

PRESERVATION

Views

VOLUME 6

FARM & NATURAL
LANDS TRUST
OF YORK COUNTY



SPRING 2024





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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 FNLТ are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST has preserved more than 14,500 acres to date.

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VOLUME 5



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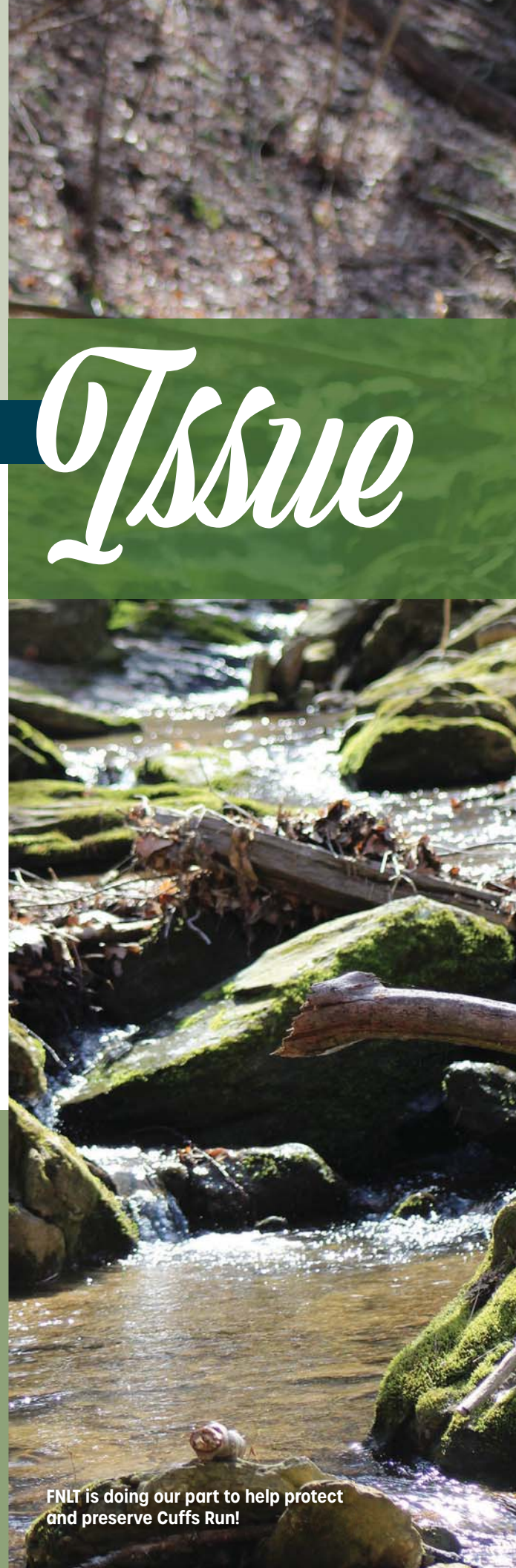
Save the Dates:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

14th Sasquatch 5 & 10 K Trail Run

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

15th FNLТ Clay Shoot presented by York Ag



FNLТ is doing our part to help protect and preserve Cuffs Run!

Join us for the

**2024 FNL
Annual Meeting
& Give Local York**

by Sean P. Kenny



Spring is upon us and we're ready to come out of hibernation! On Thursday, May the 2nd from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, we hope you can join us for an evening celebrating recent and future success of FNL at our 2024 Annual Meeting. This year, we're venturing to Felton, to one of my many favorite places - Heartwood Nursery & Nature Preserve.

Heartwood Nursery & Nature Preserve joined the FNL family in 2013, when owner Sue Hunter placed this special place under conservation easement. Here you'll discover an incredible array of native plants, trees and shrubs that can work for landowners of any size. **The retail store will be open, so it's a perfect time to commemorate your support of FNL by bringing something home for your yard - that way you'll always think of FNL as you watch it flourish!**

Heartwood Nursery & Nature Preserve will be serving samples of their famous Serviceberry Wine. Plus we'll have some other snacks, water and soft drinks available to hold you over until dinner, including a selection of NA (non-alcoholic) microbrews courtesy of our friends at Brewery Products!

As you explore the landscape, you'll find a forest of mature hardwoods that has been complimented by areas reforested with native species indigenous to the location. Across the property are display gardens showcasing varied species, plus storm-water management areas highlight plantings that reduce rainwater runoff and erosion. Beautiful pollinator meadows are planted that increase habitat for birds, pollinating insects, bats and wildlife. Stroll through the mature grove of over 125 Serviceberry trees and collections of large, uncommon specimen trees and shrubs, most notably Hollies (Sue's specialty!). Any of these are likely perfect for a yard of any size!

This is a free event for current and future FNL supporters. Use the envelope with this newsletter to send a registration, or you can register online at farmtrust.org, or go ahead and email me at skenny@farmtrust.org.



Don't forget - the FNLTY Annual Meeting is also the kickoff of FNLTY's participation in Give Local York on Friday, May 3rd - support FNLTY in advance or in person at the Annual Meeting. Give Local York is one of FNLTY's most important fundraising days of the year. Every dollar of support goes directly to FNLTY's land preservation efforts across York County.

Please use the enclosed envelope to show your support, or go online to farmtrust.org or givelocalyork.org on May 2nd and 3rd to show your love for FNLTY!

FNLTY'S GIVE LOCAL YORK BIG GIVE DAY DONATION FORM

All support of FNLTY goes directly to our important agricultural and environmental preservation work. We make your support of any amount go a long way, as preservation is important now, and for generations to come.

AME: _____

HONE: _____

MAIL: _____

Contribution Amount: _____ Check Credit Card: Visa MC

Name on Card: _____

Number: _____ Exp: _____ Security Code: _____

**FARM & NATURAL
LANDS TRUST**
OF YORK COUNTY



A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free within PA: 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Contributions can be made online May 2 & 3 at farmtrust.org or givelocalyork.org!

Honoring John Linton, Long Time FNLТ Board of Director

by Shanna Terroso, Executive Officer,
REALTORS Association of York & Adams County (RAYAC)

REALTORS® just don't sell homes, we sell communities, and we give back to our community every year. Many RAYAC members volunteer serving our community, making a great place to live, work, play and learn.

It was an honor to present John Linton the RAYAC Community Service Award, earned through outstanding contributions of a REALTOR® to his/her local community, as well as being an active member of the RAYAC.

With 37 years of RAYAC membership, John Linton consistently devoted time and energy to many initiatives, serving on numerous committees for multiple years. John is a past recipient of the REALTOR® of the Year award and is a Past President of our organization. John also teaches our new member Code of Ethics training.

John's commitment to land preservation is evident through over 20 years of service on the FNLТ Board of Directors, including a long tenure as Special Events Committee Chair. John helped shape events including the Downtown Hoedown, Clay Shoot and Sasquatch Trail Run, among others. He was everywhere – logistics, parking cars, set up to tear down, etc.

John has offered assistance to landowners in the conservation easement process. Almost ten years ago, a rather large farm was donated in full to FNLТ, and he volunteered to assist in the sale of the property – then donated back his proceeds. That sale started a new endowment – a transformative time for the organization.

Also worthy, the Linton home property was preserved with FNLТ many years ago, further showing his commitment to land conservation.

Those who know him will tell you he is one of the most reliable people you'll ever meet. Thank you John for your service to FNLТ and earning the Community Service Award. It is our pleasure to give a \$500 donation to FNLТ in John's name.



A Piece of the Preservation Puzzle

by Anna Levitsky

Driving around York County, it's hard not to notice and admire some of the beautiful farms that span our landscape. As a native York Countian, I continue to find comfort in knowing that many of the farms and woodlands I grew up admiring are now preserved through FNLTI and the County Ag Preservation Board. Today, I consider myself fortunate, through my role with FNLTI, to have the gratifying opportunity to get to know some of the faces, memories & history behind the properties that many appreciate from afar.

A perfect example of this is the Dougherty farm that was recently preserved with FNLTI. If you're like me, you may have driven through Lower Chanceford, having passed by and admired this 48-acre farm that contributes to the scenic views of the area.

Lorraine Dougherty and her late husband Donald purchased the property in 1965 for a mere \$14,500. Donald dreamed of living close to a stream and with the Muddy Creek confluence just down the road, he knew he had found the right place to raise their three daughters (Lorene, Ellen and Rebecca).

Once owned by Guinston U.P. Church as a parsonage, the property transitioned to a homestead during the Dougherty's ownership. "We had a huge garden, and mom would can or freeze anything and everything. What we didn't grow ourselves, we would buy or pick locally." Lorene continued to share fond memories of growing up with an array of animals, including horses,



ponies, guinea fowl, chickens, goats, dogs and cats. Their goat, named "Bill," eventually had three babies. "Dad built a milking stand and would milk the goats. Our mom used to drink the milk." Tucked within the wooded area on the far side of the property is a beautiful grove of mountain laurels. Enjoyed by the Dougherty family throughout every season, their blooms were eagerly anticipated each spring.

Similar to many other landowners, the Dougherty family knew it was time to decide the future of the property, and ultimately decided on preservation. "It is very satisfying to feel that you're doing a good thing. The right thing."

Lorraine, Lorene, Ellen and Rebecca- Thank you, from all of us at FNLTI, for honoring your land with the legacy of preservation. I, for one, am looking forward to admiring your farm for years to come!

Miller Plant Farm

Preserving Over a Century in Agriculture

by Dave Miller

Photos by FNL



The original **Miller Farm** on Indian Rock Dam Road, consisting of about 27 acres, was purchased on April 1st, 1912, by my great grandfather Howard Miller. My grandfather Jacob was a good businessman and soon acquired several neighboring farms. Jacob also built the first greenhouse in 1929 to grow vegetable transplants as opposed to starting with seed in the field, giving him a 3–4 week advantage over his competition at the local farmers' markets in York. Other farmers asked him to supply transplants and that is how the greenhouse end of the business got started. My father

John and my mother **Betty** are responsible for much of the growth in the greenhouse business. I am the 4th generation; my son **Dustyn**, my daughter **Courtney Fauth** and my nephew **Steven Slyder** represent the 5th generation to till the same soil.

Today we grow about 50 acres of vegetables each season, still producing vegetable transplants for commercial growers in PA and beyond, as well as home gardeners. It seems that each generation is responsible for major steps in growing the business. On April 1st, 2011, the present-day garden center opened and gave us a modern facility to sell our products. My wife **Diane** managed the store part of the garden center until her passing in 2018. My daughter Courtney left her job to come back to the farm and take her place. It is a blessing to see the next generation step up and take pride in the family business!

Our busiest time is the month of May with plant sales at the garden center and planting season on the farm. Homegrown produce sales begin in late May through November. Much of our produce is sold through a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) which we have grown from 100 members in 2012 to now over 600 members.

The **Snyder Farm**, consisting of just under 100 acres, which we recently preserved with FNLTY, was purchased by Miller Plant Farm on July 13, 1998. The farm was owned by **Luther and Viola Snyder** who were retiring. It is located between the original **Miller Farm** and the **Keeney Farm** at 194 Indian Rock Dam Road. The Keeney Farm came up for sale in 2021.

Paul Keeney's wish was that it remains in farming, so we encouraged him to preserve it with FNLTY. Doing so not only fulfilled his wish; it also was a great benefit to him for tax purposes. His farm totaled 114 acres and was more than any of the neighbors wanted to buy, so a group consisting of **Perrydell, Keel-Mar** and **Miller Plant Farm** agreed to purchase the farm and divide it. The process was complicated but was done without any disagreements among the three parties, which we were told that fact alone was somewhat rare!

These properties are located less than 2 miles from the **Leader Heights interchange of Interstate 83** and are certainly prime for development. The Keeney Farm and the Snyder Farm make up a total of over **200 contiguous acres preserved by FNLTY** in York Township for generations to come.

The north end of the Snyder farm offers a beautiful view of York County that stretches all the way to **Ski Roundtop**. Several spring fed streams originate on the property adding to its beauty. Wildlife is abundant and the wooded areas offer great habitat. Most of the tillable land is rented to Perrydell to help feed their dairy herd. Miller Plant Farm uses about four acres with the best view for our "pick your own pumpkin" patch that we give wagon rides to during our **Fall Festival** events.

When I look at a map of York County, I see that the city of York and its suburbs have expanded in all directions except southwest where our farms lie. The rolling hills of York County are too beautiful to lose to development. Open space is a blessing for all to enjoy.

Preservation with FNLTY has been a very good experience. There were many discussions among the family and FNLTY to make sure it was a good fit for Miller Plant Farm and our neighbors. **Personally, I have many pleasant memories of roaming these properties for over sixty years. My wish is that it remains unspoiled for generations to come.**



ABOVE: (L to R): Christy Miller, Dustyn Miller, Courtney Fauth, Dave Miller, Kandi Snyder & Steve Snyder



2024 Events

by Anna Levitsky



PRESENTED BY:

Glatfelter
INSURANCE GROUP
An AIG company

Questions & requested topics you would like to learn about are encouraged and can be sent in advance of the events to Anna at alevitsky@farmtrust.org. Sturdy shoes and appropriate outdoor attire are recommended. FREE for FNLTLandowners, low cost registration for FNLTL supporters and guests - visit www.farmtrust.org to register.

Sustainable Forestry & Timber Harvesting 101

Tuesday, June 11 at 5:30pm (Rain Date: Tuesday, July 2 at 5:30pm)

Here's a new opportunity to learn the foundations of forest management from local industry professionals. DCNR Service Forester, Matt Kern will cover the principles, challenges, and practices used to manage forests. Tyler Ampacher, owner of Timber Ridge Forestry, will share his experience and offer into timber harvesting and sales. The event takes place at FNLTLandowner Doug Stambaugh's Spring Grove property. Doug's dedication to restoring the land and commitment to stewardship has transformed this property to what it is today. Regardless of your property size, this is a great opportunity to hear from a variety of forestry professionals.

Positive, Healthy Benefits of Utilizing Native Species for Garden/Land Management

Thursday, June 20 at 5:30pm (Rain Date: Sunday, June 23 at 10am)

Join FNLTL at Heartwood Nursery as owner Sue Hunter discusses the use of native plants in garden/landscape to protect and preserve our natural environment. Topics such as wildlife management & pollinator species, water conservation, preventing and controlling invasives, and native alternatives in place of commonly sold invasives will be discussed. Sue will also help identify and give recommendations for unknown plants growing on your property - bring the specimen samples in a sealed bag. Heartwood's retail store will be open with items available for purchase. Specializing in American Holly species production, Heartwood has been propagators of nursery stock since 1988, focusing on native trees, shrubs, perennials, and a few select non-native species.

Exploring Stream Restoration Opportunities

Thursday, July 18 at 5:00pm (Rain Date: Sunday, July 21 at 3pm)

Perhaps you've heard about the significant federal, state, and local funding aimed at improving watershed health? Millions of tax-dollars are committed to improving the water quality within York County. FNLTL and landowners can play a part! Join Sean Kenny of FNLTL, Jon Kasitz (of RES) and Tod Klunk (FNLTLandowner) on site where a water quality improvement project will be located. We'll gather at the beautiful Klunk farmstead near Felton to learn plans for this large stream and wetland restoration project. Construction will begin in the next 12-18 months, so this is a chance to see what is in need of - and qualifies for - restoration. The restoration project is the culmination of 3-4 years of coordination between FNLTL, the Klunk family and RES, with the catalyst being a new water quality funding source through PENNVEST.



Signs of Spring's Arrival

on FNLТ Landscapes

by Sean P. Kenny

In early March, my wife ventured on her morning run... in the dark, in the rain on a slightly warmer morning (if you know runners, you know!). Near the house, peepers were in full peeping mode, which we've grown to love the sound of over the years. She decided to walk over with her flashlight to look for frogs, when suddenly she saw something unexpected – salamanders! **Spotted salamanders, to be exact.** She said there were so many of them, it looked like the water was moving.

Arriving at the FNLТ office, I told **Anna** what was seen, and she sent me a great article (see the FNLТ Facebook page for a post with video and links!) on how these guys make their way down from the woods to reproduce on the year's first warm and wet days.

Later after dark, the whole family ventured out in the rain with flashlights to look – we weren't disappointed! Before our eyes there were dozens and dozens of salamanders ranging up to eight inches long. Our kids were amazed and freaked out!

This became an obsession of mine, venturing morning and night to see what was going on while getting my ears rung by peepers (the sound is much.... sweeter from far away, haha). I, of course, had to tell some FNLТ supporters who I knew would take great interest. **Rodger & Priscilla Waldman** (featured with their property in our **Spring 2023 Preservation Views** newsletter) made the trip up and were tickled to see spotted salamanders thriving so well.

See the photos with various egg masses (green and blue are frog eggs, the white cotton masses are the salamanders) and the salamanders in action. If you hear peepers, check the pools of water and see the miracle of nature – whatever is there is worth the enjoyment! If there's white cotton looking egg masses, a warm rainy night is best to see spotted salamanders. Hopefully with this onset of cold weather, the eggs will be okay. I'll be checking on them!





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