

WISTAS

Fall 2003

From the President

Dear Allegheny Land Trust Supporters,

On behalf of everyone at the Allegheny Land Trust, I welcome you back from your summer vacation. I get especially enthusiastic about the work of Allegheny Land Trust right after I spend time away biking through beautiful scenery, hiking on trails, or reading by the lake because I know that our efforts are creating these opportunities for people close to home.

As we enter our second decade as a land trust we are rapidly closing in on the benchmark of conserving our first 1,000 acres. We will purchase two parcels this year totaling 257 acres, bringing our total to more than 1200 acres conserved. Our goal is 2006 acres by 2006.

It is my pleasure to take the reins for the next year. Thank you to outgoing chair Tom Schmidt and outgoing board members Susan Craig, Bill Lawrence, Dan Sentz and Jack Ubinger for their wisdom and guidance. Also, I look forward to working with our slate of new and talented officers: Stevan Schott, Vice President; Bill Kirk, Treasurer; and Lisa Smith, Secretary.

Sigo Falk, President Allegheny Land Trust

Tom McCargo reminisces ...

The land parcel that Allegheny Land Trust is about to acquire was originally open farmland that my father acquired in the 1960s to ensure that it would stay undeveloped. Land is not a renewable resource; once it is developed, it is gone forever.

My family is in the real estate development business and is well aware of the commercial potential of the land. As developers, we considered selling it. However, because we were not sure that a new owner would ultimately keep the land from being developed, we chose to work with Allegheny Land Trust on preserving the land. Also, without the ability of Allegheny Land Trust to raise half the land value we would not have been able to donate our half.



Copyright © 2003 SUZANNE L. MARTIN

Tom McCargo and his family are donating half the value of 100 acres near Sewickley to Allegheny Land Trust for conservation.

Pittsburgh is lucky to have so much open space so near to the city in Sewickley and other communities; however the lack of demographic and economic growth in the region has made economic development a priority over land preservation. Unfortunately, the two objectives are often considered at odds with each other. My family strongly believes the two are synonymous.

We need to think of the future of the region and what cities around the world we would most like to emulate. I guarantee all the great cities have substantial open spaces and that we all praise the foresight of those who created them.



Copyright © 2003 SUZANNE L. MARTIN

Thanks to a donation of one half the property's appraised value by the McCargo family, a PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources grant, and several other local contributors, Allegheny Land Trust will purchase 47 acres of the beautiful McCargo property this year and continue to raise funds for the remaining 50 acres. The land is located in the headwaters of the biologically significant Little Sewickley Creek Watershed in Allegheny County.



Is Allegheny Land Trust duplicating the work of other local land trusts?

Roy Kraynyk, Executive Director

I have been working for land conservation for more than a decade. Over this period, there is one question I have been asked more than any other: What is the difference between the land conservation groups in the region? One of our own members penciled in this very question on our recent member survey.

Land trusts have a geographical focus such as a specific watershed, municipality, or region where they carry out their work. Although the geographic regions may overlap occasionally and we may compete for funding, we don't compete over projects. In fact, we frequently rally together and form partnerships to achieve success.

Allegheny Land Trust has ongoing partnerships with the Bradford Woods Conservancy, Upper St. Clair Citizens for Land Stewardship, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, and several rail/trail and watershed organizations. We receive referrals on land conservation opportunities from Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and frequently refer projects to other organizations like the Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust and Hollow Oak Land Trust.

Allegheny Land Trust responds to requests for help to conserve land from municipal officials or citizen groups in communities where there is no other organization to help. We foster and support new initiatives by providing expertise, guidance, and the institutional backing necessary to implement land acquisition and conservation projects.

Allegheny Land Trust acts as an umbrella for some groups, saving them the time, expense, and administrative hassles of becoming their own nonprofit organization. Very recently, we started working with a group of Marshall Township officials and citizens on a new initiative to advance land conservation in their neighborhood.

You can easily learn which group is doing the type of work you want, and **where** they are doing it. Call the organization's office or visit their website. Ask about where they are currently working and **what type** of projects they are involved with. Ask how they **budget** their financial and staff resources. If you ask the right questions, you can learn the difference and determine whether a particular organization is the one you want to support.

As always, feel free to call me if you have any questions or comments on this or any other matter at 412-749-4882.

Quick look at new board members

Joan S. Blaustein, Project Manager, 3 Rivers Wet Weather, Inc.

The mission of my organization is to improve the water quality of the streams and rivers of Allegheny County. Stormwater runoff is a primary factor in the degradation of our water bodies. Land conservation is one of the best tools we have in managing stormwater runoff, and one of the most economical.

Bradley D. Tiche, President/CEO

TICHE Capital Strategies LLC/Three Rivers Mortgage Co., LLC

Once natural green space is destroyed, it's almost impossible to recreate. Serving on the board of directors gives me the opportunity to play a small role in protecting these assets and leaving a legacy for Pittsburgh generations to come.

**Patrick McShea, Program Specialist - Teacher Resources
Carnegie Museum of Natural History**

The mission of the Allegheny Land Trust, to save local land for all its inherent natural values, is something I deeply believe in. I hope my service on the board will help the organization to spread the word of its important work.

**Lindsey Kevin Smith, Partner/Co-Creative Director
Smith Brothers Advertising**

I serve on the board because of my love for the great outdoors and the desire to preserve open spaces — a commitment reinforced by having recently returned from New York City where sprawl is epidemic.

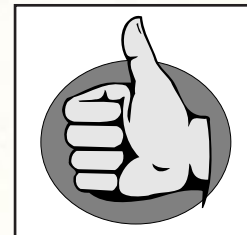
Kevin J. Garber, Environmental Attorney, Babst Calland Clements & Zomnir

I joined the Allegheny Land Trust Board because I strongly support its goal of preserving land within Allegheny County and the methods by which it achieves its goal.

Cherry White, Financial Consultant, Smith Machine

I'd like to make a difference to insure that future generations have some open space. I want to promote awareness and encourage involvement of local residents and work to establish easements to protect the land.

PEC approves Trust's processes



In April, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council reviewed Allegheny Land Trust's land files to evaluate their completeness. PEC attorney, John Walliser and former W. PA Conservancy Vice President of Resource Conservation, Paul Weigman conducted the evaluation.

According to board member Lisa Smith, who participated in the process, "This reassurance is valuable as we begin our second decade as a land trust. We can go forward with confidence knowing that our processes and record keeping meet specific standards and that our efforts to conserve land continue to be moving in the right directions."

Purifying plans for Wingfield Pines

One of Allegheny Land Trust's recently acquired properties used to be an old golf course and swim club called Wingfield Pines. Allegheny Land Trust has razed the old clubhouse and filled in the pool, thanks to grants from PADCED (PA Department of Community and Economic Development).

Unfortunately, the property also includes a major water discharge polluted with high levels of iron from old mining operations. The Trust tentatively plans to install a passive system of settling ponds and wetlands. Allegheny Land Trust successfully raised \$57,000 from the Growing Greener Program and the Western PA Watershed Protection Program for the design phase of the project, which is now in its final phase.

Thanks to former State Senator Tim Murphy, Representative John Maher, and former Representative John Pippy for their help in securing these grants.



The 2000-gallon-per-minute iron laden discharge at Wingfield Pines is being plumbed to raise its elevation so the water can circulate through a settling system.



A lawn replaces what was once the Wingfield Pines pool. The lawn might be used for camping, small festivals, or gatherings.



Representative John Maher (center) interviewed Trust Director Roy Kraynyk about the Trust's plans to clean up abandoned mine drainage at Wingfield Pines. Representative Maher is producing a documentary on the statewide abandoned mine drainage problem and treatment technology. The documentary will feature Allegheny Land Trust and others. Also pictured is Tracey Buckman of USCCL

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB turns 75 and grants \$1,000

The Village Garden Club of Sewickley provided some "sweet music" of their own at the Bluegrass for Greenspace Festival by donating \$1000 to Allegheny Land Trust. The donation will go toward the purchase of the McCargo property. "The Club is celebrating our 75th Anniversary and wanted to do something really special and permanent to remember this milestone," stated Kate Reck, Club President.

Congratulations to the members of the Village Garden Club on your anniversary and thanks for your support of this project and Allegheny Land Trust.

Board members in the news –

Allegheny Land Trust Vice President **Stevan Schott** was recently promoted to Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Duquesne Light Company.

New board member **Joan Blaustein**, Project Manager for the Three Rivers Wet Weather Project, was appointed by DEP Secretary Katie McGinty to the Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual Oversight Committee.

Allegheny Land Trust Board Member **Bill Bates** has been appointed to the Allegheny County Parks Commission by County Executive Jim Roddey.

(See, Steve, Joan, and Bill what serving on the Allegheny Land Trust board can do for your career.)

Members applaud

A survey in May 2003 of members of the Allegheny Land Trust paints an encouraging picture of member satisfaction with Allegheny Land Trust but also provides insight into areas in need of improvement. The survey of nearly 200 of the most recent individual donors to the organization provides much food for thought.

Here is a sampling of what we learned...

Q. Overall, how satisfied are you with your membership in Allegheny Land Trust?

47% - Extremely satisfied

42% - Very satisfied

9% - Somewhat satisfied

2% - Not very satisfied

0% - Not satisfied at all

Q. How did you first hear about the Allegheny Land Trust?

78% - A friend, family member, Allegheny Land Trust staff or Allegheny Land Trust Board member told me about it

9% - Read about it in a newspaper or magazine article

5% - Received a brochure or letter about it in the mail

0% - The Allegheny Land Trust internet website

2% - Heard about it through my local bike trail organization

2% - Saw the office sign at the Fern Hollow Nature Center

4% - Visited one of the Allegheny Land Trust land sites

The high percentage of people who first heard of Allegheny Land Trust through a friend, family member, Allegheny Land Trust Staff and/or Board member clearly illustrates there is no substitute for individual contact in building the Allegheny Land Trust membership.

We also learned from the survey that the respondents thought Allegheny Land Trust did a good job being responsive to the membership and keeping members informed. Areas in most need of improvement included increasing Allegheny Land Trust's visibility in the community and influencing land-use.

The Allegheny Land Trust Board of Directors and Staff wish to thank Bob Bolding for lending his expertise in all aspects of developing and evaluating the member survey.

Thanks Bob.

Look for us in the insert with your Duquesne Light bill

The October issue of Serviceline, an insert mailed with Duquesne Light's monthly bills, will include a notice about Duquesne Light's support of Allegheny Land Trust.



John Bixler (center), new Director of Membership and Outreach, is shown here touring the Wingfield Pines property with Evan Verbanic of Hedin Environmental (left) and Dave Hamilton of the Federal Office of Surface Mining (right).

Welcome John Bixler

One of the outcomes from our strategic planning conference and discussions with major funders was that we needed to broaden and diversify our revenue base. To accomplish these goals, we've recently hired our second employee John Bixler, Director of Membership and Outreach. He's responsible for membership development, special event planning, and other outreach efforts such as VISTAS, and increasing our visibility in communities where we own land.

John comes from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and prior to that Dakota Rural Action, a grassroots community organization.

Memo to: Supporters of Allegheny Land Trust

From: **John Z. Bixler – Director of Membership and Outreach**

RE: Thanks for the warm welcome

As the newly hired Director of Membership and Outreach, the first message I have is - THANK YOU to all that have made me feel welcome here at Allegheny Land Trust. In the short time I have been on staff, I have been extremely impressed with the dedicated members I have had the pleasure to meet.

Now, on to business... The Allegheny Land Trust Board of Directors has set building a stronger, more self-sufficient organization as a top priority. One of my primary responsibilities will be to help us meet this goal by broadening and engaging our membership base.

I was pleased to find we have a strong foundation from which to build. Our core supporters, the individuals who literally put Allegheny Land Trust on the map, have put us in a good position to be successful in both building membership and acquiring new properties.

Another top priority is to increase activities on Allegheny Land Trust properties. Judging from the properties I have had a chance to visit, I can see that we have lots of opportunities.

If you have any thoughts about possible volunteer activities or if you know someone you think should be a member of Allegheny Land Trust please contact me at jbixler@alleghenylantrust.org.

Mass transit bluegrass style



Copyright © 2003 SUZANNE L. MARTIN

Sewickley Heights Mayor David Genter transported festivalgoers to the Fern Hollow Nature Center.

Local bluegrass musicians played throughout the day and into the evening at the second annual Bluegrass for Green Space music festival. Featured were Francine and the Mountain Top Band, Tiger Maple String Band, From the Hip, Laurie Shea and Paradise Ranch, and Rodan and Friends



Copyright © 2003 SUZANNE L. MARTIN



Bluegrass music and fun

The second annual Bluegrass for Green Space music festival gave friends and neighbors of both Allegheny Land Trust and the Fern Hollow Nature Center plenty of opportunity to enjoy music, food, and beautiful surroundings, while helping our two organizations. Children got special attention at the festival with nature talks, exhibits, and activities directed especially to them.

The music paused briefly as Rachel Whetzel Casselman accepted an award on behalf of her father Joshua C. Whetzel Jr. in recognition of his lifetime of achievements as a conservationist. Among Mr. Whetzel's long list of accomplishments was the contribution of the land now known as Beechwood Farms, the environmental center operated by the Audubon Society.

Bluegrass for Green Space generates operating revenue for the Allegheny Land Trust and for the environmental programs and projects of the Fern Hollow Nature Center. We are pleased to report that Allegheny Land Trust netted \$4,500.



Many volunteers helped make the Bluegrass for Green Space festival run smoothly including Steve Bland, shown here. Others were Bob Bolding, Bonita Kwolek, David Genter, Rick Kubia, Tim Bilotto, Kathy Bilotto, Tara Alexander, Susanne L. Martin, Lynn Heckman, Kevin Smay, Ron Gabler, Sharon Yeager, Linda Edson, Beth & Jay Lewis, Courtney Muse, Paula Sculley, Sue Gold, Rachel Gold, and Jim Makin. Thank you, one and all!

Sponsors of Bluegrass for Green Space

Lead Sponsor: Duquesne Light Company

Supporters: Citizens Bank, The Clement Family, H Financial Group, The Muse Family, Mary Odom, Starbucks – Sewickley, T-BONES – Wexford, Linda and Jack Ubinger

In-Kind contributors: Sound Engineering by Jim Makin, Sound recording by Rick Kubia, Video by Tara Alexander, and all of our volunteers

Farmland preservation

Over the past two years, 480 acres of farmland in Allegheny County have been protected through the Allegheny County Farmland Preservation Program. Another 166 acres are currently being reviewed to determine if these properties should also be preserved through the program. One of the properties under review is a farm in Forward Township, which is adjacent to our Elkhorn Slopes project along the Mon River.

Executive Director Roy Kraynyk has been serving on the Allegheny County Farmland Preservation Board for more than eight years as the "At Large" Member. The board is

composed of two municipal officials, a developer, two farmers, and Roy. Much of the early years involved developing a Farmland Preservation Plan, supporting dedication of Agricultural Security Areas (ASAs), and reviewing applications from participating farmers.

"It took a while for the program to get up and running but there is still plenty of high quality farmland remaining in Allegheny County to protect," comments Kraynyk. "It's a great program that more farm owners should take advantage of." Contact Roy for more information.

Beautiful recognition for great work



Outgoing board members were recognized at this year's Bluegrass for Green Space music festival and given wonderful framed photographs as mementos. Shown here after the recognition ceremony are (left to right) outgoing board chairman Thomas M. Schmidt, Susan Craig, Jack Ubinger, William Lawrence, Roy Kraynyk, and Rachel Whetzel Casselman. Rachel accepted an award on behalf of her father Josh Whetzel. Missing from the photo is outgoing board member Dan Sentz. Thanks to Don Robinson for donating the prints for a second year.

Canoers see Chartiers Creek potential

Allegheny Land Trust sponsored a canoe trip on Chartiers Creek to raise awareness of the creek's recreational potential and our efforts to purify iron-laden mine water that is impacting the creek. Co-sponsors of the trip were the Western Pennsylvania Field Institute, Upper St. Clair Citizens for Land Stewardship, and Chartiers Nature Conservancy. For a canoer's perspective written by junior high school student Kayla Kottler that was published in The Almanac, go to alleghenylandtrust.org.



We get by with a little help from our friends....

We really do need your support. If you like what you see and want the Allegheny Land Trust to continue to preserve land across Allegheny County, please send in a generous contribution today using the enclosed business reply envelope. Allegheny Land Trust is a local organization that relies on the support of the people who see the results of our work in their communities.

Please sign up today!!

Printed on recycled paper

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VISTAS

Helping local people save local land



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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sewickley, PA
Permit No. 4

Allegheny Land Trust Officers

Chair and President: Sigo Falk
 Chairman, Maurice Falk Medical Fund: Sivan R. Schot, CPA
 Vice President: Lynn L. Heckman
 Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Duquesne Light Company: Lisa L. Smith
 Secretary: Regional Industrial Development Corp.
 Director of Facility Operations: William C. Kirk, Jr.
 Treasurer: Director of Facility Operations

Directors

William J. Bares, AIA
 Vice President Real Estate
 Eatin Park Hospitality Group, Inc.
 Joan S. Bausstein
 Project Manager
 3 Rivers Wet Weather Project
 Henry W. Ewalt, Esq.
 Attorney & Mediator
 Susan M. Gold
 Former Chair
 Marshall Twp. Board of Supervisors
 Robert T. MacLachlan, M.D.
 Director, Allegheny Land Trust
 Ralph J. Papa
 President Western Region
 Citizens Bank
 Thomas M. Schmidt
 Vice President, General Council, Retired
 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
 Bradley D. Tiche
 CEO/President
 Three Rivers Mortgage Co., LLC
 Davitt B. Woodwell, Esq. Staff
 Vice President, W. PA
 Pennsylvania Environmental Council
 E. Steve Bland
 President & CEO
 Mangostart Consulting LLC
 Allegheny Land Trust • 1901 Glen Mitchell Rd • Sewickley, PA 15143-8856
 Ph: 412-749-4882 • Fax: 412-749-4883
www.alleghenylandtrust.org
 Editor: Janis Ramsey • Designer: Tony Condello
VISTAS is underwritten by an anonymous donor. Thank you.
 Copyright © 2003 Allegheny Land Trust