

WISTAS

A publication of Allegheny Land Trust

Spring 2009



From the Executive Director

PAST SUCCESSES AND FUTURE PLANS

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Allegheny Land Trust I want to sincerely thank everyone for your generous gifts of time and money last year. Even with the challenging economy our supporters continued to give generously to protect land in their community.

PREPARING FOR 2009

Recently, the ALT Board held a day-long strategic planning workshop that resulted in refined strategic goals and objectives to better position ALT for the current economy and to take advantage of the interest in green infrastructure. A standing Strategic Planning Committee, led by Board member Amy Skolen, now monitors and advances the Strategic Plan. Generating earned revenue to support programs is more important than ever. To that end, a subcommittee of the Board is working with the Social Innovation Accelerator to explore and vet earned revenue ideas that also support ALT's mission of land conservation.

2008 SUCCESSES

Five parcels were added to our conservation portfolio in 2008:

See "From the Executive Director", page 4

Campaign to Expand North Park Greenway Extended to April 30!

Article by Gary Rigdon, Chair, Friends of North Park and Board Director, North Area Environmental Council

Some of you may be familiar with the large undeveloped tract of land located near the northeast side of North Park in Pine Township. This land surrounds Irwin Run, a stream that flows into North Park Lake through the lagoon near the intersection of Babcock Boulevard and Pearce Mill Road. You may have hiked or ridden your bike up this valley and enjoyed its natural beauty. If you have, then you probably have been amazed by how quiet it is back there, and how spending time in this

With an extension granted by the landowner through April 30, ALT now is focused on raising the remaining \$86,000 needed from individuals to close on the property.

valley can make you feel as if you are very far away from civilization. You may know about the abundance of wildlife in this valley. You may

also understand how important Irwin Run and the wetlands in this valley are to the water quality and overall health of North Park Lake.

What most folks may not know is that just the lower section of the Irwin Run Valley is part of North Park. The County owns less than 50% of this valley. The rest of this land is privately owned. This is something that all of us



Images of the proposed North Park Greenway property: above, Irwin Run meandering through an autumn landscape; left, a guided hike through the property in late winter.

See "North Park Greenway", page 5

A SPECIAL *Thanks!* TO OUR 2008 DONORS

SEE PAGES 2 AND 3 INSIDE

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Every attempt has been made to accurately list contributors to Allegheny Land Trust for the period January 1 – December 31, 2008. If there are any errors or omissions, please accept our apologies and please call 412-741-2750 or email us at admin@alleghenylandtrust.org so that we may correct our records. Thank you.



Executive Director Roy Kraynyk makes a "stump speech" at Bounty in the Barn, October 12, 2008

"From the Executive Director", continued from page 11

- 14-acre Sycamore Island in Blawnox
- 11 acres on Mt. Washington linking other public lands in a 235 acre-greenway
- 7 acres in Upper St Clair closing the gap in a four-mile greenway along Chartiers Creek
- 40 acres in Lincoln and Liberty Boroughs along the Yough River
- 10 acres in the Little Sewickley Creek watershed.

These are not large parcels of land, but they advance ALT's strategic conservation goals to provide the greatest public benefits according to our Greenprint criteria.

2009 CHALLENGES

2009 will present many challenges – some familiar, others entirely new.

Mt. Washington

ALT is brokering the transfer of five parcels of vacant land on Mt. Washington to the City of Pittsburgh to be added to the Grand View Scenic Byway Park. We are also negotiating the purchase of 19 acres. This follows the protection by ALT of an 11-acre parcel on Mt. Washington last year – the largest addition to a City park in decades.

North Park

At the time I'm writing this, we are inching closer to our goal of \$504,000 to acquire 75 acres adjacent to North Park in the Irwin Run valley in Pine Township. The success of this community-based conservation project is due to the overwhelming support of a cadre of community groups who have coalesced around the campaign to raise the final dollars needed to purchase the property. North Area Environmental Council, The Friends of North Park, Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy and several homeowner associations have been involved in a variety of ways to engage their membership, friends and neighbors. They've organized hikes, fundraisers, cocktail parties, presentations and press coverage and

raised \$18,000 in a few short weeks. More activities are planned. Over \$418,000 has been raised to date towards our goal. See "Campaign to Expand North Park Greenway" on page 1 for more information on this project.

Lower Chartiers Watershed

We are continuing work in the Lower Chartiers Watershed in Thornburg to protect 63 acres with a conservation easement. Last year we helped broker a conservation deal between the Chartiers Nature Conservancy and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Wingfield Pines AMD Remediation

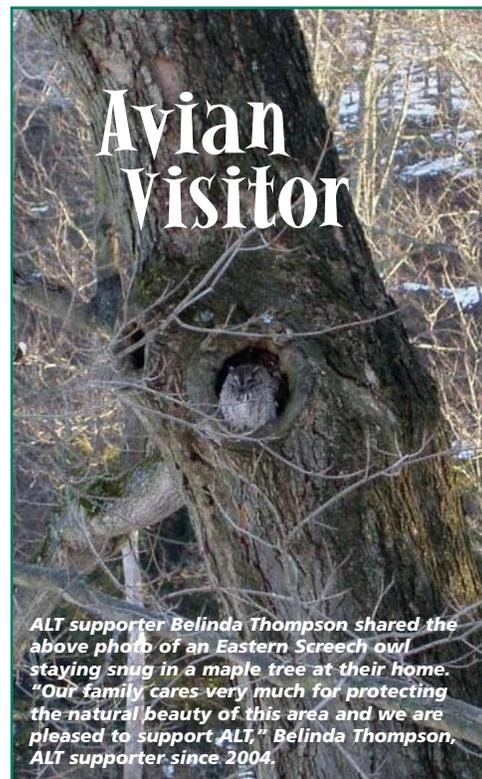
After five years of planning, the abandoned mine drainage passive treatment system is finally under construction at Wingfield Pines in Upper St. Clair. The system will eliminate 43 tons of iron oxide from entering Chartiers Creek each year. Visit our website for pictures of the progress. Completion is expected in June.

Sycamore Island

We will be developing a Management Plan for Sycamore Island that guides protection of the island's unique aquatic and terrestrial resources while allowing public enjoyment.

As you can see 2009 promises to be a very busy year and we sincerely appreciate all the support individuals like yourself have provided over the years. Without a growing membership it is difficult to convince major funders that the community supports land conservation. Thank you once again for your contribution and regardless of the amount you are able to give, your membership is a vote for local land conservation.

As always, if you have any questions about these projects please call me directly at 412-741-2750 or visit our website. And thank you for supporting community-based land conservation—encourage a friend to join! **RK**



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“North Park Greenway”, continued from page 1

who care about North Park, our local environment, and our community need to know about. We also need to know that if we can come together quickly as a community, and raise enough money, that we can protect this valuable land by supporting the efforts of Allegheny Land Trust to purchase this property.

ALT recognizes the Irwin Run Valley as a place worth protecting. Because of this, ALT has a sales agreement in place with a private landowner to purchase 75 acres of the Irwin Run Valley to expand the North Park Greenway. Funding has been provided by some large donors, but this transaction cannot be completed unless our community shows support for this purchase by raising part of the money that is required. To date, ALT has raised just over \$418,000 toward the \$504,000 project goal including over \$18,000 from community groups and neighbors and needs a remaining \$86,000 to close on this property before April 30, 2009.

North Area Environmental Council (NAEC) also recognizes the Irwin Run Valley as a place worth protecting. NAEC is an independent, nonprofit organization established in 1969 by citizens of northern Allegheny County communities to promote conservation. NAEC’s focus is on North Park and the entire Pine Creek Watershed, including Irwin Run. NAEC’s Board of Directors feels so strongly that the Irwin Run Valley needs to be protected that they matched contributions from members and friends with \$4,000 of money earned over the years by NAEC’s annual Tree Seedling Sale.

We hope you will join us in helping ALT expand the North Park Greenway by making a gift today. To make a contribution dedicated to this project, please visit www.alleghenylandtrust.org under “Properties” and “North Park” and “click to donate” or call 412-741-2750.



BP representative Shawn Croucher presents ALT Executive Director Roy Kraynyk with check for \$40,725 from the British Petroleum Foundation through the PA Department of Environmental Protection in support of the proposed North Park Greenway project.



How You Can Help

Volunteer as a Site Steward

Site stewards are an invaluable resource for ALT. Stewards help to monitor and manage conservation lands by walking trails and boundaries and providing the important local connection we need to care for protected lands. For more information on becoming an ALT Site Steward, contact us at 412-741-2750 or visit our website at www.alleghenylandtrust.org.

Make a Donation

Allegheny Land Trust is an independent Pennsylvania nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. With over 1,415 acres already under our care and the growing need to protect the area’s unique landscape before it is changed forever, ALT relies on contributions from local individuals, businesses and foundations to make our conservation work possible. If you would like to make a donation today, please contact us at 412-741-2750 or donate online through our secure server by visiting the “How to Help” section of our website: www.alleghenylandtrust.org. Thank you!

For information on ways to help ALT conserve local land, visit the “How to Help” section of our website at www.alleghenylandtrust.org.



Helping local people save local land.

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SPRING EVENTS

ALT TREE PLANTING AT WINGFIELD PINES

Upper St. Clair
April 18; 9am – 2pm

ALT SPRING CLEAN UP AT DEAD MAN'S HOLLOW

Monongahela Valley
April 25; 9am – 2pm

MAY MART

Sewickley
May 9; 9am – 1pm

9TH ANNUAL VENTURE OUTDOORS FESTIVAL

Point State Park
May 16; 11am – 6pm
Remember to stop by ALT's booth!

For information on volunteering, please contact Rhonda Hagins at rhagins@alleghenylandtrust.org.

What will be your legacy?

This land was here before us and will exist long after we're gone, but we can choose the mark we leave on it.

You can make sure that generations after us will be able to enjoy the same views and activities we do today by helping to conserve the land we cherish.

Allegheny Land Trust is charged with making the right choices in land conservation, choices that range from biodiversity to stormwater management to simply preserving the unique landscape of our region.

Consider including a donation to Allegheny Land Trust in your will or trust, and help us protect the land we cherish for those who will follow us. Call 412-741-2750 or visit www.alleghenylandtrust.org



*Having a great time on Sycamore Island!
Wish you were here!*

Sycamore Island cleanup on March 28, 2009 by students from CMU.

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



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Restoring, Rebuilding, Assisting

