



Conservation MATTERS newsletter

Spring 2017

Gwendolyn Lacy **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Welcome to Southern Chester County - Now Get Out!

Calling all Advocates for Community Conservation...

The State of Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources' used to have a motto a few years ago that read "Welcome to Pennsylvania - Now Get Out!" It pictured a graphic of an animated hiking boot kicking up its heel in a field of daisies. It was a clever way to encourage visitors to get outside and enjoy nature, but it definitely raised some eyebrows at first glance.

Lately, in Southern Chester County this proclamation has taken on that raised eyebrow meaning with some wondering where did all of the people and traffic come from and why do they just keep on coming? Well, they keep coming for the same reasons people have come for generations, because we are blessed with a plethora of natural resources, hiking trails, parks, prime agricultural lands, farms and farmers markets, riding stables, bucolic views, nature preserves, historic and cultural resources, a certain quality of life, and great forward thinking people.

At The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) we know that our work does not happen in a vacuum. That land conservation and historic preservation are for the greater good of the future community, long after we are all gone. We understand first and foremost that Community Conservation entails getting people out on the land- active and engaged. To that aim we have created programs for ages zero to infinity.

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's Not!"
~Dr. Seuss- The Lorax*

Therefore, no matter what your fancy, whether it be observing the night sky, hawk watching, trail running, wild foraging, Frisbee golfing, living history, horseback riding, identifying trees, wildflowers, butterflies, rocks and minerals, frogs and salamanders, or just chilling in nature, we seriously need you to get out. Because if you don't, who will advocate for the night sky, clean air and water, wide open spaces, farms, orchards, history, and our quality of life?

So read on and see what TLC is up to. Check out our website, volunteer, get your hands dirty, learn something new or dust off an old memory. We challenge you to Get Out into your Southern Chester County backyard with TLC and have fun while becoming the greatest advocate these parts have ever known.

In Preservation,
Gwen



*Two Bald Eagles spotted at Bucktoe Creek Preserve Hawk Watch this spring
Photo by J. Sebastiani 3.27.17*



WHAT'S INSIDE?

2. Get Involved
3. Get Out On The Preserve
4. TLC's Land Management
5. Preserving Our Spaces
6. Engage for Conservation
7. Environmental Education



May Apple *Podophyllum Peltatum*



Join Free Time Adventures this summer for a trip to the Gnome Countryside

Get Involved

“When you do nothing you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.”
~ Maya Angelou

Barbara MacDonald **COORDINATOR**

There are a number of ways for YOU to be involved with TLC. Share your talents or your time. Enjoy the natural beauty of the preserves or take part in our education programs.

Teens Turning Green

Our summer intern program will meet once a week for a brown bag lunch program. Consider being a speaker and sharing your insight for conservation, preservation, or education. We welcome speakers with any STEM background: engineering, chemistry, computer sciences, etc. Contact Barbara at GetInvolved@TLCforSCC.org

Corporate Volunteer Days

Team building that improves the preserves! What a terrific idea to spend the day out on one of our preserves and help us to maintain or enhance TLC's land. Interested? Contact LandManager@TLCforSCC.org

Create Your Own Program

Youth and Adult groups are invited to create a private program based on your interests. Would your group enjoy a herp search or owl prowls at Bucktoe Creek Preserve? Maybe a private guided hike at Stateline Preserve? We are ready to share our love of the land with your group. Please reach out to Kristi at TeacherNaturalist@TLCforSCC.org

Snip, Snip, Snip

While you are out on the land, take a pair of clippers and help us to keep the tree cages clear of invasive vines. The kiosks at the preserves have detailed information.

Children's Education

What better way to instill the love of nature than to share it with your children. TLC hosts educational programs all summer including Free Time Adventures and Drop in on Nature for our young friends ages 0 – 12. What is better than searching for frogs, learning to identify birds, hiking, natural art projects, building friendships and independence, all while spending the day outside! For more information on our children's educational programs, please contact Stacey at Ambassador@TLCforSCC.org

Look, Listen and Learn

Open Hive Days, Mushroom Foraging, Sky Tour, Owl Prowls and Hawk Watches are just some of the ways we gather together to enjoy our incredible surroundings. Get involved with TLC and get out on the land. A full listing of educational programs can be found at <http://tlcforscc.org/education/current-programs/>

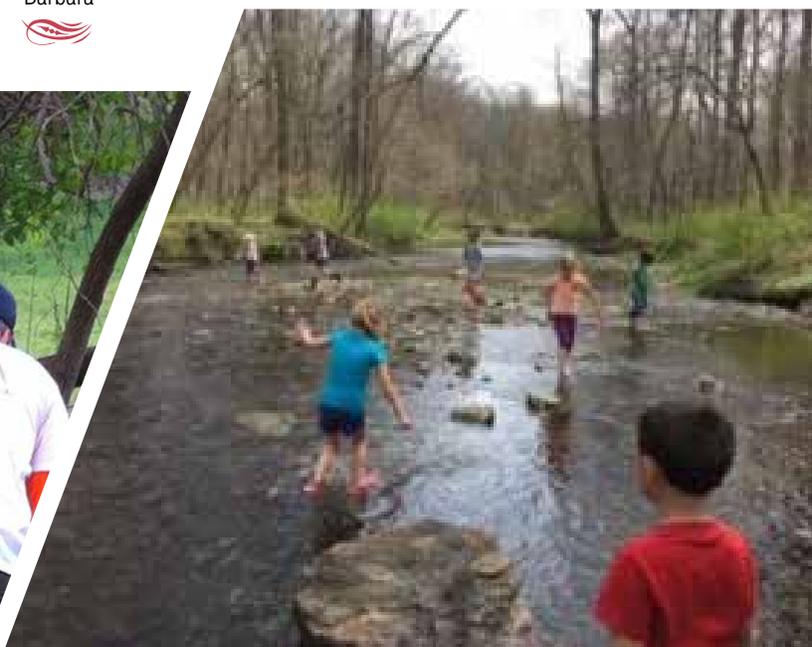
Endowment Challenge

Generously offered by TLC Board Member Peter Kjellerup and his wife Mandy Cabot, the Kjellerup/Cabot Endowment Challenge increased the impact of your gift. Your donation is matched 100%! Help us to continue the good work of TLC and its impact in the community! To donate please visit our website: <http://tlcforscc.org/endowment-challenge/> or call 610-347-0347 x101

Barbara



VOYA volunteer day 2016



Kids in creek

Get Out On The Preserve

"We're so busy watching out for what's just ahead of us that we don't take time to enjoy where we are."
~Bill Watterson

Mary Armstrong

Do you enjoy Nature? Do you like to go for a walk & get the blood flowing, or maybe a slow walk while you think or just observe your surroundings; feel the sun on your back or push yourself to walk up that hill? If you want a hill visit Marshall Bridge Preserve and see the bench donated in honor of Ed & Brian, co-founders of Trail Creek Outfitters.

Now that's a hill as any of our Run for Conservation athletes who ran the 10K on May 13th can attest to!

Here are some idea's I'd like to share with you. Hope you find something that inspires you to get out on the preserve today and please remember we depend on our members to keep the preserves open to all.

Marshall Bridge Preserve

- Ed & Brian's bench-can you find it?
- Bird Blind-please call me if you wish to reserve it

Marshall Mill House Preserve

- Picnic in the pavilion
- Walk under a tree-Under a tree!

New Leaf Eco Center

- Visit the bee's-if you really want to get close come to an Open Hive Day and meet our new Apiarist, Mike Langer.
- June 9, 2017 or August 5, 2017
- Enjoy a small meadow and wetland trail

Stateline Woods Preserve

- Walk around the fields or explore through the wood
- Count the bird boxes

Bucktoe Creek Preserve

(Privately owned and only accessible through educational programs)

- Owl Prowl
- June 9, 2017
- Mushroom Forage
- August 27, 2017

Check www.tlcforscc.org for additional programming!

For more information or to see how you can become a member please visit

www.tlcforscc.org

Mary Armstrong 610-347-0347 x 101

admin@TLCforSCC.org

Mary



New Leaf Eco Center bee

Showy Orchid on one of TLC's preserves



Bird Blind at Marshall Bridge Preserve



TLC's Land Management

*"The body benefits from movement and the mind benefits from stillness."
~ Sakyong Mipham*

S LAND MANAGER equoia Rock

Suddenly there was the introduction of so many familiar yet forgotten phenomena, insects flying about, casts of shade on the ground, sounds coming from the nighttime forest. Spring must be here, and I think a few days of Summer too! Already a flush of thick vegetation on the ground. I've seen a few hay fields harvested in this first week of May.

Our Interpretive Nature Center is about midway through the "retrofitting" process. What once was a dark and humid two car garage will now be home to a small nature center and classroom with ample natural lighting and a display of natural paraphernalia. Reclaimed barn wood will line the lower interior and above it, a shelf outlining the room, will showcase educational oddities, native taxidermy, and other engaging treasures from Southern Chester County. The Interpretive Nature Center will serve as a meeting place for educational programming hosted at TLC and base from which to explore the adjacent Chandler Mill and Bucktoe Creek Preserves.

In support of our office and new Interpretive Nature Center, we are nearing the final stages of installing a "green" parking lot. This facility will be a functional demonstration site which is educational and useful. The stable yet porous surface will allow rainwater to infiltrate the soil while supporting the weight of vehicles. In addition to this eco-friendly parking surface we've incorporated into the design rain gardens, ADA accessible trails (utilizing another sustainable surface called a Trail Surface Aggregate), and a thick planting of native trees to provide shade and aesthetics to the environment.

This Spring I've been busy coordinating a handful of volunteer groups to help us out on the preserves. Some are routine groups and others are brand new this year. The Garage Youth Center recently helped plant about

30 native trees as part of a riparian buffer along the Parrish section of the Kennett Greenway. They also helped weed tree cages for trees that were planted last year. VOYA, in their annual Day of Service, came back to Stalene Woods to continue restoring a section of the preserve to native habitat by planting some new trees, tending to old ones, and clearing some invasive species. A new partnership has formed with TLC and **Environmental Resource Management (ERM - <http://www.erm.com/>)** and a group came out to help me prepare the course for our annual Run for Conservation hosted at our Stalene Woods Preserve. The plants are growing so fast it is a full time job just to keep the trails clear.

Speaking of stewardship, we are creating a volunteer initiative that works by having dedicated trail goers carry a pair of hand pruners or secateurs and on their own time and while walking the preserve, use the pruners to make a few "snips" to encroaching vegetation and hopefully spend time with a planted tree or two and cut vines from the cages. If everyone spent a few minutes on each visit it would add up and a sense of ownership would emerge. We all are stewards of our Earth and that includes our favorite places to visit.

With gratitude,
Sequoia



A riparian buffer planting



Interpretive Nature Center opening 2017

Preserving Our Spaces

*“The tree that is beside the running water is fresher and gives more fruit.”
~ Saint Teresa of Avila*

Abbie Kessler PRESERVATION COORDINATOR

This past winter, TLC was awarded one of the pilot grants from the state's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Riparian Buffer Grant program. Riparian buffers are vegetated strips running alongside creeks and streams that have many benefits, which include:

- Aiding in stormwater infiltration
- Filtering and slowing down stormwater runoff prior to its entering the streams
- Stabilizing streambanks
- Shading the water and cooling it for improved fish habitat
- Providing food and shelter for wildlife

Scientific research has shown that streams and rivers degrade when the percentage of forest cover in a sub-watershed drops below 70%. This means that every acre of forested riparian buffer planted is vital in helping with the above benefits, but also in preventing further or new stream degradation across the local watersheds that provide so much of the area's drinking water supply.

The DCNR grant, when combined with matching funds from Kennett Township, will allow TLC to plant approximately 20 acres of riparian buffers across five sites in the Kennett area. TLC has been planting trees along the Red Clay Creek and its tributaries for years, but thanks to the grant program, we will be able to plant exponentially more trees at one time to allow for a bigger impact in a shorter period of time. The first picture below shows a site by TLC's headquarters that had a buffer planted over ten years ago. The second picture shows the change that happens in just five short years. If you stop by the office today, you can see how drastic the difference is between the initial planting and the more natural setting that currently exists thanks to the riparian buffer planting.

The sites chosen this year for plantings via the grant funding span several TLC properties, Kennett Township's new Barkingfield Park, and a privately held easement. TLC is in the midst of planning and coordinating and will most likely be planting in the fall so keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities to help us plant some trees!

TLC's land conservation efforts are moving full steam ahead in 2017 with two conservation easements already closed or about to close for a total of 98.8 additional protected acres. Both properties protected are heavily wooded and connect to an additional corridor of protected woodlands and properties. Such corridors create unbroken stretches of preserved land that benefits area wildlife and create stronger habitats. TLC is also finalizing the purchase of a small wooded lot to be added to the Stateline Woods Preserve. This parcel will allow TLC to host overnight programs in the future.

Additionally, TLC continues to work on multiple ongoing projects spanning seven townships and covering hundreds of acres. These projects include both agricultural and open space/natural area conservation easements as well as acquisitions for public access. With all of these exciting projects, we know the rest of 2017 is going to be hectic, but it makes for a thrilling time at TLC to watch the amount of land we have protected grow exponentially. If you have questions about how to conserve your land or the benefits of conservation, please give us a call or stop in.

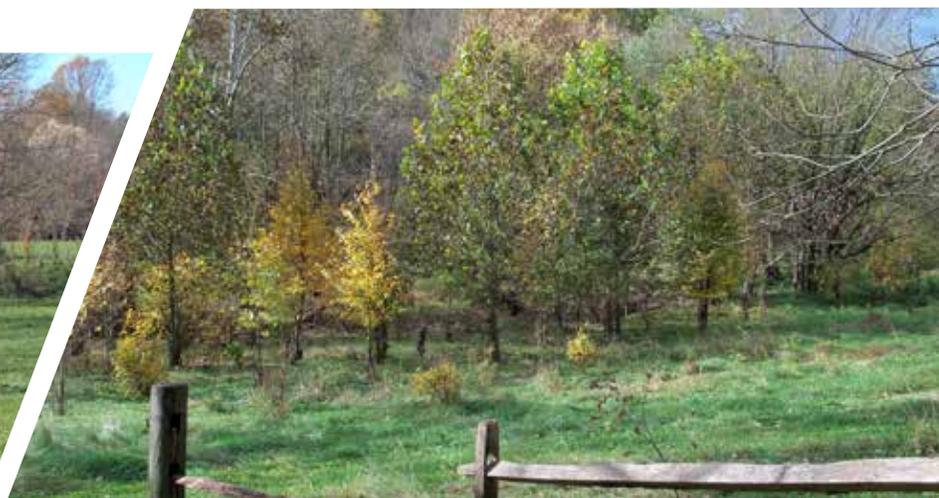
For information on preserving your land, please visit:

www.tlcforscc.org/conservation

Abbie



Riparian buffer in 2006



Same riparian buffer in 2011 – visit TLC's headquarters and try to spot this planting today!

Engage For Conservation

*“Some old-fashioned things like
fresh air and sunshine are hard
to beat.”*

~ Laura Ingalls Wilder

C **hristine Grove** PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEMBERSHIP

The land is here for people to enjoy. Whether you are a runner in our Run for Conservation, hike the preserves with your camera in hand, or participate in our educational programs, your experiences are part of the TLC story. Do you have an experience you'd like to share about the land? Please contact me at **PublicRelations@TLCforSCC.org**, so we can continue to be inspired by your connection with the land.

Despite the soggy weather, runners turned out Saturday May 13th for the 9th annual Run for Conservation. The fourth in the Trail Creek Outfitters Trail Run Series, the Run for Conservation was held at Stateline Woods Preserve, one of TLC's nature preserves. The runners enjoyed the camaraderie, even dancing under the tents prior to the race. A huge THANK YOU to all the sponsors, runners, volunteers and spectators who were able to spend the day on the preserve enjoying open space and running for conservation.

How can you become more involved? Join our membership! Whether you are an individual, family, business or WHIP (21 – 37 year olds), membership provides a deeper commitment to TLC. In return, we offer reduced program fees, member only events and discounts at local businesses. But the greatest benefit is that you are supporting the good work of TLC! Detailed membership information can be found at **TLCforSCC.org**

TLC's newest membership level is a group of young people in Southern Chester County and the surrounding communities who believe in TLC's mission! WHIPs enjoy all the perks of TLC individual membership, and are

invited to join fun and exciting social events such as happy hours, group hikes at TLC's nature preserves, and volunteer days. Have fun, contribute to an important cause in the community, and meet others who share your interest in local and global environmental issues. *Our next WHIP event is a Hike and Happy Hour at the Private Bucktoe Creek Preserve on Thursday June 22, 2017 6 – 8 pm.* Bring a friend! Please reserve a spot, so we know you are coming by emailing **PublicRelations@TLCforSCC.org!**

I recently met a young couple at the Run for Conservation. They were wet and covered in mud from the run, but their smiles reached their eyes. They said that Stateline Woods Preserve is a special place for them. A few months prior, they got engaged on the Preserve and are planning an October 2017 wedding. This got me thinking, how many other love stories started on the land that is Stateline Woods Preserve? Over the years, how many people have watched the sunset in awe of the colors or listened to birds sing their summer songs? How many others have cherished memories of this land? And how many in the future will enjoy adding their experiences to the story.

When you're out on one of our preserves – Share your photos on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram!

#TLCforSCC
#StatelineWoodsPreserve
#BucktoeCreekPreserve

#MarshallMillHouse
#NewLeafEcoCenter
#MarshallBridgePreserve

Christine



Whips Hike in Bucktoe Creek Preserve



Rainbow in Stateline Woods Preserve



Run For Conservation 2017

Environmental Education Update

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”

~ Albert Einstein

Stacey Gummey & Kristi Givens

This winter the cold didn't slow us down here at TLC! Programs allowed members and followers to participate in exciting experiences! Our last Owl Prowl was by far one of the best that that we've had here at TLC. Both barred owls flew in almost immediately after being called. Owl fans heard the two owls communicating for an hour up close and personal! They were able to see the beautiful barred owls face only feet away! Don't miss our next summer **Owl Prowl on June 9th from 8:00pm-9:30pm**. Drop-in on Nature friends explored the woods of the Annex, enjoyed sliding like seals on the ice, and spent time creating frog habitats! Members explored many characteristics of wildlife with our Wildlife in Winter four part series. We had biologist Gary Stolz and Teacher Naturalist Tim Zador introduce, explain, and lead an exploration on wildlife habitats!

Finally, spring has sprung here at TLC! We have many exciting opportunities for members and non-members to explore nature! Spring Break in Nature gave children a chance to enjoy three days exploring ponds and streams, hiking Bucktoe Creek Preserve, and searching for birds and amphibians! For our adult members, and followers, TLC hosted a **Mushroom Forage April 30th from 9am-1pm** at our headquarters. It was a wild success! The forage began with a hike through the woods and ended with a mushroom themed lunch! Following this forage we will host a **Medicinal Plant Forage led by April Coburn on June 18th from 9am-12pm**.

This summer children can spend their days summer exploring Bucktoe Creek Preserve with TLC's **Free Time Adventures**. This program begins June 20th-August 24th and is every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10am-2pm. Children will explore topics such as, habitats, birding, natural fort building, and herpetology. There will be guest speakers, hands-on fun, and one off-site field trip. The morning will focus on a nature based learning process followed by a group lunch. Our day will end with children's led choice time which will no doubt end with lots of stream play to stay cool in the summer sun! Join us for any or all 27 days of adventures!

TLC will host the **Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Training Course** running August-October. This program is a set of courses designed to teach interested adults about the natural history and ecology of this bioregion. Students will receive 55 hours of classroom and field instruction from experts on topics ranging in wildlife biology, ecological stewardship, and ornithology. This program is designed to create expert naturalists who are interested in giving back to the environment by volunteering their knowledge.

If you see something that you like, **ask us to create a custom program just for your group!** We have created programs for groups such as boy/girl scouts, cub scouts, boys and girls clubs, and other private groups. We love creating fun, interactive programs grounded in nature!

If you are interested in any of these programs, please visit www.tlcforscc.org/education for more information or call 610-347-0347 x 104

Stacey & Kristi



Free Time Adventures Crawfish Find

Free Time Adventures - Inspecting Their Finds



Free Time Adventures Stream Exploration



The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County
521 Chandler Mill Road
Avondale, PA 19311
Address Service Requested

Please consider receiving this
newsletter in email form so that
we can save on paper in future
issues. Contact us at
610-347-0347 x 101 or
admin@tlcforscc.org