

# VISTAS

AN ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST PUBLICATION | 2015 Q3 ISSUE



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# NOTES FROM THE LAND: *ALT Explores Largest Tract Deal in Decades*



Images: Franklin Park borough maps of 168-acre property as green space (left), and as the proposed 41-lot development (right).

by Roy Kraynyk | Vice President of Land Protection and Capital Projects

In an urbanized county, like Allegheny, it is rare to find large tracts of available land. Allegheny Land Trust has happened upon such a tract, the 168-acre Linbrook Woodlands located in Franklin Park Borough.

The sloping, wooded property has frontage along 3,000 linear feet of Big Sewickley Creek, deep wooded ravines, trails and many springs that support Big Sewickley Creek. It is a distinctive natural area that is unique to Allegheny County because of the range of plant and wildlife there. Its adjacency to Linbrook Park creates the opportunity to expand park trails and public access to the creek, and perhaps other activities.

A 41-lot development was being proposed for the land, which prompted ALT to act urgently in March to secure it under contract. A housing plan of this scale on the steep, wooded and slide-prone slopes would have had a negative impact on the water quality of Big Sewickley Creek, created more storm water runoff and flood risks down-

stream, and forever scarred the scenic quality of the valley.

This is a historic opportunity to protect the largest tract of land in Franklin Park in decades. Although ALT has the land under contract, the threat of the property being developed is not over. We need the financial support of local residents and businesses to raise \$20,000 to match large public and private grants that are currently pending to purchase the land.

To date, ALT has raised 33% in grants towards our goal of \$820,000. Other grants totaling \$360,000 are pending, and staff continue to write applications.

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution that will help to match the large grants needed to protect this wonderful landscape. Learn more about the history on page 3.

For more information,  
e-mail Roy at [rkraynyk@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:rkraynyk@alleghenylandtrust.org).

## Property of Former Mink Farm Under Contract



Photo by Roy Kraynyk | Summer photo of prospective Bell Acres greenspace.

by Roy Kraynyk | Vice President of Land Protection and Capital Projects

As a kid, John Henderson used to fly over Bell Acres Borough in a Piper Cub. At that time Bell Acres was rolling hills and farms, including a mink farm at the corner of Hunt and Henry Roads. John tells stories of how he used to work at the mink farm, handling the aggressive animals with heavy thick gloves they bit into.

Most of the farms in Bell Acres are long gone as are the mink, although ALT staff may have caught a glimpse of one during an outing last winter.

The 28-acre tract's mix of mature woodlands, meadows, wetlands, springs and seeps provide a diversity of habitats, including grassland needed for declining bird species such as the Upland Sandpiper (endangered) and Eastern Meadowlark.

Located at the headwaters of Little Sewickley Creek, protecting this parcel will help to maintain water quality, the sensitive headwater ecology of springs and seeps, wildlife habitat and the rural character of the community. Preventing the development of this property into more than 10-12 residential lots, as allowed by local zoning, would eliminate the possibility of devastating impacts on these natural attributes.

ALT needs to raise \$10,000 of local funding to match large grants pending with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Department of Community and Economic Development; \$81,000 in grants has already been raised towards our goal of \$383,000. Grants totaling \$287,000 are currently pending and more proposals are being written.

Please consider a contribution to help save some of Bell's Acres.

# Buried History of Linbrook Woodlands



Photo by Lindsay Dill | Grave sites of the former Hopkins Church Cemetery.

by **Kevin Fernando** | Development Intern

Families and children of Franklin Park may already be aware of Linbrook Woodlands, due to its adjacency to an abundance of soccer and baseball fields. However, you may need to speak with one of Franklin Park's more seasoned residents to catch a glimpse into the centuries-old story of the site's treasured landmark - Hopkins Chapel.

Hopkins Chapel, originally called Ingram's Chapel, was a simple country church with pine pews built on a half-acre of land donated by John and Sarah Redpath Ingram in 1846. The congregation predates the chapel, as the building was constructed to fill the void left after the passing of Reverend McClelland, who conducted Methodist services in his log home until 1820.

Hopkins Chapel was apportioned \$90.00 per year by the Sewickley Circuit, twenty dollars more than it was able to raise through its own collections. The economically modest congregation cut costs by sharing a minister with the other Methodist churches of the area, as it could not afford one on its own. Despite these hardships, the church promoted the importance of a solid religious education, and held its own Sunday school consisting of 42 students directed by Andrew Rosensteel, a respected community leader of the time.

The chapel held services for around 70 years and discontinued in the 1920s, though it utilized the cemetery for burials until the 1930s. According to a 1935 Works Progress Administration survey, 125 people were buried in the Hopkins Chapel cemetery, including one veteran. Although it had survived consistent financial hardship and two world wars, The Great Depression took its toll on the Chapel in the 1940s, as local residents dismantled the building brick-by-brick to utilize the building materials elsewhere.

Today, the scattered remains of chapel and tombstone are overgrown by native and invasive plants that obscure years gone by since the chapel's lifetime. Hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, ALT will make it a safe and accessible place for all to enjoy its past, present and future.

For more information, or if you have stories/photos to share,  
e-mail Lindsay at [ldill@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:ldill@alleghenylandtrust.org).



Photo courtesy of Northland Park Library archives. | Students pose for a photo at Hopkins Chapel; Andrew Rosensteel stands on the far right. Circa 1930.

## Legible Names & Dates on Hopkins Cemetery Tombstones

Recognize any names? Let us know!

Lewis F. McClelland	1815 - 1904
Amy McClelland	1829 - 1895
Martha McClelland	1862 - 1894
Robert Stevenson	_____ - 1871
Jane Sala	_____ - 1864
Martin _____	age 15 years
John Thomas,	_____ - 1872
Mary Stevenson	1804 - 1881
John Ingram	1800 - 1877
Sarah Ingram	1809 - 1878
Josephine V. Creese	_____ 188
Elizabeth Hamilton	_____ - 1864
John G. Creese	_____ - 1888
Eva Lambert	_____ - 1881
Mary Ellen Creese	_____ - 1882

# Raising Fun, Funds and Friends at Into the Wild

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communication Director

It's currently a time of transition at Allegheny Land Trust. The organization has brought on two more full-time team members in the past two years, hosted four interns for the first time in its history, moved offices and is currently in the process of redesigning its logo and website.

It is the demand, excitement, and success of ALT's volunteers, donors and explorers that have led to the organization to grow and maintain the quality of land conservation and other special projects.

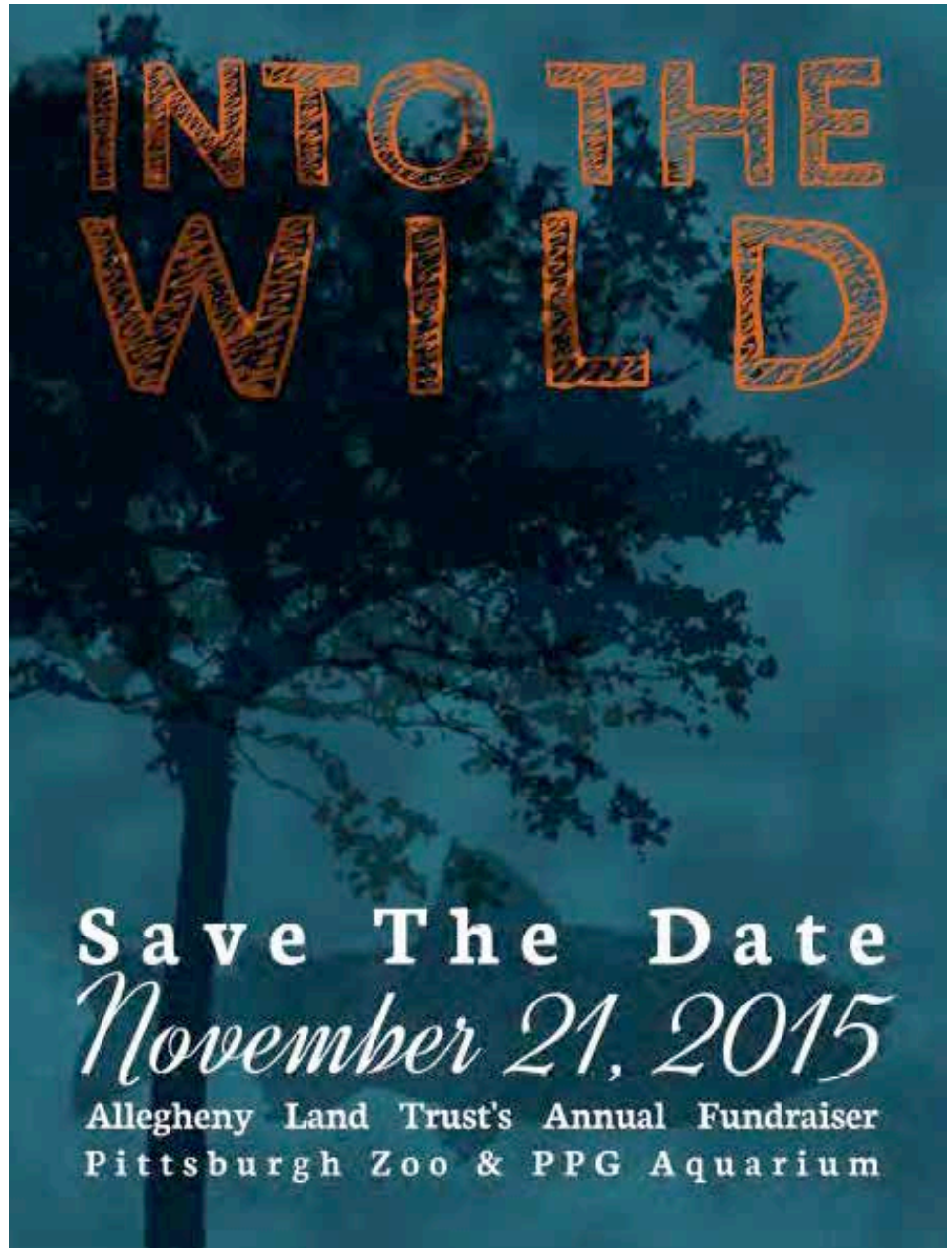
In its 21st year of existence, the organization is trying to make its annual fundraiser even more accessible to its younger populations of donors and volunteers who may lack disposable income.

So, ALT will be offering Early Bird Ticket pricing again this year for Into the Wild, a night that promises to be filled with wild experiences, hors d'oeuvres, ALT conservation exhibits, drinks, networking, and more.

Each year, ALT's Into the Wild fundraiser will feature a different area of interest or concern that land conservation affects. Last year was the year of the birds, this year is the year of aquatic wildlife habitat.

Keep an eye out for the Early Bird Tickets on the website, and the staff will see you there.

For more information, e-mail Lindsay at [ldill@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:ldill@alleghenylandtrust.org).



## What Will Your Legacy Be?

Leave behind a greener Pennsylvania through one of our convenient planned giving options:

BEQUEST  
RETIREMENT PLAN GIFT  
RETAINED LIFE ESTATE  
LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

We will be happy to work with your attorney or financial advisor to ensure the benefit of your gift toward your loved ones and community.

## ALT Wish List

ALT creates a wish list every year in hoping that someone will step forward and grant their wish. Most of these wishes are small items that would make a big impact on the work ALT does each year. Whether it is a tool for the volunteers to use or a notebook to take to presentations they all would make an impact. Please contact us if you would like to donate any of the following items:

Standing Lamps | Stewardship Truck | Desk Lamps  
Auction Items for Fundraiser | Coasters | Area Rugs  
Printer | Paper Shredder

# ALT Receives Big Response to Day of Giving

Articles by Chris Beichner | President & CEO

Allegheny Land Trust would like to thank the very generous donors of ALT's very first independently hosted Day of Giving this past June.

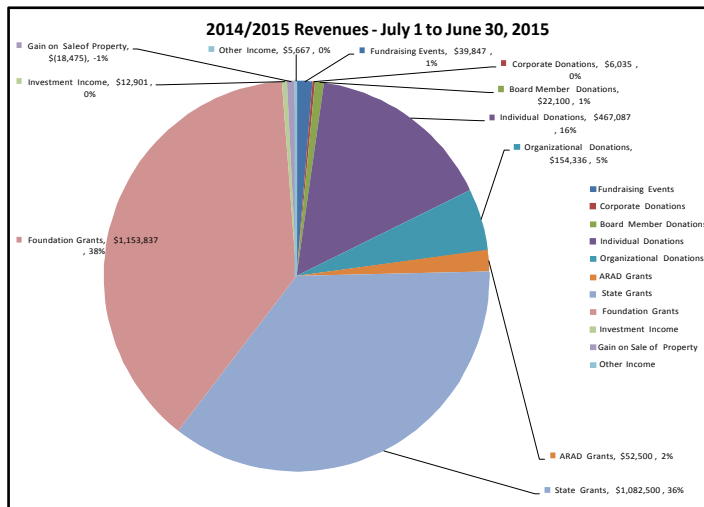
As the Pittsburgh Foundation decided to focus this year's day of giving on other Southwestern PA efforts, the ALT Board stepped up to raise a match pool to offer a dollar-for-dollar match. The results were extraordinary due to the leadership of our Board and outstanding response from our supporters.

Thank you to all who supported and shared information about this day. We'd also like to thank supporters who donated to us during the Washington County Community Foundation "Gives" Day of Giving. This year we were able to nearly double individual donations from last year. Your support inspires us!

Find some statistics on years' past Days of Giving to the right.



## 2015 Revenue and Expense Report

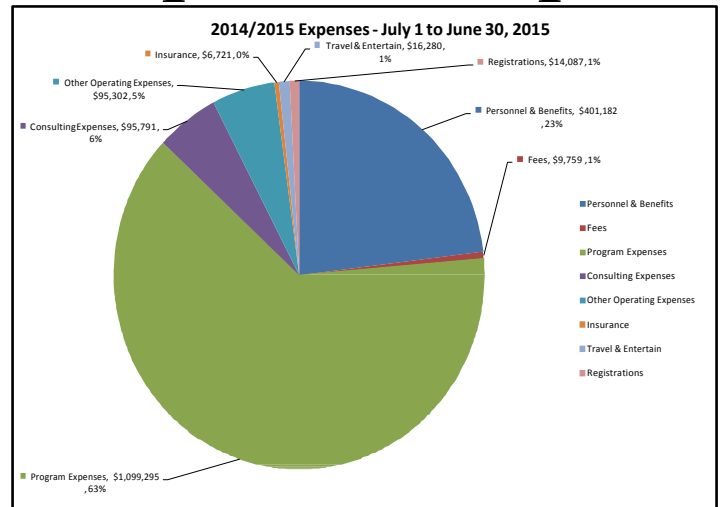


ALT's fiscal year ended June 30th. Revenues have increased due to momentous support for several outstanding property acquisitions and stewardship projects. Expenses have also increased, primarily with our direct program expenses making up 63% of our spending, which has allowed us to acquire more properties and better manage our lands.

Our revenues are diversified with 11 different funding sources, but expansion of our revenue base will continue to be a goal. ALT appreciates the outstanding support of the Pittsburgh region's philanthropic community providing 38% of our revenues.

With our overall revenue increasing and our foundation percentage of support down from 60% just a few years ago, this is a key indicator that our overall revenue diversification is stable. We also appreciate the support of our state officials with over \$1 million of support over the past year. Areas we would like to improve over the next couple years are individual and corporate donations, investment opportunities and fundraising events.

ALT is looking forward to another strong fiscal year as we continue to identify more critical lands to be protected and additional stewardship projects to care for.



If you would like to help keep our organization strong financially, there are several ways you can help.

1. Make a donation and direct your gift to either a specific project or allow us to direct the contribution to where it is most needed.
2. Make a donation to ALT and ask your company to match your gift.
3. Talk to your financial advisor about placing ALT in your will.
4. Tell us about investment opportunities (i.e. investment properties, social enterprise ideas, etc.) that could boost our non-traditional lines of income.
5. If you own a company and pay taxes to Pennsylvania, talk with us about receiving a tax credit through ALT by partnering to keep your tax money local.
6. Volunteer your time to participate on our Development Committee or help us plan our next fundraising event.
7. Hold your own event at your home or another location inviting your friends, family and neighbors introducing them to ALT and our mission.
8. Tell us about another idea you have to help ALT to thrive.

For more information, e-mail Chris at [cbeichner@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:cbeichner@alleghenylandtrust.org).

# Stewardship Recap from an Eventful Summer

by Caitlin Seiler | Director of Volunteer & Land Resources

Webster's Dictionary defines stewardship as "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care". In the simplest of terms, ALT stewardship means caring for the green spaces we've protected as best we can with our available resources so that they can be enjoyed forever.

ALT stewardship staff assists land assessments and acquisitions, and works to develop a plan laying out goals and strategies for management and annual monitoring of each newly acquired property. Then it's time for the fun part – implementation and real life management of the green spaces.

Sometimes stewardship means a group of volunteers working to close off sections of unsafe trails finding a few days later those same trails have been mysteriously reopened. It means thirty sets of hands reaching into the earth to create a new home for restoration trees. It means scaling a steep hillside with ALT staff to find and install boundary markers, leading a foraging hike for property visitors, donating food for a volunteer workday, or simply taking a walk on one of our green spaces and letting us know how it looks. Stewardship takes on many different forms, but ultimately is the combined effort of ALT's friends, neighbors and partners working to keep our conservation areas protected and enjoyable.

Since the start of the year, we've tracked over 300 volunteers contributing nearly 2,500 hours doing independent service, attending workdays, and helping stewardship staff on special projects. Here are a few ongoing efforts our stewardship team is focusing on:

## Habitat Restoration



Invasive plant species have made most of our conservation areas their home; there is Oriental bittersweet in Audubon Greenway, purple loosestrife making its way to Sycamore Island and Wingfield Pines, and Japanese Knotweed everywhere. They take over areas of forests and meadows competing with native plants. Diligence and ongoing removal and control is required to keep these invasive species at bay. We also work on the more enjoyable side of planting natives to help restore the historic ecology. Check our events calendar for workdays or contact us to set up a group service day!

## Trail Building & Maintenance



Historically, we have worked with whatever trails have existed or appeared on properties we own or acquire. With the development of the Dead Man's Hollow Management Plan and the newly completed Barking Slopes trail plan, we are working on developing safe and sustainable trails. Many volunteers will be needed moving forward to help build and maintain these trails. We also need volunteer help on other properties to help keep trailheads and signage areas clear.

## Maintenance & Beautification



Acts of nature can sometimes be destructive to ALT property; and, unfortunately, graffiti, trash, theft, and vandalism happen wherever people go. ALT conservation areas are no exception. It could be a bridge damaged from a fallen tree or a senior prank involving a travelling ALT property sign. We always need more eyes on the ground to help identify maintenance needs, as well as volunteers with skills to help with repairs, such as the ones made to a DMH bridge that had been burnt when a stolen car crashed into it.

For more information, e-mail Caitlin at [cseiler@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:cseiler@alleghenylandtrust.org).



# Snapshot Happenings with ALT



Photos by Keri Rouse | Cyclists participate in ALT's 2nd Annual "Haul to the Hollow" ride in August. Haul to the Hollow is a 34-mile round-trip bike from the South Side to Dead Man's Hollow in conjunction with Bike Pittsburgh's Bike Fest.



Photo by Caitlin Seiler | Google Serv group members pose for a photo after a day of hard work at Sycamore Island in June.



Photo by Keri Rouse | Western PA Mushroom Club mycologist La Monte Yarrol educates during Summer Mushroom Hike.



Photo by Keri Rouse | A shot from a day in the life by Dead Man's Run at Dead Man's Hollow.



Photo by Caitlin Seiler | Hikers enjoy an "Edibles Hike" at Dead Man's Hollow along the new Cool Spirit Trail.



Photo by Keri Rouse | A snail was spotted at Sycamore Island during a summer mushroom hike.



Photo by Caitlin Seiler | A visitor to Wingfield Pines enjoys stepping stones through the passive AMD system.

# Counting the Ways . . .

## Conservation Areas Create Curiosity and Opportunity

by **Emilie Rzotkiewicz** | VP of Land Resources

Picking a ruby red heirloom tomato from my garden and inhaling the sweet smell, I immediately think of a delicious tomato basil salad I could eat for dinner. Yes; my garden inspires me to cook.

Through the years, people have talked with me about what they actively do, hope to do, and wish they could do on Allegheny Land Trust conservation areas. The lands that I work to protect inspire others in so many ways.

Maybe it's the variety of wildflowers at Dead Man's Hollow or curiosity about the orange flower that attracts all the butterflies at Wingfield Pines that inspires you to attend the guided wildflower walk and expand your flower power knowledge. Does seeing a tall grassy field motivate you to mow your front yard or inspire you to become a song bird artist?

If you're energetic, it could be the steep trail at Whetzel Preserve or the up-river paddle to Sycamore Island to motivate you

to exercise, or – if you're like me – the abundance of blackberries at Meadowview might encourage you to bake a delicious pie.

No matter how you are moved, we are honored that ALT lands have inspired you in some way and ALT would love to hear about it; how have you been inspired?

Please share your inspirational stories with us. Here are some we have already heard, seen or read.

For more information, e-mail Emilie at [erzotkiewicz@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:erzotkiewicz@alleghenylandtrust.org).

## From Restored Nature to Symbolic Sculptures



Photos by Lindsay Dill | Photos of Jim West (top left) and his maquettes of the "Our Path" (bottom left) and "Mother, Now I See" (right).

Local artist Jim West (pictured above) is working with ALT to produce pieces he has mocked up; West was inspired by the nature found on Sycamore Island and at Wingfield Pines.

Remarking on the beauty of what nature can be when restored and untouched, West often mentions himself and people as "users" of the land; he remarks that using the land can be good if we give back to its health.

West and ALT will be launching a fundraising campaign within this year to cover West's costs of materials so he can build them to scale and display them at each respective conservation area.

## Don't Let it be Their Last Autumn

Poem by **Carolyn Morrison** | ALT Volunteer

The smooth, pale gray trunks, many twining in twos and threes form one tree. Smaller saplings wave bright green leaves. Taking a leisurely walk through the relatively level, young or "pioneer" forest, these trunks confer a quietude.

Much deeper into the woodlot, the discovery of a huge Maple, with its expansive canopy, is like finding an old buried treasure. Come October and November, this will be a site of breathtaking magnificence; the leaves of these many Red Maple trees will turn scarlet, the intensity of which has inspired the awe of Pennsylvanians for centuries.

The huge leaves of Black Oaks will be robbed in rich earth tones, many flaunted just above eye level, as the Red Maple leaves begin to fall. The shapely leaves of a few, choice White Oaks will morph into a royal purple, then cling to the trees throughout the winter.

There will be unusual beauty here in winter too. Isolated American Holly trees will glisten emerald green in the snow, when all else is bare.

An old Virginia pine stands as the lone needle-bearing tree deep within the property, hedged in by equally aged, crooked Sassafras. It at first appears dead, with layers of bare branches, but look up; high in the crown above all else, sparse green needles are silhouetted against the sky.



# ...Green Space Inspires

## From Dead Man's Hollow Trash to Repurposed Treasure



Our DMH Community Coordinator Keri Rouse removed trash as she stewarded DMH, and repurposed some emblematic pieces to create this artwork.

## From Industry to Ruins to Green Space to Watercolor



Elizabeth Township artist Karen E. Howell spends her time involved with her community through volunteering and painting. As an avid admirer of the Mon Yough Trail, Howell began painting the scenes on and nearby it; she completed this watercolor of the Dead Man's Hollow ruins in 2012 and has donated a copy to ALT.

## Art is in Your Hands



Some may assume that inspiration drives artists of only specific mediums-- painters, photographers, sculptors.

However, ALT has learned from its volunteers that inspiration drives many forms of creativity, artistry and desire to work.

Pictured above Emerald Trail Corps Program Manager Thomas Guentner uses his tools and skills to build a sustainable DMH trail.

### A Belated Thank You

To someone inspired by conservation to make a donation to green space:

**Donna Kipp**

*Thank you for your donation to the Sewickley Heights Park Expansion project.*

# Dead Man's Hollow: Where the Paths Lead

by Keri Rouse | DMH Community Coordinator

Many of us enjoy the natural areas in our communities by venturing through awe-inspiring forests alongside winding creeks and carpets of wildflowers, but few consider the artistry behind the trails that guide us to these scenic vistas.

The Emerald Trail Corps, a program of the Mount Washington CDC, completed the first mile of what is planned to ultimately be a 10-mile network of shared-use, sustainable trails at Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area.

Members of the trail crew normally spend their days in Mt. Washington, where they work to build and maintain trails in Emerald View Park. Crew leader Shawn Taylor (pictured) led the team that packed tools to spend three weeks this past July completing the first half of the Cool Spirit Trail.

Shawn paints in hues of earthy reds and dusty browns using heavy strokes of mattocks and McLeods—tools that come in handy when trail building. He first “scratches” the contour of the trail with the flat end of the mattock to draw an outline and break up underlying roots, and will go through later with a McLeod—a two-sided tool serving as a heavy duty rake and hoe—to define the proper slope for the trail and tamp down the soil.

On days spent with the crew, I'd notice Shawn and others dragging their feet through loosened dirt while discussing which task to tackle next or shifting their weight from foot to foot during breaks. Crewmembers say their feet are their most useful tools when it comes to the detail work, using their work boots to kick and drag the earth and compact the finished trail.

While one goal is to build trails that highlight the

force impacting trails. Trail building is as much a skill as it is an art form with a dash of detective work. Crewmembers look to the contour of a hillside and visualize where a trail might be carved out and interpret the way organic matter collected on a trail edge tells of how water is behaving on the path. Rerouted and closed sections of the Cool Spirit were eroded as a result of water flowing along the trail and gaining enough speed to lift away dirt and cut deep cracks into the tread. Drainage dips interspersed along the new sections of trail create high and low points that direct water off the trail.

With one mile of trail completed, staff and volunteers can now work to maintain the section completed by the crew and encourage native trees and wildflowers to grow on the closed stretches of trail. But the work doesn't end there.

With a slowly growing arsenal of trail tools for staff and volunteer use, ALT has been out with groups to repair unsustainable areas so that neighbors and visitors can enjoy the journey just as much as the

destination.

Contact us if you would like to be a part of expanding and improving DMH's trail system.

For more information, e-mail Keri at [krouse@allegHENYlandtrust.org](mailto:krouse@allegHENYlandtrust.org).



property's unique features and are fun for visitors to hike and ride, it's crucial to build sustainable trails that will last. To do this, building a trail that sheds water is key.

Water erosion is generally the most destructive

## Meet A Steward - Jim Lohman

by Rachael Letscher | 2015 Hamm Intern

Meet Jim Lohman. He is a frequent user of Wingfield Pines, and has been for more than 50 years.

He grew up in the area and can remember when the property was a golf course and swim club. He used to play a round of golf and then jump in the pool when he was a boy.

After a series of floods ran the golf course and swim club out of business, Jim would walk his dog Shiloh around the property. Now that ALT protects Wingfield Pines



as a conservation area, Jim, along with many of the dog walking community at Wingfield Pines, refer to the green space as “Doggy Nirvana.” Jim is able to enjoy watching his own dog, Hunter, run around and swim in the ponds and creek on the property.

Jim and the community wanted to show their appreciation ALT for letting them walk their dogs on the property, especially for allowing an off-leash area. So, last year they organized a fundraiser called “Wingzilla”. They had the second annual Wingzilla this year on June 20th.

Along with a great turn out of people, and dogs, the community of Wingfield Pines was able to raise \$750 to donate back to the Wingfield Pines Maintenance Fund.

For more information on volunteering, e-mail Caitlin at [cseiler@allegHENYlandtrust.org](mailto:cseiler@allegHENYlandtrust.org).

# Dead Man's Hollow Expanded by 8.5 Acres

by Roy Kraynyk | Vice President of Land Protection and Capital Projects

When the opportunity arises to expand an existing popular ALT Conservation Area, we seize it. Regardless of its size, land that is adjacent to our conservation holdings is a priority for ALT to protect. Last year, we acquired a 2.2-acre parcel, and this summer we added an adjacent 8.5 acres to Dead Man's Hollow.

The two added parcels vary in size as much as they do in character and location, and both add something unique to the conservation area. The 2.2-acre parcel is at one of the lowest elevations and at the most Eastern edge of DMH. It provides a new opportunity for parking, trailhead and signage at the Hollow.

Currently, visitors park at the Boston Park and walk about ¾ mile down the Great Allegheny Passage to

the DMH trailhead at the ruins; this new parcels provides the frontage needed on Smithfield Street for a small parking area, and creates an opportunity to start a loop trail there. The trail would start up the slope to the proposed Boston Overlook Trail, connecting to the existing Witchhazel Trail that meanders down to the ruins where hikers can find the Great Allegheny Passage Trail to take back to the parking lot.

The 8.5-acre tract is located at the opposite end of the Hollow and at one of the highest elevations of the 450 acres. The distant views from this property made it a desirable building location. The wooded tract functions as a perimeter buffer to help protect internal forest areas from invasive species that can seriously impact the native wildflowers, and the sensitive animal species that require internal forest habitat far

away from predators. Internal forests are forests or woodlands with at least a 300' buffer of unfragmented vegetation surrounding it. The 300-foot buffer of vegetation is enough to prevent feral cats, raccoons and similar predators, that only slightly penetrate the edge of woodlands, from robbing nests of eggs and young.

ALT has our sights on several more parcels surrounding Dead Man's Hollow which is becoming an asset for the municipalities of Lincoln and Liberty. Thanks to all who have helped DMH become such a local treasure. Please continue your support so ALT can continue our care, maintenance and growth of Dead Man's Hollow.

For more information, e-mail Roy at [rkraynyk@allegHENYlandtrust.org](mailto:rkraynyk@allegHENYlandtrust.org).

# Private Donations Doubled to Quadruple Acreage Protected

by Roy Kraynyk | Vice President of Land Protection and Capital Projects

While the Village of Sewickley around our new office bustled with the construction of new offices, cafés and a movie theater this year, ALT worked just as hard to protect 32 acres on Waterworks Road in the Davis Run Watershed.

The parcel is adjacent to 9 acres that ALT purchased in 2014, bringing the total to more than 41 acres protected by ALT in this sensitive, 584-acre watershed that served as the source of water for Sewickley Borough.

Private funds were used exclusively to purchase the 9-acre tract in 2014. Then in 2015, ALT used those private contributions as a match to secure an equal amount of public dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to purchase the adjacent 32 acres.

Once a cart path connecting Sewickley to Sewickley Heights, the green space's bridle and hiking trail meanders up the valley through large oak trees, five delineated wetlands, spring seeps and vernal pools.

Part of what prompted ALT to protect the green works conservation area. Davis Run ranked highest among watersheds in the Sewickley Valley Rivers Con-

servation Plan for the "concentration of green resources." The remnants of an open reservoir and dams still remain in the valley. Now the water is stored in an above ground tank.

Additionally, water quality, runoff control and maintaining rural character were public benefits achieved by protecting this green space. If the heavily-wooded property would have been purchased, cleared of trees and graded to develop 20 or 30 townhomes, the storm water runoff would have increased dramatically.

In a 2007 The Journal for Surface Water Quality Professionals article "Not All Green Space is Created Equal," it is stated that up to 76% of the annual precipitation can be sequestered by forests. In this case, the 41 acres of forest can absorb up to 32 million gallons of water annually. This is rain and snow melt that does not flow downstream onto streets and into homes and businesses during storm events. The bottom 2/3 of the watershed is densely developed with homes, making the risk of property damage by flooding a reality.

For more information, e-mail Roy at [rkraynyk@allegHENYlandtrust.org](mailto:rkraynyk@allegHENYlandtrust.org).



President & CEO Chris Beichner, Board Vice Chair Robin Hummel-Johnson and Vice President of Land Resources Emilie Rzotkiewicz hike the Water-

works conservation area.

Conservation area.

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Caitlin Seiler  
Director of Volunteer  
& Land Resources



Allegheny Land Trust  
416 Thorn Street  
Sewickley, PA  
15143

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 13 | 10AM-2PM | SYCAMORE ISLAND PADDLE WITH VO**  
Visit [VentureOutdoors.org](http://VentureOutdoors.org) to register.

**SEPTEMBER 19 | 10AM-12:30PM | WINGFIELD PINES BAT WALK WITH VO**  
Visit [VentureOutdoors.org](http://VentureOutdoors.org) to register.


**OCTOBER 3 | 4-9PM | FESTIVAL IN THE PARK @ BLUEBERRY HILL PARK**  
Learn about the Linbrook Woodlands Project during this community day filled with live music, pie-eating contest, games, crafts, petting zoo, and fireworks.


**OCTOBER 10 | 10A-12:30PM | TRAIL OPEN HOUSE & VOLUNTEER DAY**  
Hike the first completed stretch of the Cool Spirit Trail. You'll learn why some trails are more sustainable than others as you help close off old, steep sections of trail and spruce up the conservation area before winter comes. Wear your work shoes and long pants. Pizza provided for lunch.

**OCTOBER 23 | 6:30-9PM | THE HAUNTED JAUNT OF DEAD MAN'S HOLLOW**  
Night-hike through Dead Man's Hollows reportedly-haunted industrial ruins.


**November 21 | TBD | "INTO THE WILD" ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**  
Celebrate ALT's conservation work at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Details to come.

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