



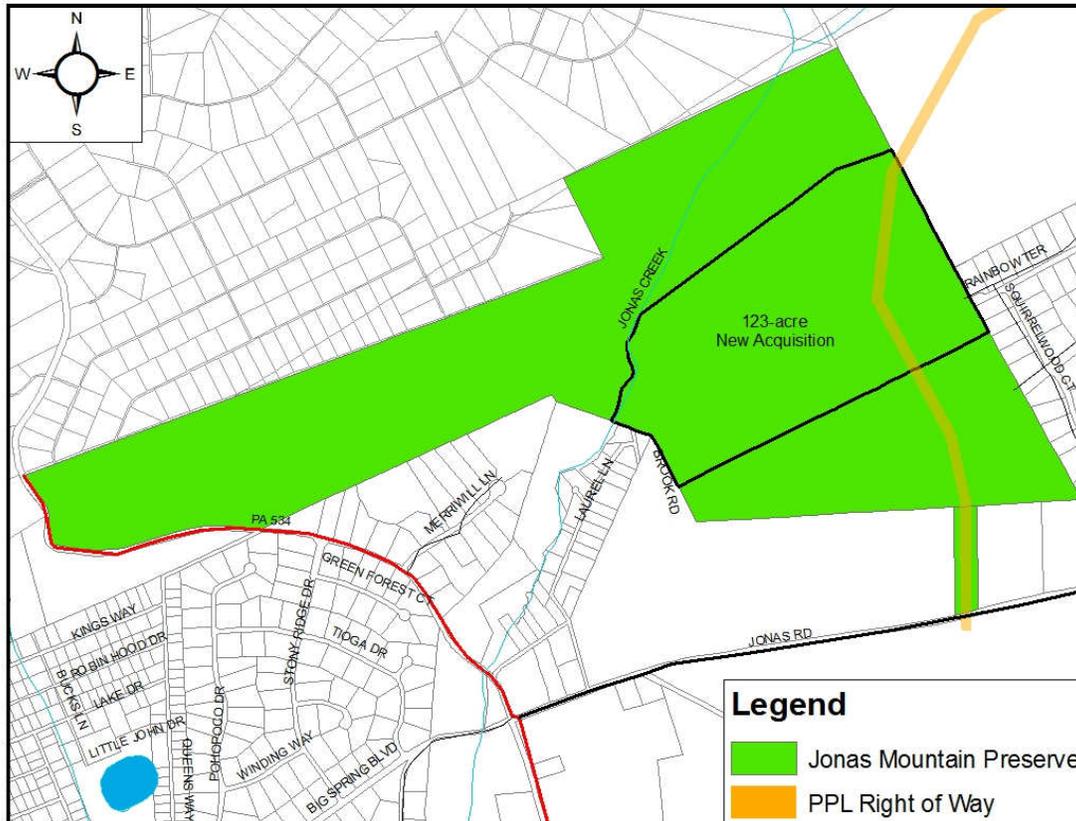
Summer 2010

POCONO HERITAGE LAND TRUST

NEWSLETTER

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

PHLT ACQUIRES LONG-SOUGHT 'MISSING LINK' AT ITS JONAS MOUNTAIN NATURE PRESERVE



PHLT and its friends in Monroe County's West End have been hoping for years to connect the two separate parts of the Jonas Mountain Nature Preserve – and now, thanks to the generous support of Monroe County Commissioners and PPL Electric Utilities, that goal has been achieved. PHLT has just taken possession of a 123-acre tract (see map) that unites the two parcels and expands the preserve to 411 acres.

The new acquisition is the result of nearly a year's discussion between PHLT and PPL, which plans to build a high-voltage line to improve electrical service in the West End. PHLT's board initially opposed the power line, which will cut through some of the last undisturbed woodland in the Jonas area. But after careful consideration, PHLT approached PPL with a proposal to cede land for the power line right-of-way in return for PPL's help in acquiring the connecting property. In addition, PHLT suggested moving the power line away from homes in Birch Hollow Estates, a nearby subdivision. Monroe County Commissioners approved a \$345,000 Open Space grant to help fund the purchase.

PPL also agreed to donate a 4-acre property that will provide access to the preserve from Jonas Road. It will ban the use of herbicides on the right-of-way and will construct barriers to deter trespassing by all-terrain vehicles. PHLT believes the final outcome reflects its commitment to conservation values and benefits the community as well. PHLT thanks PPL and the Monroe County Commissioners for making it all possible.

State Conservation Group Honors Monroe's Open Space Program

Over the past 12 years Monroe County's Open Space Program has protected over 12,000 acres of open space and 6,000 acres through farmland preservation – a major achievement for any community, and a crucial investment for one of the fastest-growing counties in the state. The program has provided grants to all 20 Monroe municipalities and a number of land trusts. The initial cost -- \$25 million, in a bond issue approved by the voters back in 1998 – was matched 2-to-1 with state and local funds, which means Monroe taxpayers got close to \$75 million worth of land conservation value for their \$25 million investment.

That's a bargain by any standard, and the spending totals don't include the benefits, tangible and intangible, for the community and the environment. The county program has helped fund acquisition of both active and passive recreation lands, preserving the landscape that makes the Poconos a great place to live and a vacation destination. It helped the county to stay greener and less polluted, and it protected streams and watersheds -- our drinking water.

In April, the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, a statewide conservation group, honored Monroe County for its successful open space program. The award, a citation for "Government Leadership in Land Conservation," was announced at the annual Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference. Pocono Heritage Land Trust, a PALTA member and an active participant in the Monroe County open-space program, congratulates Monroe County on the award.

The current county commissioners – Suzanne McCool, Theresa Merli and Janet Weidensaul – deserve high praise for their commitment to the environment and their oversight of the open-space program. But the PALTA award goes to all county commissioners, past and present, program staff, and to the scores of Monroe County residents who worked to launch the program and make it work. Few counties in Pennsylvania or anywhere else have done so much for the environment and for future generations.

Interested in Becoming a Land Trust Volunteer!
Contact Us at info@phlt.org



Don shares his vast knowledge with a hiking group

Hikes With Don Miller

Join naturalist and PHLT board member Don Miller for hikes focused on the protected headwaters of some of Monroe County's best creeks and streams. These streams are protected as a direct result of the Monroe County Open Space Program, now in its 10th year. Don is a veteran hiker with a wealth of knowledge about the flora and fauna of the Pocono region. The hikes are fun — and educational too.

Sunday, July 25th - Tank Creek headwaters on PHLT's Fieldstone Farm Tank Creek Preserve. Meet Don at 1 pm at the Paradise Township Municipal Building parking lot on Route 940 in Paradise Valley. For preregistration, please call Paradise Township weekdays 8 am-4 pm at 595-9880.

Sunday, August 29th - Fall Creek headwaters on PHLT's Pohoqualine Conservation Easement. Meet Don at 1 pm at Chestnuthill Township Building parking lot, Route 715 north of Brodheads ville. For preregistration, please call West End Regional Parks and Open Space Commission weekdays 8 am-4pm at 992-9733.

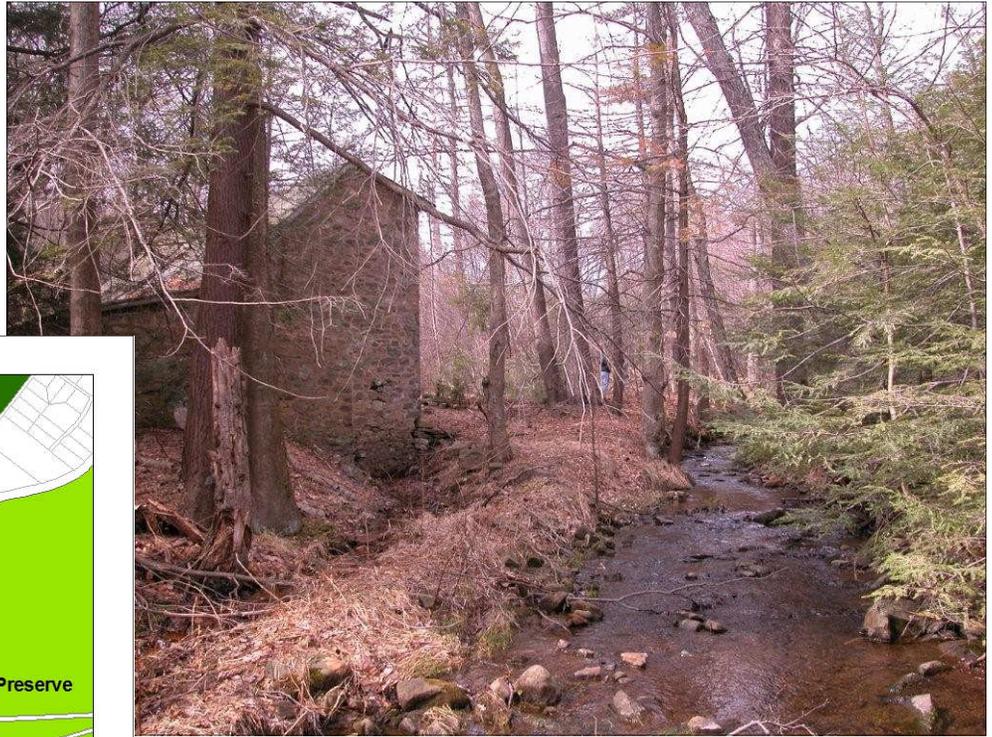
Sunday, September 26th - Yankee Run headwaters on PHLT's Fairview Water Yankee Run Preserve. Meet 1 pm at Paradise Township building parking lot.; preregister by calling Paradise Township at 595-9880.

Sunday, October 24th - Jonas Creek headwaters on PHLT's Jonas Mountain Preserve. Meet 1 pm at Chestnuthill Township building parking. Preregister by calling West End Regional Park Commission, as above.

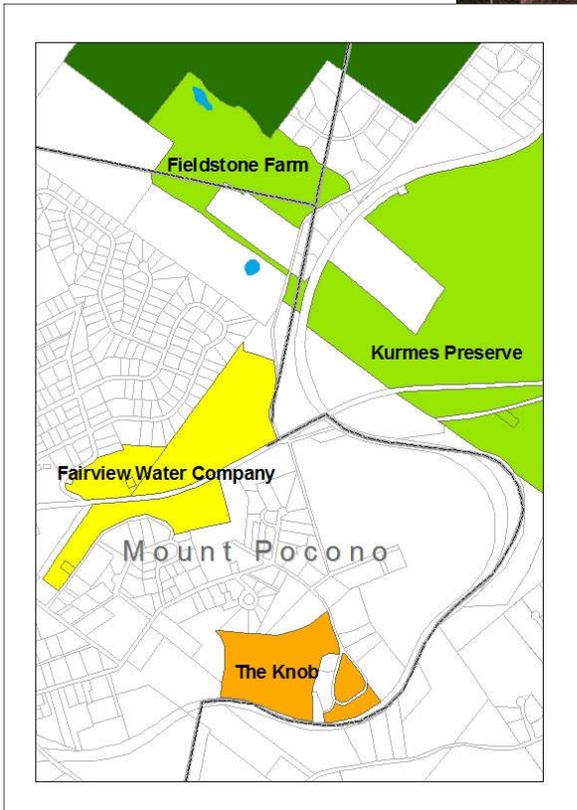
Sunday, November 21st - Cranberry Creek headwaters on Paradise Township's Nothstein Cranberry Creek Preserve. Meet 1pm at Paradise Township building parking lot. Preregister by calling Paradise Township as above.

Visit www.phlt.org and www.weposc.org for additional hike information and details.

FAIRVIEW WATER CO. PROPERTY



Fairview Water Co. stone pump house along Yankee Run



PHLT will soon acquire the Fairview Water Company, a 60-acre tract in Mt. Pocono. The property (see map) is close to the Kurmes Paradise Creek Nature Preserve and Fieldstone Farm Tank Creek Nature Preserve, which are already owned by PHLT. These three properties help to protect the headwaters of Paradise Creek, Tank Creek and Yankee run. Mt. Pocono recently acquired the Knob (orange), as a 33 acre protected open space.

The purchase is being funded by major grants from Monroe County and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and PHLT is grateful for their support.

Feds Honor Bud Cook and Cherry Valley Coalition

The grassroots coalition that got Cherry Valley designated as a National Wildlife Refuge will be honored in Washington by Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior. The coalition dates back to 2002 and includes some 1,300 area residents as well as Monroe County Commissioners, the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau and numerous local businesses, builders and developers. Its leaders include Ann Fetherman, founder of Friends of Cherry Valley, Stroud Township Supervisor Ed Cramer and Bud Cook, senior project manager of The Nature Conservancy office in Long Pond, PA. Self-effacing to a fault, Cook typically directs praise for this monumental achievement to everyone but himself — but all involved know his leadership was critical.

Now Cook and his supporters will be one of only four groups in the nation to receive a 2010 “Partners in Conservation” award from Salazar. The award is richly deserved. Cherry Valley, which spreads across in Smithfield, Stroud and Hamilton townships, is a stunningly beautiful area. Its designation as a national wildlife reserve means willing property owners can sell their properties, or sell the development rights to their properties, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for permanent protection. The Cherry Valley NWR includes approximately 22,000 acres of land and is one of only 548 national wildlife reserves in the United States. It is only the third NWR in Pennsylvania, and the largest of the three. PHLT salutes Cook, Fetherman, Cramer and all who worked to save the Valley: Great work, guys.



Trout Unlimited Helps to Preserve Pocono Creek

The Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited has donated \$2000 to help PHLT with projects to protect the Pocono Creek. PHLT holds conservation easements and protected property along 1300 feet of the Pocono Creek and is working with Pocono Township and local landowners to expand the protected land along the creek. Trout Unlimited's generous donation will help us further these efforts. As one of Trout Unlimited's oldest chapters in the nation, the Brodhead Chapter works to conserve, protect, and restore Monroe County's coldwater fisheries and its watershed.

PHLT Current Board Members

Tom Morganthau, *President*
Lori Colgan, *Vice-president*
Jill Thatcher, *Treasurer*
Laura Kostovich, *Secretary*
Charlie Baughman
Rob Baxter
Ed Cramer
Pete Kirkwood
Bill Leonard
Don Miller
Scott Miller
Linda Snyder
Louise Troutman

Dawn Gorham, *Executive Director*

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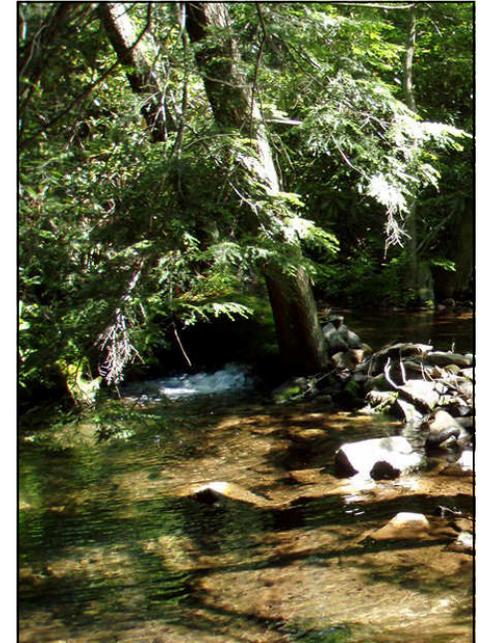
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PHLT ACQUIRES 123 ACRES AT JONAS MOUNTAIN

See Inside



BECOME A LAND TRUST MEMBER!!

Help support PHLT by becoming a member.
Donate Today.

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