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Volunteers, Donors and a Tractor for Wingfield Pines
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Visitors to Wingfield Pines this summer will notice that its many trails are more walkable and visually appealing than ever before, thanks to the June arrival of a Husqvarna garden tractor.

This new and shiny piece of equipment will be used for mowing and trail upkeep. The campaign to purchase the tractor was spearheaded by ALT volunteer Dave Wilton, avid conservationist and longtime visitor to Wingfield Pines. As past visitors will remember, the high grasses of late spring and early summer growth often made the pathways throughout the property difficult to traverse comfortably. This past year, Wilton found that his volunteer efforts along with those of some local boy scouts to maintain Wingfield’s trails between large scale mowings became more challenging with the small pushmowers available. In early November, he posted an open letter to fellow Wingfield patrons asking for donations to ALT’s Wingfield Pines Maintenance Fund to purchase a garden tractor for use on the property’s trails.

Thanks to Wilton’s on the ground fundraising efforts and the generosity of more than 35 donors, ALT was able to purchase the tractor in late spring. The motivation behind the campaign was “to foster the goodwill among people that use Wingfield Pines,” Wilton said. “As a scout leader, a conservationist, and one who likes to utilize the outdoors, I saw an avenue to really have a big impact on the communitywide effort.”

ALT is thrilled and grateful that the initiative of one volunteer led to such a positive response from Wingfield patrons, and that communitywide effort is ongoing. The Wingfield Pines Maintenance Fund is still open for contributions that will support upkeep of the new tractor (including gas to keep it moving) as well as other onsite improvement projects. To give, you can visit the How to Help page on ALT’s website on which instructions for online or mail donations to the Wingfield Pines Maintenance Fund are available.

A huge thank you to Dave and all those who supported this successful campaign to make experiencing the great outdoors at Wingfield Pines the best it can be. Get out and enjoy those trails!
For more than a year ALT has been working to secure funding for the Pittsburgh Cut Flower project through grants offered by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County. Our hard work paid off in June with approval of a $500,000 GEF Grant to improve economic Development Fund grant. Representative Mike Turzai was instrumental in getting the grant approved. A second grant of $9,600 was received from the Sierra Club Huplits Grant bringing the total raised and pledged to $1.7 million. But we still need community financial support.

For those following this project closely, you know that ALT needs to raise enough to cover the land cost of $140,000 of local funds needed to match major grants. If you have given we sincerely thank you and please consider giving again. If you haven’t, please consider what it is worth to you and please consider giving today to help push this project forward. A deductible contribution today to help push this project forward will be an early jump start.

LAT has the land under contract to purchase and a $500,000 grant is pending with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. A closing date is scheduled for October 31, 2013. A small group of residents are beginning to organize small house parties and a larger public meeting is scheduled for September to raise the local match. $38,000 has already been pledged towards the $160,000 needed to give the campaign an early jump start. Local matching funds are absolutely necessary to match the state grant and show that there is community support for the project and no contribution is too small. The number of people who give is very important because each gift represents a valuable gift to the permits. The community leaders approach ALT as representatives of large numbers of their constituents giving them a mandate to support programs that protect natural land and funds conservation projects. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect this project. ALT has engaged the local citizens to shape the future of their neighborhood by protecting the land forever. ALT is confident that they will have the local match needed to close the deal.

Due to the extended time that it has taken the owner to clean up the asbestos and demolish structures, an extension was necessary to cover the funding gap that we will otherwise have to bridge with a short-term loan. From the beginning, our funding plan included that pushes the closing date out to October 1, 2013. We welcome this extension because it will provide ALT additional time to close the deal.

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Days of Giving

Pittsburgh Foundation Day of Giving, October 3

The Day of Giving 2013 is an opportunity for you to make a donation to your favorite non-profit, ALT, and have that money be matched in some way by the Pittsburgh Foundation. Please consider making a donation to ALT that day to help us continue our conservation efforts.

Detailed information regarding Pittsburgh Foundation Day of Giving 2013 can be found at www.pittsburghgives.org.

Washington County Community Foundation Day of Giving, September 10

ALT was invited to participate in the first annual Washington County Community Foundation Day of Giving which will take place on September 10, 2013. The Washington County Day of Giving works pretty much the same way as that of the Pittsburgh Foundation. Detailed information regarding Washington County Day of Giving 2013 can be found at www.wccfgives.org. Please consider donating to ALT.

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