Thomas M. Schmidt  
**VP & General Counsel, retired Western Pennsylvania Conservancy**

I have been a director of the Allegheny Land Trust since it was created at the recommendation of Allegheny County in 2001. "Like many people in our region, I have been interested in the outdoors and science since I was young. My mother was a bird watcher, and I got to know the late director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Dr. M. Graham Netting, who became a sort of mentor. As a teenager, I participated in one of the museum’s paleontology expeditions out West. "Today, I am a grousse hunter, fly fisherman, backpacker and gardener."  

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In addition, Schmidt is a founder of the Land Trust Alliance and trustee of the National Aviary. "Certainly the environment is important, but so is the temperate forest," asserts Schmidt. "The most recent Biotic inventories of the largest urban parks found unknown and unexpected species—further proof that we have undiscovered treasures, literally in our backyards, that must be protected. "What also drives my continuing participation in the Allegheny Land Trust and other nature conservation organizations is a very deep feeling about how important nature is in the lives of people. If you look at almost any part of nature closely, it is fascinating. I've stressed-out world, contemplating something so astounding complex and beautiful puts things in perspective."

**A publication of Allegheny Land Trust**

**Welcome, New Board Members**

Robert T. MacLachlan, MD  
A physician by training, MacLachlan has no formal environmental experience, but since a young age, he’s always enjoyed the outdoors. “At this point in our region’s history,” says the Upper St. Clair resident, “it’s a matter of communicating to local citizens how valuable it is to save open space when possible.”  

MacLachlan practices what he proclaims. His donation of a series of original paintings for sale helped secure preservation of Wingfield Pines, the Trust’s newest acquisition. “All the time I hear people talking about a farm or forest that’s been there for years, and suddenly signs go up, and the bulldozers come in. People are typically upset, sometimes outraged,” observes MacLachlan. “It takes foresight and collaboration to prevent this.”

Ralph J. Papa  
**President, Western Region Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania**  
For Citizens, Papa is responsible for all aspects of regional community and government relations and new business development. Papa joined the business when it was Mellon Bank in 1969. Papa received a bachelor’s degree in social science/psychology from Penn State University and also is a graduate of the St. Vincent Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. In 1990, he led the PSU Alumni committee that raised more than $20 million in private funds to build the Bryce Jordan Center. Papa is a member of the Governing Council and Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association. He serves on the boards of Second Mile, Family House, USC Citizens for Land Stewardship, and Penn State McKeesport.  

Native Pittsburghers, Papa and his wife Ruth Anne reside in Franklin Park, Pennsylvania.
Grant Helps Purchase Sewickley Heights Parcel

In April, Allegheny Land Trust celebrated its first year at the Fern Hollow Nature Center by announcing receipt of a $260,200 grant to purchase 34 acres adjacent to Sewickley Heights Park.

The grant is the fifth from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources the Trust has received in its nine-year history.

The property lies within the Camp Meeting Woods Biological Diversity Area (BDA)—a designation for a large tract of lands with exemplary plants and wildlife and water quality. “There are only six other BDAs of this quality in Allegheny County,” says Susan Craig, Sewickley resident and Trust board member since 1994.

The property was listed and being actively marketed when the Trust was approached and encouraged by the community to purchase it.

The purchase of the property by the Trust helps to maintain the scenic beauty of the Fern Hollow corridor and the exceptional water quality of Little Sewickley Creek—described by the Department of Environmental Protection as the cleanest stream in Allegheny County. Residential development could have impaired the stream with soil erosion or chemical runoff from lawns and landscaping.

Sewickley Heights Council President Evans Ross was delighted with news of the grant. “I didn’t know that Allegheny Land Trust could respond so quickly. Within three weeks of our first meeting, they had a signed sales agreement and a grant proposal submitted. Our landscape and environment are treasures well deserving of our efforts to protect them.”

“All the key pieces fell right into place,” comments Executive Director Roy Krynyk, “we had a lot of support from the local community, an experienced realtor and a cooperative seller.”

Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association donated the funds for the two appraisals required to get the grant.

Kathy Brandt, the realtor for the sale, has been in the business for 25 years and understood the value to the community. Says Brandt, “Allegheny Land Trust is very knowledgeable and professional, and I look forward to working with them again.”

New Board Members

E. Steve Bland
MangoStart Consulting, LLC

Steve Bland is the founder and CEO of MangoStart Consulting LLC, a consulting firm for entrepreneurs, small businesses and non-profits doing business in Southwestern Pennsylvania. A resident of Highland Park, Bland chose to get involved with the Allegheny Land Trust for the opportunity to preserve some of the nature important to Western Pennsylvania. “There’s a lot of history here, and we need to preserve the natural areas for future generations.”

Bland formerly served in Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh, and his business development background will be an asset to the organization. “I look forward to being able to help ALT address the changing demographics of Western Pennsylvania. As the neighborhoods around Pittsburgh are developed, I think we can encourage citizens, government and foundations to work with us to plan long-term strategies.”

Stevan R. Schott
Vice President and Controller
DQE

Schott’s current post at Pittsburgh-headquartered DQE puts him at the financial helm of a leader in the electric energy market and has provided him experience with a variety of businesses including regulated utility operations, alternative energy resources and other complementary businesses. Prior to DQE, he worked as an audit senior manager at Deloitte & Touche LLP with a focus on serving public utilities, manufacturing and higher education entities.

Schott holds a business degree from Duquesne University and is a certified public accountant. He is also on the Board of the Duquesne University Business School Alumni Association. Steve, his wife Karrie and their two children live in Corosdelphia, Pennsylvania.

In Appreciation for Service

Allegheny Land Trust thanks several of the board members who will be leaving this year—Robert Beyron, State Representative David Ledvinsky, Dr. Richard Florida and John Rago—for their contributions of talent, guidance and ideas that have helped to build the Trust into the successful land conservation organization it is today. “Serving is a from-holding board member who, for the maximum nine years allowed by the by-laws, provided support and invaluable real estate expertise. Represented Ledvinsky was instrumental in acquiring the Trust’s first property, Deeds Man’s Hollow. Dr. Florida’s research and published reports on the importance of conservation and recreation in economic development helped to validate our work; and Mr. Rago’s legal expertise will be greatly missed. An Emeritus Advisory Board is being established for retired board members who want to continue their work in conservation.”

Wingfield Pines, an 80-acre former golf and swim club in Upper St. Clair and South Fayette townships along the Chartiers Creek will be the focus of a walk on July 13 at 10 a.m. Bring your binoculars and cameras and your ideas for the several buildings we want to rehab.

Directions from I-79
Take the Bridgeville exit and turn right at the end of the ramp. Proceed 1/2 mile and turn left at the “T.” Make the first right onto Chartiers Street. Proceed 1/2 mile to stop sign and turn right onto Mayview Road. Proceed 1/ mile to gated driveway on right with NO TRESPASSING signs. Parking is at bottom.

Meet at 10 a.m.

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Saturday, July 20, 2002
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1901 Glen Mitchell Road
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Featuring 5 local bands and an open microphone session! Bring your own food, grills will be available.

For information, call 412-741-6136, write to find.educom.net or visit the Nature Center.

Advanced Tickets
$20 Adult
$15 Student
$5 children and 10 yrs old & under

Local Land Saved: 900 Acres

Inspiring scenery, verdant farmland and wildlife species that have endured since before Columbus—the land that Allegheny Land Trust seeks to protect is valuable in many ways. We have recently added several new properties to the “protected” list.

In October 2001, Allegheny Land Trust took ownership of three donated parcels appraised at $210,000.

• The 16-acre Plum parcel was donated by Duquesne Light Company and is adjacent to another larger parcel we already own at Burping Slopes.

• The 16-acre Ross Township parcel, donated by Dr. Alan Selz, is located on Lowens Run Road and is within the Lowens Run Slopes Biological Diversity Area.

• The 14-acre parcel in White Oak, donated by David Funk, is on the steep northern slope of the Youghiogheny River.

In addition to the land donations, Mr. Funk and Dr. Selz have committed cash contributions for stewardship, and Duquesne Light covered all costs associated with the transaction.

Allegheny Land Trust works with landowners, local residents and officials to protect land of significance by purchasing it or by holding the development rights through a “conservation easement.” As important as it is to identify and save these properties, it is equally important for Allegheny Land Trust to maintain them. This stewardship involves volunteer work as well as insurance, staff time, trail maintenance, signs, tools, etc. If you would like to donate your time or sponsor stewardship of one of these or future properties, please contact us today.

If you would like information on the features and significance of Trust properties, including trail maps, please call or write:}

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Land Acres Municipality/County Held Since Features Recreation

Dead Man’s Hollow 400 Lincoln and Liberty Boroughs/ Allegheny 1994 Ecologically significant wildlife and habitat; Youghiogheny River frontage 13,000 feet of walking trails, creek and pond fishing

Barking Slopes 130 Plum Twp./Allegheny 1997 & 2001 Allegheny River frontage Steep trails, scenic views of Allegheny River

Linder Farm 100 Strabane Twp./Washington 1998 Trust’s first conservation easement Working horse farm

Marino Property 63 Chartiers Twp./Washington 1999 Scenic woodlands and natural diversity Off-trail hiking

Montour Trail 70 Townships of Moon, Robinson, North Fayette and Findlay/Allegheny 2001 Access for the Montour Greenway; Historic rail line 7 miles of walking and biking trail, stream fishing

Lowries Run Slopes 16 Ross Twp./Allegheny 2001 Within a Biological Diversity Area

Yough Slopes 14 White Oak Borough/Allegheny 2001 Rocky slopes; nesting habitat for hawks Short trail, scenic views of Youghiogheny River

Wingfield Pines 80 Townships of Upper St. Clair and South Fayette/Allegheny 2002 Floodplain of Chartiers Creek; linked to Boyce-Maryview Biological Diversity Area Bird watching; planned office and AMD mitigation demonstration

Fern Hollow Greenway 34 Borough of Sewickley Heights/Allegheny 2002 Within largest Biological Diversity Area Walking and riding trails

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