

A publication of Allegheny Land Trust

Spring 2007



From the Executive Director

Update on Strategic Plan

In November the ALT Board of Directors formally

adopted the new Strategic Plan that looks forward to 2010. The Plan calls for increasing capacity to implement the core component of the Plan that we call the ALT GreenprintTM –A Regional Conservation Agenda prioritizing land conservation for the public good. (See website for Summer 2006 issue of Vistas for article on GreenprintTM.) Over the next several months we will be analyzing water quality, ecological, flood and other data to identify the land that helps to safeguard the drinking water supply, harbor biodiversity, absorb flood waters, and provides our region with scenic beauty. The result will be a map of conservation priorities that we believe are the most critical lands to protect to achieve the goals stated above.

This strategy ensures that the limited amount of funding available for land conservation is spent on protecting land that is providing the greatest public benefit. The strategy also ensures that operating revenue is leveraging the most public benefit as well. While developing the Greenprint™ we will be exploring new metrics to quantify the public benefit of protecting a specific acre or tract of land.

Over the past several months Board Chairman John (Jack) W. Ubinger, Jr. and I have been meeting with foundations to present and seek

See "From the Executive Director", page 2

Branding Pittsburgh—Green for Good

Like the green foliage that slowly emerges from winter's grey embrace until it saturates the landscape, a similar greening is emerging from Pittsburgh's grey industrial past.

Former industrial sites have morphed into attractive residential, employment and entertainment centers.

Abandoned railroad corridors have evolved into corridors of trails and greenways meandering through the county and beyond linking western PA with Washington D.C.

Pittsburgh has become a national leader in the number of LEEDS certified "green" buildings.

Pittsburgh City Council in 2005 passed new zoning regulations to better protect the wooded hillsides that embrace and define the image of Pittsburgh.

County Council recently committed to creating a countywide riverfront park—the largest of its kind in the world. This commitment follows a similar one made by Allegheny County Commissioners in the early 1990s to establish Allegheny Land Trust that has since protected 1,340 acres.

Let's not forget the legacy of Rachel Carson, and perhaps the most ambitious greening effort undertaken a generation ago to clean up the air and rivers.

These are just a few examples and indicators of our region's continued social, political and ethical evolution towards a cleaner and greener community and economy. They represent investments in our environment that pay dividends for generations and help to brand Pittsburgh...Green for Good.



Annual Donor Listing Issue

see pages 6 and 7 for the complete list of those who've helped us conserve land in 2006 and a tribute to Bram Johnson.



\$1.3 Million Gift Expands Audubon Greenway

In the last week of 2006,
Allegheny Land Trust expanded
the Audubon Greenway in the
Little Sewickley Creek
Watershed with acquisition of a
51-acre parcel of land, thanks to
the McCargo family and
generous donors.

Read about it on pages 4 and 5.

Please recycle this newsletter—give it to a friend when you're done!









From the Executive Director, continued from page 1

funding for the Strategic Plan. "I'm encouraged by the response and feedback we are receiving", comments Jack. "We put a lot of time, thought and research into the Strategic Plan and I'm optimistic that we'll be able to make significant strides towards initially implementing the Plan in 2007." Visit www.alleghenylandtrust.org to learn more about the Strategic Plan.

Expanding Leadership—Call for Board Candidates

Would you like to get more involved with ALT at this exciting juncture in the land trust's history? Do you have the time and expertise to help ALT increase performance? The Governance Committee is interviewing candidates to fill several Board positions with individuals who are committed to ALT's mission of land conservation and who can complement the expertise currently resident on the Board. Contact Committee Chair, Kevin Garber at 412-394-5404 or Roy Kraynyk at 412-604-0422.

Job Opportunity

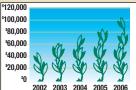
The challenge of running a land trust is that each year we face an operating budget as well as a capital budget for land protection. For years the tasks of both operating and advancing the mission of ALT have fallen upon the desks of only two staff. "Sometimes prioritizing is difficult especially when you've got grant deadlines, payroll and property closings on your calendar and only time to submit one proposal," states Executive Director, Roy Kraynyk. As part of our strategy to increase organizational sustainability ALT is seeking an experienced Development Officer to increase sources of non-foundation revenue. For more information interested candidates should contact Mr. William Lafe at (412) 421-1989.

Your Support Continues to Grow

Thanks to the families, individuals, businesses and sponsors who supported ALT in 2006, non-foundation revenue continues to grow. This is extremely important because we need to demonstrate to the foundations that provide initial operating support that we are moving towards becoming a self-sufficient organization. The other foundations and agencies that support our land protection program need to know that the community supports our work. Were it not for the generous support of the community we probably would have not been successful in raising the \$1.3 million to purchase Audubon Greenway II.

How your financial support helps.

You may wonder if your contribution to a charity really makes a difference. In the case of ALT, your contribution helps in three ways. First, it directly supports the operations or specific project that you contribute to. Second, it demonstrates to foundations that we



are becoming self-sufficient by attracting non-foundation revenue. Third, your membership demonstrates that the community wants land conserved.

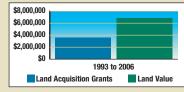
Support from member base and other non-foundation sources.

Not including capital grants. Based on calendar year. 2006 revenue as of 12/20/2006

Your dollars are multiplied.

In addition to the three ways described above, your dollar leverages additional dollars

that ultimately result in protecting land worth millions. Since 1993 we have raised about \$3.5 million that was restricted for land protection. Over that time we protected 1,340 acres with a market value of just under \$7 million. This is about a 2:1 grant leveraging ratio as shown in the graph.



Environmental Study at Wingfield Pines

This project, under the leadership of Mr. Ed Schroth and Dr. Brady Porter of The Center for Environmental Research, Duquesne University, was conducted to determine the health of the channel between the AMD discharge and Chartiers Creek and the

drainage swale at the base of the headwall. They found a Mosquitofish—a guppy size fish probably imported by the former owner to help control the mosquito problem, Creek Chub, White Sucker, Bullfrog Tadpole and a salamander. The data will be included in our permit application to the DEP and ACOE for the AMD system.

Participating students include: Beth Dakin, Thomas Buck, Logan Hyland, Mark Mosses, Mike Komarnicki, Casey DeGiovanni.

William Baierl



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VISTAS is underwritten by an anonymous donor. Thank you.

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Kilbuck Seeks Windfall, Gets Landslide

An effort to improve the local economy of Kilbuck Township with a windfall of tax revenue created an economic landslide felt perhaps throughout the eastern United States.

The economic and environmental impact of a decision by three supervisors in Kilbuck to approve a major retail complex on a steep slide-prone hillside was predictable. Unfortunately, environmental predictions were ignored and the economic impact is negative and felt beyond Kilbuck. The lost productivity and commerce caused by the closing of Route 65 and a mainline of Norfolk Southern Railroad linking New York to Chicago has yet to be measured. When rail traffic is backed up from Indiana to New Jersey it has to be pretty significant, perhaps nationally or even globally.

The list of problems with the development plan, approval process, and permitting of the Kilbuck WalMart is long and well documented. One underlying problem you won't find listed however, is the fact that each municipality in Allegheny County is responsible for planning, reviewing and approving land development projects in their respective communities. Many of these municipalities are understaffed, if at all, or overwhelmed with the complexity of the land development process. Volunteer municipal supervisors find themselves up against high-powered legal and engineering teams pushing projects through the approval process. They are vulnerable to threats of lawsuits from developers if the plans aren't approved, and pressure from their constituents to quickly approve projects for the tax revenue.

In the hasty chase for revenue, municipalities compete against one another for any new development that they can attract. To attract



Another landslide in Moon along the Ohio River in April 2006.

projects, officials will waive their very own subdivision and zoning ordinances so the developer doesn't move his project to the municipality across the street. In the case of the Kilbuck WalMart, the supervisors waived more than 50 deficiencies in the development plans so the project could move forward. It is possible that the grading ordinance that was waived was the one that could have prevented the landslide from happening.



An aerial view of the Kilbuck landslide.

Our antiquated local government system is beginning to have national, if not global, economic implications. When three volunteer supervisors from Kilbuck Township (2.3 square miles, population 723) can make decisions that can have this scale of impact, we have problems.

Possible solutions include:

- County or state jurisdiction over development projects that exceed a certain threshold of size, regional impact or when a project borders an adjacent municipality.
- A minimum standard of performance for municipalities and a streamlined process to dissolve municipalities that have failed to meet the minimum standard to effectively protect the health, safety and welfare of the taxpayers.

It's hard to say who will be ultimately responsible for the remediation and economic loss caused by the landslide—Kilbuck Supervisors for approving the plan, the engineer who designed it, the engineer and agencies who approved it, the contractor who was building it, WalMart or some other entity involved. Needless to say however that Kilbuck's blind desire for a revenue windfall resulted in a landslide.

Authored by ALT Executive Director Roy Kraynyk Published entirely in Sewickley Herald 9/20/06 Abbreviated version published in Post Gazette 9/29/06

ldd your voice to the Choir

For those of you age 70 1/2 and older, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides a time-limited opportunity to contribute to the Allegheny Land Trust.

- Through December 31, 2007 donors may rollover up to \$100,000 from an IRA for charitable purposes without recognizing the assets transferred to a public charity as income.
- This contribution will count towards your IRA's minimum distribution requirements.
- Because this contribution counts neither towards gross income nor as a tax deduction, even non-itemizers may benefit from the Pension Protection Act.
- Your contribution must be transferred directly from an IRA administrator to a public charity such as the Allegheny Land Trust.

We recommend that you consult your tax and/or legal counsel to decide on a course of action, or call the office at 412-604-0422 with any general questions about a gift to ALT.

Audubon 66 Forevei

Audubon Greenway Phase I & II

Allegheny Land Trust has recently purchased this 98-acre tract in Sewickley Heights, adjacent to the 80-acre Sewickley Hills Park. The property consists of open meadows, wooded slopes, spring seeps and headwaters of Little Sewickley Creek—a "Medium—



Gradient Clearwater Creek Community" as defined by the Allegheny County Natural Heritage Inventory (ACNHI). It is located within the Little and Big Sewickley Creek Area Landscape Conservation Area (LCA) which is the buffer surrounding the Camp Meeting Woods Biological Diversity Area BDA. The Camp Meeting Woods BDA has been ranked "Exceptional Significance" and contains two occurrences of State Significance—NC001, State Significance S3; and NC002, State Significance S2. Following is an excerpt from the

"This [Campmeeting BDA] BDA is recognized as both a High Diversity Area and a Community/Ecosystem Conservation Area which encompasses a significant forest and stream community... The many topographic features, aspects and elevational ranges

> provided within this large BDA add to the overall biological diversity and potential natural qualities of this site."

Miles of trails exist on the property that help to link Sewickley Hills Park to the extensive trail system of

Sewickley Heights Park. The total acreage of the two public parks and adjacent conservation lands held by ALT is more than 1100 acres.

The property has almost one mile of frontage on Audubon and Magee Roads and is less than a minute from the Mount Nebo interchange of I-79 which is experiencing accelerated growth, including a 384 unit apartment and a 392 unit townhouse complex under construction.

The land was zoned for single and multi-family housing sites, that, if constructed, would have had a significant negative environmental and aesthetic impact. A large area would have been cleared and graded to create level building pads for homes and driveways Construction would have destabilized the moist wooded slopes, disturbed spring seeps and degraded the water quality of Little Sewickley Creek with erosion. Landscaping for new homes would have introduced exotic and invasive species into the ecosystem, and lawn care would have introduced harmful chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides into the soil and watercourses of the BDA. Fortunately, Allegheny Land Trust has been able to successfully raise the funding to acquire and protect this land as permanent green

Audubon Greenway the ALT Gr

Three criteria are considered the highest priority will be our Primary Conservation Priorities, and the A

1. Biodiversity—based on Natural Heritage Inven Biodiversity has historically been the only attribute we have

2. Water quality and stormwater management—Ce can impede runoff, store floodwaters and filter water before it red drinking water. Protecting certain lands can reduce the impact of fl

3. Scenic landscapes that define our region's unique geographic character—the Physical and Ecological Investigation of Pittsburgh's Hillsides report enlightened us about the unique geographical region we live in and the public benefit of protecting the highly visible wooded slopes and ridgelines that provide the verdant backdrop to our city, communities and neighborhoods.

Local Character

The property consists of scenic open meadows, wooded glades, distant views and sun-dappled trails. The land also helps connect both Sewickley Hills and Sewickley Heights parks, and the surrounding communities can now enjoy over 1,100 acres of conserved lands.



THE ALLEGHEN

A Regional Cons Prioritizing Lar for the Pu

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Landowner donates \$1.3 million to Greenway Project

When Tom McCargo was growing up on his family's farm in Sewickley Heights he likely never thought that one day he would make a decision that would protect the land forever as a natural area. That's what he did on December 28, 2006 when Allegheny

> Land Trust became the new owner of the 51 acres of rolling meadows and woodlands along Audubon and Magee Roads.

fulfills the criteria of eenprint™

for land conservation decisions. Where they overlap udubon Greenway encompasses all three:

tories which map the natural areas in the counties. considered.

rtain lands such as floodplains, wetlands and wooded slopes iches streams or the underground aquifers that supply public ooding downstream and protect water quality.

Coincidently, Mr. McCargo and his wife Sara were expecting their third child the same week the land was protected. "Having children really brought into focus why I decided to protect the land," comments Mr. McCargo. "I know that my children and their children will have the opportunity to enjoy the open space and experiences that I had as a child exploring the woods, climbing trees and seeing the wildlife that populates the area."

"There's no question that my



Tom McCargo and ALT Executive Director Roy Kravnyk shake hands on the deal.

boyhood experiences on the land influenced my concern for the environment. I believe that protecting land is the best thing you can do for the environment because of all the benefits we derive from undeveloped land."

> This is the second property that Allegheny Land Trust acquired from Mr. McCargo and the third that Allegheny Land Trust has conserved in the Little Sewickley Creek Watershed. Since 1993, Allegheny Land Trust has conserved 1,340 acres in 17 municipalities in Allegheny and Washington Counties.

"Tom's generous gift is a substantial contribution to regional land conservation that the community will benefit from for generations," adds trust Director, Roy Kraynyk.

"People often take for granted that open space will be there forever until the bulldozers show up and then it is too late. Fortunately for the surrounding community, Mr. McCargo had a different vision for the property and Allegheny Land Trust was ready and willing to work with him to make it happen. Were it not for Tom's willingness and generosity to discount the sale price by 50% for Allegheny Land Trust, we probably would have not been able to take on the project."

The community also rose to the occasion making contributions totaling almost \$60,000 to help match state grants that Allegheny Land Trust earned for the project. Mr. McCargo's donation of one-half of the land's fair market value was equal to \$1.3 million. Land trusts across the country protected 37 million acres in 2005, a 54% percent jump from 2000. Kraynyk predicts a busy 2007 because new federal tax laws have increased

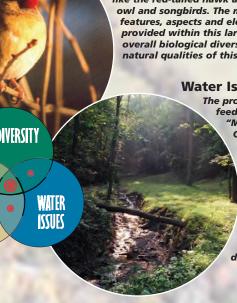
the incentives for landowners to donate conservation easements to groups like Allegheny Land Trust. For more information go to www.alleghenylandtrust.org or call 412-604-0422 and request a brochure.

Biodiversity

This female cardinal represents at least 39 species of birds noted to be regular visitors to this property. The list, compiled by Bob VanNewkirk in the Spring of 2006, also includes raptors like the red-tailed hawk and great-horned owl and songbirds. The many topographic features, aspects and elevational ranges provided within this large BDA add to the overall biological diversity and potential natural qualities of this site.

Water Issues

The property has spring seeps that feed Little Sewickley Creek—a 'Medium-Gradient Clearwater Creek Community" as defined by the Allegheny County Natural Heritage Inventory. Little Sewicklev Creek harbors a population of brown trout. The meadows and woodlands absorb and filter rainwater. safeguarding the water supply for some residents who still rely on wells for drinking water.



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Supporting Allegheny Land Trust is like

We are GRATEFUL for Your GENEROUS SUPPORT in 2006

\$1,000,000 and up

Land donation by the Thomas McCargo Family See article on pages 4 and 5.

\$250,000 to \$999,999

PA Dept. Conservation & Natural Resources

\$100,000 to \$249,000

Allegheny Regional Asset District Peaceable Kingdom Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation U.S. Department of the Interior

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adding your voice to the choir for land conservation!



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Mr. and Mrs. Ronald F. Zeller

Corporate Matching

GlaxoSmithKline Foundation **In-kind Volunteers**

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Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Eat 'n Park Giant Eagle

Penquins Bookstore

REEC

Starbucks, Moon Township Starbucks, Upper St. Clair

USC Citizens for Land Stewardship

Tribute to Bram B. **Johnson**

February 24, 1947 to October 20, 2006

A wonderful person whose energy and passion for life was contagious.

He will be remembered for his kindness, intelligence, wisdom, energy, sense of humor and his ability to identify and nurture the potential in those around him. Bram's time on the ALT Board was short but his contribution will be lasting.

Gifts in memory of Bram Johnson

Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Blattner Mr. and Mrs. Scott F. Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Clapp

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Clay Mr. Charles W. Clowdis, Jr.

Ms. Hazel W. Cottage Ms. Mary K. Coulter

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Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Dunn Mr. and Mrs. David G. Edmonds

Mr and Mrs. Jim Edson El and Alan Edwards

Ms. Michele S. Fabrizi Ms. Kathryn Finsness

Flight 93 Memorial Team at Ketchum

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Froman Ms. Susan M. Gold

Mr. and Mrs. Jindel Mr. Brice C. Jones Ms. Elise E. Keely

Mr. and Mrs. Chris F. Kemerer

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Y. Kopf, Jr.

Mr. Roy Kraynyk Mr. John Lombardo Mr. and Mrs. Simon C. Merrills

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Mr. William Poliziani Mr. and Mrs. Rick Rathbun

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Reck

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Ms. Barbara W. Schroeder Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Lynwood S. Smith Ms. Debbie Thompson

Mr. Ron Ubels

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Ubinger, Jr.

Village Garden Club Mr. Mike Weinstein

Mr. W. Hall Wendel

Ms. Jane C. Wharrey Mr. Michael W. Wickham and Ms. Donna Haury

Ms. Becky Wigen

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Wood Mr. and Mrs. Ronald F. Zeller

Other Gifts In Honor and Memory

in honor of John Oliver Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. McVeigh Judge and Mrs. William Standish

in honor of ALT Board of Directors, 2006 Ms. Susan Gold

Ann Kraynyk memorial gift Mr. Sigo Falk

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Haines Ms. Debbie Thompson Ms. Patricia A. Yeager

Individual Honors

Mr. Roy Kraynyk

Mr. John C. Oliver, III & Ms. Sylvia Dallas-In honor of Jay Brooks' Birthday

Anonymous—in honor of Phil Brooks Mrs. Betty Kerkhan - in honor of Nancy Page

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Tucci — in honor of Olga J. Tucci Ms. Margaret L. Hunter — in honor

of William Lawrence Ms. Linda G. Coombs — in honor/memory of Mr. Harry P.

Muchers Mrs. Helen Franz — in memory of

William A. Franz Ms. Catherine C. Wilcock — in memory of G. Whitney Snyder

Mrs. Paula M. Lockhart — in memory of John F. Lockhart

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Reck — in memory of Jean Watt Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Cortese — in

memory of Linda Perri Shema Mrs. W. Bruce Thomas — in memory of Mr. W. Bruce Thomas

Dr. Lori J. Gross - in memory of Steven Kahn

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ewalt — in memory of William Agardy

Robin Hill Park 949 Thorn Run Road Moon Township, PA 15108-2828

www.alleghenylandtrust.org

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Audubon Greenway Bird Walks

Friday, April 27, 2007 and Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 7:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Barking Slopes Trillium Hike

Saturday, April 28, 2007, 10:00 a.m., led by Patrick McShea Visit www.alleghenylandtrust.org for more details.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Accolades and Awards for ALT Executive Director and Board Members

ALT ED invited to serve on local task forces

With House Resolution #897 the General Assembly of PA instructed the Joint State Government Commission to create a task force, on which Roy Kraynyk will serve, to review state and local land use and development practices. This initiative is

a result of the Kilbuck landslide that buried Route 65 and three Norfolk and Southern Railroad tracks with 500,000 – 600,000 tons of soil and rock after the slide prone and geologically unstable hillside above was drastically graded for a retail complex.

Also, Roy will join the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics Water Resources Management Task Force that is charged with finding solutions to water quality and flooding threats that the region faces.

Hillsides Study Wins National Award

Roy leads a group of community members at Wingfield Pines.

The national AIA has announced that Perkins Eastman's portion of An Ecological and Physical Investigation of Pittsburgh Hillsides received an AIA Honor Award in Regional & Urban Design. ALT's Roy Kraynyk was a major contributor to this study. Read the study itself at www.alleghenylandtrust.org.

Three ALT Board members recognized as "top environmental lawyers"

In its January 2007 issue, Pittsburgh Magazine recognized John (Jack) W. Ubinger, Jr., a partner with Jones Day, Alan S.

> Miller, with Picadio Sneath Miller & Norton, P.C., and Kevin Garber of Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C., as three of the "Best Lawyers in America."



Tax Cut for Conservation on Private Land

Congress just passed a new tax law that helps to protect clean water, natural areas and family farms by enhancing the federal tax benefits for landowners who donate voluntary conservation agreements, protecting land while keeping it in productive private ownership.

Now a conservation donor can deduct up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income in any year (up from 30%), and, if most of their income is from farming, ranching or forestry, they can deduct all of their income. Even more important—if the value of their donation is larger than their income, they can continue to use the deduction for up to 16 years (up from six).

These agreements, often referred to as conservation easements, are donations of a landowner's development rights to

land to protect specific natural, scenic or historic resources. The landowner continues to own and manage their land, and continues to pay local taxes. The public gets protection of resources that are an important heritage for our community.

The Allegheny Land Trust has been accepting donations like this for years, and has protected by way of easements and other means over 1,340 acres in Allegheny and Washington Counties. The window for taking advantage of these changes is short—the law only applies to easements completed in the years 2006 and 2007. To learn more about these new incentives to protect your land with a conservation easement contact the office at 412-604-0422.