunteer, call 412-749-4882 or write to [preserve@stargate.net](mailto:preserve@stargate.net).

RAD Works Here

Allegheny Land Trust is a 2002 recipient of \$414,000 in capital funds and \$15,000 in operating funds from the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD). This grant was received on behalf of several rails-to-trails organizations, and the funding helps support their trail development projects for 2002-03.

By the end of this year, the 1% county sales tax, paid by residents of and visitors to Allegheny County, will have resulted in a cumulative \$1 billion investment in the region.

For more information, visit [radworkshere.org](http://radworkshere.org). ALT

Funding Update

Allegheny Land Trust continues to do well in raising support from a diversified range of sources. Since January 2001, the organization received over \$1 million from a variety of public, private and individual sources. Funding has been earmarked to support:

Land protection	\$433,500
Regional trails	507,500
General operating	75,000
	<hr/>
	\$1,016,000

Operating Donations Are Leveraged \$1:\$15

