

# VISTAS

A publication of Allegheny Land Trust

Summer 2002

## 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 preaches. 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."



### From the President

Dear Allegheny Land Trust Supporters,

I am pleased to serve as president of the Trust's board of directors. I must admit, however, that Sue Gold's tenure will be a hard act to follow.

Sue came to her role at a time of difficult transition for the organization, and she did a magnificent job. The skills and diplomacy that impressed the voters of Marshall Township served our organization equally well. Sue's demeanor, always upbeat and positive, and her hours of dedication helped tremendously. We are all delighted that she is going to stay on as Secretary.

Sue's strengths helped us clear the hurdle of becoming an independent organization. We now focus on the next challenge.

As you saw from the story of the Wingfield Pines purchase in our last issue (on-line at [www.alleghenylandtrust.org](http://www.alleghenylandtrust.org)), acquiring a piece of property can take months of work. Now, as a full-time organization, we can move faster and take on more projects. I believe that we can achieve our goal of "2006 Acres by 2006."

However, this work requires funding. Operational expense was formerly borne by Allegheny County, the entity that created the Trust in 1993. Today, it is borne by the organization itself.

Through sound fiscal management, we have a substantial capital fund for purchases. What we need now is to generate a solid base of steady supporters who want to see the work continue.

Thus, it is imperative that we set a parallel goal: "2006 Members by 2006."

Unlike more specialized conservancies, Allegheny Land Trust is interested in open space as well as biodiversity: in nature for recreation, scenic vistas and town commons that bring nature closer to people.

In a sense, we have moved from a large base of conscripts—the taxpayers of Allegheny County—to a select group of supporters who give not because of government mandate but because they share our values.

Join us, and encourage others in your community to do so as well. There is no more direct way to preserve the beauty and bounty of our region.

Tom Schmidt



### 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 Stonier 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, United Way of Allegheny County and Penn State McKeesport.

Native Pittsburghers, Papa and his wife Ruth Anne reside in Franklin Park, Pennsylvania.



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## 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 \$260,000 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 large tracts of land 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 Rose 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 Kraynyk, “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.” ALT



Adjacent to Sewickley Heights Park, the land will remain open to the public for hiking, horseback riding and the other non-motorized activities currently permitted in the park.

## New Board Members Continued from page 1

### 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 as 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 Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. ALT



## Bluegrass 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.**

**Fern Hollow Nature Center  
1901 Glen Mitchell Road  
Sewickley Heights**



### Advanced Tickets

\$20 Adult  
\$10 Student  
(\$5 extra per ticket day of festival)

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 fhnc@nauticom.net or visit the Nature Center.

## In Appreciation for Service

Allegheny Land Trust thanks the several board members who will be leaving this year—**Robert Beynon, State Representative David Levdansky, 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. Mr. Beynon was a founding board member who, for the maximum nine years allowed by the by-laws, provided support and invaluable real estate expertise. Representative Levdansky was instrumental in acquiring the Trust's first property, Dead 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. **ALT**

**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.**



## 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 Barking Slopes.
- The 16-acre Ross Township parcel, donated by Dr. Alan Selz, is located on Lowries Run Road and is within the Lowries Runs 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. **ALT**

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-Mayview 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

## 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* 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 grouse hunter, fly fisherman, backpacker and gardener."

A graduate of Princeton and Harvard and a lawyer by training, Schmidt worked for the Pittsburgh firm of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart before becoming part of the staff of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for 27 years. That position happily enabled him to "combine my love of nature with my work."

While with the WPC, Schmidt directed several key projects, including the Pittsburgh Park and Playground Fund, which constructed parklets, playgrounds and greenways to bring natural amenities to disadvantaged neighborhoods; the Ligonier Easement Project, one of the largest conservation and scenic easement programs in Pennsylvania, protecting over 4,000 acres; and the Fallingwater Museum, for which he raised funds, worked with curators and contractors, and added features that helped increase annual visitation.

In addition, Schmidt is a founder of the Land Trust Alliance and trustee of the National Aviary.

"Certainly the rainforest is important, but so is the temperate forest," asserts Schmidt. "The most recent Bioblitz inventories of our 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. In this stressed-out world, contemplating something so astoundingly complex and beautiful puts things in perspective." **ALT**

### Allegheny Land Trust Officers

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