

A PUBLICATION OF ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST

VISTAS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE

Summer Plans

Summer 2014

- 2... Dead Man's Hollow, Pittsburgh Day of Giving
- 3... Barking Slopes, Best Wishes Mike, Welcome Cedar!
- 4... Land Protection Update: Magee Road
- 5... Wingfield Pines
- 6... Youth Conservation, PCF
- 7... Income and Expenses, Meet Staff
- 8... Upcoming Events, Washington County Day of Giving

Dead Man's Hollow Trail & Management Plan on Track for Summer Release

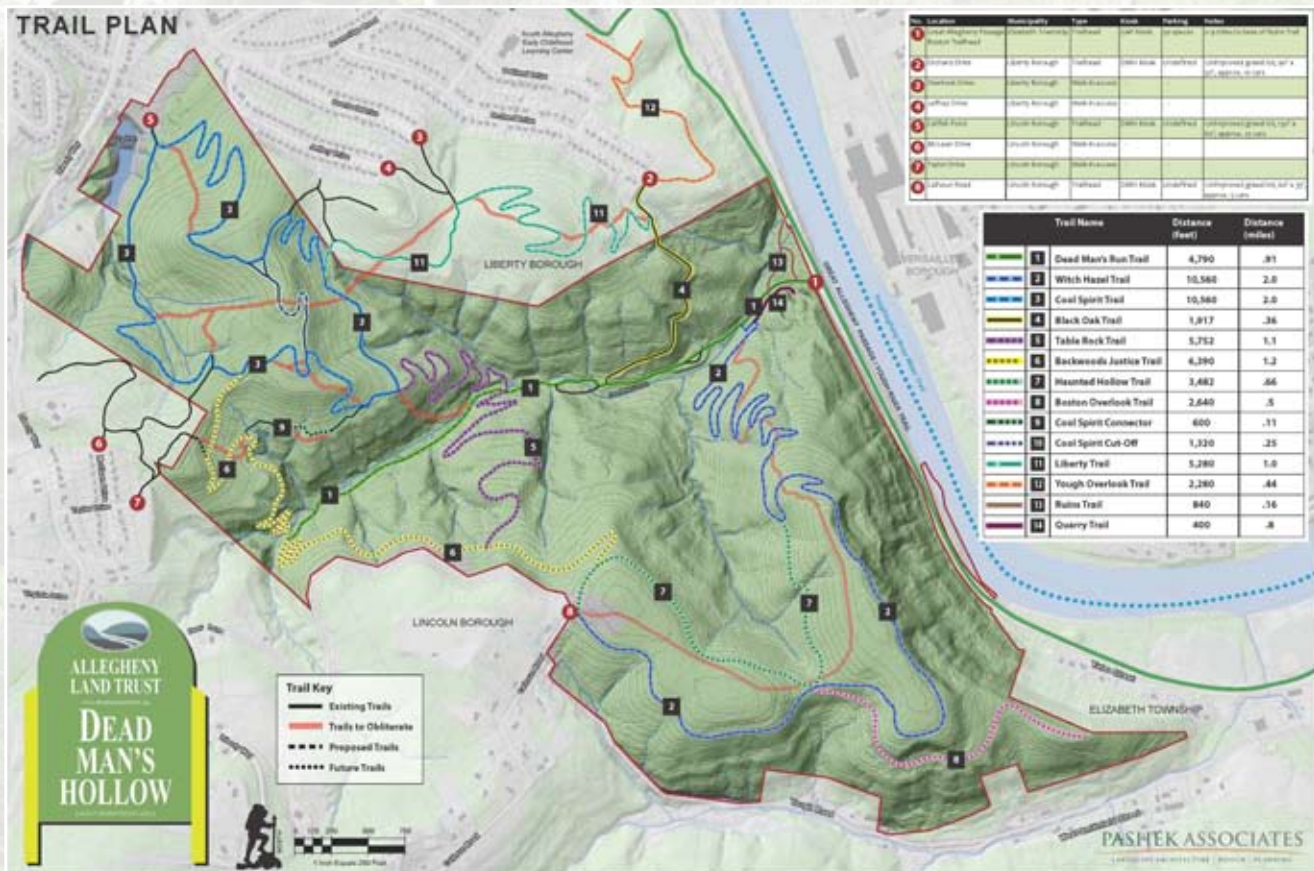


ALT extends a heartfelt thank you to Pashek Associates & Cycle Forward for going above and beyond over the last 6 months to develop a truly comprehensive management plan for Dead Man's Hollow. A special thanks to Lincoln Borough's Councilwoman Tammy Firda and Police Chief Richard Bosco for their support of the project and invaluable input.

With ALT's final public input meeting behind us, ALT expects to publish the new management plan in its entirety by the end of the summer. Once completed the total trail distance will be approximately 10 miles, with additional key connections to the trailheads. Trails with structural issues will be repaired and sustainable and accessible trail design principles implemented.

On the map, you'll notice "Existing trails," "Trails to Obliterate," "Proposed Trails" and "Future Trails"—this tiered approach will allow ALT the flexibility to implement recommendations over time with "Proposed Trails" being high priority goals and "Future Trails" being long-term objectives.

Get involved in revitalizing the largest privately owned conservation area in Allegheny County by volunteering at DMH today! Call or email ALT Stewardship for more info at 412-741-2750 or cseiler@alleghenylandtrust.org!



Pittsburgh Day of Giving

Annual Campaign hosted by the Pittsburgh Foundation

2012

79 ALT Supporters
Donated
\$12,458.00

2013

112 ALT Supporters
Donated
\$16,235.00

2014

90 ALT Supporters
Donated
\$16,605.00

Barking Slopes' New Bite

by Mike Good, Stewardship Coordinator

I'm proud to share ALT's newest Eagle Scout Project completed in June by Ian Patterson of Fox Chapel—Ian repurposed a former building foundation into a parking and gathering area, increasing both the visibility of Barking Slopes and the rules for all those who access Barking Slopes from Barking Road.



Ian and his father stand beside the newly installed conservation area sign, June 2014.

In case you didn't know, Barking Slopes is composed of 155 acres of forested slopes along the Allegheny River, and remains just one of two intact forested slopes along the Allegheny River in Allegheny County. With many of the Allegheny's ridges breached by development or roadways, Barking Slopes is a special place that ALT is proud to conserve.

I am grateful to all of the community members who have worked hard to enhance Barking Slopes over the years. I cannot list you all by name, I do thank you wholeheartedly for your help and am happy to announce more help is on the way:

ALT is pleased to announce funding from the PPG Foundation to revitalize Barking Slopes, with an emphasis on trail improvements.

As our organization continues to evolve, how ALT stewards our conservation areas must also continue to evolve, improve, and adapt. A new trail plan at Barking Slopes is another step forward and I anticipate watching Barking Slopes transform into another Land Trust property. However, we will continue to need the help of volunteers, donors, and supporters like you. Please get involved today.

Best Wishes, Mike!

Please join ALT Board and staff in congratulating Mike Good's acceptance into Hollins University, a small private college outside of Roanoke, Virginia. Mike was accepted into their graduate program with a full scholarship as he pursues his writing aspirations. Mike's last day with ALT was July 18, 2014.

We regretfully accepted his resignation after three years as a Public Ally and part-time stewardship coordinator primarily focusing his efforts on implementing the management plan for Sycamore Island. Mike's efforts lead to new recognition for Sycamore Island, new interpretive signs around the walking trail, new wildlife calling the island home, and more volunteer groups focusing on invasive plant removal. We wish Mike all the best at Hollins!



Welcome Cedar!

Emilie Rzotkiewicz and her husband Matt are very excited to welcome Cedar Antoinette Rzotkiewicz to the ALT family. Cedar was born on May 14, 2014 at 10:02 am weighing 8 pounds. Cedar has already enjoyed a nice walk at Audubon Greenway!

NOTES FROM THE LAND

When One Door Closes Another Opens

by Roy Kraynyk, Land Protection Director

Since 2007, ALT has been trying to acquire the 48-acre woodland on Magee Road in Sewickley Hills. Grant cycles and funding challenges made negotiations with the sellers challenging. Sellers have to be patient working with ALT because of our reliance on the foundation and state grant cycles. In March 2014, our contract to acquire the land was expiring and we had not yet raised sufficient funds to purchase it. Around the same time the Pittsburgh Cut Flower project was falling through so we began to reach out to our funding partners to inquire whether they would consider repurposing the grants they previously made to PCF for the Magee Road property. All but one foundation agreed, so we now had the majority of funds to finally purchase the 48 acres that are adjacent to our 100-acre Audubon Greenway. The one foundation preferred to support a multi-use urban project that ALT has been asked to lead that involves redeveloping 100 acres of blighted land into 20 acres of agricultural land, 10 acres of future development and 70 acres green space.

The Magee Road property is a link in a six-mile greenway from Sewickley Hills Park following Little Sewickley Creek all the way to the Ohio River near the Giant Eagle. The greenway includes almost 2000 acres of land protected by ALT, Sewickley Heights Park, Walker Park and Morrow-Pontefract Park in Edgeworth on Beaver Street. There are only a few gaps in this greenway on which ALT continues to work hard to protect. By the way, stay tuned for a big announcement of another major acquisition in the Little Sewickley Creek Watershed!

A special **Thank You** to all the individual donors who contributed to the local match that leveraged the major grants needed to purchase and protect the Magee Road property.



We called it "The Diocese". If we Magee Road kids were going on a hiking adventure, or riding (four-legged or two-wheeled) or, later, hunting, we were to let our parents know that we were heading over to The Diocese property...some 50 acres between Magee Rd. and Red Mud Hollow Rd. (later Interstate 79).

The topography of this childhood playground included hilltops dropping into deep ravines with trickling streams, fields of buffalo grass, stands of pine, old growth oaks. There was magic and mystery there with the "ancient" foundations of by-gone farmsteads, fruit trees that were survivors of old orchards, a

schoolhouse that was slowly disintegrating. Out of this land I have seen not only the usual fauna but also coyote, bear and (in 1983, with my college girlfriend) a mountain lion (Sewickley Herald archives, if you want substantiation!). This land was isolated enough to squelch the embarrassing yelps of my terrified mother on the back of my motorcycle on the way to pick buckets full of blackberries.

Having watched six nearby housing developments rise up in Sewickley Hills Borough since the mid-1970's, I was elated at the recent news that the Allegheny Land Trust had acquired this property. I haven't walked the trails in decades, but I will be taking another adventure there very soon!

Eric Ridgway

Wingfield Pines

by Dan Dougherty, Hamm Intern

Similar to any healthy flood plain in this part of the world, the growth at Wingfield Pines this spring has been incredible. So much that a visitor may even notice significant changes in plant growth from one day to the next! The well manicured, former fairways of Wingfield Pines Golf Course are quickly being reclaimed by nature, turning to meadows and early stage forests. With the re-growth of native vegetation rapidly filling in the once open landscape, the invitation for countless native animal species is wide open. Wingfield is home to dozens of bird species including baby blue herons this spring. The vast range in bird species even prompted a late June visit from Wild Birds Unlimited who brought bird watchers to Wingfield from all over the continent. Wingfield Pines Conservation Area was brought to the attention of the organization by very active and well known volunteer site steward Dave Wilton.

While the Wild Birds Unlimited event was a private event which took advantage of Wingfield's vast bio-diversity, the first Wingfield Pines picnic and BBQ hosted, on the first day of summer, was open to everyone, including dogs! The event, both a fundraiser for the ALT and a social gathering, was planned, organized, and hosted by Jim Lohman, another of Wingfield's active stewards, and countless other volunteers. Other events for all ages will be hosted throughout the summer and can be found on the ALT website, in the information kiosk at the bottom of the hill, and on the gate at the entrance to the property. Everyone is welcome to all ALT-hosted events!

With the rapid growth of native plants taking place on the property comes the unfortunate addition of non-native plants. Non-native plants, better known as "invasive species", are found all over the property. While many of the nearly two dozen invasive species look pretty to the eye, they are anything but for the eco-system. Invasive species are those which have been introduced either intentionally or unintentionally through global trade. Once established these species have no natural predators to serve as "checks" to limit growth and spread, essentially allowing the plant to take over an area, choking out native growth and reducing food supply for native animal species. While both ALT and volunteers work to control and remove these species, additional help is always needed. To get involved, keep an eye out for upcoming volunteer events and consider becoming a volunteer site steward, whether at Wingfield or any of the land trust's other properties throughout the region.

Wingfield Pine's extremely broad and constantly growing bio-diversity, the 25 acre passive Abandoned Mine Drainage treatment system, healthy and diverse ponds and wetlands, access to Charters Creek, over three miles of maintained trails, and countless other features are all reasons to visit and re-visit this amazing property. Bring a friend and check out Wingfield Pines for yourself, it is a truly amazing gem located just miles from downtown Pittsburgh near Bridgeville.

Youth Conservation at ALT

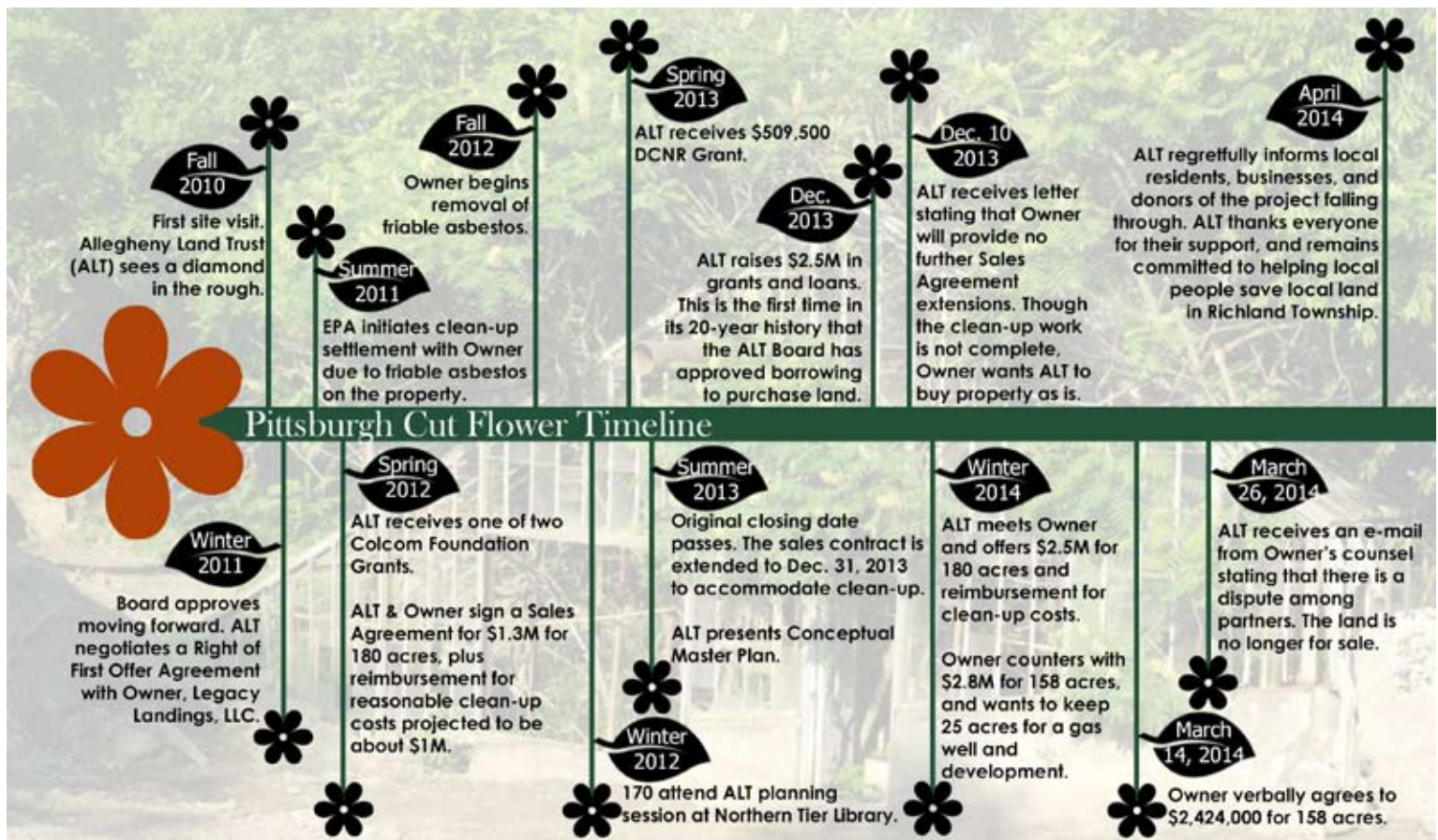
WHEN DID YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH NATURE?

ALT was lucky to host an amazing group of volunteers from Social Venture Partners (SVP) Kids Pittsburgh last fall. This spring ALT got a big surprise from the kids. Not only did these third to sixth graders install a bluebird box at Catfish Pond (with a little help from their parents), and plant tulip bulbs last fall, they also donated \$200 to ALT Stewardship, which will go towards expenses for a clean-up to be announced later this Fall.

ALT thanks Pittsburgh Cares who built this partnership, and has sponsored numerous other projects at Dead Man's Hollow. SVP Kids "creates awareness among young people of the responsibilities and rewards of giving both time and money to the non-profit organizations in their communities."

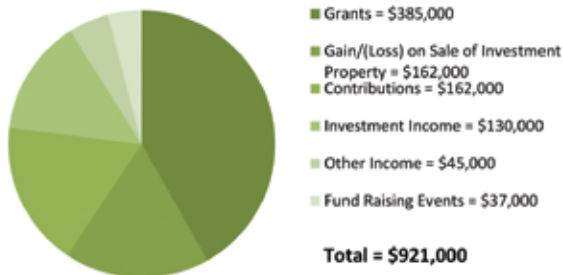


A Summary of the Rise and Fall of the Pittsburgh Cut Flower Project



Income and Expenses for Fiscal Year 2013–2014

Income Breakdown - FY 2014



Expense Breakdown - FY 2014



Get to Know the Faces Behind the Names



Chris Beichner



Roy Kraynyk



Emilie Rzotkiewicz



Julie Halyama



Lindsay Dill



Caitlin Seiler



Dan Dougherty

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR
Stephen Quick, FAIA

Sue Broughton
Tom Browand
Fred Brown

VICE CHAIR
Robin Hummel-Johnson

Ann Coburn
Christine Graziano
Laurie Johnson

SECRETARY
M. Damon Weiss, P.E.

Raymond P. Parker, Esq.
Carl Prutting
Steve Schlotterbeck

TREASURER
Karen Ranick, CPA

Mary Beth Steisslinger
Sally K. Wade
Jeaneen Zappa

STAFF

Chris Beichner, President & CEO
cbeichner@allegHENYlandtrust.org
Lindsay Dill, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator
ldill@allegHENYlandtrust.org
Caitlin Seiler, Stewardship Coordinator
cseiler@allegHENYlandtrust.org

Dan Dougherty, Hamm Intern
hamm@allegHENYlandtrust.org

Designer, illustrator: Bernadette E. Kazmarski

Julie Halyama, Development Associate
jhalyama@allegHENYlandtrust.org
Roy Kraynyk, Land Protection Director
rkraynyk@allegHENYlandtrust.org
Emilie Rzotkiewicz, Stewardship Director
erzotkiewicz@allegHENYlandtrust.org



Allegheny Land Trust

409 Broad Street, Suite 206B
Sewickley, PA 15143
Phone: 412-741-2750
Fax: 412-741-3253
www.allegHENYlandtrust.org
info@allegHENYlandtrust.org

Copyright © 2014 Allegheny Land Trust

**VISTAS is underwritten by
an anonymous donor.
Thank you!**



Helping local people save local land.

409 Broad Street
Suite 206B
Sewickley, PA 15143

www.alleghenylandtrust.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 425



UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking to savor the summer? Explore our properties during these upcoming events. See our online calendar for updates, details, and more events. Contact us for stewardship event details at 412-741-2750.

BIKE FEST 'HAUL TO THE HOLLOW' RIDE

August 17, 10 a.m., South Side Riverfront Trail
36-mile bike to & from Dead Man's Hollow.
Food and refreshments provided.

VENTURE OUTDOORS BIKE

September 27, 9:30 AM
Southside to Dead Man's Hollow

LAND CONSERVATION APPRECIATION

October 5, 9:00 AM
Hiking, birding, and refreshments
Welge's Barn

VENTURE OUTDOORS HIKE

October 25, 1:00 PM
Dead Man's Hollow Trail Head

ALT FUNDRAISER

November 13
Time & Location TBD

Visit www.alleghenylandtrust.org for details.



Mark Your Calendars!

Washington County
Community Foundation
Day of Giving

September 10, 2014

Please consider taking part in this giving opportunity. Beginning at 8 a.m. on September 10, all gifts made to participating charities via www.wccfgives.org and all designated WCCF Gives check contributions received on that day will be increased by part of a bonus pool, estimated to be \$100,000.

Don't miss a thing! Sign up for our E-News
send your e-mail to
info@alleghenylandtrust.org.

Please recycle this newsletter—give it to a friend when you're done!
If you no longer wish to receive VISTAS, please send an email to:
info@alleghenylandtrust.org

FOLLOW US

[alleghenylandtrust](https://www.facebook.com/alleghenylandtrust)
[@alleghenylandtr](https://twitter.com/alleghenylandtr)
[alleghenylandtr](https://www.instagram.com/alleghenylandtr)
[AlleghenyLandTrust](https://www.youtube.com/AlleghenyLandTrust)



Donate to Allegheny
Land Trust!



Printed on Recycled Paper



EFP's Combined
Federal
Code is 62348.