

IT TAKES A VILLAGE
Reflecting & Looking Ahead

3

OUR MEMBERS & DONORS
2019 List of Supporters

4

WHO VOLUNTEERS
A Look at Our Helpers

12

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION
Big Sewickley Creek Work

16

VISTAS

An Allegheny Land Trust Publication

Spring 2020



Addressing Our Region's Challenges: COMMUNITY THROUGH CONSERVATION

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

What are the things you value most in your life? Maybe you think of your family, your friends, your job, your hobbies, and perhaps you start to think of your surroundings: the people, the places. And when do our “places” become communities?



A group arrives at Sycamore Island's shore. Friends Of Sycamore Island communicate via Basecamp to organize volunteer outings and casual hikes with fellow island explorers.



A hiker hits the trails of the now-protected Bethel Green Conservation Area. Protected at the end of March, this 40.5-acre conservation project received strong support on the individual and municipal levels, thus creating a permanent community green space in an urban landscape. Photos by Lindsay Dill.

Every column in this series has discussed how our work as a land trust helps in addressing regional issues. From landslides to air quality, we've written about external environmental factors that affect every aspect of our lives; and in this issue of Vistas we're focusing on how an external factor like land can improve our internal personal lives and connections with others' personal lives.

Community connectivity, or the lack thereof, presents a regional issue in itself. If we act separately without connection, it is much easier to wake up to surroundings we don't recognize. Woodlands turned sprawled development, flash flooding downstream of new development that was once not there, etc.

By contrast, connected communities can maintain and build control of the present and future of their places. By connecting and sharing community needs and dreams, we can better shape our spaces into places we're proud to be a part of.

For example, maybe you learn about land for sale or vacant parcels available in your community after using our online Greenprint tool. If you live in a connected community or do the legwork to connect with others, you can empower yourselves to control what happens with that land next. You may already have a community plan that outlines seeking open green space, stormwater management, playground space, or something else.

Your connection can better prepare you to apply the community's goals to this available land to build a place you're all happy to call “home”.

At ALT, we permanently protect lands that preserve our region's unique natural beauty, provide expanded outdoor recreational opportunities, protect and improve water and air quality, sustain biodiversity, and – importantly – enhance the overall quality of life in the region.

We believe that by conserving land we're also conserving other aspects of a community's core. Whether it be the connection people have to a place, a place that can create opportunity for people to connect with each other, or a space where people can better connect with themselves through nature.

We hope you'll maintain your support for conservation not only by supporting us, but also by connecting with your neighbors to take a hike, care for a green space, prioritize green space over sprawling development, and foster a better community and quality of life for current and future generations.



Better connect with your community by learning about your local land using our online Greenprint: <https://tools.wprdc.org/greenprint/>

Note on the Coronavirus Pandemic

The articles for this issue of Vistas were created before the local, widespread outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. Our content is unchanged as we hope our sense of community and belonging with one another will not only be preserved, but also strengthened beyond these uncertain times.

Please find updates on green space access, event status, and more at: alleghenylandtrust.org/coronavirus/



A group of volunteers improves habitat at Audubon Greenway.
Photo by Lindsay Dill.

It Takes a Village

by Chris Beichner | President & CEO

“It Takes a Village.” This saying, most often associated with child rearing, is also very true when it comes to conserving and caring for green space.

Every potential green space ALT hopes to conserve requires meaningful involvement with many organizations and positive influences from community leaders of all kinds to make its protection possible.

Every conservation project requires ALT to work closely with a community’s residents, elected officials, clubs and civic organizations, local businesses, funders, and subject matter experts to succeed. We interact with hundreds of people on each project, all interested in helping to make their community a better place through the protection of green space. So yes, community conservation takes a village.

ALT has protected green spaces in 31 municipalities throughout Allegheny County since 1993, and almost every one requires a strong level of involvement from the community. Having protected over 2,600 acres in the past 27 years, we realize just how important community support, influence, and involvement is to ultimately protecting a green gem for the community, and how excited residents are to actively volunteer on the land once it is protected. We are continually energized by this collaboration and enthusiasm.

There are no better examples of this than the recent and on-going Bethel Green and Churchill Valley Greenway projects. These two high-profile, high-impact projects, both started in 2019, have generated an enormous outpouring of community support and hands-on involvement. The enthusiasm of the residents of Penn Hills and Churchill have enabled the ALT to raise substantial funding and sustain momentum for the landmark Churchill Valley Greenway project, and widespread support and involvement from the Bethel Park community has resulted in the creation of the new Bethel Green Conservation Area. Combined these two projects have rallied the support of numerous elected officials, municipal managers, civic leaders, local businesses, and more than 700 individuals who have contributed time, talents and over \$175,000 to help make their “villages” better places.

This issue of VISTAS pays tribute to all of our financial supporters, and we THANK YOU for your involvement and influence. Quite literally, we could not conserve and care for new green spaces each and every year without you.

As we continue in 2020 to expand the acres we protect, improve our habitat restoration practices and volunteer opportunities, develop our community conservation partnerships, and create new STEM-based educational opportunities, we will ask you, our faithful members, to once again step up your support of our mission through financial, volunteer, and other creative ideas.

2019 Giving

We're able to accomplish our work in the strategic areas of land conservation, land stewardship, community conservation, and nature-based education thanks to all of our supporters. Our work simply wouldn't be possible without funding from individuals, foundations, businesses, and government supporters.

A sincere "Thank You" to the organizations and individuals who supported our 2019 efforts in improving the quality of life for all in our communities.

Allegheny Land Trust Supporters

\$100,000+

Colcom Foundation
Heinz Endowments
McCune Foundation

PA Department of Environmental Protection
Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
Richard King Mellon Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Borough of Bell Acres
Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation

Massey Charitable Trust
Thomas W. McCargo

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Pennsylvania American Water
Suzannah Dalzell
Edward Engler
Federal Home Loan Bank
Garden Club of Allegheny County
Laurie & Rick Johnson

John Oliver & Sylvia Dallas
PPG Industries
Martha Smith
Stanny Foundation
Sally & David Wade

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Sara Gottlieb
Montour Trail Council
Ray & Ginger Morris
Bill & Sandy Nichols

Fredric & Mary Louise Pement Estate
Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds
Robert F. Schumann Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Francis & Martha Bagdes
Kathryn Banfield
Richard & Tingle Barnes
Aimee Beggs
Michael Blehar
BNY Mellon Community Partnership
Suzanne Broughton & Richard Margerum
Christie Charitable Trust Fund
Karen & Michael Coradi
Brian & Kristin Daniels
Dwight Deicke
Tom & Sara Dougherty
Peter & Theresa Dozzi
DP Dozzi
EarthShare
Henry & Mary Ewalt
Sigo Falk
Michael Faulkner
Regan Fetterolf
Benjamin Fitzpatrick
Flaherty & O'Hara
Joanne Foerster
Ft. Pitt Capital Group

Margaret S. Gilfillan
George Girty
Google Matching Gifts
Terri F. Gould
Danielle Gruber
Michael Hamberg
Donald Harrison
Diane Harrison
Gertrude Hetherington Fund
Donald A. Hoecker Charitable Gift Fund
A. Scott Holquist
John Kraus
Roy Kraynyk
Carolyn Kubik & Steele Filipek
William Lawrence, III
Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association
Paula M. Lockhart
Barbara Frazer Lowe
Manning Napier Foundation
Marshall Township
Andrew McDermott
James McLean
Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.



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

- Cool Springs - *Platinum*
- First National Bank - *Platinum*
- Flaherty & O'Hara - *Bronze*
- Transfiguration Landscaping - *Supporting*

RENEWING

- PPG - *Platinum*
- Federal Home Loan Bank - *Gold*
- Google - *Silver*
- LaQuatra Bonci Associates - *Bronze*
- Marshall Design - *Supporting*

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

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Munsch Giving Fund
James Murla
Samuel Mussmann
Kerry Brace & Deborah Noakes
North Area Environmental Council
John K. Orndorff Jr. Gift Fund
Edward & Jacqueline Pencoske
Jeff Pepper
Lynne Preisser
Karen Proch

Glenn Puntil & Kimberly Hennon
Kevin Sampson
Sewickley Valley Community Fund
Preston & Annette Shimer
Tim & Carrie Stanny
Phil & Gwen Steigner
John & Janet Swanson
UPMC Health Benefits
Amanda Upton
Edward V. Weller

\$500 - \$999

Diane Abell
Allegheny County Conservation District
Amshel Charitable Foundation
Jack Baker
Michael Baker International
Foundation
Melinda Barnes
Christopher & Valerie Beichner
Timothy & Ramona Bosse
Mary Florence Brown
The Burke Family
Vicky Campbell
Carrie Casey
Stephen & Christianne Corey
Steve Dean
Anthony DiTommaso
Stephen Donohue

Dan Dougherty
Extrusion Teknik, LLC
Benjamin & Lisa Ewing
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh
Meg Forsyth
The Russell & Nancy Fuhrer Fund
David Gilliland
Kenneth Goebel
Christine Graziano
Curt Grossman
Thomas & Barbara Harman
F. William Henninger
Stanley Herman
The Hillman Company
Robert Jones, MD
Barry & Eileen Kisloff
KU Resources

Grant & Laura Lindner
Lyons Family Fund
Ron & Mary Mahinske
William D. McIlroy
Sue Means
Emily Mueller
Ellen Nestor
Kaitlin Newman
David Nimick
Tim Oury
Randy & Penny Pearson Mateer
John & Janet Porter
Potter Family Fund
Carol Regueiro
Stefan von Rintelen
Vincent J. Rooff
Rose Salata
Laurence Scheck

Sean Sechrist
Terry & Janet Serafini Fund
Charles Sewall
Virginia Shar
Luanne Shock
Sisterson & Co. LLP
Hayes & Patricia Stover
Susan Striz
Tamis Corporation
Tetra Tech
Three Rivers Birding Club
John Totten
Transfigurations Landscaping
Matthew Tremaine
Peggy Wang
Jeff & Mary Wlahofsky
Barbara Zupcic

\$250 - \$499

Donna Artz
John & Betsy Baun Fund
Saul Bendersky
Sandy & David Blackmore
Blackridge Garden Club
Borough of Ambridge
Thomas D. Browand
Tim & Patti Campbell
H.D. Cessna
Michelle Wion Chitty
Churchill Garden Club
Churchill Wilkins Rotary Club
Nancy & Dennis Ciccone
Timothy Cook
James L. Cosgrove
Katharina Daniels
Nancy Delpresto
Ashley DiGregorio
Dollar Bank
Thomas & Judith Donohue
Bill Ebner
Sally Edison
Epic Metals Corporation Foundation
Arthur & Betty Evans
Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
Sherree G. Funk
The Garden Club of Forest Hills

Thomas Goff
Tom Gray
Lawrence & Mary Jane Greier
Barbara & Gary Grosch
William Hain
Barbara & Lothar Hanusa
Michael & Paula Heinricher
Lilla Hillman
William Holt
Mary & John Hotchkiss
IBM
Dr. Sherwood Johnson
Lana Kelley
Susan Luebbert & Christopher Hill
Sherron Lynch
John & Susan Marano
Brian M. McBane
Dan & Lana McCaffrey
Amanda McCain
Sally McVeigh
Joseph Meier & Katherine Ke
ModCloth
John & Kathy Moyer
Network for Good
Karen & Van Nickell
Daniel & Lisa Nydick
Martin E. O'Brien

James H. Oliver
Tom & Laura Pangburn
Sharon Roseman & Paul Palevsky
The Pittsburgh Foundation
Robert Purdy
W. Randy Rice
Robert W. Riordan
Matthew Rosemeyer
Bryan Ritti
Elizabeth Rotz
Donald Sanker
Mark Scheuer
Teruyo Seya
Sean Shapiro
Howard H. Shockey
Lee Silverman
Lindsey Smith
Mary Stenson
Donna Stolz
Jennifer Thoma
James & Elizabeth Van Nostrand
Sarah Walfoort
G. Deborah Walko
Scott & Catie Walsh
Watters Family Fund
Karen Whitehead
Linda Young



We do our best to run accurate reports to list all of our supporters; sometimes human and technological errors get in the way. If you were a 2019 member or donor, but do not see your name listed, please contact us so we can recognize your support. Thank you!

\$100 - \$249

Barry Adamson
Bret & Amy Agostoni
Philip Ahwesh
David & Janet Alden
Helen Andrews
Malcolm Andrews
Shannon Ashmore
Alan & Ruth Axelson
Michael & Carol Azar
Sherman D. Bailey
Timothy Baker
Claire Baldwin
Alex Balog
Jay & Karen Barrett
Scott Beach
Elisa Beck
Andrea Bender
Joel Berg
Stacey Berg
Elizabeth Bernens
James & Lorraine Berner
Mark Bernheisel
Bethel Park Lions Club
Christina Blackwood
Geraldine Blair
Lester Bolanovich
Barbara W. Bonnett
Lee Borellis
Dennis & Penny Bossick
Al Bowers
Brian Boyer
Erik Breedon
Michael Brinza
Robert Broman
Brenda Bulkoski
Cassandra Butterworth
The Ann and Frank Cahouet
Foundation
David Capan
Jean Carr
Elizabeth Casman
Phyllis Cathell
Felix Catlin
Scott Cessar
Mike & Kathy Cima
Andy Collins
Kevin & Debbie Collins
Matthew Collins
Kathleen Colwell
Pierce Cook
Jeff Cooper
David Copeland
Joseph J. Cortese
Kelsey Cowles
Deborah Coy
John & Teresa Coyne
Francis Craft
Susan D. Craig
Edward Creehan

Marian Crossman
Cynthia Cyprych
Jill Daly
Meghan Day
Bill Deemer
Harold A. Deiss
Mark Demi
Joseph & Helen DeStefano
Patrick DiGiacomo
Judith Diorio
Thomas Dobrosielski
Suzan Dodds
George Doemling
Patricia Dorsch
Bill & Denny Dougherty
Stephen Downing
Sue Driver
Charles & Debi Drummond
Beth Dutton
Tom Duzak
Richard Dwyer
Cal & Alma Eggers
Gregory Erhard
Susan Faller
Rebecca Fenoglietto
Regan Fetterolf Fund
Robert Feyes
Richard & Arlene Flaus
Anthony T. Floro
Mark Foerster
Frances Fonzi
Robert Ford
Daniel Foreman
Cheryl Fox
Sandy Fox
Cyril A. Fox, Jr.
John & Susan Frantz
Renee Freiboth
Martha Funderburgh
Cindy Funk
Tim Fusco
J.R. Gaines
Michael Gavula
Catherine Gazzo
Mrs. Ronald E. Gebhardt
Marilyn A. Gelzhiser
Denise Gemellas
Dave & Karen Gerenyi
Jim Getsy
William P. Getty
William Ghrist
Susan Giles
David Gillespie
Andrew & Marjorie Glaid
Caren Glottfelty
Jason Godesky
Robertta & Bob Goffeney
Edward & Marlene Gondek
Timothy H. Gordon

Terry Gossard
Rachael Gould
Daniel Gould
Steve & Abbie Greenberg
Robert Gregory
Shelley & Eric Grotzinger
John Grumski
Andy & Michelle Guckert
Andrew Haak
Elizabeth Hackett
Tim Hadfield
Martha S. Haines
Cecelia Hard
Beth Hardie
Barbara Harkness
Larry & Kaye Harmon
Phyllis G. Hartman
William Hasselmann
Jerry Hays
Nathaniel & Laura Hazelton
Thomas & Donnis Headley Fund
Robert S. Hedin
Albert Heinricher
Michael Young & Rachael Heisler
Highmark Matching Funds
Mr. & Mrs. John Hill
Lawrence Hitchins
Leslie Hoffman
Robert F. Hollinger
Jill Hollingshead
Jeffrey Hritz & Ann Kelton
Robin Hummel-Johnson
Edward Hyde
Joshua Hyman
Christopher Irwin
P. Isaac
Jennifer Jalal
William Jamison
Kenneth Janowitz
Ryan Jeroski
Joan R. Jessen
E. Johnson
Susan Kaminski
Susan Keane
Amy Kennedy
Matt & Elizabeth Kessler
Bill Kinol
April Kline
Dave Koenig
Peter C. Kohnke
Betsy Kolonay
Andrew F. Komer
Zach Kornfeld
Scott & Joanne Kovaloski
Kathy Kruger & Carl Samples
Rick Kubia
Charles & Janine Kulbacki
Michael Kurtz
David Lah

Charles Lamberton
William & Anne Lang
Rich Largman
Kenneth A. LaSota
Mary Leake
Mary Rose & Vernon Lentz
Kurt J. Lesker Company
Leslie & Rich Levine
Sarah Levinthal
Scott Lightner
Ian Lindsay
Kathy Logan
Thomas Lowery
Andrew Luptak
Joshua Lurz
The Mackay Family
Damon Mahon
Jad Mahsoob
Andrew & Liz Marano
Joseph Marrone
Elizabeth Marshall
Sylvester Mazur
Julia Mazur
Sean McAllister
Jeremiah McAuliffe
Rose McCarthy
Suzanne McColloch
Donald McCormick
Brigid McDevitt
David McDevitt
Patricia McElligott
Howard McIlvried, III
Jo Ann McLaughlin-Klemencic
Arthur McNair
Suzanne C. McNally
Patric R. McPoland Fund
Pete McQuillin
Virginia McQuown
Robert Meer
Diane & Richard Meister
Steve Mentzer
Julia Meredith
Warren Merritt
Drue Miller
Christopher Miller
Timothy Miller
Betty Moraca
Jason & Emily Mohr
Nancy Morrison
Jeffrey Morrow
Anne Morton
Gary Moury
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Mrozek
Edward Mulvey
Robert Muntz
John & Kathy Murphy
David Mylet
Valerie Nance
GayLynn Neal

\$100 - \$249 CONTINUED

Kathy Nelson
David Noyes
Robert Opat
Trevor Orchard
Susan R. Orenstein
Dana Overmyer
Mark & Tris Ozark
John Padden
Nancy Page
Luke Palamara
Steven P. Partridge
Trevor Patrie
Molly Patterson
Whitney Patton Bertram
Michael Pavilonis
The John Pekar Fund
for Charitable Giving
The CJ Pellegrini Jr. Family Fund
Joshua Penderville
Penn Hebron Garden Club
Penn Hills Comm. Economic Devel.
Committee
Melissa Peoples
Steve Pietropaoli & Amy Lovell
Pittsburgh Cares
Neal Pollon
Robert Powers
Pamela Prah
Sandra Preuhs & Lawrence Sachs
Quaker Valley Education Association

Kathleen Raborn
James Rebel
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Derek Reno
Tom Rens
Rachelle Riemersma
Chris & Jill Robinson
Andrew Rodia
Jennifer Rogers
Rooney Family Giving Fund
Wilson S. Ross
Carl Rothenberger
Wilfred & Ruth Rouleau
Betty Rowland
Ronald Rudolph
Carolyn & Jim Russ
Michelle Sabino
John Salvatore
Marnie Schilken
Michael Schlossberg
Edward F. Schroth
Tom & Deb Schuetz
Henry Schumacher
Janet Henle & Frank Scialabba
Bob Seltmann
Patricia Severance
Shaler Garden Club
MJ Shaw
Steven Shultz
J.E. Sickenberger

Eleanor Siegal
Brian Silowash
Eric T. Smith
Rayden Sorock
Matthew Spak
Elizabeth A. Spence
Peter Spirtes
David & Linda Steed
Susana C. Steppan
Steven Sternberger
Janet Stout
Michael Super
John & Laurie Sutton
Gordon Sye
William & Sharon Szymczak
Paul & Betty Taiclet
Robin Teets
James & Heather Terrell
Meryl & James Thomas
James S. Thompson
Henry & Karen Thorne
Mary Treganowan
Alan Trivilino
Trowel & Error Garden Club
Harry Tuminello
William Tunney
United Health Group
Matthew Urban
Mark Urbassik
Judith Vaglia

Pamela Valladares
Tammy Vargo
Bruce Vermeychuk
Marilyn Vettorazzi
Samuel Viggiano
Jeffrey Wagner & Bonita Kwolek
Thomas Wanko
David Webeck
Charles A. Weisberg
Jinny Welker
Ruth Welti
John Wesner
Julie White
Timothy & Susan White
William Wilson
Ronald Wolbert
Daniel Wolf
Brenda Wolfe
Karen Wood
Donald & Rhoda Worf
Jill Worthington
Gregory Wright
Joshua Wrubel
J. A. Wunderlich, III
Dominic Wyzomirski
Kelly Zavodnik-Phillipps
Zeke and Son Contractors
James Zumbo

\$50 - \$99

Terry Abbott
Allsion Park Sportsmen Club
Robert Adamson & Sharon Portser
Michael Arenth
Tom & Marjorie Armstrong
Mary Artzberger
Mary Aull
Coleen Austin
Liz Baldwin
Hermoine & Bill Balph
Sharon Beattie
Bett Beeson
Barbara Bell
Nancy Bernheisel
William Blevins
Victor & Anna Boff
Mary Ann Bogdewic
Glenn Bohn
Joseph Bonidie
Natalie Boydston
Richard Braun
Janet Bronaugh
Paul M. Brown
Marianne Brown
Vince Brunotts
Courtney Burgess
Robert & Florence Burik

Adele Butterfield
Cadence Matching Gifts
James Callan
Theo Carlins
Gail & Mary Paulone Carns
Nancy Carpenter
Bill Carson
Peter & Darla Carras
Todd & Val Carter
T. Ronald Casper
Samuel Castle
Gary Chace
Christine Chergi
Robert Clair
Climate Systems
Gregory Close
Mary Clough
Casey Collins
Harold Cook
Kathleen Coppula
Rachel Corder
Joseph Cordier
Art & Sue Craft
Victoria Craig
Leslie Craven
Sally Crawford
Betsy Cwenar

Jeanmarie Daugherty
James & Mary Dee
Joseph Deible
Andrew Dellana
Paul Dellemonache
Daniel Dickerman
Colleen Dougherty
John Dubas
Thomas E. Dubois
Jacob Duke
Abdul Dulloo & Kathleen Egan
Rick Duncan
Michael Eden
Henriette Ehlers
Laura Ellis
Linda Eremita
Marion Ertel
Ashlee Esplen
Russell Evans
Kathy Fabrizio
Larry Fehr
Conrad Feiling
Shaun Fenlon
Dave & Lisa Fennessy
Adrian & Geri Fenton
Michael Fialkovich
Sharon Fitzpatrick

Douglas Fox
Randy Francisco
Audrey Franzetta
Debbie Gallo
Carol & Grady Gaspar
Art Gazdik
Michael Grasser
Janet & Gary Grysiak
Lizzie Guidish
Robert Haas
Robert Habegger
Stephen Hahn
Joseph G. Hamm
Janet Harner
Paul Heckbert
Ronald Heller
Ivan Hofmann
Jeanne Holodnak
Thomas Hosey
Phil Hundley
Margaret Hunter
John & Nancy Hurley
Loan Hutton
Arthur J. Innamorato
Alan Isaac
Donna Isaac
Laura Jacko

\$50 - \$99 CONTINUED

Anna Jeroski	Michael McGreal	Christopher Potter	Katelyn Stavinga
Ken Johns	Deborah McKeag	Eileen Powell	Eric Steadle
Paul & Shirley Johnson	Jeffrey McLaughlin	David Pursley	Bruce & Mary Stefanko
Robert Jones	Robin McMasters	Joyce A. Rabinovitz	Robert G. Steffes
Stephen Jurman	Dan McNees	Robyn Race	Edward M. Stripay, Jr.
Daniel Kamin	Rose Marie McShane	Jakob Radovic	Kathleen Stromple
David Kapp	Homer & Barbara Mehring	Luciana Randall	Joel W. Swanson
Kobra Karimkhani	James Merlino	Arthur & Narda Rathbun	Bonnie & Kevin Swenson
Arthur Kasson	Dan Meyer	James & Sara Rieger	Ryan Syes
Steven Kasunich	John Moragne	Riemersma Family Trust	Timothy Szczypinski
Deirdre Keller	Charles Morgan	Frank & Victoria Rodia	Pete & Mary Talento
Tom & Mary Kerin	Robert Morgan	Alice Ronk & James Graham	Susan Tassone
John King	Brianna Moskal	John & Donna Rosser	Christine Tesla
John & Wynne King	Emily Murphy	Michael & Joanne Rosol	Daniel & Patricia Testa
Paul King	Patrick & Charissa Murray	Judi Roth	Rob & Tina Thomas
James Kirk	Ralph Musi	Marilyn Rudolf	David Torrey
David Kissell	Richard Myers	Sally S. Ruffin	Jent Toth
Fred & Chris Kissell	Khrys Myrddin	Matthew Salamone	Camille Toth
Elizabeth Klaczak	Bryan Nagy	Mary Salvucci	Judy Tredway
Justin Knox	Donna L. Nahum	Mark Sampson	Ann Turnock
Brian & Kim Koah	Michael Nee	Marie Sandvig	Katie Uzzo
Charles Koch	Net App	Mary Jo Santicky	Ruth Vaughan
James & Maria Koester	Celine Nista	Elizabeth Santos	Dennis & Denise Verosky
Melissa M. Kortyna	Gene Novak	David A. Sauers	Pikake Vetere
David A. Kovacs	Shawn O'Mahony	Mary Scalone	Jane Volk
Allan Kuenzel	Frank & Kathy O'Donnell	Frank & Dee Schlotter	Shirley Waddell
Raymond Kuzmovich	Shirley Olander	Eva Schmelzer	Gayle Wade
Danika Lagorio	Ed Olen	Linda Schmidt	Tom & Sandra Waseleski
Alexander Lake	Mark Olsavsky	Emily Schramm	Joseph Weimer
Roger Lehman	Carol O'Sullivan	Judy Schryer	Andrew White
Kenn Lippert	Patrick Pagano	Craig Sesti	Sharon Whitney
Suzon Lishego	Dan Passinault & Regina Byerlein	Mark Sheehan	John Wilhelm
H. Lewis Lobdell	Barbara Paul	Christopher Shefler	Bradley Wilks
Heather Lum	Suzanne & Lee Paxton	David & Nina Shevchik	Amy Wills
Robert Lydon	Tracy Pease	Donald & Theresa Shook	John H. Wilson, III
Michael Lyons	Kurt Pelisari & Cheryl Richards	Christi Short	Mary W. Wilson
Miwako Magee	Mike Perlic	Jillian Shumaker	Susan Winters
Diane Manius	Angela Petitto	John Skalyo	Lindsay Woge
Kevin Mannella	John Petrelli	Winnie Slatery	Richard & Barb Yardum
Christopher Martin	Ian Petrulli	Christine Smerker	Patricia A. Yeager
Joan & Gary Martinko	Nathalie Picard	Paul Smith	Victoria Zido
Barbara Matthews	Charles W. Pinkerton, Jr	Travis Snyder	Brian Ziemba
Louise Mazur	Jason Plank	Terry Sowers	Edward Zullo
Lori McDermott	Nancy Pointon	Eric Spaar	
Adam McDowell	James & Diana Porcelli	Suzanne Spin	
Ronald McEwen	Kate Porigow	Elsie Spry	

UP TO \$50

Patricia Albacete	Ashleigh Bartges	Nancy Lee Blackwood	Mary Ann Bytsura
Marsha Albright	William & Melanie Bates	Donna Bondra	Robert Cambest
Gregory & Laura Ament	Joseph Bayer	Charles Bostaph	Joseph Carberry
Jerry Angelo	Anna Bayer	Joanne P. Boyd	Charles & Deborah Carr
Nicolette Armstrong	Lorraine Beer	Marie Damask Brendlinger	Christina Catanese
Estella Johnson Armstrong	Mary Louise Bendetti	Marcia McNutt Brissett	Mary Cavaliere
Breanne Bachovchin	Margaret Bennardo	Andrew & Colleen Brown	Karen Rose Cercone
Dominique Bailey	Kayce Berdine	Christa Brown	Roger Chambers
Barbara Barnes	David Bernard	Alan & Jessica Buriak	Daniel Kambic & Diane Charles
Cynthia Barrett	Linda Berry	Jonathan Byerly	Nina Cindrich

UP TO \$50 CONTINUED

John Cindrich
Matt Cmar
Patrick Cody
Louis & Cynthia Coffen
Cathy Colley
Gene Colvin
Sharon Connelly
Lila Cooper
Ken Corcoran
Erik Cornell
Annamarie Crelli
Jane Critchfield
Brett & Marsha Cuckler
David & Sandy Daube
Sue Davenport
Catherine Davidson
Sally Dawson
Christine DeCarolis
Dave & Kathy Depner
Kieran & Lisa Devlin
Melinda DiGregorio
Lindsay Dill
Aimee Douglass
Robert Dubas
Sharon Eakes
William Ebertshauser
Andrew Edzenga
Katherine Fabrizio
Suzanne Fagan
Kevin Farren
Cody Fenello
Janet H. Fesq
Sondra Fisher
John Flannigan
Lynn & Renee Ford
Jane Fox
Mike Fox
Rebecca Frankeberger
Shelton Franklin
James Frysinger
Rob Fucich
Robert Galvanek
Brian Gamble
Randi Morgan & Jordan Garber
Nancy Garber
Susan Garris
Gigi Gerben
Patty Gilchrist
Andrew Girty
John Girty
Dorothy Gold
Emily Golling
Jeff Goodbread
Timothy Grady
Laine Greenawalt
Diane Grzybek
Samantha Gyory
William & Audry Haas
Gregg Haid
Donald Halbedl

Tracy Hancharik
Amanda Haney
Elizabeth Hannak
Patricia W. Hare
Beth Hartman
James Hawkins
Scott Herbert
Donald Hoehle
Don Hood
Brad Hoover
Warren Houseman
John Huffman
Gerard Hurka
Robert James
Bernard John
Thomas & Susan Jones
Ed & Gale Joscak
Kathleen Kaczka
Lawrence Kardos
Ronald Karp
Kristin Karsh
Christian Keller
Donald Keller
Charles Kelly
Susan Kennedy
Ed Kerestes
Susan Kernick
Tony Kerzman
Tony Kerzmann
Janet Kikta
Shirley Kilian
Linda Kim
Ralph Kimmel
Jeff King
Victoria Kline
Gary Koeske
Lori Kofalt
Kathryn & William Koran
Tom Korpel
Gloria Kortze
Andrea Kriska
Stephen Kubiak
Richelle Kurtis
Michael & Sandra Kurtz
Margaret Lacek
Patricia Lance
Celeste Laus
Pat Leddy
Sheila Lee
Ray Lewis
James & Shirley Livengood
Jeanne Locke
Jeremy Lockhart
Robert & Susan Long
Andee & Mike Lowenstein
Stephen Ludwick
Jane Lutinski
Simone Maccanti
Bob Machesney
Lisa Macioce

Joseph Makowski, Jr
Fiorella & Paulita Malit
Katherine Maloney
Paul Marino
Dori Marks
Raymond Martin
Jim Maslanka
Matt & Laura Mason
Elizabeth Matthews
Peter & Sylvia Maurin
Jamie McCabe
Donald McCalla
Melissa McCombs
Suzanne L. McCoy
Barbara McLaughlin
Linda McNair
Buzz McWhirter
Annette Medero-Rodriguez
Kristin Meier
Benjamin Michael Haake
Joel & Beth Minnigh
David Molinaro
Erin Morey
Daniel Mosser
Barbara Munford
Corinne Murawski
M. Ellen Muth
Doug & Joanne Neely
Dorothy Neill
Marlane Neill
Marie Nichols
Clifford & Mary Nicholson
Gerald Novelli
Carolyn Nunnally
Lisa O'Brien
Mayor Dennis & Marjorie O'Keefe
John O'Leary
Matthew Opdyke
Joann Ostheim
William Owens
Linda Parker
Donna Pearson
Tim & Pat Perkoski
Gary & Marianne Peterson
Pauline Petucci
Nancy Pfeifer
John Pierrard
Catherine Podkul
Robert Podurgiel
Vicki Poklemba
Joel Pomerantz
Jack & Marsha Potts
Charles Powell
Hayden Prosser
Jill Prosser
Mary Beth Pupo
Evelyn G. Rader
Stefanie Raspotnik
Jack Rearick
Timothy & Meghan Reidy

Douglas Reiss
Wayne Reno
Derek Reno
Robert & Barbara Renwick
Wayne Reutzel
Cheryl & Jacques Rhodes
Haley Rhodes
Anthony & Donna Ricci
Kristin Riding
Steven & Ellen Rine
Robert Rizzo
Beverly Robins
Mary Robinson
Alex Rodia
Elizabeth Rodman
Robert Rodrigues
Louis Romito
Michael Sambroak
John Schanz
Michael Schellhaas
Jennifer Schnakenberg
David Schuetz
Deborah Seewald
Aidan Sexton
MJ Shaw
Mark Shellenberger
Dr. John Shields
Jim & Donna Shuster
Terry Shutko
Mark Shuttleworth
Rich Simmen
John Simons
John R. Sinclair
Anthony Smith
Lyndsay Smith
Susan Snare
Nancy J. Snyder
Judy Stark
Adrian Starling
Marjorie Staub
Tracy Stitt
John Stofcik
Michael Studt
Lora Stumpf
Sherri Suppa
Mark & Jill Sussman
Sandra Swegman
Chris Szczypinski
James Taggart
Gerald & Rosemary Taylor
Theo Theophilus
Joseph Thomas
Bonnie Thomas
Mandy Ticknor
Marsha Timblin
David Tisch
Kristy Tomashewski
Christopher Tracey
Cheryl Tracy
Jeanette Trauth

UP TO \$50 CONTINUED

Nick Travisano
Joe Triglia
Eustasia Tubbs
Germaine Turiano
Gerri Tuthill
Ralph Valenzi
William Van Patten

Kathryn Vincent
Brenden Vint
Kevin & Patricia Vunak
David Wallace
Vincent Wallace
Bethany Warner
Stanley & Helene Weiner

Ron Werkmeister
Matthew Wholey
Amanda Wiegand
Beverly Wilhelm
Allan & Christine Williams
Susan Wind
Daniel Wolf

David Wolf
Cullie Wood
John & Colleen Woods
Yanis Yahiaoui
Erin Yapsuga
Sharon B. Yeager
Diane Zilch



A duck warms in the sun at Wingfield Pines conservation area in January 2020. The green space's AMD System was repaired in 2019, and staff are looking forward to the return of flora and fauna to the site. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

In Memory

Gertrude Hetherington Fund in memory of David & Laura Oliver
F. William Henninger in memory of Mrs. Jean Kline
Thomas Hosey in memory of Jane Castor Hosey
Robin Hummel-Johnson in memory of Bram Johnson
Susan Keane in memory of Bill Keane
Charles Kelly in memory of Paul Kelly
Amy Kennedy in memory of Agnes Kissell
Carolyn Kubik & Steele Filipek in memory of Ray Jurewicz
Jeremy Lockhart in memory of John & Beatrice Bradel
Elizabeth Marshall in memory of Alice H. Marshall
Randy & Penny Pearson and Mateer
in memory of Leopoldo Marti-Balaguer
Louise Mazur in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony F. Santella
Sean McAllister in memory of Daniel McAllister
Lori McDermott in memory of Michael Douglas McDermott
James McLean in memory of Emerson Gries McLean
Robin McMasters in memory of Jerry Coffman
Julia Meredith in memory of Mary Anne Meredith
Corinne Murawski in memory of Joseph J. Marko
Gary Moury in memory of William and Virginia Moury
Shawn O'Mahony in memory of Kelby Stewart
Gary Moury in memory of William & Virginia Moury
Luke Palamara in memory of Aunt Marie Reynolds
Linda Parker in memory of John & Gladys Parker
Angela Petitto in memory of Mary Ann Petitto
Nathalie Picard in memory of Jenny
Vicki Poklemba in memory of Henry Poklemba

Catherine Podkul in memory of James P. Flaherty Sr.
Robert Podurgiel in memory of Dorothy Hatting
Robyn Race in memory of Milo
Derek Reno in memory of Steven Charles Evankovich
Kevin Sampson in memory of David S. Sampson & G. Wilma (Stewart)
Sampson, Evelyn (Stewart) Kostenbauder, and Donald Stewart
Laurence Scheck in memory of Ari Daniel Scheck
Linda Schmidt in memory of William E. Schmidt
Sean Sechrist in memory of Jim Leffard
Christi Short in memory of Eleanora & Lawrence Short
Brian Silowash in memory of George & Juliana Silowash
Susan Snare in memory of Joe Snare
Donna Stolz in memory of Jim Funderburgh
Paul & Betty Taiclet in memory of Margaret & Jean Taiclet
Christine Tesla in memory of George R. Tesla
Kristy Tomashewski in memory of Frank Ivancza
Jane & Ron Thompson in memory of L. Jane Watkinson
Ruth Vaughan in memory of "Truman"
G. Deborah Walko in memory of Ted Walko
Vincent Wallace in memory of Phyllis Wallace
Ruth Welti in memory of Jim Funderburgh
Sharon Whitney in memory of Bill & Barb Whitney
Diane Winslow in memory of Jeffrey Winslow
Michael Young & Rachael Heisler in memory of Puck Wickesberg
Barbara Zupcic in memory of Davey
Kelly Zavodnik-Phillipps in memory of David Phillipps

In Honor Of

James Hawkins in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Howard Storm
 Barry Adamson in honor of David Adamson's
 Barbara Barnes in honor of Helen Lambert Austin
 Melinda Barnes in honor of Buddy Miller & George Girty
 Cynthia Barrett in honor the flora & fauna
 Joseph Bonidie in honor of Louise M. Bonidie
 Erik Breedon in honor of Diane Burkepile
 Marianne Brown in honor of Lacey
 Patrick Cody in honor of Lindsay Dill
 Matthew Collins in honor of Frank & Leona Taucher
 James L. Cosgrove in honor of Alan Miller
 Jane Critchfield in honor of Nancy Ruth Murray
 Betsy Cwenar in honor of Joanne Foerster
 Christine DeCarolis in honor of Lefty DeCarolis
 Andrew Dellana in honor of Janet Dellana
 Andrew Edzenga in honor of Austin Jepsky
 Henriette Ehlers in honor of Ashley DeGregorio
 Linda Eremita in honor of Joan Foerster
 Rebecca Fenoglietto in honor of Dorothy and Aaron Kress
 Sondra Fisher in honor of all Scouts
 Frances Fonzi in honor of Emily Golling
 Rebecca Frankeberger in honor of Ashley DeGregorio
 Sara Gottlieb in honor of Drs. Joan & Milton Gottlieb
 Gertrude Hetherington Fund in honor of David & Laura Oliver
 Diane Harrison in honor of Rick & April Kline
 Ivan Hofmann in honor of Carol Kraynyk
 Joshua Hyman in honor of Fletcher Dmitri Hyman
 Victoria Kline in honor of Ronald Snee
 Dave Koenig in honor of Dave Koenig
 James & Maria Koester in honor of Joanne Foerster

Zach Kornfeld in honor of Laura and Pat O'Laughlin
 Rich Largman in honor of the Dougherty family
 William Lawrence, III in honor of Peter Wray
 Barbara Matthews in honor of Nancy Morrison
 Elizabeth Matthews in honor of Nancy Morrison
 Andrew & Liz Marano in honor of Ella and Drew Marano
 Randy and Penny Pearson and Mateer
 in honor of Jean McKendree & John Mateer
 Randy and Penny Pearson and Mateer
 in honor of Barbara A. Mateer
 Jo Ann McLaughlin-Klemencic in honor of Rosalyn & Melinda
 Daniel Mosser in honor of James L. "Jim" Funderburgh, III
 John & Kathy Moyer in honor of Steven Victor & Bonnie Moorhead
 M. Ellen Muth in honor of Joanne Foerster
 Kaitlin Newman in honor of Rolf
 James H. Oliver in honor of John Oliver
 Nancy Page in honor of Thomas Page
 Luciana Randall in honor of William T. Randall
 Stefanie Raspotnik in honor of Chippy & Ann DeStout
 Rose Salata in honor of Jared Scheck
 Emily Schramm in honor of Tommy Schramm
 Christopher Shefler in honor of Faith Milazzo
 Elsie Spry in honor of 2019 Sewickley Academy Graduates
 Katelyn Stavinga in honor of Luna Stav
 William & Sharon Szymczak in honor of The Szymczak Family
 Ralph Valenzi in honor of Comrade Charles N. Makar
 Pikake Vetere in honor of Ku Kia'i Mauna
 Bethany Warner in honor of The Warner Family
 Jill Worthington in honor of Kate Porigow's birthday
 Sharon B. Yeager in honor of Chad & Shayne Kraynyk

In-Kind Donors

REI Board donated Backpacks
 Burson Cohn Wolf donated PR Services
 Marshall Design donated Graphic Design Services

Wall to Wall donated Ad Agency Services
 Tom Valiknac PE donated Phase One Environmental Site Assessments
 Tony Guy Landscaping donated trees at Audubon Greenway

Bradford Woods Conservancy

A fund of the Allegheny Land Trust, the Bradford Woods Conservancy (BWC) promotes and maintains the natural beauty of the Bradford Woods community. The Bradford Woods Reserve is a 4.5-acre green space preserved in a natural state for all to enjoy. Below are the BWC donors of 2019:

Yves Alarie
 Robert B. Anticole
 Douglas B. Atkinson
 Karen Bagnato
 Cathy Baierl
 David and Lisa Baldonieri
 Charlene and Joe Beck
 George and Diana Berendowski
 Susan Bowen
 John Brassell
 Karen Brock
 Charles & Molly Coltharp
 Thomas M. Demianczyk
 Denovo Chiropractic & Health
 Greye Glass
 Jeffrey & Dena Dougherty

William and Christine Graham
 Joseph Guzzardi & Wendy Lau
 Alice J. Henderson
 W.R. Hess
 Paula P. Hinston
 Todd E. Hipwell
 Lorraine Houston
 Alyce Jacob
 Ann M. Jenkins
 George and Judith Kasten
 Cheryl Kello
 Donald M. Lammers
 John L. Liebenguth
 Nikko & Leah Leitzel
 Lisa B. Martich
 Gary Price & Beth McCandless

Terrance P. McCartney
 Melinda Meighen
 Dan Michelmores & Abigail Marusic
 Morris Family Revocable Living Trust
 Bonnie Morse
 Sandra L. Murray
 Mary Love Nast
 Amanda & John Padavan
 Todd Pascuzzi
 Linda J. Philpott
 Jessica Schnur
 Jane Siefers
 Bob Slagter
 Richard Smith
 Beth A. Stuijzand
 Donald L. Tacznosky

Bill Thoma
 Jane & Ron Thompson
 Carol Thomson
 Edmund Tillotson and Lia Parris
 Guy & Mary Tomcik
 Mike & Lidia Turzai
 Lucy J. Veronick
 Vicki Wiegand
 Rick & Christi Wilcox
 Donald and Mary Williams
 Diane Winslow
 Zeliznik
 Mitchel Zemel



A volunteer plants a native tree at Wingfield Pines during a corporate volunteer workday. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Who Are Our Volunteers

by Caitlin Seiler | Director of Volunteer and Land Resources

Whether from the outlying suburbs of Allegheny County or the inner city neighborhoods, ALT volunteers travel through tunnels and across bridges, brought together by the same motivation to support the protection and stewardship of spaces that are special to them. What drives someone to donate arguably the most precious form of currency: their time? Our stewards sprout from varying backgrounds and passions. Here are what some of these volunteer profiles may look like:

THE GUARDIANS | They would be out in the woods whether ALT protected it or not. These individuals often serve as Lead Stewards for a Conservation Area and mentoring new volunteers. That isn't always the case, some Guardians prefer to do what they have always done - hiking alone, cutting invasive vines, collecting trash, or alerting ALT of changes on the land. They understand that their value as a volunteer is doubled by the impact of the work they do on the land and by sharing information about their work with ALT, their time can be leveraged to further support the space.

THE NATURALISTS | Armed with binoculars, waders, an iPhone, or a backpack of equipment, these are eyes and ears of life at our green spaces. An expert in their field helping to create baseline lists of plants and wildlife at our sites or a budding citizen science capturing widespread observations on ALT iNaturalist project. Communities of nature enthusiasts help ALT by lending their expertise for education events, supporting Bioblitzes, and capturing essential data to inform ALT about the health of Conservation Area ecosystems.

THE COMPANY CHAMPIONS | These individuals rally their co-workers or utilize their organization's community and social responsibility programs to give back to communities by tackling a stewardship

project. This may be pro-bono services to help our team with planning, or a group of individuals helping to restore a trail, plant trees, or clean up a dump site. Dedicated company teams have a significant, immediate impact to help stewardship move a project forward.

THE TRAIL BOSSES | These folks like to play. Mountain bikers scaling the hills of hollows, equestrians who meander their favorite sections of woods, runners, and walkers with big feet, small, or four. Conservation Areas are special to them because of their love of the trail. They understand that because they and others use these spaces, to keep the trails great or make them better someone needs to help. Leading the charge at Trail Tuesdays or stopping during a ride to clear the trail, they help keep these spaces open for play.

THE FUTURE LEADERS | Brought to ALT with the desire to fulfill a Scout or school project or led by the hand of their parents. Their hands on the land help today while also planting the seeds that will ultimately guide the future of conservation and stewardship work for generations to come.



Do you see yourself in one of these roles? Have your own? We'd love to hear about what drives you to engage with your community and volunteer. To volunteer, share stories, or ask questions, contact Caitlin Seiler at cseiler@alleghenylandtrust.org.

notes

FROM THE LAND:

Community in Protecting Land

by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

Notes From the Land and other columns in VISTAS frequently discuss the physical and functional attributes of a tract of land when articulating our justification for committing staff time and financial resources to protect it. The amount of acreage, the water and forest quality, and the land's ability to sequester carbon and stormwater are some of the important attributes and data points we use in grant applications for funding, and to convince local residents and elected officials that, if left natural, the land benefits the community more than development would in its place.

Another aspect of our land conservation work that we often don't write about but deserves recognition is the *community*. *Community* can mean a lot of different things so in the context of this article I'm referring to a community of people with a common interest or cause; in this case, the cause being protection of a treasured tract of local green space.

The *community* can take on different forms from very organized to not so much. The cause can be a specific task or issue facing the land, such as removing invasive Japanese Knotweed from Sycamore Island. The community in this case is the Google Machete Crew that committed to eliminating the acres of knotweed. The Crew would paddle to the island and hack down knotweed as part of a multi-year knotweed management strategy that ALT was implementing there. Thanks in-part to the Google Machete Crew, Sycamore is now practically knotweed-free. An impressive accomplishment considering how difficult knotweed is to eradicate.

Other *communities* organize around defending a tract of land from inappropriate development that is being proposed there. They organize to appear

at public meetings, raise awareness in the neighborhood, raise money to hire legal representation, and - if appropriate and necessary - file appeals to what they believe are ill-advised approvals that frequently include subsidies or variances for the developer.

In three cases we are following, the community group has won their appeal at the County level. In others, strong public opposition to developer subsidies and variances has led to elected official denying inappropriate development proposals.

Another example is where a "community" organizes around raising money to protect treasured local green space as in the case of the 148-acre Churchill Valley Greenway (Churchill and Penn Hills) and the 40-acre Bethel Green (Bethel Park) conservation projects that ALT has under contract to purchase.

Neighbors of green spaces have organized Facebook pages, held fundraisers, met with local and state elected officials, all to show support for protecting "their" green space. Over the years, neighbors have treated these lands as de-facto local parks. Well-kept trails meander throughout, litter is removed, and a sense of community exists among the users.

In the case of the Churchill/Penn Hills and Bethel Park conservation projects, more than 700 people have contributed more than \$175,000 towards these projects! An impressive number of people and amount of money that can capture the attention of our major funding partners and local and state elected officials. A strong show of public support can help ALT secure large public grants, get environmentally sound legislation passed and enforced, and perhaps one day a county-wide dedicated conservation funding source.

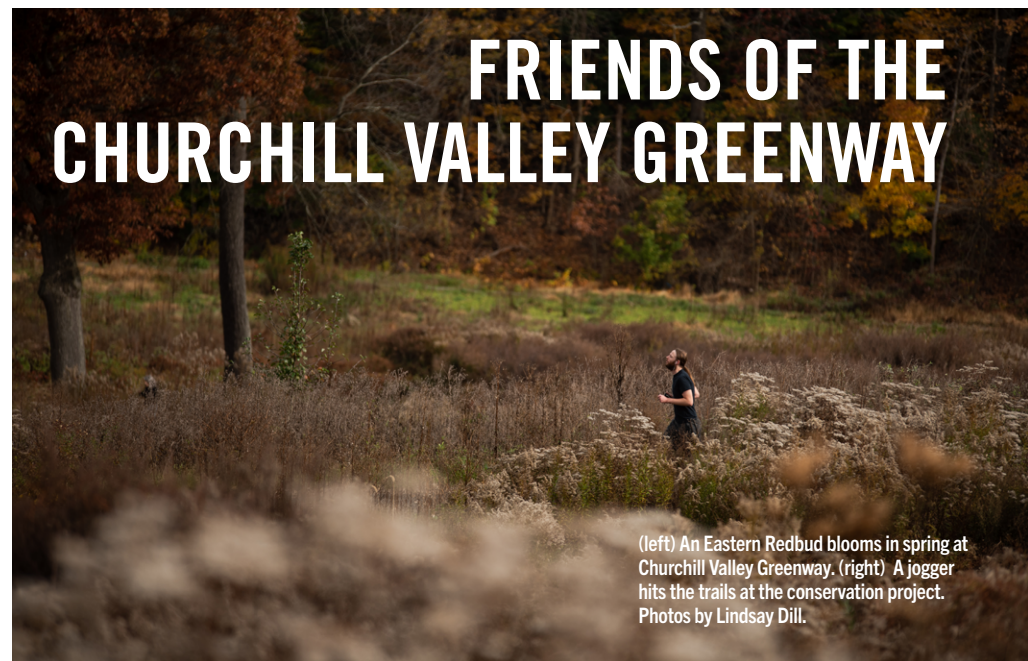


For more information, e-mail Roy at rkraynyk@alleghenylandtrust.org.

The cycling community took a trip to Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area. Whatever your community is bonded by - from proximity to preferred mode of transit - we hope you'll come together to protect our green places. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Featured Supporters:



(left) An Eastern Redbud blooms in spring at Churchill Valley Greenway. (right) A jogger hits the trails at the conservation project. Photos by Lindsay Dill.

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

For some, “community” is formed with the overlapping of hobbies, religions, or location. For a group of residents in the Penn Hills and Churchill areas, a community was formed over the common goal of protecting and transforming a local piece of vacant land.

These “Friends of the Churchill Valley Greenway” were previously just individuals living across municipal borders. However, when a local country club shut down and the land slowly became overgrown, a few of them asked the question, “What Now?”

Penn Hills resident Emily Golling’s answer to that question was to create a Facebook group entitled “Churchill Valley Country Club Land Preservation Effort”. She was impressed by the speed at which the group grew and developed an impassioned following—a community.

“(Council) is continually brainstorming on ideas on how to appeal to younger families,” Emily Golling said. “Look at Frick Park, Nine Mile Run, Schenley Park — these are places younger people are going to. Penn Hills needs something like that.”

This 148-acre tract of land was once an exclusive country club, where many made memories—proms, charity dinners, date nights, etc. Now, the communities of Penn Hills and Churchill are working together to turn it into a communal place for hiking, biking, birding, connecting with nature, and connecting with each other.

“I started coming out here to walk my dog and what I discovered was, it allowed me to access nature in a way I previously thought I had to drive out to the Laurel Highlands,” Renee Dolney of Blackridge said.

Both Emilie and Renee have been working with ALT on grassroots efforts to protect this special place.

Renee has taken on distributing more informational pamphlets than any grassroots organizer in my time at this organization. She attends as many community meetings as she can make to share the project with as many people as possible to grow the community.

Several other individuals have been at the helm of this small group including Rick Duncan (an existing ALT steward of Sycamore Island, who we featured in the last issue of Vistas), Bruce Amshel (an existing ALT steward who monitors many ALT land boundaries), Felix Catlin and David Gilliland (who have put in a tremendous amount of grassroots efforts in the Penn Hills community via the Penn Hebron Garden Club), and Lynn Tomastis and Randy Francisco (who have each utilized their personal and professional communities to connect the project with regional funders and community supporters).

All of these individuals are crucial pieces of a larger community, and we certainly couldn’t capture everyone here. However, these “Friends of the Churchill Valley Greenway” community demonstrate how much of an impact many types of actions can have in organizing a project to form community and protect our region’s best natural assets.

By coming together, they’ve helped inspire 510 individuals to donate more than \$127,000 toward the community fundraising effort, inform thousands of local residents at various meetings, hosted several hikes to introduce others to the land, practiced activism in asking their local elected officials to support this project, and so much more.

They’ve started a movement that has the potential to create a gathering place for all to come and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Learn More About the Churchill Valley Greenway Conservation Project

While more than 100% of the community campaign has been successfully raised, we’ve just raised 30% of the necessary funds to close on the property. We recently secured a contract extension and now have until March 31, 2021 to raise the gap and permanently protect this community green space. Learn more about the land, about what you can do to help, and about ongoing updates at: alleghenylandtrust.org/churchill-valley/



science at home

5 Apps to Engage in Community Science

by Julie Travaglini | Education Program Director

1) **iNaturalist** | Help track the world's biodiversity through photographing and identifying what you see all around you. Add to projects, participate in bioblitzes or monitor your garden because every entry helps!

2) **Mushy** | Curious about that mushroom growing in your lawn? Use Mushy to learn basic mushroom features and some techniques for mushroom identification.

3) **NestWatch** | Find a nest and observe as baby birds hatch, grow and fledge all while contributing to The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's research data.

4) **mPing** | The National Severe Storms Laboratory needs the assistance of citizen scientists to better predict precipitation via radar algorithms. Gauge rainfall, measure hail and report lightning strikes to help them out.

5) **LeafSnap** | What's that tree you pass on your daily evening walk? Snap a photo of the leaf to start getting acquainted with your local tree species.



(left) A volunteer manages an area of Linbrook Woodlands Conservation Area. The fresh removal of invasive species makes way for native species that support wildlife food sources and habitat. (below) A robin bathes in a puddle at Barking Slopes. For our staff, the first robins of spring are a great sign to be thankful for. Photos by Lindsay Dill.



Gratitude for Great Green Space

by Julie Travaglini | Education Program Director

While most of us don't associate the warming months with Thanksgiving, I recently had the honor of attending a symposium where the opening address was a Thanksgiving Address.

No, there was no turkey and stuffing, but instead this Thanksgiving Address was the traditional storytelling of thanks and appreciation of nature derived from the Seneca Nation.

Given in both English and Onöndowa'ga' Gawë:nö' (the traditional language of the Seneca Nation) the Thanksgiving Address, called Ganö:nyök in Seneca, requires participants to close their eyes and hold images in their mind of all of the intricate details of the natural community that sustain life and bring joy.

From crop plants and insects to rivers and Grandmother Moon, the Ganö:nyök teaches the responsibility of what is done to our natural community is done to us as well. The entire Ganö:nyök can take more than an hour to complete.

This led me to think; how could I, in my own way, appreciate our natural community for an hour every day? And then it struck me that perhaps the best way to honor our natural community is to build a human

community around it that supports and stewards its future.

Human communities can come together in countless ways to protect the aspects of nature we are most grateful for. We can come together at an ALT stewardship event to remove invasive species or plant native trees. We can clean up rivers and lakes and keep trails free from trash and debris. We can even download apps and join citizen science projects to monitor the health of local ecosystems.

In participating in these various measures we find ourselves among other like-minded Earth lovers which helps to strengthen our human community. The natural community builds unique human communities, which in turn protect the natural communities. The cycle of thankfulness and stewardship continues on and on, hopefully for many generations.

Whether it's tending to your own backyard ecosystem's needs or stewarding an ALT conservation area, everyone can contribute to protecting and appreciating our natural community. So get out there and find your like-minded community of nature-loving humans, and let's show the Earth all that we're thankful for.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN THE BIG SEWICKLEY CREEK WATERSHED

by Alyson Fearon | Community Conservation Director

I was recently privileged to attend two separate meetings around the topic of water, the third and possibly final Public Meeting for the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Plan and the Pitt Collaboratory for Water Research, Education and Outreach. Both groups are coming together to discuss issues around water, from water quality to flooding, but at differing scales of influence.

There is urgency in concern about water issues in Western Pennsylvania, and the need to bring communities that would not normally communicate together around water issues. Water does not follow municipal or county boundaries, as seen in Big Sewickley Creek Watershed, which encompasses 12 municipalities and 3 counties.

The final public meeting focused on bringing people together around protecting and enhancing the watershed, which to-date appears to have improved since the last comprehensive studies reported in the 2010 plan. Residents were encouraged to learn the creek is experiencing an increase in the abundance and diversity of water species, as documented in the macroinvertebrate surveys and particularly in the electrofishing survey.

We were particularly excited to report a new Allegheny County record of the Southern Red Belly Dace, which is listed as a Threatened Species in PA and is particular to its habitat needs.

The project is also excited to bring together a group of con-

cerned residents, with the assistance of Rebecca Zeysus from the Allegheny Watershed Alliance, to create a watershed organization.

This was a critical goal of the plan, to ensure the plan is taken to action and to assist in monitoring the long-term health of the watershed. Additionally, watershed groups like the newly-forming Big Sewickley Creek group are critical in monitoring land use planning and other changes in the watershed across municipal boundaries that will affect everyone downstream. The community in this area centers around Big Sewickley Creek, and each group we spoke to has a different connection to the water, from fishing to bird watching, but all agree the health of the watershed is critical to its future.

Watershed planning also creates conversation between cross-functional groups that represent municipal officials, residents, non-profits, and others, which was the purpose of the Pitt Water Collaboratory meeting. It is exciting to see the practical application of our plan meeting a need discussed at the quarterly meeting and recognizing the potential to have our plan and group become a best practice for conversations around all water issues.



To learn more about The Pittsburgh Collaboratory for Water at the University of Pittsburgh, visit:
<https://www.water.pitt.edu/>

INNOVATIVE WAYS TO GIVE BACK

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

We are thankful for the committed and growing group of people who choose to support our work by making personal financial contributions. Most of these supporters make standard “cash” donations made through check or credit card.

Depending upon your personal financial situation and goals, there are other creative ways that you can provide financial support now or in the future. Here are some additional opportunities to discuss with your financial advisor, tax professional, or other advisor:

GIFTS OF STOCK

A gift of appreciated stock is a tax-wise way to support ALT because the full value of the stock can be donated without you or ALT paying taxes on its appreciated value.

GIVING FROM A DONOR-ADVISED FUND

Give to ALT during your lifetime from an established donor-advised fund and/or designate ALT as a future beneficiary of your fund.

GIFTS OF LAND

There are many ways for a real estate gift to support ALT's efforts. These include direct conservation of the land if suitable, resale to generate funds (if land is not appropriate for protection), or to generate on-going revenue. Gifted land value is eligible for a federal tax deduction.

BARGAIN SALE OF LAND

Selling your land for less than the appraised value allows ALT to raise grant dollars to pay the balance for the land, and the gifted land value is eligible for a federal tax deduction.

GIFTING FROM YOUR IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you may make direct charitable contributions from your IRA. Legislative changes to the rules governing retirement plans went into effect January 1, so check with your financial planner or tax advisor for details.

ALT AS YOUR BENEFICIARY

Another popular way to make a planned gift is to name ALT a beneficiary of all or a portion of your retirement plan assets, other investments, or bank accounts. It's as simple as filling out a form and can provide tax benefits.

ALT IN YOUR WILL OR REVOKABLE TRUST

Anyone can make a gift in their will or revocable trust. The benefit of this method of giving is that you can make a lasting impact on the future of our region without impacting your immediate finances. You can adjust this pledge of support during your lifetime should circumstances change.

Please note that the above suggestions are not intended to be financial planning, legal, or tax advice. Please consult your planner, lawyer, or accountant to determine if these forms of giving would be appropriate for your circumstances.



A visitor of Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area takes in the scenery of the green space. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Please contact Tom Dougherty, ALT's Vice President of Development, at tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org to discuss possible gifts of these types.

UPCOMING EVENTS

E Education Events

V Volunteer Events



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Getting Little Feet Wet Workshop Upper St. Clair // Verona

May 2 // June 2 // June 18 | 9 am - 3 pm

Join this facilitator-level workshop held in coordination with early childhood experts and educators. Utilizing Project WET's Getting Little Feet Wet early childhood curriculum, the workshop contains 11 interactive, hands-on activities for young learners to explore different aspects of water—from water properties to water sounds. Each activity offers both Pre-K and K-2 options. Registration fee includes a copy of the Getting Little Feet WET Curriculum Guide, 2.0 guide, and CD.

Ages: Educators & Facilitators | Cost: \$15
Act 48 & PA Keys Hours Available



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Bethel Green: Volunteer Kick-Off Bethel Green

May 2 | 10 am - 1 pm

Become a "Friend of Bethel Green": join ALT for the very first volunteer workday at this new green space! We'll manage trash along the trails and analyze next steps for this stunning new green space.

All Ages | Cost: Free to Attend



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Scouts BSA Environmental Science Merit Badge

Wingfield Pines

May 2 | 12 - 5 pm

Scouts can earn their Environmental Science Merit Badge while enjoying the outdoors. Our trained environmental educators can sign blue cards. "Conservation is the duty of every person to learn more about the natural resources on which our lives depend," - Scouts BSA.

Ages: 12-18, Scouts | Cost: \$25/scout



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Scouts BSA Bird Study Merit Badge Wingfield Pines

May 9 | 12 - 5 pm

Scouts can earn their Bird Study Merit Badge while enjoying the trails of Wingfield Pines conservation area, which always hold something new and exciting in nature. Our trained environmental educators can sign blue cards.

Ages: 12-18, Scouts | Cost: \$25/scout



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Fungus Among Us Linbrook Woodlands

May 16 | Hike: 9 am - 12 pm

Ever wonder what that mushroom is you see growing on a log? Join our education team and the Western PA Mushroom Club experts at the Pavilion at Linbrook Woodlands in search of the myriad of fungus species that can be found.

Please keep in mind that although we will be collecting specimens for educational purposes we will not be harvesting for food.

All ages | Cost: \$5



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Twitter in the Trees: Migratory Bird Count Wingfield Pines

May 9 | Hike: 8 - 10 am, Count: 10 am - 4 pm
Become a citizen scientist (no experience required!) as we learn how to use field guides and iNaturalist to identify and catalogue birds. Stick around after the hike from 10 am - 4 pm with the Pittsburgh South Hills Bird Circle & USC Citizens for Land Stewardship as they host a Spring Migratory Bird Count in support of the Audubon Society.

All ages | Cost: \$5

Generous support from PPG has enabled us to provide these one-of-a-kind environmental education programming in 2020.

To register and find more information, visit this case-sensitive link: bit.ly/altoutside



EVENTS & COVID-19 PANDEMIC | The health, wellness, and safety of all ALT visitors, volunteers, and staff are our top priority. As we continue to follow this fluid situation with COVID-19, we will adhere to recommendations from the PA Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control, and local authorities.

At the time this newsletter was created, the above events are scheduled to occur. We'll update event attendees as the situation develops to protect the health and safety of the public. We will make efforts to reschedule events, and cancel when necessary. We look forward to gathering at our green spaces as soon as it's safe to do so. To stay up-to-date, visit: alleghenylantrust.org/coronavirus/



Photo by Caitlin Seiler

Trail Tuesday Series

Dead Man's Hollow

3rd Tuesdays | May - October | 6 - 8 pm

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

All Ages | Cost: Free to Attend

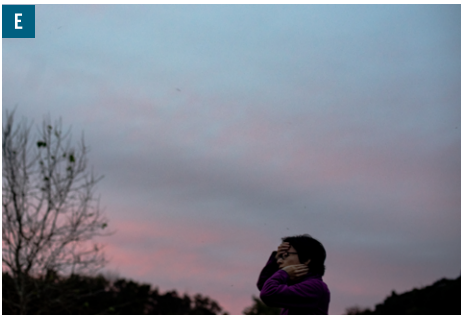


Photo by Lindsay Dill

Starlight Stroll: Summer Solstice

Wingfield Pines

June 20 | 9 - 10 pm

Take advantage of the longest day of the year to see a green space after dark! Topics vary and can include nocturnal and crepuscular creatures, astronomy, lore, and much more!

All Ages | Cost: \$5



Photo by Lindsay Dill

Creek Critters

Wingfield Pines

June 20 | 1 - 3 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 identify their finds and what their finds say about water health. Great for families and community groups.

All ages | Cost: \$5



Photo by Lindsay Dill

Fairy Gardens: Flower & Gardener Badges

Dead Man's Hollow

June 24 | 3 - 6 pm

Girl Scout Juniors can earn their Flower and Gardener badges by building a Fairy Garden" at the Dead Man's Hollow conservation area. Our trained environmental educators will lead this program.

Ages: 9-11, Scouts | Cost: \$20/scout

Elevate Your Commitment to Land Conservation

by Chris Beichner | President & CEO

It is critical for mission-driven organizations to have a high-performing board of directors. We are fortunate to have 18 incredibly talented board members who collectively commit hundreds of volunteer hours every year towards achieving our mission. Beyond the important decisions made by the members at each board meeting, our board provides expert advice on numerous topics, helps connect us with new partners/investors, and works towards the organization's financial solvency.

This June, four board members will move on due to term limits. Those members include our Board Chair Jess Mooney, The Honorable Ken LaSota, Mayor of Heidelberg Borough and RMU Professor, environmentalist and political activist Sue Broughton, and President of The Forbes Funds and non-profit guru Fred Brown. We will sincerely miss their passion, commitment, and enthusiasm for ALT.

These changes mean our Governance Committee is now recruiting top talent to our board. We are looking for diverse candidates with various backgrounds, skill sets, education, interests, and values who have a passion for conservation, stewardship, and STEM-based environmental education. Some responsibilities of a board member include participating in bi-monthly board meetings, joining at least one committee, understanding best practices for nonprofit governance, and contributing financially to the organization. Specifically, we would be very interested in candidates who possess backgrounds in: architecture, historic preservation, marketing, various sciences, local government, engineering, and real estate development.

If you are interested in becoming an ALT Board member and would like to see a copy of the Board job description or would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact Chris Beichner at cbeichner@alleghenylandtrust.org.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jessica Mooney

Chair

David Hunter

Vice Chair

Tony DiTommaso, Esq.

Secretary

Alex Lake, CPA

Treasurer

Sue Broughton

Fred Brown

Daniel Dickerman

Ashley DiGregorio

Beth Dutton

Joanne Foerster

Christine Graziano

Brian Jensen, PhD.

Ken LaSota, PhD.

Emily Mueller, Esq.

Bryan Ritti

Jennifer Thoma

Sally Wade

Edward Weller

STAFF

Chris Beichner

President & CEO

Lindsay Dill

Marketing Communications
Director

Tom Dougherty

Vice President of Development
& External Affairs

Alyson Fearon

Community Conservation Director

Julie Halyama

Development Associate

Guido Girimonti

Land Manager

Roy Kraynyk

Vice President of Land
Protection & Capital Projects

Jaclyn Rosenbaum

Bookkeeper

Emilie Rzotkiewicz

Vice President of Land Resources

Caitlin Seiler

Director of Volunteer &
Land Resources

Julie Travaglini

Education Program Director

Karen Wood, CPA

Shared Chief Financial Officer



ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST

416 Thorn Street, Sewickley,
Pennsylvania 15143
phone 412.741.2750
email info@alleghenylandtrust.org
alleghenylandtrust.org



ABOUT ALT

Allegheny Land Trust is a nationally-accredited land conservation nonprofit that has been helping local people save local land in the Pittsburgh region since 1993.

ALT has protected more than 2,600 acres of green space in dozens of municipalities to preserve our region's unique natural beauty, provide expanded outdoor recreational opportunities, protect and improve water and air quality, sustain biodiversity, and enhance the quality of life for all in our region. ALT's areas of strategic priority include Land Conservation, Land Stewardship, Community Conservation, and Nature-Based Education.

With conservation areas in 31 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.



KEEP IN TOUCH

FOLLOW US:



Please recycle or reuse this newsletter when you're finished — use it as a bathroom companion for reading and for ... toilet paper emergencies. Email us with your creative reuse of Vistas!

Vistas is underwritten by an anonymous donor. Thank you!

©Allegheny Land Trust 2020.

FRONT COVER: A ModCloth employee plants a tree at Wingfield Pines Conservation Area during a corporate volunteer workday.

BACK COVER: A moss-covered shelf mushroom glows in a sunrise the new Girty's Woods Conservation Project.

Photos by Lindsay Dill.



Printed on
Recycled
Material.



EFP's Combined
Federal Code
is 62348