



THE SYCAMORE

Vol. IV, Issue I

Newsletter of

Spring 2003

WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST

It's Spring...

AND THE TRUST IS GROWING TO MEET NEW CHALLENGES!

Spring is here! Swamp maple buds are casting a rosy hue along the Ridley, Crum and Darby stream valleys, and spring peepers are singing their intermittent chorus in the wetlands. Early songbirds are returning to Willistown's woodlands, and our meadows and pasture fields are turning green after the long and frigid winter of 2002/2003. Every fine spring day I am filled with gratitude for

MARY HUNT DAVIS



The WCT Team: (back row left to right) Trisha Dougherty, Dee Ann Bowman, Alex Van Alen, Mary McLoughlin, Caroline Claytor, Bonnie Van Alen, (front row left to right) Alice Hausmann, Noelle Thurlow, Besty Block and Chairman, Peter Strawbridge.

the beauty of this countryside and the many landowners, supporters and hardworking volunteers who have helped to preserve so much of it.

Even with the remarkable conservation successes to date (4,500 acres now protected), each spring brings to all of us at the Willistown Conservation Trust a heightened awareness of the fragility of the countryside and the great need to preserve our remaining special lands *before it is too late*. To that end, the Trust board and staff have committed to a strategic plan which includes growing the organization's

capacity to meet the challenge of preserving **another 4,500 critical acres** within the next few years.

And growing we are! As you read through this issue of *The Sycamore* you will meet two new members of our Board of Trustees, and three capable and talented new staff members (bringing our total staff to nine). We invite you to stop by the White Horse Corner office and our new office in the old blacksmith

shop to greet the new staff and exchange ideas.

All of us at the Trust, new and old, recognize that it is because of *your* encouragement and generosity that we are able to grow our capacity now so that future generations may always enjoy the glorious return of spring each year to the Willistown countryside. 🌿

Bonnie Van Alen
President

🌿 *For the preservation of the natural resources, rural character, and cultural heritage of the Willistown area.* 🌿

Chairman's Perspective

by Peter Strawbridge

We are exceedingly pleased to report that Peter Strawbridge, a founding member of our Board of Trustees, has agreed to serve as Chairman. Peter brings to the position a lifelong passion for the countryside, a true understanding of land trust work and management experience which will prove invaluable as we strive to meet the ambitious conservation goals to which our Trustees and staff are committed. Bonnie Van Alen will continue as President and Executive Director of the Trust.

Following are some comments from Peter regarding his new role.

When I was asked to write a few words about my new role as Chairman of the Board, the very first thing that came to my mind was that I could take advantage of this opportunity to say publicly some things about Bonnie Van Alen and Alice Hausmann and the wonderful team that they have assembled at the Trust. I think of them all as miracle workers. In the few years since the Trust's inception, what they have accomplished in terms of open land preservation and community resource protection, for the benefit of generations to come, is truly extraordinary. Thanks to their vision and herculean efforts, over four thousand acres in Willstown Township and surrounding communities — an area only twenty miles from our country's



Peter and friend, Bolo

sixth largest city — have been preserved in perpetuity.

Yet *there is so much more to do and so little time in which to do it.* That is what excites and motivates me. I see my role essentially as being a sounding board for Bonnie and Alice and one in which I will be working closely with a deeply committed, caring and enthusiastic group of fellow trustees to further the mission of the Trust. With the continuing support of a large and growing number of contributors and volunteers, I am confident that we can build upon the marvelous accomplishments of the past and meet the many difficult land conservation challenges of the future. 🌿

Trust Receives Capacity Building Grant from William Penn Foundation

Recognizing the need to assure our sustainability as a strong community institution well prepared to meet the conservation challenges facing our countryside, the Trust applied for and has received a *generous two-year grant in the amount of \$264,000 from the William Penn Foundation.* The grant will increase the Trust's capacity to do good conservation work by funding a portion of the salaries over the next two years of our new Director of Development, Betsy Block, and our new Associate Director of Land Protection, Noelle Thurlow. An additional portion of the grant is dedicated to funding our multi-municipal planning and preservation efforts in the Crum, Ridley and Darby Creek watersheds under the leadership of Mary McLoughlin. *We are deeply grateful to the William Penn Foundation for their confidence and support at this critical time in the Trust's growth.*

Conservation Report

ELEVEN NEW CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND A FIFTY-FIVE ACRE PRESERVE

Another two hundred thirty-one acres added to protected lands!

Since the last issue of *The Sycamore*, the Trust has worked with caring landowners on the donation of eleven new conservation easements. Five of these easements are a result of the acquisition of Ashbridge Farm, the critical one hundred seventy-five acre property in East Goshen Township acquired last year by a conservation partnership, and the resale of large parcels of the farm to conservation-minded buyers. Also part of the Ashbridge Farm project is the protection of the fifty-five acre tract acquired from the partnership by the Trust and now known as the *Ashbridge Preserve*.

Of the remaining six easements, three are the result of the Thompson family working with the Trust to plan for their lands along the Darby Creek in Easttown Township; two easements resulted from the Marsh family's thoughtful commitment to their lands in Willistown's Crum Creek watershed; and the last and most recent easement was donated by the Shorr family to preserve their beautiful farm on the Ridley Creek, also in Willistown Township.

All in all, these twelve projects have added another two hundred and thirty one acres to the *nearly five thousand acres of protected lands* in the Willistown Conservation Trust program area. Following are the highlights of these recent projects.

THE ASHBRIDGE FARM EASEMENTS

When the Ashbridge Farm Associates partnership purchased the property last

April, it was with the knowledge that four wonderful conservation buyers were ready to simultaneously close on portions of the farm. Ashbridge Farm Associates and the Trust are forever grateful to those four families. Without their commitment at a critical point in the negotiations, the farm would have been lost, and the land would now be subject to the impact of one hundred fifty new residential units. Each of the four families has since donated an easement on their new land to the Willistown Conservation Trust. In December, a fifth parcel was purchased and subsequently preserved by another conservation-minded family.

**Please note that there are two remaining conservation parcels available for purchase at Ashbridge Farm. Help us complete this worthwhile conservation project by spreading the word about this beautiful land. See back cover of this issue for details.*

The Howard Easement.

Bill Howard grew up knowing and loving Ashbridge Farm. Being an avid naturalist, he explored every inch as a boy and today has an intimate relationship with the wetlands, woodlands, open fields and the creatures that live and visit there. As owners of land adjacent to the farm it was a natural for Bill and his wife Lyn to acquire one of the conservation parcels, add it to their exist-

ing land, and protect the entirety through the donation of a conservation easement. This easement covering almost nine acres allows for one additional residence limited in size, and includes a trail easement corridor insuring an important link from Ashbridge Farm to the network of trails through the countryside and along the Ridley Creek Greenway.

The Mita Easement

Eustace and Susie Mita had been on our list of prospective Conservation Buyers for a number of years, but had never found just the right property. One visit

Conservation Report continued on page 4.



Out standing in the field, easement donor Susie Mita with Alice Hausmann at Ashbridge Farm.

Conservation Report continued from page 3.
to Ashbridge, and they were sold on the twenty-acre parcel in the southwest corner of the farm, with its long sweeping views over the fields and the sunrise over Ashbridge Preserve. The Mita's have donated an easement allowing one primary residence, limited in size, and two attached apartments. An important trail corridor is included in the easement.

The Mullen Easement

Long time friends of the Trust, John and Joan Mullen had also been on the Conservation Buyer list for a good while. After generously participating with us in two conservation partnership projects to save other critical properties (Happy Hill Farm and Seventy-Six Farm) they fell in love with and purchased the beautiful thirty-acre parcel that comprises the northwest portion of Ashbridge Farm. The property contains a small historic farmhouse, open fields, some woodland, and lovely long views to the south and east. Their easement allows one primary residence the existing tenant house and an apartment, and also provides a significant trail easement corridor.

The Thurman Easement

We are particularly grateful to Randy and Karen Thurman for their commitment to help save Ashbridge Farm by participating as both investors in the partnership to acquire the farm, and as purchasers of the sixteen acre property bordering Dutton Mill Road. Also long on our Conservation Buyers list, the Thurmans were attracted to the house

site nestled into the hillside with views looking out over the fields and wetlands of the Ashbridge Preserve. They are the first to begin construction and expect to be living on the farm this summer. The easement allows for a main house and an apartment, and includes an important trail corridor connecting trails from the Preserve to Dutton Mill Road.

The Turner Easement.

On December 13, 2002, Mark and Christine Turner purchased the northernmost thirteen-acre portion of Ashbridge Farm with access from Towne Drive. This part of the farm is a world of its own, surrounded on three sides by the Ashbridge preserve — a great place for the Turners to bring up their young family. The easement allows for a residence limited in size and an apartment, as well as providing an important trail link in the Ridley Creek Greenway.

THE THOMPSON FAMILY LAND EASEMENTS

Collectively, the Thompson family owned a forty-eight acre tract on South Leopard Road which is one of the last relatively undeveloped properties in the Darby Creek watershed in Easttown Township. With the passing of Mrs. Thompson, Sr. in 2001 (at the remarkable age of one hundred and two!) the family was faced with the challenge of planning for the future of the family lands while meeting the various needs and interests of many family members. We are grateful that several family members

and Alan Crawford, the estate executor, approached the Trust to help with the planning process.

After analyzing numerous possible scenarios, a conservation and marketing plan was arrived at which met the conservation and financial goals of the family members. The Trust brought Conservation Buyers Michael and Jane Stolper into the equation, and a subdivision plan was prepared and taken through the approval process. The net result of these extensive planning efforts is as follows:

The Stolper Purchase and Easement.

Michael and Jane Stolper purchased the estate house and ten acres, and subsequently have donated a conservation easement to the Trust limiting residential construction to the site of the original house and the existing tenant house. The easement includes a "Restricted Building Area" protecting the scenic views and sensitive natural features of the floodplain and meadowland bordering the Darby Creek tributary which flows through the property.

The Paul Thompson Purchase and Easement

Paul (Tim) Thompson, the grandson of Mrs. Thompson, Sr., and his wife, Judith, purchased two parcels comprising fourteen and twelve acres respectively, and subsequently donated an easement on the fourteen acre piece to the Trust. The easement designates a specific building

Attention: Advocacy Alert!

The Trust needs your help with crucial and time-sensitive conservation advocacy issues. You CAN help to make a positive impact in support of land conservation with a much needed phone call or letter! Please get involved. Together we can make a difference for conservation! Simply call or email Caroline Claytor at the Trust to get on the advocacy email list. Phone 610-353-2562 or email at cdc@wctrust.org.

envelope and limits residential construction to one house. As in the Stolper easement, this easement includes a Restricted Building Area prohibiting construction in the meadowland along the creek. Efforts are ongoing to further protect the twelve-acre parcel.

The Rodman Thompson Easement

To complete the picture and add to the overall conservation of the family lands, Rod Thompson (Mrs. Thompson Sr.'s son) and his wife, Ana, have generously donated a conservation easement on their adjacent eleven acre property. This easement further protects views and sensitive features of the critical stream valley by way of a Restricted Building Area, and limits residential construction to Rod and Ana's existing house and a small secondary residence.

Under the existing zoning, the alternative to the above plan for the Thompson lands could have been as many as fourteen additional residences. However, because members of the Thompson family cared deeply enough to seek a conservation solution, the natural and scenic features of this special property will be preserved for the enjoyment of many future generations.


THE MARSH FAMILY EASEMENTS

In December of 2002, the Marsh and Heft families donated **two conservation easements** to Willistown Conservation Trust eliminating any residential structures from a total of 17 acres of their lands located between Barr Road and Grubb Mill Road in the heart of Willistown Township. These two easements will protect the woodlands and open meadowlands of the property, and a section of Barr Run, an important

tributary to the Crum Creek. The views of the open field sloping down to Grubb Mill Road is preserved, and the family plans to manage the four acre field for native flora and fauna under the guidance of WCT. The Marsh and Heft families recognize the importance of the property for equestrian use and have included an extensive trail easement corridor. Many thanks go to the following family members for their forethought and generosity in donating these easements: John and Nima Marsh, Karen Heft, David Marsh, Edward and Laurie Ann Shipley, and Robert and Marjorie Marsh.

THE SHORR EASEMENT AT CROSSBROOK FARM

Deacon and Sheila Shorr purchased Crossbrook Farm on Garrett Mill Road in the spring of 2000. Having looked at many country properties, the Shorrs fell in love with the thirty-six acre farm at

first sight. They recognized not only its great beauty with the old farmhouse nestled into the hillside overlooking the Ridley Creek, but also its critical importance as a connecting link between the many protected properties in that part of the Willistown countryside. They have recently donated an easement to the Trust which will protect in perpetuity the many special features of Crossbrook Farm including a large area of mature woodland, open field and meadows, steep slopes and a spectacular stretch of the Ridley Creek. The easement includes an important trail corridor and brings us one step closer to the ambitious goal of a contiguous, protected Upper Ridley Creek Greenway corridor from East Goshen Park and Ashbridge Preserve in the north to Ridley Creek State Park and Tyler Arboretum eight miles to the south. Many thanks to the Shorrs for their vision and generosity in donating this easement to the Trust. 



Deacon and Sheila Shorr enjoying the beautiful Ridley Creek as it winds through eased land at Crossbrook Farm.

Willistown Preserved Lands

WHERE THE WILD THINGS STILL ARE

by Alex Van Alen



NORTHERN
HARRIER

Since 1979, the Willistown Conservation Trust and its earlier iteration, the Willistown Area Conservation Program, have worked with landowners in the area to produce over 135 conservation easements. Not including the 3300 acres of Ridley Creek State Park and Tyler Arboretum, there are now more than 4500 acres of protected open space in the WCT Program Area. This open space represents many things to many people. Scenic vistas while driving to work, recreational opportunities including trail walking, horseback riding and bird watching, and even economics (think how many jobs are dependent on horses and other country and agricultural activities). This open space also produces less visible and less tangible benefits such as cleaner water, cleaner air, cooler temperatures on those steaming July days, and a haven for native plants and wildlife in a region that continues to feel enormous pressure from asphalt and cement. In short, our open space helps to protect the wildness that still remains within the Upper Ridley, Crum and Darby Creek watersheds.

Within WCT's Program Area there are populations of the threatened bog turtle (*Clemmys mublenbergii*), the state rare flower "toothcup" (*Rotala ramosior*) and rare grass (*Poa autumnalis*). Serpentine Barrens, a unique natural community that has evolved from the extreme, nutrient-poor conditions created by serpentine geology, exist protected in several spots throughout the area, and we are presently working to protect more. There is a globally rare hawthorn (*Crataegus sp.*) at our Ashbridge Preserve. There are vernal pools at the Okehocking Preserve that are critical habitat for declining amphibian species, and on one eased property exists very possibly the largest, oldest red oak (*Quercus rubra*) in Pennsylvania. All of this, and more, in addition to the more common species that use this precious land, such as deer, foxes, great horned and screech owls, ground-hogs, possums and red-tailed hawks. Breeding grassland birds such as meadowlarks and bobolinks, which were once common but have declined drastically in Pennsylvania, have

been spotted regularly on both protected and unprotected lands in the area.

Willistown Conservation Trust is committed first and foremost to protecting land from improper development, but we also understand the importance of this open space for its other residents. We understand that beyond the horse trails and scenic vistas, there still remains this undercurrent of wildness in Willistown. It is there in the creek valleys, woodlands, and ponds. It is in the early mornings and also the dark nights. Our conservation easements preserve this wildness by leaving woodland habitat intact for wildlife, keeping a buffer between development and riparian areas, assuring proper management for livestock so as not to degrade water quality, and protecting rare, threatened or endangered species and natural communities.

The Trust is working with the Audubon Society to nominate our Program Area as a Pennsylvania Important Bird Area (IBA). The primary goal of the Pennsylvania IBA program is to locate habitat areas that are important to birds using scientific criteria, then inspire action designed to protect and preserve these areas. An IBA designation has no regulatory authority, instead it acts to inform decision makers about where to focus their conservation efforts. It is our hope that with a successful nomination, WCT will more easily showcase the area's diversity and thereby help landowners protect the lands they steward.

"We need the tonic of wildness...

We can never

have enough of nature."

Henry David Thoreau, 1854

On another stewardship project, WCT has been contracted by Willistown Township to manage the Okehocking Preserve. The management plan will call for removal of exotic plant species such as multiflora rose and oriental bittersweet, planting of native riparian woodlands to promote wildlife movement and protect water quality, and establishment of native grasses and wildflowers, both through a simple change in the timing and

height of mowing, and through a more active planting plan. With this change in grassland management, we expect to see a significant increase in the presence of eastern meadowlarks, bobolinks, northern harriers and other animals dependent on this plant community. Beginning this spring, we will be working directly with landowners to promote activities on their lands to encourage the return of grassland species to the Willistown area.

During this time of intense development pressure, the Willistown Conservation Trust will continue to focus the majority of its efforts on protecting the community's remaining open lands through the use of conservation easements and acquisition. In addition to those frontline efforts though, we will continue to work diligently to promote, restore and enhance the critical habitats which assure the future of wild things in Willistown.

Willistown Conservation Trust Develops GIS Capacity



A GIS generated map for the Okebocking Preserve management plan showing the mowing schedule on top of an aerial photo.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Pennsylvania Land Trust Matching Grants Program, we have begun to develop our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capacity. GIS is a computer-based mapping tool that will be very useful in our land protection efforts. GIS organizes geographical data and provides the capability to visualize the data through maps. These maps can overlay different data layers, including parcels, soils, water resources, and aerial photos.

The Matching Grants Program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to help increase the organizational capacity of land trusts in the state and encourage new, innovative, and collaborative methods for protecting the state's threatened natural resources. The program is implemented by the Land Trust Alliance Mid-Atlantic Program, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Land

Trust Association, and funded through a grant from The William Penn Foundation.

The \$5,000 granted to WCT has allowed us to work with Erik Hetzel of Weston Solutions, Inc. to develop data, create maps, and train our staff. We are currently expanding our use of GIS in the following applications:

- Mapping our program area to show protected lands
- Mapping our priorities for protection
- Helping landowners visualize their property
- Creating maps for documentation of conservation easements
- Assisting with monitoring and stewardship

For more information about GIS, please stop by our office or call Noelle Thurlow, Associate Director for Land Protection.

Activities and Events

JOIN US FOR CREEK WEEK!

Join us on

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH

at the Trust's new Ashbridge Preserve located at Dutton Mill and Strasburg Roads in East Goshen Township along a beautiful stretch of the Ridley Creek.

Fun for "kids of all ages"!

The schedule for the morning is:

7:00 A.M. BIRD WALK guided by naturalists and associates from the Valley Forge Audubon Society.

9:00 A.M. COFFEE AND DANISH

9:30 A.M. EXPLORE THE CREEK and discover stream critters during a fascinating interactive exhibit presented by Stroud Water Research Center.

This event is part of "Creek Week" established by our friends at the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association to raise awareness, highlight, and encourage stewardship of these three local creeks. Be sure to bring boots and binoculars. Please call Trisha Dougherty at the Trust to sign up for this fun spring event (610-353-2562).



RADNOR HUNT CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE BENEFITS THE TRUST

For the fourth year, the Willistown Conservation Trust has been named the beneficiary of the annual Radnor Hunt Concours d' Elegance, a world class automobile exhibition held each September on the grounds of the Radnor Hunt. The weekend event begins on Saturday with a Road Rally through the bucolic, rural country roads of Chester County followed by a Saturday night welcome dinner. The main event occurs on Sunday with the exhibition and judging of the assembled antique automobiles.



Caroline and Warren Claytor take off on the Road Rally...

Last September, the Trust was well represented at the Rally. Bonnie Van Alen and Chris Moller teamed up in Chris's 1963 Series I E-Type Jaguar to take on this challenging route. Caroline and Warren Claytor (Caroline is a WCT staff member) also participated, driving their 1966 Austin-Healey 3000 convertible. Although our two representative couples brought along antique cars, a Rally automobile does not have to qualify as antique to enter. The object of a Road Rally is to follow a designated course using obscure clues (i.e. "turn right at bicycle") and reach the goal of the "perfect mileage". Jane MacElree, who has participated in the Rally, said what you really need is a good navigator. Bonnie and Chris had a fantastic journey weaving through the countryside and encourage everyone to give it a try this year. Caroline and

Activities and Events *(Continued)*

Warren also had a great time but seem to have had their own notion of reaching the ideal mileage. They enjoyed lunch at the Four Dogs in Marshalton and did a little antiques on the way!

Saturday evening we all had dinner at Radnor Hunt overlooking the countryside with a few magnificent antique cars in the foreground. It was especially satisfying to know that the Radnor Hunt view has been permanently protected by a conservation easement donated in 1990 by all the members and will be enjoyed forever in its natural state. Early on Sunday we arrived to find over one hundred extraordinary vehicles on the Radnor Hunt grounds with owners awaiting the decision of the judges.



...to return several hours later.

This year, the Concours will be held on September 12-14 and we hope many of you will plan to attend. The Road Rally will have a special finale with a picnic lunch served at one the most beautiful homes in the Willistown area surrounded by preserved lands. The seventh annual Concours d'Elegance will celebrate one hundred years of the Ford Motor Company and the fiftieth anniversary of the Chevrolet Corvette, and will honor Alfa Romeo.

WCT is very fortunate to be named as the beneficiary for this event. Last October, at a special dinner, we were presented with a check for \$5000 from the proceeds of the Concours. Those funds will help keep all those beautiful country back roads rural and part of a very special cultural landscape. We hope you will attend the entire weekend and make

sure you sign up for the Rally (limited to 100 cars)! The Concours d' Elegance has a website www.radnorconcours.org, where you can find out more details and read about the Willistown Conservation Trust involvement as well.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
"Golf and Good Nature"

WCT 2nd Outing at
Applebrook Golf Club

OCTOBER 14, 2003

Have Fun and Help the Trust!
Sponsorships Available
Call for details



*Our generous 2002 "Golf and Good Nature" sponsors:
Lang Smith for The Claneil Foundation and John Mullen
for Apple Vacations. We thank you!*

Why Is There Still Fox Hunting in the Radnor Country?

by Anson Taylor

Anson Taylor is a Trustee of the Willistown Conservation Trust, a member of the Environmental Committee of the Brandywine Conservancy, a Founder and President of the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource and a former President of the Radnor Hunt

When I joined the Radnor Hunt about forty years ago, there was consensus among the members that fox hunting in the area surrounding the clubhouse would end within ten years and the club would then dissolve or follow the Rose Tree Hunt to central Pennsylvania. There was reason for this gloom. All

MARY HUNT DAVIS



of the open land between what is today the Insurance Institute (at Sugartown and Providence Roads) and Line Road was being developed, the farm opposite to the club property had been sold to White Manor Golf Club, Hershey's Mill was being developed in the Thursday Country and Rabbit Run Road, Fox Creek Road and Old Covered Bridge Estates, plus new residences on White Horse Road were invading Tuesday Country. There seemed no reason to believe that open land for chasing foxes would continue in the Radnor Hunt country.

Why is it that the Radnor Hunt hounds are still leaving the kennel on foot (not by truck) two days per week to chase live foxes in the surrounding area? This did not occur by happenstance. As I have learned in my capacity as president of the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, the reason certain suburban areas of large cities have maintained open land for the horse is a champion who is passionately engaged in land preservation, who causes a conservation organization to be created, and who then energizes the community behind the effort.

In the Radnor Hunt Country, our champion from the late 1970's has been Bonnie Van Alen, who formed the Willistown Area Conservation Program of the Brandywine Conservancy and in 1995 transformed that Program into the Willistown Conservation

Trust. In the early days, Bonnie was assisted by Kathie McCoy and these two volunteers were responsible for obtaining donations of conservation easements on many acres of land essential to both equestrian trail riding and fox hunting. By 1986 such familiar fox hunting names as "Featherfield", "Mill Hollow", the "Hundred Acre Field", "Aliquippa", "Crumdale", "Fairy Hill", "Snow White Laundry", "Happy Hollow", "Rushton", "Lockwoods" and "Delchester Farm", plus many other properties essential to the Hunt, became the subject of conservation easements. In addition, the Brandywine Conservancy acquired fee title to the "Square Field." At the same time easements were obtained on properties which permit trail access to the coverts essential to fox hunting.

When Kathie McCoy headed west in 1989, Alice Hausmann became the assistant to Bonnie Van Alen and the two of them have continued as the President and Vice President of the Willistown Conservation Trust to the present day. Under their leadership the Trust has increased its staff from the original, two volunteers, to nine staff members involved in many aspects of land protection. Recent successes, important to

riding in the open, were the preservation of “Seventy-Six Farm”, “Happy Hill Farm” (now known as “Heartwood”), “Black Sheep Farm”, “Gaylea Farm” (now “Gramercy Farm”) and “Ashbridge Farm”, which was formerly an important part of the Radnor Hunt country and will be open in the future for equestrian trail riding.

Will hunting continue at the Radnor? The answer depends on luck and hard work. Luck comes in the form of opportunity to keep land in the control of conservationists. Any one who has dealt with real estate knows that until an agreement of sale is signed, there is no certainty that a conservation buyer

will gain control of unprotected open land. However, if the conservation buyer is assisted by the Willistown Conservation Trust, the odds will favor conservation over development, since the staff of the Trust (now nine strong) will spend the time and effort required to offset the power of land developers.

The members of the Radnor Hunt and the residents of its surrounding area can help insure success in keeping land open for the horse by giving the Willistown Conservation Trust the moral and financial support it needs to save the countryside. The time for action is now. Once land is developed it is too late. 🌿

LOCAL ARTIST OFFERS SALE OF PRINTS TO BENEFIT WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST

Once again, Willistown artist **Barbara Page Bartholomew** has very generously pledged to donate a significant portion of proceeds from the sale of her Limited Edition prints to benefit the Trust.

Mrs. Bartholomew’s paintings have been described as having a “sophisticated primitive style that tells a story”, and her subjects range from the rolling hills and open fields of Chester County to the sea-coasts of Maine and New Jersey to island life in the Bahamas.

The print shown here is “Confusion at Okehocking Barn”, a painting done by the artist in 1982, but

appropriate now, as the Okehocking barn was recently purchased and restored by the Trust as part of the Okehocking Preserve project. “Confusion at Okehocking Barn” may

be ordered by calling the Trust, or to see this and other prints by the artist, you are welcome to stop by the blacksmith shop at Goshen and Providence Roads any weekday.



Each edition is limited to 250 prints. All prints are numbered and signed by Mrs. Bartholomew, and are mounted with museum quality paper. The price is \$275 inclusive of Pennsylvania sales tax. 🌿

Okehocking Preserve Opened to the Public

On October 5, 2002, the Willistown Conservation Trust and Willistown Township hosted over 200 visitors to the official opening of the 136 acre Okehocking Preserve. The day began with a bird walk led by the Valley Forge Audubon Society. Following the walk everyone gathered in a field by the Ridley Creek to participate in an American Indian ceremony led by Lynne Pritchard from the Micmac tribe. Through song and the burning of sweetgrass, Lynne asked for peace for the spirits of the land that was once an Okehocking Indian village and hunting ground.

With a heightened appreciation of the land, the participants went on to enjoy the many activities, including fly-tying instruction from Trout Unlimited, a raptor exhibition by the Great Valley Nature Center, tree planting led by the Delaware Riverkeepers, aquatic invertebrate study led by Linda Brooks and a talk on the historic features of the Preserve by the Willistown Historic Commission.

The Okehocking Preserve is located between Delchester and Garret Mill Roads on the north side of West Chester Pike. It includes 136 acres of rolling hills, wetlands, native grasslands and woodlands and has a 3200 foot stretch of the Ridley Creek meandering through it. There are several loop trails through the Preserve, ranging from a brief walk to a good hike of up to one hour. There is an area along Delchester Road where dogs are permitted off leash. Dogs must be on leash in the rest of the Preserve. The Preserve is open for all to enjoy during daylight hours.



Blessing the land at Okehocking Preserve Opening Day.

The Okehocking Preserve was acquired and permanently protected in 2002 through a partnership of Willistown Conservation Trust, Willistown Township, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Chester County.

WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST PARTICIPATES IN UNITED WAY DONOR CHOICE/SPECIFIC CARE PROGRAM OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

By designating WCT as a recipient, your donation to United Way will help us fund important projects ~ protecting open space ~ establishing trails ~ assessing and protecting water quality of our streams ~ and the acquisition of parks and preserves.

The United Way identification number assigned to Willistown Conservation Trust is code #12981.

Thank you for your support!

Four Generations at Glennbrook Farm

by E. B. Leisenring

Ted Leisenring has always been a good friend of conservation. We treasure his invaluable (and frank!) advice and constant support, and thank him for sharing the following story.

I have been asked to put on record my feelings about preserving Glennbrook Farm which our family has been blessed to own in Willistown and Easttown Townships since 1928. I am happy to do this, since any well-told story on the subject should hopefully convince other landowners that the advantages and wisdom of the voluntary saving of open land is compelling.

In the 1920s, my parents lived in Ardmore, where I was born in 1926. My parents enjoyed riding, and started out following the hunt with M. Roy Jackson, then Master of the Radnor hounds. The late William C. Hunneman, Jr., a great friend of my father, lived on Providence Road at Happy Hollow Farm (now still the home of Mr. Hunneman's daughter, Mrs. Bruner Strawbridge). Mr. Hunneman tried to convince my father to move to the Radnor Hunt country, since Ardmore was a long distance away with poor roads in between, many of them unpaved. Sensing my father's reluctance, Mr. Hunneman himself made a 20% down-payment on what is now Glennbrook Farm, 140 acres between Buttonwood and White Horse Roads. Mr. Hunneman then said he could not afford to buy the land and to hold Happy Hollow Farm as well, thus shaming my father into buying Glennbrook Farm with its venerable bank barn, farm buildings and twelve stall horse stable.

As a family, we have enjoyed Glennbrook Farm from that day on. My father died in 1952, and my mother felt that, as a widow, she could not afford to meet the ongoing expenses. I had the property evaluated, borrowed \$280,000 from Fidelity Bank, and bought the property from my mother at that value. She thereupon gave the \$280,000 back to me and my three



Ted Leisenring, son Ted and granddaughter Chase at Glennbrook Farm, preserved in perpetuity.

sisters in equal amounts, so that I received the farm for 25% off the appraised value.

In order to assure the preservation of Glennbrook Farm, I first donated a conservation easement in 1979 to the Association of Conservation Trusts. The easement designated three building sites on the 140 acres. In 1990, working with Bonnie Van Alen and the Willistown Area Conservation Program (then part of the Brandywine Conservancy) we devised a plan to assign the easement to Brandywine and to do some important estate planning in the process. A family partnership was formed to provide a vehicle for the future management of the farm and for passing interest in the land from one generation to the next. One of our sons has since built a house on the farm and is bringing his family up there, along with our

herd of Belted Galloway cattle.

The end of the story is that we have preserved in perpetuity this special property with its extensive woodlands, ponds, and farm buildings, and have along the way enjoyed some very significant income tax and estate planning benefits made possible by the conservation easement donation and the family partnership. (Give the Willistown Conservation Trust a call to learn more about the financial benefits of conservation easements).

Best of all, we gain great pleasure knowing that our grandchildren are the *fourth generation* of Leisenrings to experience life at Glennbrook Farm and that the place we all have enjoyed will remain intact for many more generations to come. 🌿

WCT Watershed Update

by Mary McLoughlin

The Trust program area includes headwaters of the Crum, Ridley, and Darby Creek watersheds making it one of the most strategically important natural resource areas in the region. These headwaters are the source of drinking water for hundreds of thousands of the region's residents, they influence important cultural and recreational resources such as Ridley Creek State Park and Tyler Arboretum and they affect all downstream communities to the Delaware River and beyond. Protecting and improving our watersheds is the main focus of WCT's Community Resource Protection Program.

The Trust, along with many partners, is taking responsibility as a steward of these watersheds by working to protect and improve water quality and supply, to create wildlife corridors and open space networks, to further protect historic and scenic resources, and to establish expanded trail networks and other recreational opportunities for public benefit.



Working hand in hand to plant trees along the Ridley Creek.

THE CRUM CREEK WATERSHED

The Crum Creek watershed is critical not only as a natural resource but also as a local drinking water supply. The Upper Crum Creek watershed flows into Springton Reservoir which provides 20 million gallons of drinking water daily to over 200,000 Chester and Delaware County residents. The Crum Creek eventually flows into the Delaware River, a significant regional water supply source and the longest free-flowing river in the eastern United States.

Crum Creek Watershed Conservation Plan funded by PA DCNR

Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), announced more than \$1.1 million in grants to help nonprofit organizations and local governments protect and enhance waterways

across the Commonwealth. Funding is provided by the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Act which provides up to 50% of the project cost with the applicant providing the other half through matching funds or in-kind services. DCNR approved six Rivers Conservation Program grants, one for a Crum Creek Watershed Conservation Plan (the Plan) to the Chester-Ridley Crum Watersheds Association, of which the Trust's Mary McLoughlin is Vice President. The Watershed Conservation Plan will:

- Identify the natural, recreational and cultural resources of Crum Creek,
- Outline steps to conserve, enhance and restore this vital resource, and
- Qualify municipalities and non profits for additional funding to implement the Watershed Conservation Plan initiatives.

The Crum Creek Watershed Partnership is the steering committee for the Watershed Conservation Plan. The Trust's Mary McLoughlin is co-founder and vice chair of the Partnership. The Partnership is dedicated to improving and protecting the Crum Creek watershed and has representatives from 15 municipalities and a variety of institutions, businesses, schools, community groups and governmental entities. Members of the Partnership involved in the Plan include Natural Lands Trust as the main consulting partner, Willistown Conservation Trust will conduct the Plan's public outreach and input component, and Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association, as applicant, will administer the grant.

Extensive public notification and participation is critical in the watershed conservation planning process not only to understand and address community concerns, but also to establish public investment and interest in and connection to the Plan in order to further the long term viability and benefit of the Plan's implementation. The Willistown Conservation Trust, with input from the Crum Creek Water-

shed Partnership as steering committee, has developed the following public participation programs:

- A series of public meetings will be held.
- The Trust will conduct surveys to understand community opinions and concerns. Surveys will be sent to property owners adjacent to the main stem and main tributaries of the Crum, as well as municipalities, interested businesses and institutions.
- The Trust will conduct interviews with a range of influential businesses, municipalities, landowners and schools located in the watershed.

*“The health of Pennsylvania’s waterways
 is a tangible sign of
 Pennsylvania’s environmental and
 economic viability.”*

Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary, DCNR

In order to efficiently and effectively conduct the outreach programs for the Crum Watershed Plan, the Trust will construct Watershed Constituent Databases registering an estimated 1,200 streamside property owners, 15 municipalities, environmental advisory councils, schools, libraries, and community and neighborhood groups. The databases will enable the Trust to inform the watershed community of ways to participate in the Plan, upcoming events in the watershed and information learned from the Plan. In order to bring the Plan to life and implement improvement and protection efforts throughout the watershed, the Trust will also create a

database of public meeting attendees and a database of volunteers in the upper, middle and lower portions of the watershed. In addition, the Trust will develop a media and communication network with local TV stations, newspapers, municipal and other group newsletters, and websites.

Sincere thanks go to our largest Watershed Conservation Plan cash sponsors: Delaware County Council, Lyondell Chemical and Philadelphia Suburban Water Company. Many thanks to Rebekah Baglini, the Trust’s Watershed Conservation Plan intern! If you have interest in participating in the Crum Watershed Conservation Plan process or have input, please contact Mary McLoughlin at the Trust (610-353-2562, mhm@wctrust.org).

RIDLEY CREEK WATERSHED

The Ridley Creek is an approved Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Rivers Conservation Plan corridor and is on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry. It has been designated “High Quality Trout Stocking Fishery” by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental

Watershed Update continued on page 16.



GRACE BORGH

Kids reveling in the Crum Creek near Bartram Bridge.

Watershed Update continued from page 15.

Protection based on the quality of the water. The waterway flows through Ridley Creek State Park and Tyler Arboretum eventually into the Delaware River. It is a major source of the Philadelphia area water supply.

Riparian Buffer Plantings Improve the Watershed!

Creating a buffer by planting trees and shrubs in the land next to the stream, or riparian area, does many things to improve the waterway such as:

- Protects the stream from erosion by holding the soil,
- Absorbs nutrients and pollutants,
- Slows runoff into the stream and filters out sediment,
- Casts shade that cools the water, improves fish habitat and reduces the growth of algae, and
- Provides wildlife habitat.

How riparian areas are managed directly affects the health of the water resource – positively or negatively. The establishment of a riparian buffer along a stream is critical to its good health. For more detailed information on creating streamside

buffers and a fairly extensive plant list from Delaware Riverkeeper Network, please contact the Trust.

Trust Hosts Two Riparian Plantings and Participates in a Third!

Last spring and fall the Trust held two riparian buffer plantings at Willistown Township’s Okehocking Preserve. More than seventy volunteers planted a native tree buffer along Ridley Creek’s main stem just north of Route 3 and over 40 volunteers planted trees and shrubs along the main stem across from Willistown Township’s Garret Mill Park. These projects are proof positive that partnerships make good things happen! Thanks go to our partners on Okehocking: Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Philadelphia Suburban Water Company, Willistown Township and Willistown Environmental Advisory and Recycling Council as well as all of our stellar volunteers! (See acknowledgements for listing.)

The Trust also garnered 20 volunteers for a day of planting near the Trader’s Run tributary in the upper Ridley Creek watershed owned by the Fox Ridge Homeowner’s Association. Association member and Trust volunteer, Susan Power, approached the Trust for assistance and support for the Association’s Growing Greener grant application for a stream bank stabilization planting. In order to combat erosion and overland flow of sediment into the stream system, the Trust volunteers assisted Susan in stabilizing a steep slope in the Trader’s Run sub-watershed by planting trees and shrubs. The Trust thanks our fabulous volunteers who love to get outside, get their hands dirty and make a difference! The Trust also congratulates Susan Power on her efforts on behalf of the Ridley Creek watershed.



Look what we’re doing at Trader’s Run. This is really fun!

MARY McLOUGHLIN

Sightings!

by Alice Hausmann

We hope you are enjoying all the pleasures of spring after such a long winter. We thought it would never end! We have heard from several of our more astute observers and are very grateful to those of you who have shared experiences in the wilds of Willistown and the surrounding countryside.

In August, Peggy Swope reported seeing Yellow-billed Cuckoos coming through her property. This was the first time she had seen Cuckoos for at least two years. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is especially fond of tent caterpillars and according to The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and

Behavior, may eat as many as 100 caterpillars from one web at a sitting. More recently, Peggy has seen a Red-shouldered Hawk near her home and Pine Siskins at her feeder. About the same time, Jim Simmons reported seeing a Black-billed Cuckoo and got a good look at the reddish eye-ring.

Edie Parnum is with the Valley Forge Audubon Society and has been working with us on compiling a bird list for the Okehocking Preserve. Last fall, she saw an Osprey on October 5, 2002 and a Bald Eagle on the 20th of that month. There have been several other sightings of Bald Eagles and of Osprey as well. In early April, George Heim spotted a mature eagle at his home on Kirkwood Farm, where he was able to get a good look through binoculars for about ten minutes. George said it was absolutely magnificent! According to Sibley, the single greatest threat to these creatures is loss of nesting and foraging habitat. Bernard Cooker reported seeing a Golden Eagle passing through his property in Malvern on July 4th. According to McWilliams and Brauning, the Birds of Pennsylvania, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish an immature Bald Eagle from a Golden Eagle. Either way, seeing any Eagle on the Fourth of July is a rare treat.

Another unusual sighting came from Carol Black who is the Whip for Radnor Hunt. Last November, while fox hunting near Pratts swamp across from the Snow White Laundry, she noticed that the hounds were unusually stirred.

She was well ahead of the rest of the action and went after the hounds on a "Whip trail", unknown to the rest of the riders. She came to an opening and saw what she at first described as the biggest fox she had ever seen and then quickly realized that the large gray furry creature before her was not a fox at all but a 40 pound coyote. It was not only the size and the color that helped her identify the coyote but also the pattern of chase. A fox will circle to avoid being preyed upon, but the coyote takes flight in an arrow straight line.

The coyote bolted toward West Chester Pike with the hounds eagerly in tow. While galloping toward the Pike, Carol was on the walkie-talkie to get help and prevent the hounds from an encounter with a large truck. Fortunately, help arrived just in time and Carol was able to divert the hounds off the Pike. We have heard of other sightings of coyote in our neighborhood. Most speculate that they reside in Ridley Creek State Park and travel through the tunnels under West Chester Pike to the green pastures of Willistown.

With the ice finally melted, many of you are reporting seeing waterfowl on local ponds. The Buffleheads, Ringnecks, Hooded Mergansers, Wood Ducks, a Snow Goose and Northern Shovlers have returned to the Hausmann's and Van Alen's pond. Bill Howard spotted a pair of Green-winged Teal on the Hausmann's pond as well. In addition to the waterfowl, Marilyn Smith reported seeing an American Tree Sparrow recently on her property in Willistown.

But the most interesting report that we have received to date is from our neighbor Alan Crawford who has been documenting his Sightings since 1932 at his home at Little Brook Farm. When asked to share his list in order to help us attain Important Bird Area (IBA) designation in our area from the State, Alan produced an incredible list of some 219 species of birds with commentary. Here is the note Alan included with his list:

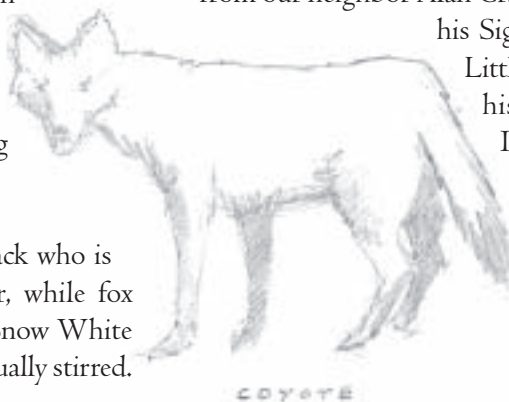
Sightings continued on page 18.



YELLOW BILLED CUCKOO



TREE SPARROW



COYOTE

Sightings continued from page 17.

"I have lived on Little Brook Farm since April 29, 1927, when I was 10¹/₂ months old. The first bird I vividly remember seeing was a Red-headed Woodpecker which my parents pointed out to me when I was six years old, in 1932. I have never had another on the property. I started collecting moths and butterflies at age 7 and turned to serious birding at age 12. I got a Federal Bird-Banding License in 1954 and banded some 10,000 birds of 115 species on the property, including 28 species of warblers, between 1954 and 1974 when my business career got in the way.

Common nesting birds in the 30's and 40's included yellow-billed Cuckoos, Yellow-breasted Chats, Grasshopper Sparrows and Vesper Sparrows. Henslow's Sparrows nested in a field just across Paoli-Darby Road from the Newbold property. Today these species are virtually non-existent. I should add Meadowlarks to that list."

And a sample entry note about the Hoary Redpoll:

"Hoary Redpoll - in company with several Common Redpolls, March 1962-

coldest March in history - Phil Street drove from Chester Springs to our house in eighteen minutes to see the bird - said I should trap it and wring its neck - only other sight record in Pennsylvania was by Maurice Brown at Hawk Mountain many years before (I didn't do what Phil suggested)."

We have since learned that Alan discovered yet another rare sighting on his pond at Little Brook Farm. Recently, for five days he watched a Long-tailed Duck (formerly known as Oldsquaw) diving on the pond. This is the first time he has seen a Long-tailed Duck in this area and naturally, he was eager to share the news.

Please keep your SIGHTINGS coming. Give us a call, send us a note or Email us at land@wctrust.org. As evidenced by Alan Crawford's list, there is a lasting value (and joy) in sharing data about the abundant wildlife that lives in our area, and an importance in documenting the changes that have occurred over the years. 🌿

Public Funding for Open Space

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

Even with state, county and municipal budgets being hard hit in these unsettling times, and with administration changeovers taking place, we are cautiously optimistic that programs that provide public funding for open space will remain a high priority at all levels.

At the State. At a recent meeting hosted by the Greenspace Alliance, we learned from **Michael DiBerardinis**, Secretary of PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and **Kate Harper**, State Representative, that Governor Rendell's approved budget includes a dedicated funding source for Growing Greener (\$107 million for 2003) and continued support for Keystone Funds. These funds are critically important to both land trusts and municipalities as they provide an opportunity to greatly leverage local funding sources through public and private partnerships to acquire land and easements.

In Chester County. The good news is that the two endorsed Republican candidates, **Don Mancini** and **Carol Aichele**, who will be running for two of the three Chester County Commissioner positions in November, have pledged their commitment to continue the good works of vacating commissioners **Karen**

Martynick and **Colin Hanna**. They have pledged that, if elected, they will commit \$60 million over four years to "Landscapes", the county's growth management plan and a funding source for area conservation organizations. To quote candidate, Don Mancini, Landscapes ... "is a comprehensive and sound blueprint for protecting our natural resources, fighting sprawl and traffic, and maintaining Chester County's unique heritage." **Andy Dinneman**, who will be remaining for another term as the Democratic commissioner, has always been a friend to local land trusts and a strong advocate for open space and smart growth in the county.

In Willistown Township. The Willistown Township Supervisors, **Bob Lange**, **Mary McLoughlin** and **David Rawson**, and the Open Space Review Board are committed to continue using the township's Open Space Fund to leverage the best conservation outcomes for those properties that have been identified as most critical for open space, natural resource protection, and recreation. The ability of the township to borrow for open space acquisition is enabled by a ¹/₈ of 1% earned income tax, and the outlook seems positive that this funding stream will continue into the foreseeable future. 🌿

Meet Our New Trustees

Donna F. Oliver

Donna joined the WCT board in December, and comes with a passion for protecting natural and historic resources in Chester County. She is an attorney, and has served on the boards of the Chester County Historical Society, the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, and the Waynesborough Country Club. She and her husband, Bill, have been staunch supporters of WCT projects for many years and we look forward to benefiting from Donna's good counsel as a board member.

Langborne B. Smith

Lang is a longtime resident of the Willistown community, and an ardent supporter of the Willistown Conservation Trust since its inception. He has firsthand knowledge of land trusts, having protected his own property in Maine through the donation of an easement to the Islesboro Islands Trust of which he is a board member. Lang is a Trustee of Claneil Foundation, Inc. and brings to the WCT board a range of skills and experience as well as a dedication to the preservation of our land and natural resources. He and his wife, Marilyn, are avid birders, walkers and supporters of the arts. 🌿



Meet Our New Staff

Betsy Hastings Block, Director of Development

After a year-long search for the ideal person, Betsy Block began as the Trust's first Director of Development on April 1, 2003. Betsy comes to the Trust with extensive fundraising experience and a passion for preserving our area's natural resources. And how lucky we are! She lives in nearby Paoli with her husband, Luke, and her young son, Davis. Betsy and Luke are expecting another child in August when she will take a short leave to spend time with their new arrival. Betsy is a graduate of the Shipley School and Amherst College where she served as Assistant Director of the Alumni Fund.



*Our new staff (left to right): Noelle Thurlow,
Dee Ann Bowman, and Betsy Block*

Dee Ann Bowman, Business Manager

Although the position of Business Manager is new, Dee Ann is not new to the Trust. Our relationship goes back to the days before the Trust was incorporated and our conservation work was under the auspices of the Willistown Area Conservation Program. All along, Dee Ann has competently performed the important role of keeping our books in order, a task that has grown in complexity to the point that it is clearly no longer a part time job. Beginning in January, Dee Ann joined the staff as full time Business Manger and in this new role she will continue to provide invaluable support with all financial aspects of the Trust.

Noelle C. Thurlow, Associate Director of Land Protection

On November 4, 2002 we welcomed Noelle Thurlow as the Trust's new Associate Director of Land Protection. Noelle completed her undergraduate work at UC San Diego, and holds a Masters Degree from the Duke University Nicholas School for the Environment. She brings an in-depth understanding of environmental issues and invaluable computer and GIS mapping skills to the job. Her primary responsibilities are to assist in conservation planning with area landowners and to manage the Trust conservation easement program. 🌿

Volunteer Opportunities

WE NEED YOUR HELP...

- ✿ *Join our staff and have fun taking part in administrative projects.*
- ✿ *Call for Gardeners to tend to our Beautification Projects.*
- ✿ *Label, Stuff and Stamp ~ always great stories and laughs among the volunteers.*
- ✿ *Sell hats at the WCT table during special events*
- ✿ *Flower arrangers needed September 12th ~ amateur or professional.*
- ✿ *Assist with the Watershed Conservation Plan for Crum Creek.*

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Call Trisha for details and to reserve your spot: 610-353-2562 or land@wctrust.org

WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST WEBSITE COMING SOON!

WCT staff members Caroline Claytor and Trisha Dougherty are working with WCT supporter, Gary Cox, to create a new and informative website for the Trust. Gary is a technology expert at Microsoft in Malvern, PA, and is generously donating his time

to help with the WCT website. The website will be up and running by summer 2003. Please check it out at www.wctrust.org. Many thanks to Gary Cox for his ingenuity and tireless efforts on behalf of the Trust!

SUPPORT WCT WHILE SHOPPING AT GENUARDI'S!

Support the Willistown Conservation Trust by Registering your Genuardi's Club Card with Genuardi's Community Ca\$h Back Program powered by the eScrip Funding Program.

With each purchase you make using your Club Card, Genuardi's will donate 1% to 3% of your purchases to the Trust.

It's easy!

Three simple ways to register:

Visit www.escrip.com and click on "sign up"; or
Complete a Cash Back form available at Genuardi's;
or Contact Trisha Dougherty at WCT (610-353-2562)

You will need the following information to register:

Group Name: Willistown Conservation Trust

Group ID #: 148957006

Club Card #: Printed on your green Genuardi's Club Card

Earn even more money for WCT

Additional merchants are generously participating in the eScrip Funding Program. Visit www.escrip.com, click on "family of merchants," next click on "search for merchants" for a complete list of participating local and national stores and registration information. Once you have registered, shop at your favorite stores and the merchants will donate cash to us based on your purchases. It's simple to do and a great way to contribute!

WCT Group ID#: 148957006



As part of our Conservation Buyer Program, the Willistown Conservation Trust is seeking Conservation Buyers for the last two remaining parcels on Ashbridge Farm. These parcels are adjacent to the Trust's 55 acre Ashbridge Preserve with its beautiful woodlands, wetlands and mile of frontage along the Ridley Creek.

A residential site on each property has been determined with sensitivity to the setting and natural features of the land, and trails have been planned to connect to the growing network of preserved trails throughout the countryside.

Ashbridge Farm is located at Dutton Mill and Strasburg Roads in East Goshen Township. It is adjacent to many hundred acres of protected lands, and yet is in close proximity to Philadelphia and the Main Line suburbs. It is the perfect setting for a country property.

*For more information regarding Ashbridge Farm, or to learn more about our
Conservation Buyer Program and potential tax benefits, please give us a call at 610-353-2562.*



Willistown Conservation Trust

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