

# PRESERVATION QUARTERLY

*Summer 2019*



Farm & Natural  
Lands Trust of  
York County

- p2. FNLT'S 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING*
- p3. 2019 GIVE LOCAL YORK RESULTS*
- p4. **FIRST AMISH FARM PRESERVED***
- p7. PRESERVATION WORKS FOR YORK*



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 FNLTr are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

### Board of Directors 2019

J.T. Hand – *President*

David M. Davidson, Jr. – *Vice President*

Felicia Dell – *Secretary*

D. Hunter Mink – *Treasurer*

Sarah Brown

Sarah Doyle

Paul Heffelfinger

John Linton

Scott Michael

Christian Miller

Greg Myers

Jamie Reid

Paddy Rooney

Matthew Scarpato

Tom Warman

### Staff

Sean P. Kenny – *Executive Director*

Rochelle Black – *Operations Manager*

Tim Bupp – *Solicitor*

The FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST has preserved over 11,000 acres to date.

To contact us:  
717.843.4411

[skenny@farmtrust.org](mailto:skenny@farmtrust.org)

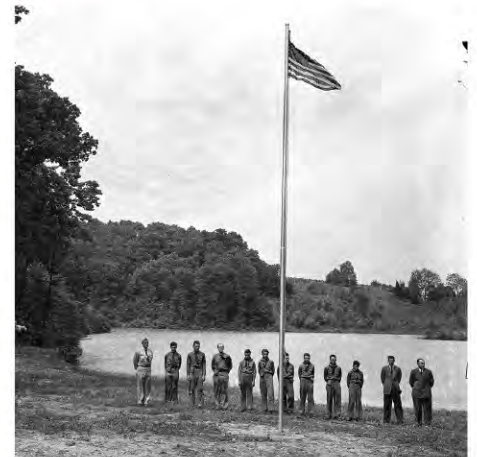
## FNLTr'S 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Early May brought back to back days of activity for FNLTr. First, we held our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the newly preserved Lake Club in Spring Grove. A brief rain storm swept through in the early afternoon, before a nice crowd of FNLTr supporters enjoyed a beautiful Spring evening in and around the clubhouse, which has been renovated by owners Larry & Loretta 'Peach' Redding to become a special event venue.

Guests enjoyed photos courtesy of the Spring Grove Area Historical Preservation Society which showed photos of the lake being built and filled, the clubhouse under construction, swimmers and sunbathers of all ages enjoying the grounds, and the Boy Scout camp in action.

The new decks overlook where the lake used to sit. That area now has creek meandering through a significant wildlife area, which is then bordered by woodland of much older growth. It creates a great backdrop of the Redding's land – they now own three preserved parcels containing over 250 acres. We have a strong feeling that number will grow again in 2019 – so stay tuned to future issues for more news! Thank you Larry and Peach for hosting us and all the land you steward.

**Save the date of Thursday, April 30 for our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – location to be announced, but we promise you'll love it!**



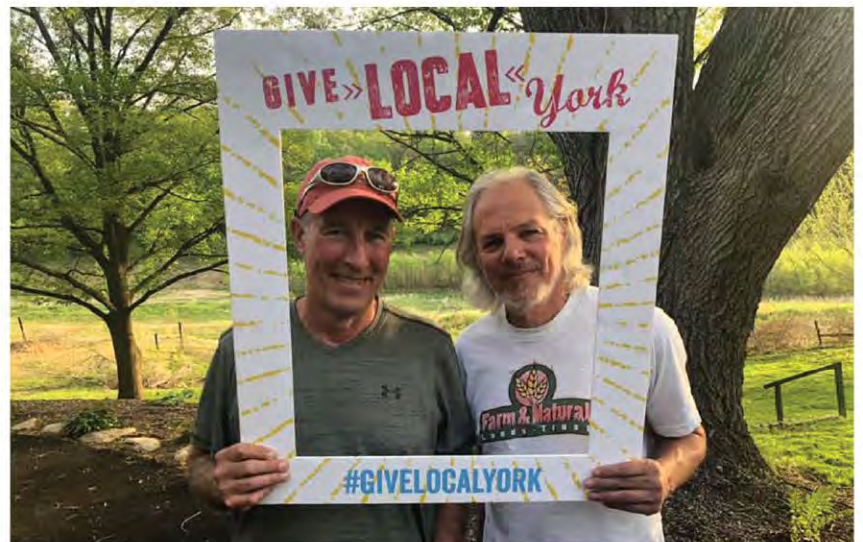
Photos by Spring Grove Area Historical Preservation Society

# 2019 FNLTY GIVE LOCAL YORK BIG GIVE DAY RESULTS

FNLTY holds their Annual Meeting the night before Big Give Day to help drum up excitement for this 24-hour fundraising marathon for non-profits throughout York County. We're proud to say we did quite well!

Over 100 donors contributed over \$20,000 in support – putting FNLTY in the top 10% out of all non-profits for total raised and number of donors. In addition, those strong numbers got FNLTY an additional \$2,000 in Give Local York stretch pool funds. Note with a small staff and dedicated volunteers, that makes a huge boost for our year.

Thank you to everyone! We received many new supporters and we're excited to have you join the FNLTY family. Next year we'll be celebrating our 30th anniversary and all the great work we've accomplished – so we hope we continue to grow our family as well. Big Give Day is Friday, May 1 – so mark your calendars and don't forget!





**THANK YOU  
TO OUR 2019  
CORPORATE  
SPONSORS**

***Preservationist***

Agriculture & Land Preservation Fund  
of York County Community Foundation  
Glatfelter Insurance Group  
The Joseph Roberts Foundation  
PeoplesBank

***Conservationist***

CGA Law Firm  
C. S. Davidson, Inc.  
Domani Wealth  
The Graham Group  
Keller-Brown Insurance Services  
KBG Law  
White Rose Bar & Grill

***Woods & Water***

Aquatic Resource Restoration  
Brewery Products  
D.F. Dent & Company, Inc.  
Flying Feet Sport Shoes  
M&T Bank  
OSS Health  
RKL – Reinsel Kuntz Leshner  
YC Precision Fabrication  
York Water Company

***Field & Meadow***

AgChoice Farm Credit  
Artistic Foods Catering  
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP  
Body Mind & Spirit  
Brown Advisory  
Flinchbaugh's Orchard & Farm Market  
Fulton Bank  
Hively Landscapes  
Lee Fence & Outdoor  
MPL Law Firm  
Senft Schefter Ayers Law Firm  
South Branch CrossFit  
Stock & Leader  
York Revolution  
York Traditions Bank

**FNLTPRESERVES THEIR FIRST  
AMISH FARM** *by Jamie Kinsley*

In the Glen Rock area, where there are more large animal veterinarians than doctors, Omar and Esther King live with their six children. They purchased the farm in January 2017, and recently preserved 55 acres, making them the first Amish family to sign a conservation easement with FNLTPreserves.com.

There are reports of as many as 500 or more Amish in York County. Working from 5 A.M. to late in the evenings, the Kings take care of their herd of 50+ cows, 7 horses, and 20 chickens. Over the course of the year, they grow strawberries, asparagus, lettuce, carrots, onions, corn, alfalfa, and cover crops of rye and triticale (wheat and rye hybrid). They even repurpose moldy hay (that can't be fed to animals) as mulch for the gardens to smother weeds.

Omar figures if he can do something himself, why pay someone else? So, the family has reached a level of uncompromising self-sufficiency that few others achieve. I drank in the picturesque homestead. Pink petunias and cannas lined their flower beds, cows grazed by the stream, and a faceless scarecrow guarded the strawberry patch.

The children, in their maroon and teal clothing, gathered around their father, eagerly listening to our conversation. Susan, the oldest at ten years of age, picked up baby Ephraim and sat him on the gray, tile-topped kitchen table. He gurgled and cooed as his blonde curls bounced, having not yet grown into the bowl cut of his brother. The others - Ezra, Ana, Merium, and Dorothy - seemed to absorb every detail of their "English" visitor.

This - their children - is why Omar and Esther King preserved their land. Safeguarding the land "for future generations," Omar told me, as we chatted by their garden, overlooking the rolling hills. Omar admired his farm knowing it would stay the same for the next hundred years. In exchange for maintaining the farm in perpetuity, the family received a small sum of money from FNLTPreserves.com. As a people who values tradition, the Kings keep their children in mind so they have a place to call home, to live their way of life on York County soil for a long, long time.

A close-knit community attitude is the hallmark of the Amish. Most Yorkers have a cellphone. But, the Kings share a single landline with their neighbors. The telephone sits in repose halfway between their properties, alone on a dirt road with open, screenless windows.

## FNLT PRESERVES THEIR FIRST AMISH FARM *(continued)*



“It’s going to be a hot day,” he said with a little bit of the Pennsylvania Dutch accent trailing out of the “o” in “hot.” He knew because Omar uses the phone to check the weather forecast every morning since they don’t own a radio or television.

The phone also helps the family in case of an emergency, and when pesky interviewers call to schedule an interview - we may hold the county record for longest game of phone tag - something Sean Kenny, FNLT's Executive Director, said would happen.

But, the phone didn’t stop the Kings from preserving their land, which pushes FNLT over 11,000 total acres preserved in York County. When the Trust sent out their mailings in January, Omar walked the quarter mile to his telephone shed and called the same day he received it. Even with their communications - based limitations, they were the first Yorkers to apply in the county, and the first to complete their easement.

When it comes to technology, Amish differentiate between ownership and use. They may ride in a car, but they may never own one. However, farmers want the most out of their land to grow enough for their family and possibly sell surplus crops. In the case of the Kings, they raise 50 dairy cows to sell milk to Omar’s father, the owner of Pequea Valley Farm in Ronks, Pennsylvania. (find their yogurt in specialty markets up and down the east coast).

But, sufficient production usually requires technology. So, they’ve compromised.

The church condones limited technology when it helps make a living such as tractors (that must have metal wheels, no rubber allowed). However, anything that simply reduces labor shows laziness and runs contrary to their belief structure.

When I asked Omar how he cuts his grass, he pointed to an old-fashioned push mower. “No robots,” Omar told me, chuckling. In other words, if technology provides status, luxury, and labor-saving techniques for household chores it’s off limits.

When I asked Omar about the rules of his community, he said, “Oh, there’s hundreds. I don’t know where I’d start explainin’” But, he told me he understands the rules and thinks they serve a bigger purpose.



## FNLT PRESERVES THEIR FIRST AMISH FARM *(continued)*

About the same age, Esther and I live very different lives. But, at the end of the day we still collect eggs from our chickens, hand-pull weeds, and can our vegetables the same way. I think that's what I love most about farm life - we can relate to our heritage and feel connected with our pioneer families who lived off the land before us.

As I left the King's newly preserved estate, I watched as my tire treads stamped over the lean wagon wheel tracks on their dirt driveway and admired this way of life that gives people meaning, identity, and a sense of belonging.

*After attaining her degree from York College, **Jamie Kinsley** has taught history to ninth graders at Milton Hershey School for seven years. Focusing on agriculture, her research topics for her Ph.D. from Penn State include farming, sustainability, food production, and the outdoors. She also writes a local history blog for York Daily Record called "Wandering in York County" where she builds community through a common love of the wonderful people, places, and events in YoCo. While not teaching, researching, or writing, Jamie savors gardening, tending her chickens, and living in the outdoors.*

*See Jamie's full article at [www.yorkblog.com](http://www.yorkblog.com) and note, no portion of this article may be printed elsewhere as per the request of the family.*



# PRESERVATION WORKS FOR YORK COUNTY

Spread over the last 10 years, FNLТ has worked with the County of York on preserving many of our great landscapes through their funding support. In recent years, these funds have come by way of State funding through Marcellus Shale Impact Fees which are earmarked for counties throughout Pennsylvania to use towards conservation and preservation minded projects.

Over the last five years, FNLТ preserved over 1,300 acres at around \$275 an acre, which is a fraction of the cost that most of PA land trusts are utilizing to purchase conservation easements. We owe a great thank you to our County Commissioners for supporting these landowners' goals in preservation; while it is not a lot of money, it certainly helps sway people who may not be able to entirely donate the conservation easement on their land.

Under guidance from the County Commissioners and the leadership of the York County Planning Commission, FNLТ is working with other likeminded organizations to help continue preserving our critical agricultural and environmental landscapes. The York County Land Protection Committee involves the York County Conservation District, York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, York County Parks and FNLТ, hoping to achieve a sustainable and predictable funding model. While we all receive funding, it's not a guarantee and that makes it hard to continually promote the program. It's also not enough, as the goal in York County's Greenways & Open Space plan calls for at least 2,500 acres to be permanently preserved annually.



## *Is open space important to the community? Is enough being done to protect open space?*

The York County Land Protection Committee is surveying County residents to find out the answers to these questions. For more information on open space protection, please visit [www.yorkopenspace.org](http://www.yorkopenspace.org). If you are a York County resident, we urge you to visit this page and take the survey to share your opinion on open space protection efforts in your community.



## FNLТ EVENTS CALENDAR:

**Saturday, September 7**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sasquatch 5 & 10 K Trail Run**  
*presented by KBG Law Firm*

**Friday, October 11**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Annual FNLТ Sporting Clay Shoot**  
*presented by PeoplesBank*

**Thursday, March 19**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Hoedown**  
*presented by Glatfelter Insurance Group*

**Thursday, April 30**  
**30<sup>th</sup> FNLТ Annual Meeting**

**Friday, May 1**  
**FNLТ & Give Local York's Big Give Day**



# Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County

156 North George Street, Suite 300  
York, Pennsylvania 17401

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
York, PA  
Permit No. 600

## PRESERVATION QUARTERLY *Newsletter*

# FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I believe in balancing the protection of our precious land resources with growth. My contribution to the Trust will be used to preserve York County's productive and unique natural lands. Please check your contribution below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10,000+ Lifetime Donor
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000+ Leadership      \_\_\_\_\_ \$100+ Contributor
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000+ Benefactor      \_\_\_\_\_ \$50+ Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500+ Sustaining      \_\_\_\_\_ \$30+ Individual
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250+ Sponsor      \_\_\_\_\_ \$15+ Senior Citizen or Student

Please find enclosed my/check for membership dues in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to: Farm & Natural Lands Trust.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Info: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC Name on Card (if different than above): \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ Last 3 digits on back of card: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:**  
To initiate a matching employer contribution, please notify your employer of your gift.

*The Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County sincerely thanks you for your support and generosity.*

I would like to receive an information packet about preserving my land.

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.