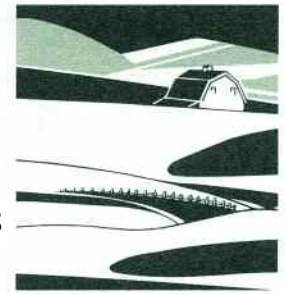


# Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County

## PRESERVATION QUARTERLY

Summer 2008



### GREETINGS FROM THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST members,

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for selecting me as the new Executive Director and the many members who offered encouragement throughout the hiring process. I am excited to serve in this vital role in shaping the future and preserving the charm of York County.

I use the term 'charm' as I find that to be true of York County. Without our natural landscapes and farmland, what really makes York County all that great?

Prior to my start at FNLTL, my girlfriend Laura and I had the fortune of spending some time traveling in Ireland. We started our trip in Dublin where one thing was clear, the charm of Ireland is not found in the big city but in the smaller cities, villages and long stretches of open land. Now don't get me wrong, Dublin is worth the experience, but when you picture Ireland you think of castles, sheep, cattle, stone walls and of course, green landscape (hence being dubbed the Emerald Isle). Once we hopped on the train and headed west, it was clear we were in Ireland.

The same can be said for the USA; we have the big cities but then we also have wonderful historic communities. You can travel in any direction to discover untouched landscape and rich farmlands that have long been the backbone of our country. You would be hard pressed to find a better example of this than right in our own backyard here in York County.

Thank you for your continued support of the FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST as we preserve the charm of our home here in York County. I look forward to working with you and hope to see you on Saturday, October 11th at Family Fun Day at South Branch Farm. If you can't make it, please feel free to drop me a line and introduce yourself by emailing [skenny@farmtrust.org](mailto:skenny@farmtrust.org).

Take care,



*Sean P. Kenny*



***SAVE THE DATE for THURSDAY DECEMBER 11, 2008!***

***Why? We cannot move our lips to tell you just yet, but join us at our Family Fun Day on October 11th and be among the first to learn what the laughter is all about.***



Farm & Natural Lands Trust is a private non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization recognized by the IRS as a qualified recipient of land conservation interests. Contributions to F&NLT are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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**Our goal is  
 to protect 10,000  
 acres by 2010!**

To contact us:  
 717-843-4411  
[info@farmtrust.org](mailto:info@farmtrust.org)



**Saturday,  
 October 11  
 10:00 - 3:00**

**at South Branch Farms**

*Benefits the Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County*

**Children's Activities**

**Horse Shows**

**Hay Rides**

**Bird Dog Demos**

**Helicopter Tours**

**Pony Rides**

**4-H Petting Zoo**

**Meet Boo the Buffalo**

**Antique Tractors**

**Food and Live Music**

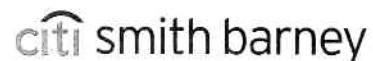
**Plus special guest Jack Hubley from WGAL at 11:00 and 1:00!**  
 Sponsored by Penn Waste

**Directions:**

From Leader Heights Road, turn left onto S. George St. Make a right onto Reynolds Mill Road and follow the event signs for approximately 2.8 miles.



**Admission just \$10 per carload and includes many free activities!**



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 Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

## LANDOWNER HOSTS PARTY FOR TRUST

by Leslie Bentz

A special thank you to Mary and Jeremy Barnes for inviting land preservationists to tour their property on June 18, 2008 and witness how their support ensures the quality of life in York County.

The Barnes' 54-acre preserved property enhances the western portion of Springfield Township with its 18th century brick farmhouse, gently rolling hills, agricultural land, woodlands, and stream. Its diverse composition provides unbounded protection of relatively natural habitats of fish, wildlife, and plants.

If you too are interested in joining the Barnes' by preserving your property to share with others, so that they may gain insight into how their support benefits land preservation in York County, please visit the Trust's website at [www.farmtrust.org](http://www.farmtrust.org) or call the office at 843-4411.

## GOOD NEWS ON CONSERVATION EASEMENT TAXATION

by Timothy H. Sutherland CFP®, CPA

There is great news regarding income tax benefits for conservation easements to share. After much political wrangling, the enhanced income tax deduction for easement donors was reinstated as part of the 2008 Farm Bill that became law earlier this year. These tax incentives, first introduced for the 2006-2007 tax years, was a big help in increasing the number of conservation easements, both in York County and nationwide. The enhanced deductions expired for several months in early 2008, but were renewed retroactively such that there will be no gap in eligibility in 2008.

Now, for tax years 2008 and 2009, an easement donor can deduct from their federal income tax the market value of their donated easement, which is the difference between the property's fair value and its restricted value. The deduction can reach 50% of their adjusted gross income in any given year. However, a qualifying farmer/rancher (landowner with > 50% of annual income generated from farming) can deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income for an easement donation— a one-of-a-kind tax break!

In addition, the new law extends the period that a donor can carry-forward the unused tax deduction for up to 15 years – 16 years total. Conservation easement donations are subject to the same easement definitions and restrictions as before.

Great tax benefits are the icing on the cake for landowners interested in preserving York County for the enjoyment of future generations. Call the FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST office at 717-843-4411 to learn more about conservation easements and how we can help you preserve your wealth and some of York County at the same time.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

*You don't have to be a member of the Trust's Board of Directors to serve on a committee. Call the Trust office at 843-4411 to find out more information about our committees. You can have fun, help save York County's landscape and make new friends!*

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2007-08 CORPORATE SPONSORS

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