

# VISTAS

AN ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST PUBLICATION | 2016 Q2

## Newsletter Content

NOTES FROM THE LAND	2
DAY OF GIVING, ALT RECEIVES AWARDS	3
ALT SUPPORTER STORIES	4
STEWARDSHIP PHOTO STORY	6
MEET A STEWARD	7
UPCOMING EVENTS	8



# notes from the land:

## After the Acquisition: Presenting Linbrook Woodlands

by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects



*Photo by Lindsay Dill. ALT's Linbrook Woodlands.*

ALT staff were excited to observe Cinco de Mayo with the community at the newly-protected 168-acre Linbrook Woodlands Conservation Area in Franklin Park Borough.

Many factors need to come together for a land acquisition project to be successful: a patient landowner willing to wait while the money is raised, successful fundraising needed for the land and additional expenses, an appraisal, a long term stewardship plan, and a clean environmental report and title. An issue with any of these factors could derail the project.

So, when it all comes together over the course of months, or in some case several years, all of us at ALT feel a deep sense of satisfaction. Communities like Franklin Park make the work more rewarding as they harbor excitement, enthusiasm, and a nearly visible collective sigh of relief over the protection from development.

It all came together with Linbrook Woodlands where we had a supportive community, a supportive Borough, and a supportive State Representative.

We were able to bring on two grad students from the University of Pittsburgh's Non-Profit Clinic as consultants to help solicit input for a management plan by meeting with the community to discuss

their needs, wants, hopes, and dreams for the conservation area. During the May 5, 2016 celebration, we were able to share the consultants' – Kim Bellora & "Eve" Wuyi Ning – results from the 4-month long community engagement process.

Kim and Eve prepared poster boards that described the results of their interviews and group meetings. Preservation, recreation, history, and education were four themes that prevailed throughout their engagement sessions.

Kim reported that people really wanted the land to remain as undisturbed as possible while providing access to sustainably-designed recreational trails that avoided sensitive areas.

Eve talked about the history, specifically about the ruins of Hopkins Church and adjacent cemetery that has been vandalized. She also mentioned the history of oil wells that once lulled the community to sleep with its humming pumping sound. As kids, some community members reported riding the pump jacks like seesaws. Interpretive signs and replicas of the past were recommended to be interspersed throughout the trails to preserve and share this cultural history.

Following their presentation, Representative Mike Turzai spoke of the Common-

wealth's funding sources that produced grants of \$500,000 to support the project; Borough Manager Ambrose Rocca spoke of the role that the Borough and its citizens played in raising \$178,000; and our President & CEO Chris Beichner summarized the benefits of protecting the property, which is located in one of the county's largest Natural Heritage Areas.

We finished the day with a hike from the pavilion at Linbrook Park to our adjacent Linbrook Woodlands. The group stopped in a meadow where Bob Van Newkirk, President of the Three Rivers Birding Club, asked everyone to close their eyes and listen to the birds as he spoke eloquently about the 107 species that have been recorded at the property.

Bob underscored how important it is to understand the relationship of birds to the health of the environment and quality of life of a community, and passionately encouraged everyone to teach children to respect the environment.

There was a time decades ago when I was promoting land conservation to the communities surrounding the airport. After I'd made a presentation to the council of one of the municipalities, I recall a reporter calling me and telling me that the president of council pulled her aside and told her not to write about "this conservation stuff".

So, when ~50 community members turned out for the unveiling on a decidedly rainy day, the Franklin Park Borough manager proudly spoke of their financial participation in the project, a passionate birder spoke highly of our conservation efforts, and locals turned out for the first official hike on the property, it was beyond rewarding.

All of these players and small successes are indicators of how far public awareness and understanding has come concerning the public benefits of land protection. We're happy to count Linbrook Woodlands 168-acres among our permanently protected 2,000+ acres.

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

# We Need You During Our Day of Giving



by **Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director**

Shaping your community into a place that you're proud to call home is a task that is neither easy nor concentrated in one area of action. We're often brought into that process where communities are aiming to maintain their existing green space. It is the voices of the community and the power of their support that allow us to fundraise, acquire, and steward those green spaces forever.

For that reason, we like to host a Day of Giving to build our base for general operations, projects in-need, and land protection and stewardship initiatives. For the second year in a row, Allegheny Land Trust will be hosting its own Day of Giving

with a match pool generated by its Board of Directors.

When the Pittsburgh Foundation decided to skip a year in 2015, our Board of Directors stepped up to raise a match pool for ALT to host its own dollar-for-dollar matched Day of Giving campaign. The results were phenomenal! This year, we want to continue that momentum to incentivize supporters to give while maximizing the power of each person's gift. Our Board is working hard to raise a match pool again, and aims to create another dollar-for-dollar match pool for this Day of Giving.

We hope you'll mark your calendars, and plan to support us during our second self-hosted Day of Giving this year.

## Correction from First Quarter Vistas

We do our best to run accurate reports to list all of our donors; sometimes human and technological errors get in the way. We forgot to thank and list the Village Garden Club of Sewickley for their \$250 donation in 2015. Thank you!

## A Year of Recognition for ALT

### 2015 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award



*Photo courtesy of PEC. ALT receives Governor's Environmental Excellence Award.*

ALT received an award for the Dead Man's Hollow Management Plan, which we authored in partnership with Pashek Associates with help from the surrounding community. Thank you for your input!

### Sewickley Herald's 2015 Man of the Year Award



*Photo by Kristina Serafini | Tribune-Review. 2015 Man of the Year Roy Kraynyk.*

The Sewickley Herald named Roy Kraynyk, ALT's Vice President of Land Protection & Capital Projects, the 2015 Man of the Year. Congratulations, Roy!

### 2016 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards



*Photo courtesy of Edward F. Schroth, M.S.*

ALT volunteer and Duquesne University Biology Professor Edward F. Schroth, M.S. won a 2016 Western PA Environmental Award and donated his monetary award to ALT. Congratulations and thank you, Ed!



# Supporter Stories from Volunteers,



## Jane Hopey | Elected Official

*Photos by Lindsay Dill. (Top) [Left to Right] Representative Mike Turzai, Franklin Park Borough Mayor Dennis O'Keefe, Borough Council member Jane Hopey, and ALT Board Chair Steve Quick unveil a fundraising sign in 2015 for the Linbrook Woodlands project. (Bottom) Linbrook Woodlands Conservation Area.*



"Franklin Park Borough looks forward to working with the Allegheny Land Trust on the Linbrook Woodlands Project. The project will preserve 168 acres of woodlands which are environmentally sensitive. It's a rare opportunity that an ALT property is located next to a community park. In this case, the combined acreage on both parcels exceeds 250 acres, making it one of the largest recreation and open space tracts of land in Allegheny County. Having a parcel this large will have a positive impact on our community and the surrounding area. Just as past efforts have procured enough recreation and open space for today's residents, the Linbrook Woodlands Project will insure that same opportunity to future generations.

The acquisition was made possible by a public and private partnership. We hope to continue that partnership by planning and creating walking trails, open fields and other amenities. I'd like to thank the officers and staff members at ALT, Speaker of the House Mike Turzai and his District Director Sara Kennedy for making this project a reality."



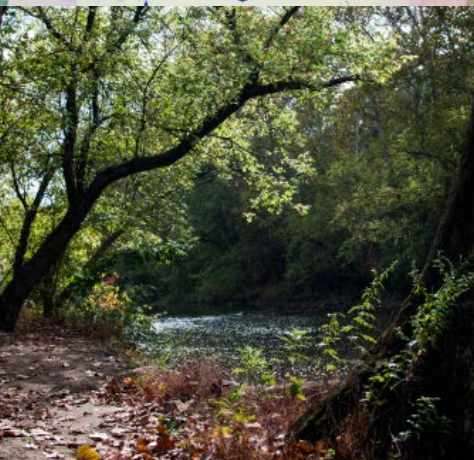
## Amanda Ross | Volunteer

*(Top) Portrait courtesy of Amanda Ross. Portrait of Amanda. (Bottom) Photo by Lindsay Dill. ALT's Wingfield Pines Conservation Area.*

"I first learned about ALT through Wingfield Pines, which my dad and I frequented with our dog, Skippy. ...It's a special place to me. I am thankful that ALT made the investment in improving and preserving this space in our community. ...ALT is a multi-faceted organization that is able to provide diverse volunteer experiences, from working on-site to clean and preserve green spaces to investigating new opportunities to serve local residents to raising money to support land conservation.

In 2013, I did an 8th grade science project on the water filtration system at Wingfield Pines. So, when it came time for me to select a project to fulfill a high school requirement, I turned once again to ALT. I contacted ALT to get their ideas for possible research projects. One of their suggestions was that I investigate the feasibility of allowing camping at Wingfield Pines, and since our family enjoys camping, this sounded perfect!

Since my volunteer work for ALT was research-based, my volunteer experience is somewhat non-traditional. The challenging part of my volunteer work was getting information that I needed from other organizations in order to respond to ALT's needs. At times, this was also frustrating but ultimately rewarding. The most rewarding aspect of my work was presenting my findings and recommendations to ALT's management team. I enjoyed meeting them, learning more about ALT, and reflecting on my work."





# Donors, & Explorers Like You



## Aaron Sukenik | Project Partner

*Photo courtesy of Aaron Sukenik. Portrait of Aaron.*

"We are so pleased to be working with the Allegheny Land Trust to help make this dream a reality. The Hilltop Farm project, located in the City of Pittsburgh, will be a national model of community planning with sustainable agriculture, smart urban design, active open space, and conservation. ALT has been helpful every step of the way through site acquisition and early fundraising efforts. We truly appreciate having ALT as a partner in this exciting project, layering in their land conservation expertise with our community planning, to achieve an inclusive neighborhood reinvention."



## Ryan Utz, Ph.D. | Researcher

*Photo courtesy of Ryan Utz, Ph.D. Chatham University researchers monitor the ecological health of the water running through Irwin Run.*

"Researchers in the Ryan Utz lab at Chatham University have recently begun monitoring water quality parameters in Irwin Run. By deploying autonomous environmental sensors in the stream channel, Dr. Utz and his students will be able to measure the ecological health of Irwin Run. Sensors will record both short- and long-term environmental changes, which will allow researchers to explore how water quality responds to storms, seasons, and climate change. Dr. Utz intends to add additional sensors in Irwin Run and monitor the biological properties of the stream as his lab grows."



## Cathy Zellers | Birder

*Photos courtesy of Cathy Zellers. (Top) Portrait of Cathy. (Bottom) photo of a Great Horned Owl that Cathy discovered on a hike at Wingfield Pines.*



"I recently became interested in birding and have been exploring different areas. I am from Forest Hills and usually bird at Frick Park or Duckhollow. I decided to expand my horizons and have noted good birds found at Wingfield Pines, so I decided to give it a try. It was a cool, cloudy day and there were many birds present, but no shore or water birds. I decided to take a walk on the path near the shed and to my surprise found a Great Horned Owl sitting on a branch of a tree a few yards down on the right. I was so happy. There is one nesting under the Homestead Grays Bridge, but it is hard to see and photograph. It made my trip worthwhile. I will definitely return to look for more birds. It is a great birding area. It is very important to have a green space protected such as Wingfield Pines to protect the local wildlife and for families to use for years to come. Green spaces are being taken away by local development and it is essential to protect our green spaces. Thanks to ALT for protecting the green space."



# Volunteering Season Sprung

## A Photo Story of Stewardship's Spring



Photo by Caitlin Seiler. ALT's annual Stewardship Roundtable with veteran and new volunteers to discuss happenings on the land and volunteer resources.



Photo by Keri Rouse. BNY Mellon employees pose with the tires they removed from Dead Man's Hollow as part of a corporate workday outing.

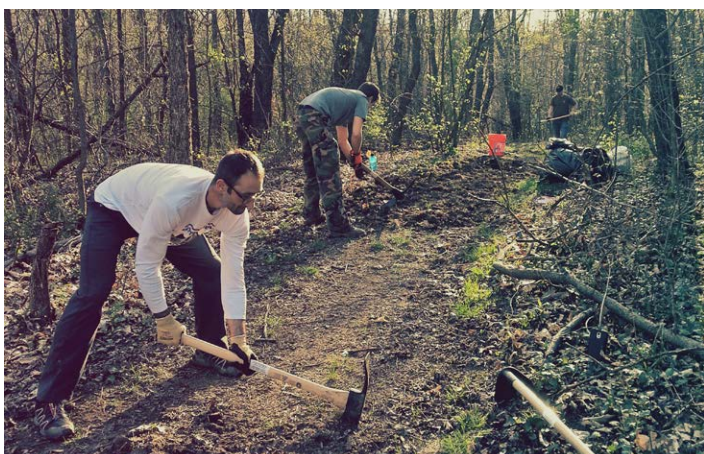


Photo by Keri Rouse. Volunteers work on trails at the Dead Man's Hollow for Trail Tuesday.



Photo by Lindsay Dill. A volunteer clears invasives at the first Linbrook Woodlands work day.



Photo by Mike Henry of Coraopolis Community Farm. ALT staff puts in some sweat equity of their own while volunteering at a community garden in Coraopolis.



# Meet A Steward: Robert Purdy, 15-Year Website Steward

by **Lindsay Dill**  
**Marketing Communications Director**

More than 15 years ago, Robert Purdy heard about a conservation land trust trying to protect a site that had a history as a golf course and a pool club, and was then an unused site suffering from abandoned mine drainage. He decided to learn about the project, and was introduced to Allegheny Land Trust.

In learning about that project, now the Wingfield Pines Conservation Area, Bob became familiar with ALT staff. In 2008, he asked Roy, our current VP of Land Protection, about ALT's website, Roy said we didn't have one. Bob was aghast, and said he'd help get one started.

Well, here we are—15 years later, and Bob will populate our website's content up until the transition to our new website. When Bob started with our website, we were a smaller organization. Now, our size, number, and types of projects have grown and varied so much.

Through all of our growth, change, last-minute requests, and technical issues, Bob has been a fantastic, friendly volunteer who has always



*Photo courtesy of Robert Purdy. Portrait of Bob.*

gone beyond our expectations. Managing a website in itself is challenging enough, but managing a site and writing descriptions and links to projects you don't know

about is another matter. It's such a big job, and Bob always educates himself on the new projects and articles we post, and even catches mistakes that our staff miss!

When asked about his work with ALT this is what Bob had to say, "During this time, it has been exciting to watch ALT grow into the dynamic organization it is today, protecting over 2000 acres throughout Allegheny County. I'm honored to have been a small part of it."

We're so thankful that Bob came on as our volunteer, and --to us--his help has been a huge part of our functioning and success. We could not have had a website without him.

As we transition to a new website we're certain that Bob will be leaping with glee, and for us, we're happy to give Bob his well-deserved retirement and hope that he stays involved with the organization.

Thank you, Bob!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIR

**Stephen Quick, FAIA**

Sue Broughton  
Tom Browand

### VICE CHAIR

**Robin Hummel-Johnson**

Fred Brown  
Ann Coburn  
Christine Graziano

### SECRETARY

**M. Damon Weiss, P.E.**

Laurie Johnson  
Ken A. LaSota, Ph.D.  
Jessica Mooney

### TREASURER

**Karen Ranick, CPA**

Sally K. Wade  
Jeaneen Zappa

## STAFF

**Lindsay Dill**

Marketing Communications Director

**Julie Halyama**

Development Associate

**Chris Beichner**

President & CEO

**Roy Kraynyk**

Vice President of Land  
Protection & Capital Projects

**Keri Rouse**

DMH Community Coordinator

**Emilie Rzotkiewicz**

Vice President of Land Resources

**Caitlin Seiler**

Director of Volunteer  
& Land Resources



Allegheny Land Trust  
416 Thorn Street  
Sewickley, PA  
15143

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JUNE 16 | 12A-11:59P | ALT DAY OF GIVING @ OUR WEBSITE

We hope you'll consider supporting us during our second self-hosted Day of Giving. Visit our website for more information.

### JUNE 18 | 2P - ? | WINGZILLA @ WINGFIELD PINES

A group of ALT supporters will be hosting the 3rd Annual Wingzilla "Fun(d)raiser" in support of ALT and the Wingfield Pines Conservation Area. The event will feature live entertainment with Rachel Eddy, pig roast, beer, a silent auction, and more. This is not an ALT-hosted event. Contact [ksullivan3@comcast.net](mailto:ksullivan3@comcast.net) for tickets and more info.

### July 26 | 6P - 9P | UES SUMMER GATHERING: BONFIRE & BATS @ WINGFIELD PINES

Celebrate the summer with fellow UES volunteers while learning about bats at the Wingfield Pines wetland conservation area. RSVP on our Eventbrite page.

### JUNE 21, JULY 19, AUG 16, SEPT 20 | 5P-7P | #ALTtrailtues @ DMH

Join us on the 3rd Tuesday every month through September to help build new and improve existing trails at Dead Man's Hollow.

**RSVP HERE: [bit.ly/trailtuesalt1](http://bit.ly/trailtuesalt1)**

**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE ALT EVENTS  
ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.ALLEGHENYLANDTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.ALLEGHENYLANDTRUST.ORG)  
ON OUR EVENTBRITE PAGE: [BIT.LY/ALTOUTSIDE](http://BIT.LY/ALTOUTSIDE)  
OR BY SUBSCRIBING TO OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR.**

## Keep in Touch with ALT



[alleghenylantrust](https://www.facebook.com/alleghenylantrust)



[allegheny-land-trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/allegheny-land-trust)



[@alleghenylantr](https://twitter.com/alleghenylantr)



[alleghenylantr](https://www.pinterest.com/alleghenylantr)



[@alleghenylantr](https://www.instagram.com/alleghenylantr)



[AlleghenyLandTrust](https://www.youtube.com/AlleghenyLandTrust)



[AlleghenyLandTrust](mailto:info@alleghenylantrust.org)



[info@alleghenylantrust.org](mailto:info@alleghenylantrust.org)

## VOLUNTEER | DONATE | EXPLORE



Please recycle or this newsletter when you're finished --  
give it to a friend, make it into origami,  
make it into a collage, etc.

Vistas is underwritten by an anonymous donor. Thank you!

©Allegheny Land Trust 2016.



FFP's Combined  
Federal Code  
is 62348



Printed on Recycled Material.