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Dryad's Saddle fungi grow at Wingfield Pines. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



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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 2021 member or donor, but do not see your name listed, please contact us so we can recognize your support. Thank you!





Leaving a Legacy Through Conservation

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

Conservation is a precious gift from those of us here today to those who will be here tomorrow.

With thoughtful consideration and some simple planning, you can give the gift of conservation to future generations through a bequest in your will or by beneficiary designation that will cost you nothing today—because you can hold on to those assets for as long as you need them—but enable Allegheny Land Trust to protect and care for precious local land in the future.

A gift of conservation creates a legacy that empowers you to continue giving to our region's environment, communities, and residents forever.

Please let us know if you're considering or have already decided to support ALT's work of "helping local people save local land" through a bequest in your will or through a beneficiary designation of this nature by contacting us.



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

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FROM THE LAND:

Sentiments From the Community

by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

ne of the most rewarding things about protecting land is the heartfelt responses we receive from the landowners with which we work closely, the community groups that rally around the project and the surrounding neighbors and users of the land that love the results of our work. The following is a sampling of those that we received in 2021.



I love my farm and the woods surrounding it. It would break my heart if it got into the hands of developers– the scourge of the earth! I'm very thankful for Roy Kraynyk and everyone at the Allegheny Land Trust who made sure that would never happen. I know my land and everything on it will be safe forever.

- Joan Goswell Conservation Easement Donor Working with Allegheny Land Trust has been a godsend. They have steered us through the complicated process of establishing a conservation easement and did much of the "heavy lifting". They have the professional ability to work with all sides of an acquisition and make the parties comfortable. Their knowledge of timing and deal making has made our progress on a conservation easement and a land acquisition possible. They really care about not only the environment and land deals but the community as well. Great work ALT!

- Glade Run Lake Conservancy Partners in Land Conservation Projects

We have always enjoyed nature, and saw during Covid how important public parks and other hiking opportunities have been to peoples' wellbeing. We also care deeply about animal welfare. These interests led us to seek to preserve our property with its natural beauty and wildlife habitat. As the property is within an agricultural zone in Indiana Township, the nearness of other similar properties enhances the potential for perpetual preservation. We are grateful to the Land Trust staff for all their work, and for the help and guidance they provided to us.

- Sally & Pat Getty Conservation Easement Donors



Interested in exploring an easement or other conservation options for your land? Contact Roy at rkraynyk@alleghenylandtrust.org. We have wanted to maintain our property in its natural state and avoid future development. Therefore, in December of 2021, we donated a conservation easement on our property to Allegheny Land Trust. Their staff (Roy Kraynyk, Chris Beichner, and Caitlin Seiler) were very professional and easy to work with. Creating a conservation easement document required a few changes to the standard version, but they were very helpful in customizing the easement to our situation. We were also happy to see that their non-profit organization is not in a lavish facility. We plan to include them in our yearly charitable donations.

- Richard S. Chalfant & Family Conservation Easement Donors

STEWARDSHIP

New Projects on Recently-Protected Lands

by Caitlin Seiler | Director of Stewardship & Volunteers

Last spring and summer, our stewardship team dove into the management of two new conservation areas and a unique conservation project. Girty's Woods and Churchill Valley Greenway were protected through the resounding community support and effort of many neighbors. In 2020, the Historic Walker-Ewing Log House was donated to ALT. In addition to national accreditation requirements for baseline stewardship, our team worked with consultants to begin planning efforts for long term management of these green spaces. Each year, April through September are months when our team are most active on lands moving restoration, trail, and other management goals forward. This year, we are excited to move forward on projects on the land and have many opportunities for those who want to get involved at any activity level.



A visitor looks over Chalfant Run at Churchill Valley Greenway. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

CHURCHILL VALLEY GREENWAY

Working with La Quanta Bonci, we have developed a conceptual vision for the long-term future of the Greenway. The goal of this high-level plan was to help direct more in-depth management plans that will be developed over the next few years as funding is available. The next phase of management plans will really direct on the groundwork. In 2022, we can begin trail and invasive management work that is unlikely to be greatly impacted by future planning.



Visitors hike the trails of Girty's Woods conservation area. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

GIRTY'S WOODS

In early 2022, consultants from Western Pa Conservancy and Pashek + MTR completed assessments of Girty's Woods and provided management recommendations focused on volunteer implementation. These recommendations will guide immediate activity to improve access and trail experience at the conservation area and will direct future planning for restoration projects. The final week of April we will kick off three months of volunteer trail activity at Girty's to begin implementation of trail recommendations.



A fall view of the Historic Walker-Ewing Log House. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

HISTORIC WALKER-EWING LOG HOUSE

The only project of this kind for ALT, the Historic Walker-Ewing Log House has provided a new view on conservation and stewardship. Our team is charged with maintaining the house, and this Spring we will be hosting a workday to clean indoors and prepare the surrounding landscape for plantings. That same day, the house will be open for free tours. If you're looking to learn more about volunteering with ALT or meet other volunteers, join us at the Log House for the Volunteer Meetup event.

How Can You Help? ALT get hundreds of offers of volunteer assistance each year from individuals throughout the county. While we try to match each volunteer with an impactful project, sometimes we don't have an active project on your favorite property. The best way to give your time in an effective way is to attend one of our scheduled workdays. Our team has planned these to tackle time sensitive projects and move necessary work forward. We can accomplish great things with 4 people, but we can really knock out a project with 14; so, we hope you and your group will join us!



Find our updated schedule of volunteer events here: alleghenylandtrust.org/events



Growing, Reflecting, and Forging Ahead Together

by Christopher Beichner | President & CEO

ittsburgh is the City of Champions, and because of that tremendous work ethic and winning mindset, I thought many would appreciate this quote from legendary football coach, Vince Lombardi.

"People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses or the problems of modern society."

People who work together will win; and maybe more appropriate for off the field, working together will allow us to reach our goals, be more productive and provide an impact in the community. ALT's successes from 2021 are your successes, and here are a few examples I am proud of:

- Together, we protected about 500 acres across Allegheny and Butler counties, making it the most productive conservation year in our 28-year history. We would not have been able to protect these sensitive green spaces without hundreds of individual supporters and dozens of community and corporate partners. As a result, for the third year in a row, ALT was able to leverage local conservation dollars to attract over \$1 million in state investments back to the Pittsburgh region.
- Together, we have been able to bring our green spaces closer to all Allegheny County residents by conserving land throughout the county. In the last few years, our green spaces have gone from 12 miles to within 8 miles of every resident. Over 1,700 individual members have made this possible, so we recognize, appreciate and thank our members for their support.

Together, we completed two master plans for Churchill Valley Greenway and Meyer Farm. This included countless hours of steering committee meetings, stakeholder charrettes, focus groups, one-on-one conversations, and surveys.

While 2021 was a challenging year, I look forward to the togetherness 2022 will bring. I look forward to going back to more in-person education programs and corporate/group volunteer events. I am eager to work with partners and community leaders to begin implementing our master plans. I look forward to enhanced stewardship activities at our new Girty's Woods Conservation Area. I am excited to see another round of our Sustainability at Home series which has been so well-received. We look forward to protecting more land throughout the region. Finally, I am excited to complete our second national reaccreditation certification and finalizing a revised strategic plan.

Modern society is facing serious challenges - landslides, poor water and air quality, food insecurity, flooding, physical and mental health; and all of these threats are exacerbated by the pandemic and loss of green space.

If you have not yet felt the sense of urgency to reverse these trends, now is the time. Individually and collectively, we can change course locally which will have a positive ripple effect with global climate impacts. We must act now – together – for a resilient community.



Make a difference by donating today: alleghenylandtrust.org/donate



(left corner) The Former Healcrest Urban Farm seal. Courtesy Healcrest Urban Farm. (photo) Fall wildflowers in bloom at the Healcrest site. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Healcrest: ALT's First Completed Urban Land Conservation Project

by Alyson Fearon | Senior Director of Community Conservation & Resiliency

As an organization, we've had some very exciting moments to share with you in the last year - specifically, we have one more major "We did it!" moment to share with you. We closed on Phase 1 of the Healcrest project in the Garfield Neighborhood of Pittsburgh, making this our first official protected green space through our Community Conservation department.

This project was certainly met with several challenges, from fundraising during the pandemic to needing a contract extension, making our "We did it!" moment for this project extra special. We were also very excited to be awarded a \$69,400 grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) 2021 Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) Grants on December 30, 2021. This is our first DCNR grant for green space protection in the Community Conservation program overall.

Since 2019, ALT, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC), and surrounding community members have been working together to permanently protect the green space that was formerly home to the Healcrest Urban Farm. The entirety of the project will protect 1.5 acres and is made up of 15 individual parcels. The land ALT closed on in December is the Phase One and protects 7 of the 15 parcels. The group's draft plans re-imagine the small parcels of farmland as a gathering space for Environmental Charter School (ECS) Middle students, and the surrounding community, that could help preserve the land's organic soils, apple trees and other vital amenities. This vision was guided by the Garfield Green Zone Plan, the Garfield 2030 Plan and the Garfield Community Trail plan, all of which were created by local stakeholders with neighborhood goals in mind.

ALT and a select group of stakeholders - comprised of neighbors of the green space, the BGC, Grounded Strategies, and ECS Middle – worked together to secure the land under contract, draft a vision plan, kick-start fundraising efforts and begin minor site clean-up. Please wait to visit the site, we want to leave space for the trail building project in the neighborhood to get underway this spring!

We have more projects in the works, along with working on Phase Two of this project, and hope to have many more updates to share with everyone this year!



Learn more about the Healcrest project here: alleghenylandtrust.org/healcrest

The ALTeam Grows: Meet Our Newest Staff

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

As we grow our acreage, we're also growing our team to ensure we can continue effectively helping local people save local land. Last year, we welcomed Shelley Harnett and at the start of this year we welcomed Tyler Chilcott and Casey Markle. Their addition will increase our organizational capacity as we continue our growth in acreage and programming across the region. We hope you'll join us in welcoming them to the team.



TYLER CHILCOTT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Tyler utilizes his background in environmental policy and nonprofit fundraising to conceptualize and promote land conservation throughout the Southwest PA region.

Tyler came to Pittsburgh as an Erie transplant after studying Environmental Science and Policy at Allegheny College and the University of Eastern Finland for his undergraduate and graduate degrees. Moving to the City in 2017, Tyler has managed a green infrastructure grant program at PWSA, served as the Development and Marketing Lead at Conservation Consultants, Inc., and, most recently, acted as the Grants Manager at Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh.

Consideration for his overall environmental impact has been ubiquitous throughout Tyler's entire life. From his love of the outdoors, to his oft tiresome need to be always decreasing his everyday footprint, Tyler feels truly at home with ALT. When not at work, Tyler enjoys writing, playing basketball, shooting pool, singing karaoke, and calling movies "films".



SHELLEY HARNETT Development Associate

Shelley organizes and nurtures the organization's database and relationships with members and donors. When Shelley joined ALT in 2021, she was effusive: "In my 15+ years of working with nonprofits, I've never met an organization as capable, effective, and inspiring as ALT. I'm so happy to be a part of this extraordinary team."

Her background is steeped in Pittsburgh neighborhoods, community development, and nonprofit management consulting with Dewey & Kaye and the Community Technical Assistance Center. Shelley studied English Literature and Cinema at Denison University, but through the lens of ecology and the human relationship to the natural world. Her own relationship with the natural world is as an outdoors-woman, wildlife gardener, and community activist.

ALT has nearly 2,000 active members; and if you're one of them, there's a good chance you'll connect with Shelley because she will very likely be on the other end of your phone call or email to ALT. Reach out to her at any time.



CASEY MARKLE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATE

Casey assists the team in multi-departmental functions, ensures national land trust accreditation compliance, assists in grant applications, and supports ALT events.

Casey has a multidisciplinary background stemming from experiences in environmental education, laboratory and field analysis, and environmental consulting. Casey is a graduate of Saint Vincent College, devoting much of his research to abandoned mine drainage and eutrophication. Casey also worked with animals, assisted environmental education programs, and promoted stewardship through his time at Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve. Among these experiences, Casey was honored the Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania's David A. Long Scholarship in 2018, is certified in Wetland Delineation through training at Gailey Environmental, and has applied ecological reef and watershed studies abroad in Australia through the School for Field Studies program. Before coming to ALT, Casey conducted Phase I Environmental Site Assessments across the country with Atlas Technical Consultants in Pittsburgh.

In his free time, Casey plays the oboe, enjoys spending time outside, and he is a big fan of the Pittsburgh Penguins!

Photo courtesy of Casey Markle.



Featured Supporter: KATLE PERROTTI

(left) Self-Proclaimed "Feral Outdoor She-Beast" Katie Perrotti volunteers during a tree planting. (right) Perrotti and her daughter enjoy a scenic view from Bethel Green. (below) Perrotti's daughter on an old slag heap at Bethel Green. Photos courtesy of Perrotti.

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

As a teenager, Katie Perrotti spent time at home, school, her job at Borders, and her second home at "The Slag Dumps" – a former mine waste site that was slowly being reclaimed by nature, now known as "Bethel Green Conservation Area". "Bethel Green is a near-and-dear outdoor place to me," Perrotti said. "And I loved being able to explain to my kids why it was so special for mommy to be part of protecting it."

"Growing up, every kid has a sort of stomping grounds; The Slag Dumps were mine. For a while, I basically lived there when I wasn't at school or work," Perrotti said. "The woods feels like home to me. Back then, my friends and I would camp there overnight and watch the sunrise."

Coming from a very "indoors family", Perrotti was inspired by the contrast of the woods' wildness; and when she eventually joined the Girl Scouts, she had the chance to connect with and learn more about this wildness. While she had been developing an affinity for the outdoors, she attributes the root of her love for the outdoors to her Girl Scout Troop leader who ensured their troop took camping trips and got their hands dirty.

"I feel so lucky that we were one of few scout troops that still camped and still do – because I'm the troop leader now," Perrotti said. "When I was 18, I became a Girl Scout Leader, a mom, and a wife all in one year."

Perrotti's love for the outdoors only grew as her family did, and she ensures her scouts and her family connect with the outdoors frequently. She took her kids to Bethel Green often, warning them – each time the land changed hands - that the land could become houses in a few years. So, when Perrotti learned of Allegheny Land Trust's campaign to protect the land forever, she jumped into action helping to raise funds and awareness for the project.



Since the land's protection, Perrotti has volunteered along Bethel Green's trails weekly helping to install and update signage, clear trails, manage native and invasive species, and to remove trash. She is often hauling a wheelbarrow via a climbing harness, covered in mud, and beaming a big smile as she improves Bethel Green.

When she is not maintaining and improving the space, she's enjoying it. Perrotti loves to geocache, run, and hike at Bethel Green, other ALT green spaces, and on wild lands across the region. In addition to being a mother to six kids, leading a Girl Scout troop, and volunteering with ALT, Perrotti spends her time volunteering with her kids' schools, lending a hand at community clean-

up days, and – if she must be indoors – playing her baby grand piano.

"I'm a feral outdoor she-beast—I'm into any activity that puts me outside," Perrotti said. "The outdoors has been so therapeuticit's such a big part of my life. I want to pass that onto another generation, which I try to do as a Scout Leader. I feel like it's my job because it was so important that it was passed along to me to me. Even if 1 or 2 girls find meaning in it, that would mean everything to me."



To donate or learn more about Bethel Green, visit alleghenylandtrust.org/green-space/bethel-green



more to learn

Five Things to Look Forward to from the ALT Education Team This Year

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

1. Sustainability at Home Series Courtesy of generous funding from EQT Foundation, you can learn how to live a more sustainable lifestyle at home through one of our six workshops in this series.

2. New Scout Lessons

We're updating our Boy and Girl Scout offerings to reflect new badges and programs in each organization.

3. Celebrating Biodiversity Days We'll have new programs around Pollinator Week, Moth Week, and more.

4. Climate-Themed Professional Development

Educators can earn continuing education hours for learning how to teach and talk about climate in their classrooms.

5. New Webinar Topics

From moths to bees and bats, we'll continue our online learning with new topics throughout the year.



(left) A father and son enjoy ALT programming at Audubon Greenway. (below) Attendees of a First Friday Hike examine macroinvertebrates in a stream at Devil's Hollow conservation area. Photos by Lindsay Dill.



Considering Community

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

hat is a community? Ecologically speaking, a community is the interacting species that live in the same geographical area. The birds, insects, fungi, and plants (and everything else!) are all members of the ecological communities at our green spaces. From a social standpoint, a community is a group of people with similar shared interests and values that interact within a place. What or whom do I consider in my community? Well, my community consists of all of you!

From the hundreds of you that have watched our webinars and the mushroom hunters that have climbed hillsides in search of morels, to the birdwatchers, paranormal investigators, starlight strollers, and everyone else that came out to our 2021 programs, YOU are my community - my like-minded, nature-loving, alwayslearning community. And for you all, I am so grateful. We couldn't do what we do at ALT without supporters like you.

Looking forward to the rest of 2022, we have a full slate of programs from old favorites to totally new themes and programs. We'll celebrate pollinators and rivers, as well as learn how to live sustainably. Aside from our wonderful individual supporters and donors, we also have sponsors for our 2022 educational programs to thank for making these programs possible.

All of our 2022 community programs are being brought to you courtesy of the generous funding from **Duquesne Light Company**. Their support allows us to offer new events, as well as keep our admission fees consistently low year after year. Our brand new series of six workshops called Sustainability at Home has been funded by **EQT Foundation**. Their support allows ALT to provide over \$100 of materials for sustainable living to each participant at each workshop. Additionally, **Public Lands** has funded all 2022 programming at Churchill Valley Greenway.

Truly, we could not continue to provide the environmental education programming that you've grown to love without their support. I hope you're off to a happy and healthy new year, and we'll see you at our programs!

Allegheny Land Trust

E Education Events

V Volunteer Events



First Friday Series May 6 | 10 - 11:30 am | Barking Slopes June 3 | 10 - 11:30 am | Churchill Valley Greenway July 8 | 10 - 11:30 am | Audubon Greenway

Start off each new month with an ALT First Friday Hike! This monthly event series invites explorers to enjoy and learn about an ALT green space with an environmental educator. April's hike will focus on using iNaturalist; May's will explore native wildflowers; June's will visit pollinators and wildflowers; and July's will tune into the sights and sounds of summer. Each hike's content is unique to the educator, attendees, and green space - so join us once or join us every month!

All Ages | Cost: \$5



Trail Workday Bethel Green April 2 | 10 am - 12 pm

Join the ALT Stewardship team and fellow volunteers as we work to maintain and improve Bethel Green Conservation Area. This workday will focus on maintaining the main loop of trail. Along a guided hike of the trail, we'll trim back growth, remove debris, and share skills and needs for maintaining the trail throughout the year.

All Ages | Cost: Free to Attend



Spring Cleaning Volunteer Day Historic Walker-Ewing Log House

April 10 | 10 am - 2 pm

Join ALT for Spring Cleaning at the Historic Walker-Ewing Log House. We'll work on cleaning inside the house and landscaping around the house to prep for plantings from 10 am - 12 pm, and the Log House will be open for tours, running every half hour as visitors arrive from 10 am - 2 pm.

All Ages | Cost: Free



Webinar Series April 20 | City Nature Challenge Prep May 4 | Spring Wild Edibles June 8 | Common Backyard Mushrooms June 22 | All About Bees July 27 | Magnificent Moths August 17 | Snakes of PA

Looking to learn more about the outdoors? Join our environmental education team for webinars on a variety of topics relating to the natural world around us. Each webinar will feature a presentation on a different topic and will leave time for attendees to ask questions on or relating to that topic. These lessons are a great way to continue our nature knowledge from home, work, or wherever you have an internet connection. Each lesson runs from 5 to 5:45 pm

All Ages | Cost: Free



Workday Series: Girty's Woods Girty's Woods April 23 10 am - 1 pm
May 5 5:30 - 7:30 pm
May 26 5:30 - 7:30 pm
June 2 5:30 - 7:30 pm
June 30 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Last year, the communities of Reserve, Millvale, Shaler, and beyond came together to help protect Girty's Woods forever. We were successful in our efforts to save the land, and now it's time to make the woods accessible and enjoyable by improving the trails! Join us on April 23 for the workday series kick-off, and join us throughout the spring and summer as we focus on clean-up efforts, implement aspects of a trail plan, and conduct property maintenance and improvement activities.

All Ages | Cost: Free



Invasive Removal Workday Barking Slopes May 6 | 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Join the ALT Stewardship team and fellow volunteers as we work to improve and maintain the Barking Slopes Conservation Area. This workday will focus on identifying and removing invasive plants to improve habitat.

All Ages | Cost: Free



Educator Workshop: Project WET - Climate, Water, and Resilience Ohio Township Nature Center

May 21 | 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Join us in this specialty Project WET educator workshop focused on teaching climate and resilience topics to youth. We'll explore lesson plans and activities as well as resources for approaching climate issues in the classroom. Participants will receive the internationally acclaimed Project WET 2.0 guide as well as the Climate, Water and Resilience guide. A grant from Project WET and ee360+ made this workshop possible by providing the guides and resources.

Ages: Adults & Educators | Cost: \$15

*ACT 48 Credits are available for an additional \$7 fee.



Starlight Stroll: Summer Solstice Audubon Greenway June 21 | 9 - 10 pm

Join an ALT Environmental Educator on a sunset hike celebrating the Summer Solstice! Learn solstice history and folklore and hopefully catch a glimpse of fireflies lighting up the Audubon Greenway meadows.





World Migratory Bird Day Wingfield Pines

May 14 | 8 - 10 am

Join ALT education staff in learning about World Migratory Bird Day while participating in the Spring Migratory Bird Count. Attendees will learn how to spot, identify, and log species of birds they spot at Wingfield Pines.

All Ages | Cost: \$5



Mushroom Identification Hike June 16 | Dead Man's Hollow July 6 | Linbrook Woodlands August 12 | Bethel Green

Join us mushroom hikes with Western PA Mushroom Club (WPMC). Attendees will learn how to spot and identify common local fungi. Please note we will NOT be foraging on these hikes. The June and July hikes run from 5:30 -7:30 pm; August's hike runs from 1 - 3 pm. All Ages | Cost: \$5



Pollinator Appreciation Hike Churchill Valley Greenway June 25 | 10 - 11:30 am

In celebration of Pollinator Week June 20-25th, join an ALT Educator for a walk through Churchill Valley Greenway's vast meadows in search of our pollinating friends. You might be surprised at just how many types of pollinators there are!

All Ages | Cost: \$5

For registration & more information, visit: alleghenylandtrust.org/events

Our 2022 community program rates are made possible by generous sponsorships by EQT Foundation, Duquesne Light Company, and Public Lands.

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ALLEGHENY

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 3,500 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 32 municipalities, there is now an ALT conservation project within 10 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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Vistas is underwritten by an anonymous donor. Thank you!

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FRONT COVER: A honeybee feeds on native white clover.

BACK COVER: A morel fruits at an ALT conservation area.

Photos by Lindsay Dill.







EFP's Combine Federal Code is 62348