

Spring 2009 Calendar

Sunday, April 19, 1-4 pm - Nature Walk with naturalist and PHLT board member Don Miller. Knauf Farm Nature Preserve, Paradise Township. Meet at Paradise Municipal Building, Route 940 Paradise Valley.

Sunday, May 17, 1-4 pm - Nature Walk with Don Miller through Fieldstone Farm, PHLT's newest property. Meet at Paradise Twp Municipal Building, Route 940 Paradise Valley.

Sunday, May 24, 1-4:30 pm - Cherry Valley Ramble. Tour the nation's newest National Wildlife Refuge and see why Cherry Valley is worth preserving. Advance registration is required. Call Ann Featherman at 570-424-8121 by May 20.

Sunday, June 14, 3-5 pm - PHLT Annual Meeting. Save the Date. Open to all PHLT members and their families. Details to be announced.

Saturday, June 20 - Birding, wildflower and habitat walk on PHLT's Kurmes Nature Preserve with Don Miller and naturalist Brian Hardiman of the Monroe Co. Environmental Education Center. Contact the environmental center at 629-3061 for registration and meeting location

Saturday, May 30, 1-5 pm - Nature walk with Don Miller along Fall Creek, Chestnut Hill Township. Call West End Park Commission 992-7247 for information on meeting location

visit phlt.org for the latest event info

PHLT thanks the Bushkill Group for making this newsletter possible



PO Box 553
Pocono Pines PA 18350

POCONO HERITAGE LAND TRUST

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

PHLT ACQUIRES FIELDSTONE FARM

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PHLT is looking for volunteers to help monitor protected land, build trails and help with fundraising, marketing and office work. Your skills are valuable, and so is your time.

Call 424-1514 or email us at info@phlt.org
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POCONO HERITAGE LAND TRUST

NEWSLETTER

PO Box 553 / Pocono Pines, PA 18350 / (570) 424-1514 / www.phlt.org

IT'S OFFICIAL - PHLT ACQUIRES 52-ACRE FIELDSTONE FARM



The old stone farmhouse has a view of the Kittatinny Ridge

Situated just north of PHLT's Kurmes Nature Preserve, Fieldstone Farm is a beautiful property with a great view, a touch of history and large value as an environmental protection zone. The old manor house, which burned in the 1960s, was built in the early 20th century by Carl Tielenius, apparently as a home for his daughter. The ruin is a fine example of slipform masonry construction, a traditional stone building technique. It is believed that the property once served as an elk preserve, providing forage and a breeding area to support the reintroduction of elk in northeastern Pennsylvania in the early 1900s. And the view? You can see all the way to the Kittatinny Ridge and Shawnee.

All of which are great reasons to protect the property. But as is usually the case with PHLT, the preservation of Fieldstone Farm has environmental significance as well. That's because there's a large spring on the property that supplies Tank Creek, a tributary of Paradise Creek. Paradise Creek is a major source of drinking water in north-central Monroe County. So by preserving Fieldstone Farm, PHLT helps to protect the water supply for many homeowners and businesses.

Acquisition of the property was financed by major grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Monroe County Open Space Program, with the help of Mount Pocono Borough. PHLT thanks the many state, county and local officials who supported the acquisition.

Sanofi Pasteur Donates \$10,000 to Underwrite Seminar Series

Sanofi Pasteur has donated \$10,000 to PHLT to support a series of land-use seminars for area planning and zoning officials. The series is now under development by PHLT in conjunction with leading experts in the field. Specific topics and dates of the presentations will be announced later this year.

Sanofi-Pasteur is a multinational pharmaceutical manufacturer with a major production facility in Swiftwater. PHLT is grateful for the firm's support.

Five Guys Who Make a BIG Difference

Ray Molina is a retired physician and dedicated conservationist who until recently served on the PHLT board. Now Ray heads a team of volunteers. It's outdoor work and it's fun — and it makes a big difference to the land trust. Ray and his team spend much of their time marking boundaries and walking properties to ensure that PHLT preserved land isn't being encroached on or abused. Monitoring preserved properties is a yearly responsibility for the land trust. Ray and the guys also build gates, clear trails and (sometimes) soothe nervous homeowners concerned about trespassing. That's Ray, bottom right, with the clipboard. Next to Ray is Larry Bailey, and (standing, left to right) Ed Flory, Al Adelman and Les Slutter. PHLT greatly appreciates their work.





Access Is Getting Easier At Kurmes Nature Preserve

Officially known as the Alex and Lillian P. Kurmes Paradise Creek Nature Preserve, this 400-acre property lies within Paradise Township and straddles Route 940 as it approaches Mt. Pocono Borough. The eastern half of the preserve protects the confluence of Tank Creek and Yankee Run where they form Paradise Creek. Last year PHLT board member **Russell Scott III** generously donated new gates, plus the labor and equipment, for the parking area on Devil's Hole Road — thanks, Russ! At left, Tom Barr and Jim Bunnell prepare to install the new gateposts with the help of a Bobcat posthole digger.

The land trust's stewardship activities continue right through the winter months. At right, PHLT board member Don Miller works on a cold December afternoon to install a bright green aluminum sign on one of the Kurmes Preserve's new information kiosks. Don, who is PHLT's stewardship chairman, designed and built two kiosks with the help of fellow conservationist Jason Smith. The kiosks are part of the improvement program at the Kurmes Preserve's parking area on Devil's Hole Road. Other improvements were provided by the Paradise Township road crew under Bob Safin, and PHLT appreciates the township's help. The new kiosk at Kurmes/Paradise Creek will be the model for similar information stands on other PHLT properties around the area. The signs and the kiosk itself were funded by a state grant obtained by **Rep. Mario Scavello**. Thanks, Mario!



Anonymous Donors Launch PHLT's Planned Giving Program

Pocono Heritage Land Trust has received a major gift from a Monroe County couple who strongly support the trust's long-term conservation mission. The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, gave the gift in the form of a \$100,000 annuity that gives them lifetime income and a substantial income-tax deduction as well.

Technically known as a "**charitable gift annuity**," the donation is actually a contract between the donors, a couple in their early 70s, and Pocono Heritage Land Trust. PHLT invested the \$100,000 in an ultra-safe investment account and now makes quarterly income payments that will continue for the rest of the donors' lives. The payments are based on a fixed interest rate that compares favorably with virtually all certificates of deposit available at banks and brokerage houses today.

The gift opens an important new area in PHLT fundraising -- planned giving. The term refers to several different methods of tax-deferred and tax-advantaged giving, including charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder annuities, bequests and reserved life estates. Bequests (making a donation in one's will) can significantly lower inheritance taxes paid by a donor's heirs. Charitable remainder trusts and charitable annuity trusts both create guaranteed income for the life of the donor, then leave the remaining assets to the land trust. A reserved life estate conveys title to a piece of property to the trust but allows the donor to use the property for life.

All such gifts should be discussed with your attorney and/or financial advisor. PHLT will gladly provide information on all forms of planned giving and discuss options with you and your financial advisor on a confidential basis. Contact Executive Director Dawn Gorham at (570) 424-1514 or email her at dgorham@phlt.org.

Troutman, Kostovich, Thatcher Join PHLT Board

PHLT's board of directors is pleased to announce the election of three new members: Louise Troutman, Laura Kostovich and Jill Thatcher.

Troutman is a committed conservationist who was elected supervisor in Paradise Township in 2008. She helped to pass her township's Open Space Referendum in 2006 and currently serves on its Parks and Recreation Board and the Pocono Area Recreation Committee. Troutman is a 1991 graduate of East Stroudsburg University. She and her husband Dave own a landscaping business and have two children, Katie, 9, and Eric, 7.

Kostovich, elected to the board last year, now serves as PHLT secretary. She is a founding member of the Friends of Jonas Mountain, a PHLT group in Polk Township. Kostovich has an associate's degree from Cazenovia College, N.Y., and operates a sign firm with her husband Ken. They are the proud parents of twin three-year-old girls, Audrey and Mallory.

Thatcher was elected to the PHLT board in March. A longtime resident of Monroe County, she is a certified public accountant who has worked with several local firms and until recently served as chief in-house accountant for Hemlock Farms, a well-known vacation home development in Pike County. She is a member of the Friends of Cherry Valley and strongly supports conservation and open-space efforts in the Poconos. She has agreed to take over the role of PHLT's treasurer.

Celebrating a Giant Win For the Pocono Region — The Cherry Valley NWR

Back in 2002 the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was only a treehugger's dream — a bold idea that seemed to have little chance of becoming reality. That's because NWR's don't happen every day. Since 1903, only 548 refuges have been created nationwide. Pennsylvania had only two, one in Erie and the other near the Philadelphia International Airport. Now the Keystone State has three — and with 20,466 acres in the authorized acquisition area, the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge could someday be larger than 75 percent of all NWRs nationwide.

It is already a major asset for Monroe County and the Pocono region. Cherry Valley is both an environmental jewel and a prime example of the way Northeastern Pennsylvania used to be — hilly, bucolic and green. Its wooded hillsides reach up the Kittatinny Ridge to the Appalachian Trail, and its old meadows and woodlots roll down to Cherry Creek as it meanders toward the Delaware. The valley is an important — and slowly diminishing — habitat for scores of rare and endangered birds, reptiles, mammals and plants, including raptors, otter and (some residents say) bobcats.

Protecting Cherry Valley was the work of many hands, and it is important to note that in the annals of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, few NWRs ever had such overwhelming public support. Locally the campaign was led by Bud Cook, senior project manager at The Nature Conservancy field office in Long



Ann Fetherman and Ed Cramer in Cherry Valley

Pond, Pa., and by Cherry Valley residents Ann Fetherman and Ed Cramer. Ann and her husband Red are PHLT members. Ed, a longtime Stroud Township supervisor, serves on the PHLT board

Ann founded the Friends of Cherry Valley, a group that reflects the variety of valley property owners (Deb Shuler now serves ably as the group's president). Ed joined Ann, Bud and others in lobbying Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation to make it happen. U.S. Reps. Paul Kanjorski and Charles Dent provided major support in the House, and Sens. Arlen Specter and Bob Casey backed creation of the NWR in the Senate.

PHLT celebrates their remarkable achievement. The NWR is a win for everyone.