



The Leaflet

Newsbrief of
WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST

❖ *Happy Holidays from your friends at the Trust* ❖

As we pack up our office and say our farewells at White Horse Corner, the finishing touches are being put on our new home at 925 Providence Road. We are grateful to the many generous Trust supporters who helped underwrite the renovation project, including the McLean Contributionship. A number of community members also made contributions of their time and talents. Chris Arader of Arader Tree Service donated \$12,000 of tree work at the new headquarters. By removing deadwood and trimming up the overgrown trees, our new offices are



WCT staff on the steps of 925 Providence Road

brighter (and safer!). Ann Arader, not to be outdone, donated her design expertise and had a hand at making the interior spaces warm and inviting. Locally known stonemason and “waller” George Hundt (GH Stonework) also joined in the effort, donating the repair of several beautiful old stone walls. And builder Mark Slouf contributed by helping us cut costs and stay within budget. Thank you, *thank you!*

Please stop in to say hello in January and, as always, may your New Year be EVERGREEN!

WCT/Audubon Pennsylvania Partnership Moving Ahead in 2006 *Your Involvement will be Critical!*

With assistance from the William Penn Foundation, Willistown Conservation Trust and Audubon Pennsylvania have forged a partnership to improve the management of, and permanently protect more of, the critical lands in the Upper Ridley/Crum Important Bird Area. **We are progressing on a list of action items and will need help from the community to make this partnership a success.** If you are interested in helping, please contact Alex Van Alen and request a “WCT/Audubon Volunteer form:” 610-325-8098 or asva@wctrust.org.

The community’s support is the critical component in making this partnership a success. Thank you in advance for helping protect the birds, wildlife, lands and waters of our IBA.

Several of the action items that need community participation include:

1. Construction of a deer enclosure on one or more of our Preserves.

The overabundance of deer is having a negative impact on the quality of our woodlands (see announcement of February 24 deer management program inside *Leaflet*), which in turn affects habitat for many birds. By excluding deer from some areas, the forest structure can regenerate and provide good bird nesting habitat. We will need help clearing invasive plant species as well as constructing the fence in Summer 2006.

(continued on next page)

The Leaflet is an interim publication to supplement our annual newsletter, THE SYCAMORE. Through *The Leaflet*, the WCT staff brings you interesting and timely information about Willistown Conservation Trust activities, stewardship news and upcoming events.

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2. Placement of bird boxes in appropriate habitat.

In 2006, WCT will place 100 bird boxes built by local craftsman, Gordon Finch, throughout our IBA. Many cavity nesting birds are on the decline and these boxes will serve as homes for kestrels, woodpeckers, owls, wood ducks, bluebirds and more. We will teach several volunteers how to identify the best placement of nesting boxes and how to install the structures. We hope these same volunteers will then monitor the boxes on an annual basis. Bird boxes will be available for sale to landowners with proper habitat.

3. A riparian buffer planting along a stretch of the Ridley Creek.

Riparian buffers help improve water quality and allow for wildlife passage. In the fall of 2006, we will need volunteers to spend a morning planting trees and shrubs and setting up deer protection.

Regenerative Farming:

Brainstorming with Joel Salatin on a Local Farm

On Saturday, February 11, 2006, Joel Salatin, a third generation farmer from Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, will lead a workshop on "Sustainable Farming" at Lynn and Tony Hitschler's 100-acre farm on Garrett Mill Road. This interactive program will detail his profitable, low-tech, close-to-nature style of farming with an emphasis on rotational grazing.

Joel Salatin's family farm in Virginia shines as an example of innovation and what is right about family-scale farming, when it is done with respect to nature. He is a true pro in diversified farming and grass-based livestock production systems and has been featured in *Smithsonian Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Gourmet* and countless other radio, television and print media. He has authored five books and was profiled on the *Lives of the 21st Century* series with Peter Jennings.

The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude by 2:00 p.m. and will include an informal lunch and working-walking tour of the Hitschler's farm. Dress warmly! Space is limited to 60 with a \$25 workshop fee payable to the Willistown Conservation Trust. For more information or to register for the workshop, please contact Betsy Block: 610-353-2562 Ext. 13 or bhb@wctrust.org.

4th Annual Golf Outing: September 25, 2006

Presented by Devon Hill BMW

SAVE THE DATE

for the Fourth Annual *Golf and Good Nature* Outing at Waynesborough Country Club on Monday, September 25, 2006. The course has undergone a major renovation and Waynesborough just completed construction of a brand new clubhouse, so we are looking forward to another terrific day of golf with good friends of the Trust. Co-chairs Margot Keith and Donna Oliver and their hardworking committee are already in high gear and, new for 2006, we are delighted to welcome Devon Hill BMW as our Presenting Sponsor.

Golf and Good Nature has become one of the Willistown Conservation Trust's most successful fundraising events. The money raised provides the Trust with critical operating funds and, in addition, the event heightens local awareness of the Trust's conservation activities.

A big "thank you" to our 2005 sponsors!

Our most recent outing, held at Applebrook Golf Club on June 28, netted over \$36,000 for the Trust. Our "Kestrel Sponsors" included Brushwood Stable; Claneil Foundation, Inc.; Devon Hill BMW; Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Doyle III; Harvey Insurance Group; Quaker Funds, Inc.; and TL Ventures. "Bobolink Hole Sponsors" included the Academy of Natural Sciences; Altus Partners; Barnard, Mezzanotte and Pinnie; Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.; Warren Claytor Architects; Walter J. Cook Jeweler; Ferrell Resources; JetDirect Aviation; Oliver Sprinkler Co., Inc.; Open Connections; Radnor Research & Trading Company; UMAC, Inc.; and VIASYS Health Care Inc. In addition, we received donations of goods and services from Brandywine Signs, Inc.; Walter J. Cook Jeweler; Ermilio Clothier; Donna and Bill Oliver; Quaker Funds, Inc.; Tri-Leopard Vineyard; Tweetyville Birdhouses; and Westlawn Graphic.

To receive a 2006 sponsorship package and/or an invitation to the outing, please contact Trisha Lambert: 610-353-2562 Ext. 16 or tld@wctrust.org. Your support of *Golf and Good Nature* ensures that we are well staffed and fully prepared to tackle the next land protection project!

Please make a note of our new address, effective January 10, 2006:
925 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073. Our phone and fax numbers will remain the same.



Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees announced the formation of the Sycamore Society to recognize the most generous donors to our Annual Fund. *Since that time, 72 supporters have joined the ranks by making gifts of \$1,000 or more!*

Representing 20 percent of all Annual Fund donors, yet contributing more than 80 percent of the total raised to date, support from Sycamore Society members is crucial to fulfill the Trust's conservation mission. They are leaders not only because they give generously, but also because they inspire philanthropy in others.

Sycamore Society Members as of December 1, 2005

♦ Ms. Carol Ann Atterbury ♦ Mrs. Elizabeth G. Atterbury ♦ Mrs. Sigrid Berwind ♦ Betsy and Luke Block ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Borgh, Jr. ♦ Frank and Terry Buzan ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Campbell, Jr. ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Warren I. Claytor ♦ Warren Claytor Architects ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Bryan D. Colket ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Gary A. Cox ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Craig W. Cullen, Jr. ♦ Mr. and Mrs. William O. Daggett, Jr. ♦ Carol and J.R. Delich ♦ Dick and Nancy Eales ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Eric Y. Eichler ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Ewing ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Ferber ♦ Sally and Tom Fernley ♦ Lori and Gary Gorton ♦ Tucker C. Gresh ♦ John and Chara Haas ♦ Mrs. Samuel M.V. Hamilton ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Daniel G. Hartshorn ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Peter O. Hausmann ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Hofmann ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Gary M. Holloway ♦ Mr. and Mrs. William T. Howard ♦ Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Jordan ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Jerome R. Keough ♦ The Larson Family Charitable Fund ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Leisenring, Jr. ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Leisenring ♦ Mr. and Mrs. William D. Lenker ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Lewis, Jr. ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Thompson A. Maher ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Marsh ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Peter J.

By making a gift of \$1,000 or more before December 31, 2005, you will be considered a Charter Member of the Sycamore Society.

Special benefits will include:

- Recognition on a permanent plaque in the Trust's new office.
- An invitation to a Sycamore Society recognition party in Spring 2006.
- A set of limited-edition note cards printed for use by Sycamore Society members.

To learn more about making a donation to the Trust, please contact Betsy Block, Director of Development and Public Relations: 610-353-2562 Ext. 13 or bhb@wctrust.org.

McNeely ♦ Mrs. J. Maxwell Moran ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Britton H. Murdoch ♦ Naturescapes ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Newbold IV ♦ Mr. and Mrs. William L. Oliver ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Damian T. Papariello ♦ The Pennsylvania Fund ♦ Mr. and Mrs. William J. Petrauskas ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Norman T. Phelps, Jr. ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Seymour S. Preston III ♦ Dr. and Mrs. Donald E. Red ♦ Mr. John H. Richards III ♦ Mr. and Mrs. George F. Rubin ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Schaefer ♦ Dr. Hubert J.P. and Anne Faulkner Schoemaker ♦ Mr. Charles F. Seabrook II ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Sheehy ♦ Mr. and Mrs. John A. Simkiss, Jr. ♦ Lang and Marilyn Smith ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Spahr ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Stolper ♦ Mrs. George Strawbridge ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Strawbridge ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Anson W. H. Taylor, Jr. ♦ Mr. David B. Thayer ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Thompson ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Cary Toner ♦ James and Bonnie Van Alen ♦ Mrs. William L. Van Alen, Sr. ♦ Mr. Douglas C. Walker ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Wall ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Alfred P. West, Jr. ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Brooke N. Williams ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Woodruff ♦

The Challenges of Overabundant Deer

Friday, February 24, 2006 ~ 6 to 9 p.m.

Dr. Gary Alt, former Supervisor of the Pennsylvania Game Commission Deer Management Section, will speak on critical deer management issues that are facing residents of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Other speakers will include Dr. Tim D. Schaeffer, Executive Director, Audubon Pennsylvania; and Bryon Shissler, Director of the Ecosystem Management Project. Please save the date for an informative evening program that will include dinner. An invitation with program details will be mailed in January 2006.

Celebrating Kirkwood

On October 2, the Trust hosted *Celebrating Kirkwood*, a country picnic overlooking Kirkwood Preserve. It was a magnificent evening, attended by 320 Trust supporters, and raised over \$62,000 for the ongoing management and stewardship of the Preserve. To view images of the celebration, visit our website (www.wctrust.org) and click on "Events."

The Willistown Conservation Trust is dedicated to preserving the open land, rural character, scenic, historic and ecologically significant resources of the Willistown area and nearby communities, with particular emphasis on the Crum, Ridley and Darby Creek watersheds.

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Scenes from Creek Week 2005 at Kirkwood Preserve
~ This is what conservation is all about!

Willistown Conservation Trust is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)3 of the I.R.S. Code. Donations are tax deductible. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

The Leaflet is printed on recycled paper.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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