

EDUCATOR ACCOLADES
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An **Allegheny Land Trust** Publication

Summer 2018



ALT Educators Earn Recognition

by Environmental Education Team

Since its founding in June 2016, ALT's Environmental Education Team has been hard at work sharing the nonprofit's mission and values with more than 30,000 students, educators and community members across southwestern Pennsylvania. In addition to the tens of thousands of individuals served and hundreds of educational programs offered with ALT, our two full-time team members have excelled at both local and national levels of environmental education.

Vice President of Education Jessica Kester has been asked to help pilot multiple initiatives across the state. She will act as the southwest regional leader of STREAM Girls, an initiative of Trout Unlimited in partnership with Girl Scouts USA to incorporate recreation into STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) curricula to give young women a well-rounded education concerning the importance of stewarding watersheds. Jessica is also part of the statewide PA Watershed Education Task Force, which has been funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve environmental literacy and stewardship of K-12 students by providing more environmental education programming in Pennsylvania. This spring, she successfully ran for the Board of Directors position of Member-at-Large for the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE). Jessica continues to be active in water education acting as the State Coordinator for Project WET and as a PA Fish and Boat Commission Fishing Skills Instructor. She has been invited to speak at state and national conferences including: PAEE Annual Conference, Dive Deeper: Youth Water Educator Summit, Keystone Cold Water Conference and the Project WET USA Coordinator Conference & Training.

Education Program Director Julie Travaglini has been travelling the country speaking to national audiences about the importance of environmental education to early learners. In April, Travaglini led a standing-room-only workshop on using animals and nature to teach STEAM topics at STEMCon in Chicago, a national conference celebrating the importance of STEM in education. Two weeks later, she attended the invite or application-only inaugural Children and Nature Network International Leadership Summit in Oakland, California. Julie has also been invited to several conferences; she will lead a workshop at the North American Association of Environmental Educators conference, she will lead a session at the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference in Washington D.C. this fall and will run three sessions at the statewide Early Childhood Education Summit in State College. Julie has been recognized locally as a leader in environmental education this year, as she successfully ran for the Board of Directors position of Southwest Regional Director for PAEE and was named to The Incline's "Who's Next in Education" July list of 20 local educators under the age of 40 who are shaping future generations of Pittsburgh youth. In addition to her work at ALT, Julie serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors for Science Tots, a nonprofit that connects educators and families with tools and resources to power STEAM learning.

Both Jessica and Julie run educator workshops for ACT 48 credit, and Julie offers workshops for early childhood educators through PAKeys, a professional development program for educators. Join a workshop, schedule an in-school or outdoor outreach program with your students, or check our calendar of public environmental education events for all ages to see our award-winning educators in action!



Experience the expertise of these two acclaimed educators first-hand at an upcoming event: bit.ly/altoutside



Education Director Julie Travaglini running a Science Sprouts lesson. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

notes

FROM THE LAND:

Green Space's Role in Moderating Property Taxes

by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

If supporting ALT and green space could keep your property taxes from increasing, would you do it? If your answer is YES, please read on.

Local municipalities, counties and school districts rely on property tax revenue to cover the cost of providing services such as policing, road maintenance and schools. When the expense of providing those services exceeds the revenue they are currently receiving, millage rates- the rate at which your real estate's assessed value is multiplied to generate your tax bill- are raised to generate more revenue.

In theory, the revenue generated by the various land uses is sufficient to cover the services that land use requires. However, economic studies over the decades have discovered that is not the case. In 2004, University of Pittsburgh economist, Stephen Farber, PhD, reported in the Physical and Ecological Investigation of Pittsburgh's Hillside Report, that residential development costs on average 15% more to service than it generates in property tax revenue. In other words, residential development costs \$1.15 in public services for every \$1.00 received in property taxes.

In spite of this revenue/expense imbalance, municipalities often find themselves tempted to approve new development in an effort to generate more tax revenue needed to pay for the service demands from previous development. And the cycle continues. Once realizing this doesn't work, elected officials facing chronic budget gaps decide to raise millage rates and, subsequently, your taxes.

When faced with a residential development boom and growing student population that cannot be accommodated by existing facilities, school boards must expand current facilities or even build new campuses, which usually require borrowing money. The payment on that loan may exceed current revenues, so the school board will raise school taxes by raising the millage rate to meet the new financial obligation.

So, how does ALT and green space come into play?



An Emerald View Park trail in the afternoon.
Photo by Wild Excellence Films.

Green space protected by ALT requires very little, if any, municipal services. Green space requires no expansion of sewer or water lines, or road improvements to provide access like many large developments do. Nor does green space require additional classroom space or teachers to accommodate a growing student body.

Reducing the available amount of land that can be developed in a municipality or school district by making it permanent green space can reduce the risk millage increases over time, especially if the protected land is zoned for residential development. That is to say, by limiting the potential for increased demands on public services, you also reduce the potential need for additional revenue to provide those services.

So, when you make a donation to ALT to help protect land, not only are you protecting wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities and scenic beauty, you are actually helping to reduce the demand on your municipality for future public services, which in-turn helps to keep your millage rates and property taxes at their current levels.



A girl lifts rocks in search of salamanders at ALT's Barking Slopes Conservation Area in New Kensington. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

A landslide occurs at the site of a hillside development in the Pittsburgh region. Photo courtesy of ALT archives.

Urgency for Our Future

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development

Allegheny County is blessed with a rich and unique natural heritage that is virtually unparalleled among major metropolitan areas. Wooded hillsides, lush valleys, nearby farmlands, numerous rivers and streams, rich biodiversity and close-to-home places for outdoor recreation are core elements of our area's much heralded quality of life. Our abundant green space is familiar to lifelong residents, enticing to newcomers and marveled at by visitors. It is part of what makes this such a special place to call home.

In addition to its intrinsic and aesthetic benefits, green space is a part of the solution to many of the pressing issues our region is grappling with today including landslides, flash flooding, sewer overflow, air and water quality and the need for local food production. Its natural capacity to absorb and filter storm water, cleanse the air, provide accessible and healthy recreational opportunities and contribute to economic vitality make prudent green space management critical to the region's resiliency and sustainability.

Our abundant natural heritage shouldn't be taken for granted, but instead must be valued and protected as the vital regional asset that it is. This is our mission at Allegheny Land Trust--it is the reason we exist--and with your help we have protected more than 2,400 acres of green space in 27 municipalities over the past 25 years! This is a terrific accomplishment that includes the permanent protection of special places like Audubon Greenway, Wingfield Pines, Linbrook Woodlands, Emerald View Park, Barking Slopes, Dead Man's Hollow and thirty-one other unique conservation areas around the region. I hope you feel proud of the significant conservation work that you have helped us accomplish over the past quarter of a century, and that you will double down on your support of ALT in the coming years because our work is only just beginning.

Despite the efforts of ALT and other conservation-minded organizations, the amount of green space in Allegheny County continues to decline under a withering and often irresponsible trend of over-development, and it is increasingly under threat today.

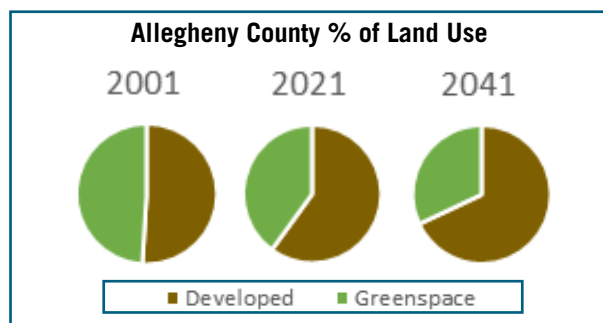
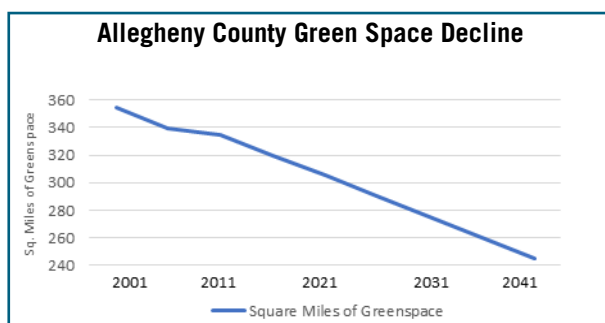
- **Allegheny County's population declined by 25% between 1960-2014, while the amount of developed land increased by 69% during that same period.**

- **19 square miles of green space (an area the size of South Fayette Township) was lost to development between 2000-2010, despite flat population and a severe economic recession.**

- **An estimated 30 square miles of green space (an area the size of McCandless & Ross Townships combined) will be lost to intensifying development between 2011-2020.**

- **Allegheny County continues to lose three square miles of green space to development every year.**

The amount of developed land in the County surpassed the amount of green space in the mid-1990's, and this trend continues on a sharp trajectory.



Today, less than 43% of the County remains as green space, and even the most conservative of USGS development scenarios forecasts the amount of green space falling below 40% by 2021, and without a change of course, less than 1/3 of the County will remain as green space by 2041.



A landslide that occurred along Route 65 during attempted development on red bed clays. Photo courtesy of ALT archives.



Kids run along a trail at ALT's Wingfield Pines Conservation Area in Upper St. Clair during an environmental education program. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Continued unchecked, this insidious and rapid loss of green space will negatively and permanently alter the character of our region and the quality of life we know and love. So, while we are proud of the conservation accomplishments of our first 25 years, we will not spend much time celebrating the past, because we must urgently focus on today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

It is with a persistent and optimistic sense of urgency that we are moving into our next 25 years. We have already protected 185 acres in five municipalities through both acquisition and easement in the first half of this year, and we have nine other parcels in six municipalities totaling an additional 308 acres currently under contract. If we are successful in raising the funds needed to finalize these agreements, 2018 will be a record year for ALT green space protection. Additionally, we are exploring and deploying new and innovative conservation tools and methods of community advocacy that have the potential to substantially multiply our capacity to protect additional green space in the future. We are currently completing a refined organizational strategic plan to ensure that we focus our limited resources on the initiatives that maximize our regional impact in the coming years.

ALT has the experience, expertise and enthusiasm necessary to address the dramatic decline in our region's green space head on, and we are up for the challenge. But our success in meeting that challenge will be governed by the resources that we will have available to deploy. Increased conservation activity will require increased support. We are fortunate to draw support from a variety of sources including foundations, businesses, and the Commonwealth of PA, but none of these sources is more important than the support we receive from individual donors.

We ask that you please help to make our enhanced conservation agenda possible by renewing your membership, responding to a property appeal campaign, donating during the Day of Giving on September 20th and/or making a general donation of any kind at any time. Your support in whatever form is best for you will go a long way toward helping us to protect local green space and, as always, will be very much appreciated. Please call me directly if you have any questions or wish to discuss donation possibilities.

Make a Difference September 20: Day of Giving



Green space is part of the solution to many of our region's pressing issues. ALT's work to protect, maintain and improve local land, and educate local residents is vital to the quality of life in our region.

Make a difference: mark your calendar, tell a friend, and consider giving for green space during our 25th Anniversary Day of Giving.

The Board of Directors has generously created a dollar-for-dollar match pool. This means that your gift goes twice as far in helping us to protect more land, maintain our green spaces, and educate more communities.

4 Ways to Give on September 20

CALL 412-741-2750

CLICK alleghenylantrust.org

MAIL 416 Thorn Street

STOP IN Sewickley, PA, 15143



An aerial photo of the Wingfield Pines AMD passive treatment system taken in Spring 2018.
Photo by Bradley Piper.

Wingfield Pines Update

by **Caitlin Seiler**
Director of Volunteer & Land Resources

Wingfield Pines has been and will continue to be busy with activity and improvements. ALT worked with a team at Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. to develop a Master Management Plan for Wingfield Pines. The plan includes recommendations for ecological management, educational facilities, and access. We will begin implementation of the plan in Spring 2019. If you're interested in being involved, join our Friends of Wingfield Pines group by contacting me.

This summer, with the help of students and teachers from Streams Elementary School, more milkweed was planted in the meadows at Wingfield Pines and the property is now a Monarch Watch-Certified Monarch Waystation.



Monarch Butterfly. Photo by Jessica Kester.

Monarch Waystations are places that provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. Without milkweeds throughout their spring and summer breeding areas in North America, monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in the migration each fall. — Monarchwatch.org

Since a mine collapse caused water to stop flowing into Wingfield Pine's Abandoned Mine Drainage water treatment system at the end of last year, we've been working to both determine a solution and acquire the necessary funding to address the issue.

As of August 2018, we've received funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for repairs, and are working with consultants, designers and contractors to begin repairs.

Current plans involve rerouting the mine water back into the treatment system. Funding for this project will also allow us to address erosion issues in the system and improve access to pond waters for observation and education.

Throughout the Fall and Winter months, visitors should expect a high volume of construction equipment, vehicles, and activity around the treatment ponds and along the nearby hillside. We ask that all visitors please be aware and respectful of signage and crews at work during this time. We look forward to the system's revival!



OUR SPONSORS

help us expand and improve our work and bring its benefits to more community members.

Many thanks to our new and renewing sponsors listed below. To view a full list of our current sponsors, visit:
alleghenylandtrust.org/our-sponsors

Please recognize and patronize our sponsors.

NEW

- Dominion Energy - Gold
- 3 Rivers Outdoor Co. - Bronze
- Rusty Gold Brewing - Other
- Big Burrito Group - Other

RENEWING

- Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc. - Bronze

If you're interested in becoming an ALT sponsor, please contact Tom Dougherty at tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org

New Members Appointed to ALT's Board of Directors

by Christopher Beichner | President & CEO

The ALT Board of Directors recently appointed five new members to the Board. The organization is fortunate to have a diverse set of skills, backgrounds, and experiences to help shape the future. Our new directors have experience in sustainable agriculture, human resources, financial management, fundraising, intellectual property and many other talents.

We welcome our new leadership, and we recognize our three Board members who recently cycled off our Board due to term limits: Robin Hummel-Johnson, Laurie Johnson and Brian O'Brien. They each served nine years on ALT's Board and participated in various leadership positions. Their contributions will continue to positively influence the organization for years to come. Thank you for your years of service that have helped increase the quality of life and the vibrancy of community health throughout southwest Pennsylvania.



Laura Hillock was born and raised in Pittsburgh, graduating from North Hills High School. Since July of 2006, she has held the position of Associate University Counsel at the University of Pittsburgh. At Pitt, Ms. Hillock advises University clients on intellectual property and research-related matters. She also advises the University's Innovation Institute Director and staff in support of the University's technology transfer

activities. Laura previously served as Senior Counsel to H.J. Heinz Company, worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs and served as an Army JAG Officer achieving the rank of Major. Ms. Hillock has two children, Kelsey, who is a recent Pitt Business graduate, and Kiel, who is pursuing an Environment Engineering degree at Pitt. They enjoy the outdoors together as a family.



Sally Wade is President of AKCW Associates LLC, a human resource consulting company. Previously, she held executive human resources positions with Mitsubishi Electric and Duquesne Light. Ms. Wade received her B.A. from Grove City College and her Master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University. She is an Adjunct Professor at LaRoche College and a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh. Ms. Wade returns to the Allegheny

Land Trust board where she previously served 2007-2016. She passionately believes conserving green space is key to promoting the Pittsburgh region's quality of life. She strongly supports ALT's stewardship initiatives and new education team which develops and delivers programs on ALT properties and through outreach programs. Ms. Wade serves on the Board of Holy Family Institute and First Night Advisory Board of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. A lifelong resident of the South Hills, she currently resides in Upper St. Clair with her husband, David and Animal Friends alumnus, Toby the cat.



Alex Lake grew up in Lancaster, PA where he and his family were active supporters of the Lancaster Farmland Trust which works to keep the county's farms productive and undeveloped. Since moving to Pittsburgh after college, Alex has continued to be involved in the city's non-profit sector, first

by serving directly as a fellow with PULSE, and now serving as an accountant working with charities and local business owners.



Bryan Ritti is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Project Manager at Talva Energy and Operations Manager for Fallen Aspen Farm. Since 2005, Mr. Ritti has been committed to addressing environmental issues in Western Pennsylvania through his work in land conservation, renew-

able energy, mitigation banking, and sustainable agriculture. Mr. Ritti is grateful for the opportunity to serve as a board member for ALT, whose talented staff lead a tireless effort to preserve and improve the ecological values of Allegheny County and its environs.



Jennifer Thoma has been a figure in Pittsburgh's non-profit community for the past 25 years. She is currently the Director of Individual Giving and Donor Relations at Chatham University. She has helped diverse organizations such as the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (now Allies I for health + wellbeing), Girl Scouts, Bethlehem Haven, and Friends of the Riverfront primarily in the fields of development and marketing. She has

also served her community through work with Pittsburgh City Councilmembers Doug Shields and Patrick Dowd and spent many years as an Allegheny County Democratic Committeeperson. She is deeply interested in the Pittsburgh region and is dedicated to creating a more livable, workable, sustainable, and green community.

What Are Invasive Species?



Stiltgrass takes over an understory.
Photo by Emilie Rzotkiewicz.



A volunteer clears invasive vines from a tree at a green space. Photo by Emilie Rzotkiewicz.

by Emilie Rzotkiewicz | Vice President of Land Resources

The term “invasive species” is used commonly these days. What does it really mean, and why should we care?

An invasive species is a plant, animal or insect that was introduced from another part of the world which disrupts local natural processes. These can be as big as elephants or as small as a single micro-organism and can invade an entire continent or just your backyard. One might consider them the “bully” of nature as they compete and often win over our native species, most often because they have no natural predators in the new environment. These outsiders cause environmental concerns, economic harm or impact human health. We should all be aware and do our best to understand how to prevent them and slow them from spreading.

Common names like dandelion, gypsy moth and even the Canada goose are invasive species that negatively impact our environment. At ALT, we manage invasive species to promote available habitat for native species to grow at our conservation areas. A few examples of how we’ve addressed invasive species at our green spaces are as follows:

Sycamore Island – For six years, ALT has managed Japanese Knotweed, an invasive rhizome plant that creates a monoculture that prevents other beneficial species from growing on the forest floor. In 2010, eight of Sycamore Islands 14 acres were covered with the plant. We have been successful through continued efforts and major volunteer dedication to reduce the knotweed dramatically. The visual difference of the island today from six years ago is significant.

Irwin Run – The Emerald Ash Borer is an iridescent green beetle that has devastated our region’s Ash tree population. Chemically treating the trees was not an option, as it was extremely expensive on the landscape scale. Instead, ALT had to manage the site after the bug did

the damage to the habitat. Hundreds of dead standing trees created a safety hazard for property visitors, and ALT addressed the issue with informative signage and tree clearing around gathering points.

Audubon Greenway- For more than 10 years, ALT has worked with volunteers to manage the oriental bittersweet vine- an invasive brought to the states for ornamental purposes. The vine was smothering the native trees, growing so thick on the tree branches that it caused them to break from the weight. Our efforts were unsuccessful, so in 2014, ALT partnered with the PA Game Commission to start fresh by growing a new forest.

We know that we will not be able to completely eradicate or eliminate invasive species from our region, but we will continue to do our best to control them and protect the habitats of our conservation areas to ensure they provide the best value to our environment. We ask you to join our efforts.



HELP US MANAGE INVASIVES

1. **Only garden with native plants** – local nurseries still sell invasive species so be sure to ask for natives that fit your space.
2. **Help us remove invasives** – sign up with ALT for an annual invasive removal event. We routinely manage Knotweed at Sycamore Island, Garlic Mustard at Dead Man’s Hollow and Purple Loosestrife at Wingfield Pines.
3. **Do it yourself** – become an ALT Land Steward. We provide education and give you the tools needed to help us battle the invasive species at your local green space and in your backyard.



25 Supporters for 25 Years



TOP LEFT: Tim Stanny hikes Irwin Run Conservation Area, a green space he helped ALT to acquire. TOP RIGHT: Tim Stanny, long-time supporter and former ALT board member. Photos by Lindsay Dill.

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

Your support has helped us thrive.

For 25 years, ALT has helped local people save local land. It's due to thousands of supporters ranging from casual volunteers to major donors that we've been able to protect more than 2,400 acres of green space.

As part of our 25th Anniversary, we'll be substituting our typical "Meet a Steward" column with featured supporter stories from our "25 Supporters for 25 Years" series.

Supporters come in many types: Members, Donors, Advisors, Board Members, Volunteers, Partners, and more.

Tim Stanny's story is one of 25 that we'll be sharing in 2018 as part of celebrating our 25th Anniversary: www.alleghenylandtrust.org/25-years



Featured Supporter:

TIM STANNY



by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

When supporters look for updates on ALT's newly-protected green spaces, trail news, upcoming events and environmental education efforts, they know they can be found in VISTAS. When a new project lands on ALT's radar, land protection committee members can rely on a thorough, consistent rating system to help determine the green space's value in the conservation landscape. Long-time supporter and former board member Tim Stanny is the individual we owe our thanks to for these resources.

Tim is a long-time supporter of ALT and served on the organization's board for nine years. He became involved with ALT nearly 20 years ago when he was part of the Hampton Township Environmental Advisory Council. He was approached about a new land conservation nonprofit by one of its founding board members.

As someone who was involved with and aware of local environmental activity, Tim immediately wondered how he'd not heard of this interesting new effort in the region. He contacted then-Executive Director Roy Kraynyk and pitched an idea.

"ALT had to get the word out about its significant accomplishments and important mission in a newsletter," Tim said. "I located some funding, and VISTAS was born in 2002."

In addition to creating a legacy of storytelling that continues to inform our supporters, Tim's input on important land attributes still guides our land protection work today. As the land trust grew and gained recognition, ALT needed a methodology to evaluate potential projects which had begun pouring in. Tim took several pages of guidelines that the Board had already adopted and condensed it down into a one-page document that could be used in the field. It's what staff now refer to as "The Stanny Scale".

The Stanny Scale, which is still used today, evaluates prospective acquisitions using the following criteria: public benefits (opportunities for biodiversity, recreation, water quality improvement, etc.), size, expansion and green space connection potential, community support, stewardship considerations, benefits to expanding ALT's mission and exposure and contribution to existing conservation areas.

The ability to prioritize projects came in handy when ALT, during Tim's time on the board, came upon one of its most unique projects in its 25-year history: Sycamore Island, which ALT learned of, explored, identified funding for and protected faster than any other project in its history. Tim said it's still one of his favorite green spaces and was "probably the most satisfying" project.

"When I was on the Board, I used to say that we were the best conservation organization in Western PA that nobody knew about. ALT's reputation has certainly grown in the past several years – but I still meet too many people who've never heard of it," Tim said. "ALT is an extraordinary regional asset that more people in our region should support."

While Tim's service on the Board has created a lasting legacy, he has not let his work end. He continues to support and spread the word about ALT and about the importance of protecting one of our region's greatest assets: its land.

UPCOMING EVENTS

E Education Events

V Volunteer Events



Photo by Caitlin Seiler

Trail Tuesday

Dead Man's Hollow

September 18 | 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Lace up your boots, get outside, and lend a hand in helping improve local land! Join us every third Tuesday (April-September) as we work to improve and expand the Hollow's trail system.

All Ages | Cost: Free to Attend

V



Photo courtesy of Flickr Creative Commons user Fit Approach

Fitness in the Trees (F.I.T.)

Dead Man's Hollow

September 19 | 5 - 6:30 pm

Looking to spend more time in nature, get fit, and learn about your surroundings? Join us for the final FIT of 2018! Use nothing but yourself and the green space to get your outdoor workout.

Ages: 12+ | Cost: \$20

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Photo courtesy of Flickr Creative Commons

Starlight Stroll

Locations Vary

Sept 22 | 7 - 8 pm | Wingfield Pines*

Oct 21 | 7 - 8 pm | Linbrook Woodlands

Nov 23 | 5 - 6 pm | Audubon Greenway

Dec 22 | 5 - 6 pm | Audubon Greenway

Stroll under the light of the full moon with trained education staff. Topics vary depending on the evening's expert, and can include nocturnal and crepuscular creatures, astronomy, lore, and more!

All ages | Cost: \$5

*September 22 is free for RAD Days!

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HUNTERS WEAR ORANGE,
SO SHOULD YOU



Photo by Lindsey Dill

Water Quality Workshop

Wingfield Pines

September 18 | 5 - 7 pm & October 27 | 9 am - 1 pm

Water and waterways are the lifeblood to both aquatic and terrestrial life, and our region is lucky to have an abundance of water. Learn first-hand how to assess a stream for its biological health. Be prepared to literally get your feet wet as you learn how to read chemical, physical, and biological indicators to take the pulse of our local freshwater streams. This program is open to all thanks to funding from Pennsylvania American Water.

Ages 12+ | Cost: Free to Attend

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Photo by Lindsey Dill

Mammal Study Merit Badge Workshop

Linbrook Woodlands

October 6 | 12 - 5 pm

During this workshop, Boy Scouts will complete all the requirements to earn their Mammal Study Merit Badge. From studying skins to casting tracks, we'll cover it all! Bring your blue card and have it signed on-site by one of our registered Merit Badge Counselors. Not a scout? No problem, all are welcome!

Ages: Scouts or Youth Aged 12-18, Accompanying Adult,
Cost: \$25/scout or youth; Free for Accompanying Adults

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Photo by Lindsay Dill

Creek Critters Wingfield Pines

October 10 | 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Join our environmental education team as we wade into waters in search of the "creek critters" that call this green space home. Attendees will seek and collect critters and learn to both identify their finds and what their finds mean for the water's health. Great for families and community groups.

All ages | Cost: \$5

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Photo by Flickr Creative Commons user: gulla

Not So Spooky Hike Dead Man's Hollow

October 20 | 6 - 8 pm

Ever wonder why pirates wear an eyepatch or how an owl can hunt in the dark? Join us on this not-too-scary night hike where we'll explore the science and stories behind many of our favorite fall creatures! Explore myths and legends and learn about the creatures of the autumn night. We'll also tell stories around a campfire where you can roast a s'more.

Ages: Kids & Young Families | Cost: \$15

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Photo by Lindsay Dill

Cut & Craft: Volunteering & Fun Day Audubon Greenway

November 10 | 12 - 3 pm

Join our Stewardship & Education teams for this first-of-its-kind event! Help us protect this green space's native forest by cutting down invasive Oriental Bittersweet vines and to turn it into a decorative wreath for your home! Minimal decorative supplies will be provided.

All Ages | Cost: Free to Attend

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Photo by Lindsay Dill

25th Anniversary Hike: Fall Foliage & Fire-Side Cider Hike

Barking Slopes | October 13 | 5 - 7 pm

Join us outdoors to celebrate our 25th Anniversary! Enjoy the fall colors and a fire at this rocky, river-side green space as we hike and explore its past, present, and future. Wigle Whiskey staff will be on-hand to do a sampling with participants!

Ages: 21+ | Cost: Free to ALT Members, \$30 to Non-Members



Photo by Lindsay Dill

Plant Pursuit: Fall Colors Devil's Hollow

November 3 | 10 am - 12 pm

Take a walk with one of our trained education staff as we identify a portion of the botanical diversity that can be found growing in our green spaces. Today we'll focus on the fall colors of Devil's Hollow. Wear good hiking shoes and bring a camera and your favorite field guide if you have them.

All Ages | Cost: \$5

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Photo by Lindsay Dill

Twitter in the Trees: Christmas Bird Count Wingfield Pines

Dec 15 | 8 - 10 am
Become a citizen scientist (no experience required!) as we learn how to use field guides and iNaturalist to identify and catalogue birds in conjunction with the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count. Stick around after the hike for more Christmas Bird Count fun with the Pittsburgh South Hills Bird Circle & USC Citizens for Land Stewardship.

All ages | Cost: \$5

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To register and find more information, visit:
alleghenylandtrust.org/events



ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST

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alleghenylandtrust.org



ABOUT ALT

Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) is a nationally accredited, independent, non-profit organization that has been helping local people save local land in the Pittsburgh region for a quarter century.

Founded in 1993, ALT has protected more than 2,400 acres of green space preserving our region's unique natural beauty, providing enhanced outdoor recreational opportunities, improving water quality, fostering biodiversity and enhancing the overall quality of life for our communities. ALT's areas of strategic priority include Land Conservation, Stewardship, Education and Urban Greening.

ALT's mission has expanded in recent years to include innovative methods of land conservation in support of community needs for urban green space as well the addition of a professional environmental education team teaching children of all ages to understand and appreciate the natural world.

With conservation areas in 27 municipalities, there is now an ALT conservation project within 12 miles of every Allegheny County resident. The benefits of ALT's efforts can be experienced across the region from McKeesport to Franklin Park, Upper St. Clair to Blawnox, Mt. Washington to Plum and many places in between.



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FRONT COVER: A Black Swallowtail pollinates Milkweed at Audubon Greenway during ALT's first Pollinator Festival in July 2018. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

BACK COVER: An aerial photo of the Youghiogheny River during a meetup at Dead Man's Hollow along the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) trail. Photo by Gerardo Velasquez.



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