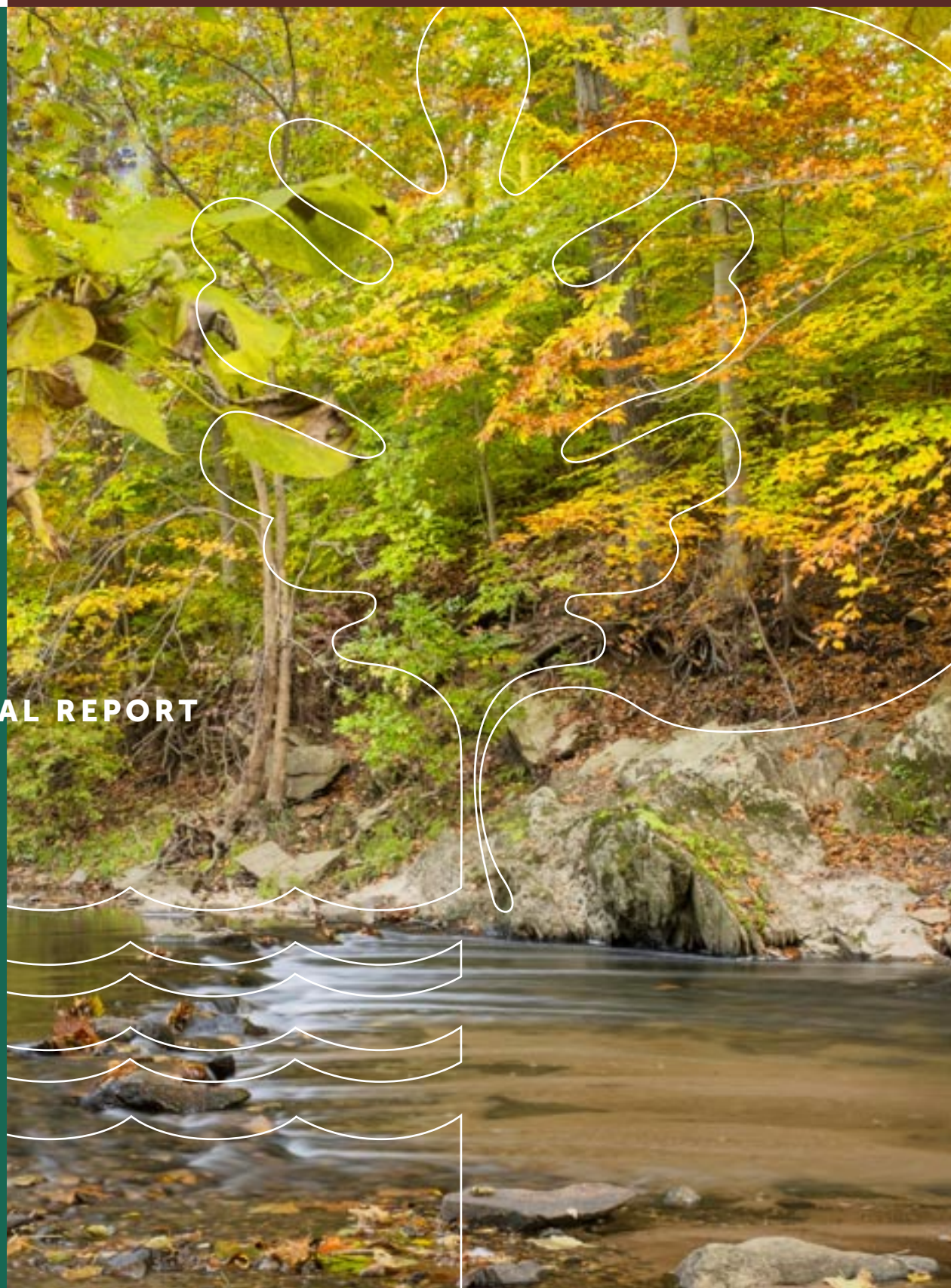




# PENNYPACK ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION TRUST

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**









# 10 ACRES CLOSER TOGETHER

By Chris Mendel, Executive Director

We are excited to announce that, in late February of this year, an anonymous donor permanently saved her 10.13 acre parcel from development through a donation to the Pennypack Trust. Her land was much sought-after by developers. But rather than see it transformed into 4-story buildings and parking lots, she now has the assurance that her land will continue its progression towards better habitat for birds, foxes, and other animals that face dwindling options for quality, connected habitat.

The land is storied, as is so much of this part of Abington Township and the Pennypack Creek. There was a grist mill and farm on the property that were owned by a prominent member of Abington Township in the late 1700's.

Strong traces of the past still direct how nature recolonizes the site. A mill race has become an ephemeral stream. A pond once used for watering livestock now hosts wood ducks, herons, frogs, and turtles.

On its own, this land would be home to a handful of such animals. Now those animals can move more freely up into Bethayres Swamp, along stream banks connecting into the Pennypack Trust, or down into Lorimer Park.

These 10 acres sit beside a paper-thin forested segment of the Pennypack Creek and the county's paved trail. Development here would have brought parking lots and loading docks, spoiling the wooded experience of the Pennypack Trail.

Now there's one fewer of just a handful of privately owned parcels that separate the Pennypack Trust from Lorimer Park. The ecological value of defragmenting these habitats by connecting plants and animals to unbroken tapestries of streams, wetlands, woods, and fields, is of spine-tingling value and nearly unimaginable in the suburbs of a major city.

But we're almost there.

Nearly all of the remaining parcels are in the floodplains of the Pennypack in Lower Moreland and Abington Townships. If the Townships, the County, and the Pennypack Trust can work together to make sure that floodplains remain free from development, then perhaps floodplain regulations would be

of mind, knowing that she'd done what was right by the land, the environment, and the community.

The tremendous generosity that results in the donation of land never ceases to amaze me and it rightfully deserves thankfulness, humility, and hope.

*"This is getting my ducks in a row."*

ANONYMOUS LANDOWNER

*Getting her ducks in a row means that she will now have peace of mind, knowing that she'd done what was right by the land, the environment, and the community.*

all that's needed to meld large swaths of open space in ways that would be meaningful both to wildlife and our watershed.

"This," said the anonymous landowner right after signing over the development rights to the Pennypack Trust "is getting my ducks in a row."

Her ducks fly in the face of a contrasting old adage that "if it doesn't make money it doesn't make sense". While conservation easements can create tax credits for the owner, this was never one of her concerns.

She has cared for the property as natural habitat for the past 20 years and continues to do so as part of her very active retirement. Getting her ducks in a row means that she will now have peace

The Pennypack Trust exists because of hundreds of such donations. They are part of a continuum of giving that spans decades. They are the stepping stones to a future that will preserve a landscape of man and nature linked in harmony to the benefit of both. 🌿



## INTERNSHIPS ARE BUILDING CAREERS IN CONSERVATION

Our internship program will begin its fourth year this coming spring. Through the very generous grant support of BLBB Charitable and the member supported Robertson Endowment for Education, we've employed 19 interns that have helped the Trust to grow in new and exciting ways. Most importantly, we've helped our interns find their career path in conservation. We caught up with two former interns that helped the Trust and gained meaningful professional experience.

### STEVEN HANNA, PHD | STUDENT, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Steven Hanna was a stewardship intern at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust during the spring and summer of 2020. As an intern, Steven worked to better understand the Trust's membership base and used census data to help identify the changing demographics of those living in communities surrounding the Trust. Steven also helped to manage the Trust's website and membership operations as well as participate in stewardship projects across the property. Steven is currently a PhD candidate in Penn

State's Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management department pursuing a research career focused on understanding the ways parks and public green spaces positively contribute to adolescent development. Steven's time as an intern provided him with hands-on experience protecting an important green space and insight into the inner workings of a land trust.



### KENDAL WESTPHAL | ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST, A.D. MARBLE

Kendal's internship at The Trust included a variety of ecological restoration tasks. She helped set up a mapping database for invasive species at the Trust and spent a lot of time in the field identifying and mapping both invasive and native plants. She wrote her first grant application here, garnering more than \$7,000 to plant native trees and shrubs at the Trust. Like most interns, Kendal also did the hard work of managing invasive plants and maintain trails during the growing season. Kendal stated, "The skills I learned here were foundational to the plant identification and GIS skills that I

now use as an environmental scientist at the consulting company, A.D. Marble". Kendal plans to continue wetland delineation & restoration work in the years to come. She thinks all interns at the Trust can benefit from being observant and open to new, often challenging tasks that help you step out of your comfort zone and prepare for a career in environmental science and stewardship.





## MEET THE INTERNS OF 2022



THE ROBERTSON  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR EDUCATION



Katilyn Chaffin



Miriam Rose



Stuart Shore



Will Northington



Abby Obfenda

### KATILYN CHAFFIN

Katilyn recently graduated from Delaware Valley University with a BS in Wildlife and Conservation Management. During her time at the Trust, she explored plant-pollinator interactions. Katilyn gained hands-on experience in catching, ID'ing, and analyzing species of bees to understand their preference in flowering species. Inspired by her internship at the Trust, she plans to further her education in Entomology in a college graduate program. She credits her experience as an intern to be not only rewarding, but fun! She hopes that her work can demonstrate to others the huge role insects play in our environmental future.

### MIRIAM ROSE

Miriam found PERT through her engagement with her local outdoor areas. As an avid hiker and biker, she frequented the Trust growing up. Through the pandemic, Miriam became interested in the local birds she saw in her yard and on hikes. She would go home and discover the names and details of these birds through painting them. She found her passion for conservation when she pivoted her major to Environmental

Science at the University of Vermont. As an intern she learned more about the native flora at the Trust, as well as planting strategies for resiliency in a changing climate.

### STUART SHORE

Stuart Shore is a life-long resident of Abington Township. After graduating from Abington Senior High, Stuart earned academic degrees including a BA in Psychology (Muhlenberg College), an MS in School Counseling (The University of Tennessee), and a PhD in Kinesiology (Temple University). Stuart retired from a 23-year career as a school counselor in 2021. Stuart learned about the internship opportunity at the Trust on a field trip connected to his current academic pursuit of earning a master's degree in Landscape Architecture (Tyler School of Art & Architecture, Temple University). In his free time, he gardens, walks his Border Collie, or is looking for new places to Stand Up Paddle Board with his friends and family. In the future, he hopes to work in barrier island restoration and preservation.

### WILL NORTHINGTON

Will graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. He is now studying for his masters at Temple University in the field of Landscape Architecture. He hopes to one day design ecologically beneficial landscapes. His work at the Trust is laying the groundwork for this dream. His interests outside of work include writing music, playing Dungeons & Dragons, and hanging out with his niece Clare!

### ABBY OBFENDA

Abby is a senior Graphic Design student at Moore College of Art and Design. She found interest in the Trust's mission to preserve land and educate the community about protecting native ecosystems. Throughout her internship, Abby created visual and accessible communications to further encourage others to continue learning what the Trust stands for. Abby found her experience to be exciting and rewarding as she works towards her goal of expanding her knowledge of design thinking and successfully communicating through design.

*Thanks to the generous donors of the Robertson Endowment and the folks at BLBB Charitable, the Pennypack Trust can offer the opportunity to kickstart careers in conservation. This is the fourth year running that the Trust has had a class of interns. Every individual arrives with a diverse set of skills to which we cater their experience. We've found that our interns not only bring new energy to the Trust's staff and projects, but also leave with a clearer vision of what they'd like their careers to look like. This year, our intern class took on everything from graphic design, entomology research, invasive species management, and so much more. We hope their time at the Trust has inspired them to continue to protect the natural world in their own unique way. 🌿*

# PROJECTS IN THE UPPER PENNYPACK WATERSHED

By Kevin Roth and Dan Reynolds

Recent improvements benefitting the Pennypack Creek watershed offer clear, inspiring proof that cooperation between public and private sector entities outside the geographic confines of the Trust yield formidable results.

In the space of just two years, grants totaling more than \$1 million have been garnered through the combined efforts of the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, Upper Moreland Township, Upper Moreland Parks and Recreation and the Fulmor Heights Home Ownership Association.



The improvements implemented on behalf of the F.H.H.O.A. graphically illustrate just how potent this combination can be. The education absorbed by Fran Ceniviva, manager of the F.H.H.O.A., adds even more weight to the lesson.

Starting in 2019, Ceniviva and the F.H.H.O.A., aided by the Trust, implemented stormwater management practices on the 59.7-acre Fulmor Heights property in Upper Moreland Township. The association effectively controls 46% of the 131-acre upstream catchment of this tributary to Pennypack Creek. Therefore, any and all improvements at the property benefit the stream's ecology.

"I used to view property management as maintaining buildings. While working with the Pennypack Trust, I learned the benefits of having a landscape that is managed to combine recreation, aesthetics, and environmental services," Ceniviva said.

Since partnering with the Pennypack Trust in 2019, the F.H.H.O.A now captures and infiltrates more than 2.5 million gallons of stormwater per year that was eroding the edges of a tributary to the Pennypack Creek and degrading water quality downstream.

**Phase One** included installing a cistern to capture water underneath a parking area, three rain gardens, and 164 new canopy trees. With Phase One complete,

the Trust plans to implement the next phase in the winter/spring of 2023.

**Phase Two** will stabilize the downstream bank and its floodplain by planting 308 trees and 840 live-stake shrubs along with native grasses and forbs.

These plantings will anchor soils, reduce total suspended solids, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, reduce in-stream temperatures, and seed the Pennypack Creek with diverse macroinvertebrates. Think the trout in the creek will be happy about this?

These core functions will be interwoven with an existing frisbee golf course, walking paths, and a playground.

The Fulmor Heights improvements are grand and will improve the quality of life of so many beings, and not just human beings. But there is even more to this story of widespread cooperation. When combined with projects at Farmstead Park, The Trust to date will have controlled 3.8 million gallons stormwater per year, avoided more than 8,000 pounds of sediment loss per year, and planted 697 trees. This is a major win for the Pennypack Creek and the residents of the Pennypack Watershed. 🌿





# FULMOR HEIGHTS PHASE I



164 TREES  
PLANTED




DECADES  
OF DAMAGE HEALED



2.5M gallons  
INFILTRATED PER YEAR



2,392 LBS  
OF SEDIMENT AVERTED




# FULMOR HEIGHTS PHASE II



3,121 lbs  
PHOSPHORUS &  
NITROGEN AVERTED  
FROM STREAM



INTEGRATE  
PEOPLE & NATURE  
WHERE THEY LIVE

Photo by: Christopher Corr | 2021 Photo Contest Winner



# FARMSTEAD PARK

Runoff is collected  
FROM ADJACENT  
LOTS & THE PARK



550 NATIVE TREES  
AND SHRUBS  
TRANSPIRE WATER  
AND CREATE  
HABITAT





# THE CROSS COUNTY TRAIL IS CONNECTING TO PERT

By Chris Mendel, Executive Director

Montgomery County is planning a cross-county trail that will connect our beloved Pennypack Creek Trail and Pennypack Parkway to a to a regional network. For anyone who wants to turn that ten-mile bike ride into a thirty-mile bike ride, this is of course great news. Any project of this scope, however, will need to balance the needs of our environment, public opinion, and geographic limitations to be successful.



As is common in most metropolitan regions, multi-purpose recreation trails are usually conversions of abandoned rail lines. The relatively wide, flat, and straight alignments of former train lines make them universally accessible and ideal for jogging, cycling, walking and horseback riding. They are also robust enough to support an ambulance or other vehicles when the trail needs patrol or repairs.

Most rail lines radiate from urban hubs, 19th century connections between industrial cities and their bread-basket hinterlands. But, those routes don't interconnect anywhere except at their hub; there's no beltway that enables suburban towns to connect to one-another.

Montgomery County has just completed a feasibility study for the Cross County Trail (which they abbreviated as XCT) that aims to serve as that recreational beltway, starting at the Pennypack Trail near the Byberry parking lot, and heading west to connect to the Willow Grove YMCA, the Power Line Trail at the Horsham Technology Center, onwards to Cresheim Trail, Wissahickon Trail, and ultimately, to the Schuylkill River Trail. This feasibility study can be found at: <https://www.montcopa.org/3762/Cross-County-Trail-East-Feasibility-Study>. The XCT is just a fraction of the 800-mile trail network around the Philadelphia region envisioned by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Circuit Trails.

While the feasibility study is quite recent, the County has been working towards this idea for some time. Back in 2009, The Pennypack Trust was able to garner open space funds from the County to protect several parcels along what we call "Pennypack Creek Trail" between Mason's Mill Road and the former Creek Road at the Lords New Church. In those agreements, the County stated that it would have the right to implement a future Cross County Trail on the Trust's trail alignment.

A recent study conducted by Upper Moreland Township found that more than 85% of suburban trail users wanted trails that connected open spaces to one another. Overwhelmingly, people wanted parks as their "destinations" rather than transit hubs or shopping centers. In keeping with nationwide trends in trail design, survey respondents agreed that trails are for mental and physical health, rather than for commuting.

## Rewards and Risks Come Hand in Hand

As with any project that involves the intersection of public and private lands, planners must take into account a host of opinions on the value of the project and its impact. I recently spoke with Patrick Starr, Executive Vice President for Programs at the PA Environmental Council. His specific focus is on land and water trails throughout the Delaware Valley. Patrick has spent many years working with townships and small cities to merge economic development and recreation.

"First, it's locals that benefit the most from trails," Starr said. "Trails are civic spaces, and people enjoy seeing their neighbors in addition to enjoying all that nature that's been in their back yards but is now much more accessible." Doubling down on the notion that trails serve local residents first, Mr. Starr stated that "trails improve home values for those same people. After at first resisting the Radnor Greenway, residents became enamored with their







newfound exercise routes and short cuts to other neighborhoods and retail. Movement became so much easier that neighbors started asking for trail connections and extensions,” he said.

**T**rails also create business and cultural opportunities. Even though the new extension of the Pennypack Trail running north from Byberry to Churchville has only been open since this spring, Steam Pub in Southampton is planning to revitalize the Southampton train station into an ice

Trails and Open Space Planner with Montgomery County Planning Commission, says that it’s not uncommon to see local resistance to trails in their planning phases. “Introducing any change to a space, including a new trail, brings with it an element of the unknown, which is a risk a lot of folks don’t want to take, even if there are many positives that could come with it.” It’s understandable that residents whose homes once backed up to an abandoned train line (a secret garden of deep green, industrial relics, and echoing calls of songbirds), may not

***“Trails are civic spaces, and people enjoy seeing their neighbors in addition to enjoying all that nature that’s been in their back yards but is now much more accessible.”***

**PATRICK STARR** | *Executive Vice President for Programs at the PA Environmental Council*

cream and coffee shop. Similar “pop-up” or seasonal commercial moments could occur along the XCT, particularly in the densely developed portions of the proposed trail where a cup of coffee or a glass of beer would be appropriate. The intersection of the XCT and the Pennypack Trail, where Bryn Athyn’s unique architecture and history are enmeshed in a network of natural and scenic landscapes, could be an anchor or exclamation point at journey’s end.

Though Montgomery County trails are well trafficked on weekends, they’re not necessarily popular at the local level, particularly when they’re first conceptualized. Brian Olszak, Senior

appreciate that same space flush with walkers, bicyclists, and their dogs on beautiful Saturday mornings. While multi-use trails can be thick with walkers on weekends, they can retreat back to their secret garden selves on weekdays and when the weather isn’t stellar. The assumption that their privacy has been taken is not to be dismissed, nor should concerns of petty crime.

We shouldn’t turn a blind eye to the fact that any public space has its share of crime, and trails, especially trailheads where people park their cars, are no exception. Kevin Roth is the Education and Volunteer Coordinator at the Pennypack Trust and a Ranger with



Montgomery County Division of Parks, Trails, and Historic Sites. His Ranger duties at Lorimer Park include patrol of the Pennypack Trail up to Byberry Road. Mr. Roth said, “There’s no question that crime happens at trail heads. We usually see a rash of what seem to be organized ‘smash-and-grabs’ in all our parking lots over a day or two and then nothing for months.” Patrick Starr confirmed that, noting that “parking lots are attractive nuisances whether at a trail head or a Walmart.” A good practice anywhere is never to leave anything valuable in your car. On the trails themselves, crime is a very rare occurrence.

Getting back to conditions within the Pennypack Trust, the most significant problem is likely to be keeping trail users from wondering off the trail. Unlike a rail-trail conversion, this trail alignment is derived from a former logging road that has gentle, easy transitions into adjacent woodlands and the floodplain. Off-trail



foot traffic will be a significant threat to plants and wildlife by compacting soils, eroding the banks of the creek, and adding dog waste where it doesn't belong. Without proper design, it will be too easy to just wander off the trail and up into perched wetlands or down onto the erodible and steep banks of the creek.

As is the case anywhere, humans will be the biggest threat to habitat protection. Here is where the Trust's cooperation with the County far outweighs opposition. Acknowledging the County's land rights and working with it to design trails that are safe,



interesting, yet difficult to stray from will be critical to creating what is sure to be a value-adding proposition for the

The politics of trails are multi-faceted and, maybe ironically, somewhat non-linear in their tally of pros and cons.

Regardless of the politics, Montgomery County is growing; and the expansion of recreation is a healthy response to that growth. The mutual coexistence of people and nature is the journey we must chart for ourselves. We have learned that we cannot fence ourselves

***Regardless of the politics, Montgomery County is growing; and the expansion of recreation is a healthy response to that growth.***

County and local landowners, while protecting the wild denizens of our forest preserve.

#### **Moving Forward With Optimism**

As we all know, the Pennypack Trust is special. We love it because it's quiet and serene. Part of our affection, perhaps, is that we're "in on the secret" of this place. It's not the first time that trail planners have had very well-meaning intension to connect open spaces and neighborhoods when the locals aren't exactly enthusiastic about sharing their space with others.

out of nature, nor can we cordon off a park where nature is "allowed." We have always been enmeshed and the increasing rarity of natural places in our lives only puts added pressure on those that remain to keep our fabric of people and natural systems healthy. We at the Trust are committed to making that equation work and are optimistic that the County's plans will have a vast benefit for generations to come. 🌿







## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### DEAR MEMBERS,

People really make a difference. The offerings of time, talent and/or treasure by our members provide the energy that enables the Pennypack to thrive. Whatever category, or multiple categories, you fall in as a member, you are a volunteer, because you are giving freely to support our work.

### BECAUSE OF YOU...

- You and 563 other volunteers logged 2,476 hours in 2021. We're set to meet or exceed that number this year.
- You cleared areas of invasives and planted over 800 trees this past spring and fall.
- You kept our visitor center open on the weekends to greet hikers and help them find the right trail.
- You helped to make our events like the 5K and full moon hayride safe and fun.
- You donated your expertise and ran a bird watching hike, a yoga class, or taught fly fishing.
- You made our community stronger and gave our natural community of forests, meadows, and streams time to mature.
- Your gifts helped pay for staff and for projects that enrich our environment and provide a place of respite for the thousands of visitors that come to the Pennypack yearly to regenerate and add richness and vitality to their lives.
- Your gifts are paying for capital projects that will enhance the experience of the Pennypack and provide the facilities for learning so that the ecological goals the Pennypack fosters might become the personal goals of the current and future generations.

*There is no one staff member or super volunteer that can do all these things.*

*You are the life blood of the Pennypack Trust.*

Your work and your gifts help maintain a special balance that enables all of us to enjoy nature while minding the consequences of our incursions. We care for a fragile green island that requires constant attention to the details of how we walk across it. We mend the soft corners trodden by daily use, and we clean-out and replant after storms that slash open seams in forest canopies. These are the countless transgressions that can never be predicted but can be relied upon year after year. It's the minding of nature and our wear upon it that is part of our mission and the work that we have accomplished together.

I'm particularly heartened by the incredible generosity of families and couples that think of the Pennypack Trust when planning their estate. Read the segment in this report about the tremendous planned gift made by Peter and Kathy Davis, or about the anonymous donor who permanently protected 10 acres of their land with us. Our land trust grows almost exclusively through those types of remarkable and selfless acts of giving. We're honored by your gifts of time and support and we take our mission to heart every day to keep this land forever natural and forever open to you and future generations. 🌿

### THANK YOU!

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gilbert P. High, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gilbert P. High, Jr.





## OPERATING STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

### Revenues and Support

Membership and Annual Appeal .....	\$ 315,818
Endowments .....	539,538
Unrestricted Contributions .....	23,753
Programs and Retail Sales (net) .....	115,386
Grants .....	363,153
Other .....	36,252
<b>Total Revenues and Support.....</b>	<b>\$ 1,393,900</b>

### Expenditures

Ecological Restoration and Stewardship .....	\$ 618,568
Membership Programming and Communications .....	136,928
Administration & Grant-Funded Projects .....	336,667
Facilities .....	306,640
<b>Total Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,398,813</b>



# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

As a private, non-profit organization we rely on our membership to help preserve and restore the natural lands we are entrusted to steward. Support from our members enables us to provide habitat for animals, build buffers for stormwater runoff to keep creeks clean, establish strong reforestation for cleaner air, and maintain beautiful spaces in which to discover the wonders of nature.

(Active members July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

## Preservationist

### (\$5,000 & Over)

Brent and Kelly Asplundh  
Elizabeth Ann Asplundh  
Gregg and Christine Asplundh  
Kurt and Jennifer Asplundh  
The Brickman Family  
Lach and Dorothy Brown  
Chris and Julie Carr  
Andrew Christy and Nicole Tomlinson  
Christopher Cleary  
Louise D'Alessandro & Richard Hamilton  
Eloise Hyndman  
Stefan and Donna Keller  
Patricia S. Scott

## Conservationist

### (\$2,500 – \$4,999)

Mark and Lynda Arrimour  
Susan Asplundh  
Melissa Bowyer  
Downs Foundation  
Eileen R. Glenn  
J. Michael and Lydia Kennedy  
Andrew G. and Madeleine C. Nehlig  
Kathlene White Nissenbaum  
Gail Faulkner and John S. Oyler  
Beatrice Pitcairn  
Duncan and Martha Pitcairn  
Stephen and Susan Rade  
Vickie Roskam  
Dan Schmucker  
Bill & Libby Weiheymayer  
Carol S. and Robert B. White, Jr.

## Steward

### (\$1,000 – \$2,499)

Leigh and Carol Altadonna  
Ellen Asplundh  
Eric and Kelly Asplundh  
Gwen Asplundh  
Martha Asplundh  
Steven and Lisa Asplundh  
Stewart and Jackie Asplundh  
Scott and Diane Brown  
Carr & Duff, Inc.  
Shirley Davis  
Andrew and Christine Duffy  
Ronald Dunbar  
George and Gretchen Graham, Jr.

Susan J. and Gilbert P. High Jr.  
Linda Hill  
Julie Hodges  
Steve & Clara Huntzinger  
Dirk and Judy Jungé  
George and Barbara Karr  
Tracy Russo and Mitch Kelly  
Tamra Goodrow and David Kistner  
John and Bernadette Klohoker  
Paul and Muriel Lange  
Jenny and Jody Maddock  
John Medveckis  
Chris and Rebecca Mendel  
William and Mindy Mikulik  
Greg and Susan Odhner  
Robert and Karen Peterman  
Clark and Peggy Pitcairn  
Nancy R. Posel  
Robert and Anne Riethmiller  
Walter and Linda Ritter  
David B. Rowland  
Amy and Mitch Russell  
Seth C. Sands  
Kenneth and Glynn Schauder  
Scott and Eleanor Kelley  
Gail and Christopher Simons  
Lewis S. Somers and Christine L. Sweeney  
Robert and Eleanor Weirman

## Benefactor

### (\$500 – \$999)

Randy P. Abrams  
Richard and Linda Anstotz  
Ned and Neva Asplundh  
Aubrey and Adrian Ashwah  
John and Kristin Bair  
Hank Ballerstedt  
Carol Beam  
Jeff and Mireille Bettinger  
Leslie Boff  
Jonathan and Beth Brock  
Christie and Rick Bruce  
Bryn Athyn Marksmen's Assoc., Inc.  
Amy Buick  
Christopher and Jane Carter  
Eric Clausen  
Josh Cooper  
Anne and Robert Cunningham  
Andrew and Louise Damm  
Mark and Shirley Davis

Peter and Kathryn Davis  
Amanda Detweiler  
Jeffrey and Sarah Elsing  
Kathleen and Max Ernst  
Stephan A. Feldman, Esq\*  
Mary Felley  
Paul and Helen FERENCE  
William and Alexis Fonner  
Joseph and Sandy Franks  
Kyle and Aurelle Genzlinger  
Garth and Donnette Glenn  
Pamela Grady  
Ken and Emily Graupner  
David & Joanne Harrar  
Carol and Bruce Henderson  
Richard and Gail Holmes  
Andrew and Alexis Isztwan  
Aspire Child & Family Services  
Jaime Friedman\*  
David M. and Barbara Junkin  
Kate Harper and Paul Kelly  
Maria Kiernan  
Charles Kremp  
Kelly and Scott Kupper  
Gordon and Kathy Leister  
Bruce Levy  
Robert and Patricia Lima  
Dean Malissa  
Susan and Thomas McGrath  
Ronald K. and Catherine McQueen  
Frank and Sandy Mendel  
Erica Moor  
John and Janet Moyer  
Douglas and Frances Nadel  
Linda and Bruce Nicholson  
Danielle Page  
Mary and Howard Panitch  
Jeff and Mary Paul  
Eshowe Pennink  
Dan and Tricia Pinciotti, Jr.  
Mark R. Pomeroy\*  
Terry & Jeanne Quinn  
Clair and Jeanne Raubenstine  
Paul and Theresa Rutherford  
Roger and Janeen Sacks  
Clayton Daniel Schmucker  
Natalie Rocchino and John Slade  
Jackie Stampone  
Lois and Richard Stern  
Steve and Megan Hanney\*



Jim and Katie Sullivan  
 Peter J. Gkonos and  
 Marie Ann Tavianini  
 Nikki and Jared Torgan  
 Trout Unlimited Chapter #468 of  
 Southeast Montgomery County  
 Chris and Tina VanBuren  
 Peter and Kelly VanBuren  
 Arlene Voellm  
 Robert and Maryann Watson  
 Will and Nikki Weiheymayer  
 Sydney and Michele Weinstein  
 Bob and Barbara Weiss  
 Joan and Jonathan Wilt  
 Seth and Robyn Zlotkin

### Patron

(\$300 – \$499)

Abhishek Aphale  
 Gretchen and Tim Archibald  
 Thomas Barnes  
 Steven and Pamela Barrer  
 Mary Anne and Ray Battaglia  
 Cyane Gresham and  
 Alan Bayersdorfer  
 Cathey and Dave Belli  
 Suzanne Bernhardt and  
 Robin Childs  
 Lynn and David Betz  
 Russell Bishop, Jr. &  
 Virginia Hamilton  
 Ron and Diane Bohr  
 Cory & Pauline Boyce  
 Tyler and Rachel Boyce  
 Brooke and Jake Brown  
 Ashley & Issac Burgos  
 Stephen Christian  
 Margaret Louise Clooney  
 Joan B. Clover  
 Marvin and Wendy Clymer  
 Glenn & Leigh Coffin  
 Arthur M. Cohn  
 John C. Connell  
 Timothy and Molly Costigan  
 Jonathan Crook  
 Jean and Dennis Cunningham  
 Ann Lovitt and Andrew Czulewicz  
 Caroline and Brian Davis  
 June & Gregory Davis\*  
 Michele DiBello  
 Lynne Dillett  
 David Doerr  
 Drew and Mara Johnson\*  
 John P. & Barbara J. Duggan  
 Jennings F. Durand  
 Anne Skopp Fassler\*  
 Sandra Fischer  
 Fitzpatrick Funeral Home  
 Fred and Linda Fogel  
 Robert and Carol Fox

Marie Friedman, Anvil Stucco  
 Remediation &  
 Restoration, Inc.\*  
 George Zotalis and Niki Bili  
 Sarah Ghantous  
 Edward Ginley  
 Ian and Michelle Goldberg  
 Stephen Gozdan  
 David and Stacey Harp  
 Edward and Marie Higgins  
 Gregory and Amy Holman  
 Paul and Sandra Hope  
 Glenn and Sandra Hostetter  
 William and Judy Howland  
 David and Dawn Hunter  
 Adam Johnson  
 Bren Kavalek\*  
 Edward Kavanagh  
 Jamie G. & Peter Koh  
 George and Jill Kyle Jr.  
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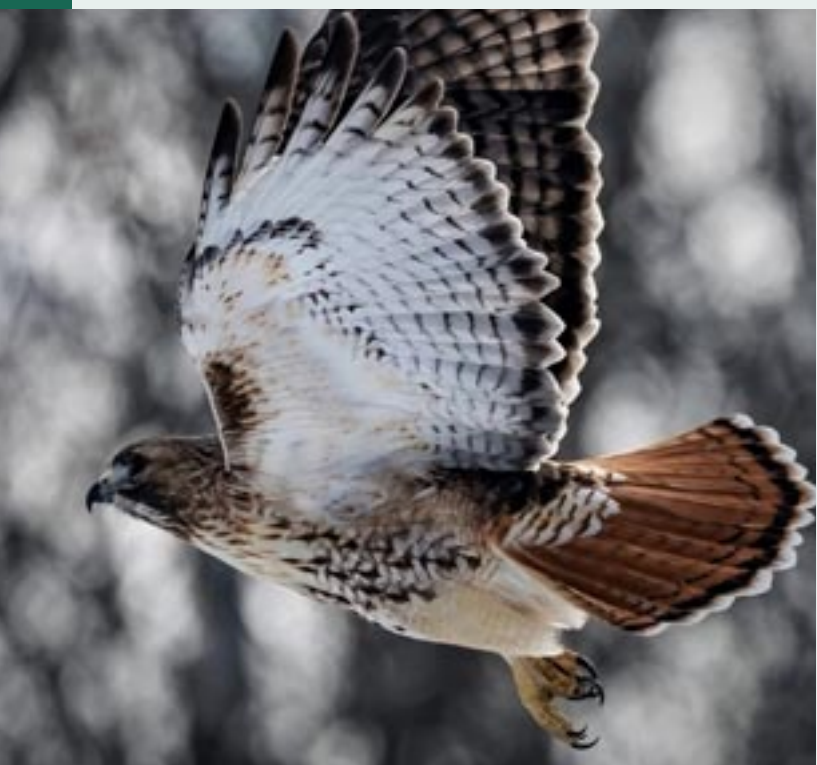
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## OUR SUSTAINING ROOTS

By Lara Thrapp, Membership & Communications Coordinator

*"Over the years we started losing the things we valued.  
If it's not preserved, it's gone for good."*

HUNTINGDON VALLEY RESIDENT AND TRUST DONOR PETER DAVIS

"I walk the Pennypack Preserve five to six times a week," Peter Davis states proudly, as he sits in his living room less than a mile from the Trust's headquarters. "It's true, he does," affirms the love of his life, his wife Kathy Davis, who is seated right next to him holding his hand.

Peter and Kathy met at school in Jenkintown at the age of 13. Kathy, one of seven children, had recently moved to the area from Upstate New York. During their early years, the pair took day trips up to the June Fete and the Willow Grove Amusement Park in what was considered the countryside at the time. Huntingdon Valley looked very different back then, in fact many might not know there was a trolley car that ran down Edge Hill Road to the original Willow Grove Park. Now after 51 years of marriage and raising three children together, they call the area home. Kathy and Peter have lived on 3 acres in Huntingdon Valley since 1999. One of the important motivating factors in choosing the home was its proximity to the Trust.

Peter was always outdoors as a child and once they became a couple, he served as Kathy's tour guide to all the natural wonders just beyond their backyard. Local conservation efforts became important to them as they watched the land around them transformed by developers. "Over the years we started losing the things that we valued," Peter said, "If it's not preserved, it's gone for good."

Peter pulls out his phone to show the "zoo," that he endearingly says, is their backyard. His phone's gallery features images of white-tailed deer grazing, a variety of songbirds passing through, and other living, breathing wonders of the natural world. "We have a front-row seat to nature, and we love it!" Kathy chimes in.

Some people are lucky enough to inherit large sums from their families, but Peter appreciates that he was lucky enough to inherit his parents' values. "My mother believed

it was her job to give back to others," he said. And this principle has dictated the way Peter and Kathy chose to live their lives. For the couple, being able to make philanthropic planned gifts was always a hope, but they weren't convinced that it would be feasible. Being parents, it was important for them to take



Photo by: Sam Wolf | 2021 Photo Contest Winner



Photo by: Fran & Harris Brown

care of their family, but Peter reveals that “we wanted to treat charity as our fourth child.”

When making their estate plans, it was important to them that their gifts were going to reputable organizations with initiatives that benefit their local community. Having a long history with Pennypack Trust and witnessing the profound way that protected open space impacts others, it felt right to include the Pennypack Trust in their estate plans. “As property owners, we have a strong desire to do what’s right for the land and people of the watershed,” summarizes Kathy.

In 2022, Peter and Kathy joined the Strong Roots Society, a special group of individuals that have committed to making a legacy gift. They have generously included a substantial bequest, restricted to land acquisition and conservation easements, to ensure that local properties stay natural forever. 🌿

To learn more or join the **Strong Roots Society** please reach out to Chris Mendel, Executive Director at [cmendel@pennypacktrust.org](mailto:cmendel@pennypacktrust.org) | 215.657.0830

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*We hope that this is a complete list of our members during our 2022 Fiscal Year, and apologize for any inaccuracies or omissions which may have occurred during compilation.*



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR CHANGE

By Chris Mendel, Executive Director

Thanks to your support of the Capital Campaign, the Trust's headquarters is now adorned with construction machinery, excavation, and material lay-down areas. More than a half mile of drilling and trenching for geothermal heating and cooling exchange is complete, and solar panels are installed on the visitor center roof. These two upgrades will pay for themselves in under 20 years.

This first phase of our improvements is largely modern infrastructure for historic structures, but it is no less transformative for the Trust. These are, in my opinion, the most important updates we can make in light of climate change and the growing instability of fossil fuel prices.

Geothermal technology is going to replace our need for propane (with the exception of back-up generators). We've installed nine wells, each about 400' deep, that use the Earth's constant 58°F temperature to keep our buildings cool in summer and warm in winter.

Their modern, efficient heat pumps will use electricity from the grid to augment heating needs when necessary. Our solar panels will offset more than half of our annual electricity consumption. These are modern upgrades to historically relevant buildings and I'm very pleased that we can both modernize and preserve these structures that have been a part of the fabric of Huntingdon Valley for the past 232 years.

With the groundwork complete, the next series of capital campaign projects are designed to make a good impression on all our visitors. Contractors are set to begin this

winter on new public restrooms and a new multi-purpose teaching and learning space. These projects are going to modernize the visitor experience and expand the size and breadth of organizations we can host.

Our public bathrooms will feature one fully ADA accessible lavatory and 3 other stalls. All of it will be driven by motion sensors, reducing water consumption and the need to touch levers, switches, or faucets.

The new multi-purpose space will double our programable interior space and upgrade our office building. With a welcoming glass entry facing east, it will be a comfortable, sun-lit room with its own outdoor patio and access directly to our greenhouse and trails.

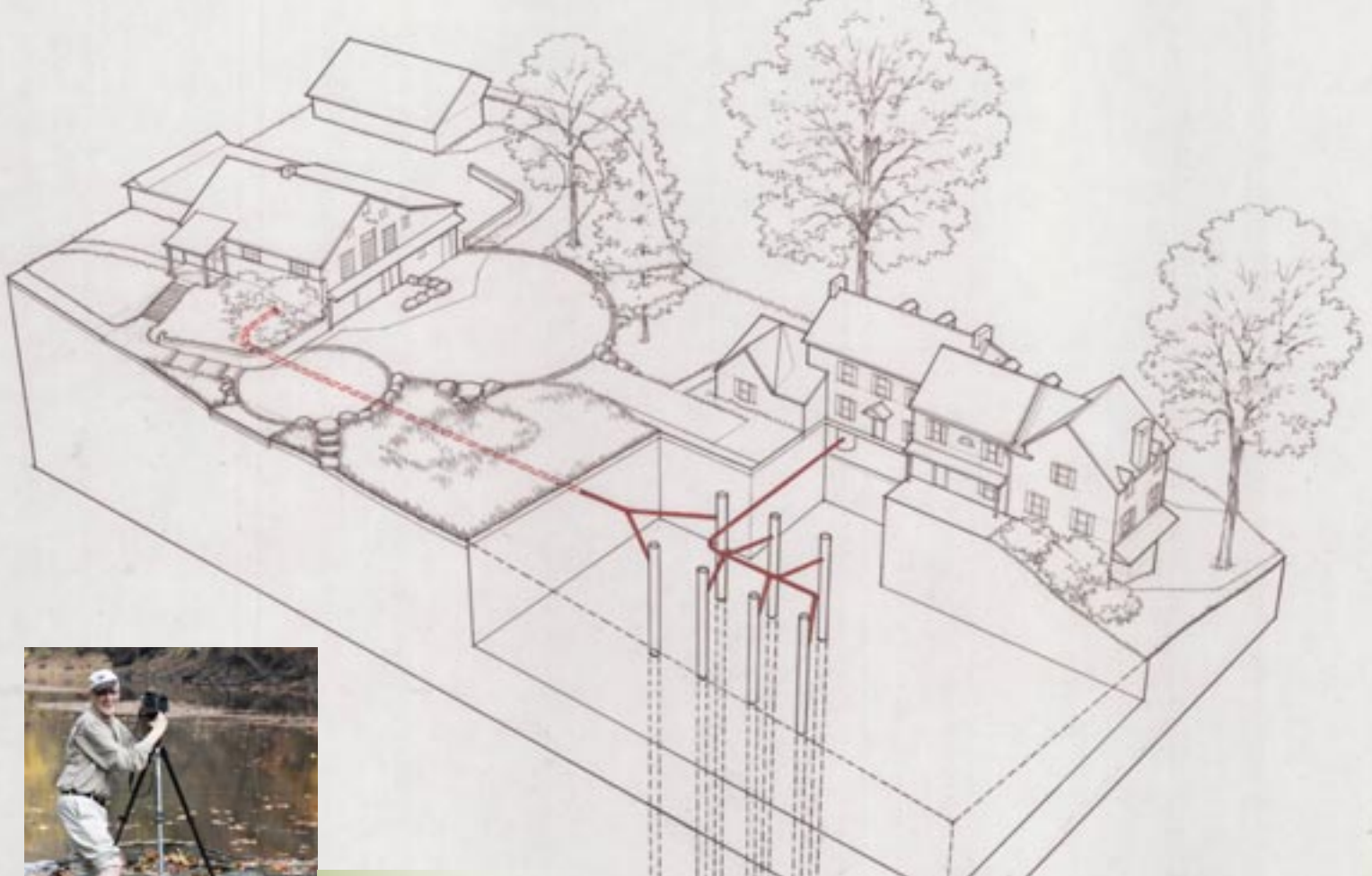
This renovation, sponsored by BLBB Charitable, will enable laboratory functions, education, creative arts, and general meetings in its own intimate setting. This new space enables multiple functions to occur at the Pennypack Trust (along side our visitor center) and thus offers more to our partner organizations, helping us become better neighbors and better educators. This will be a fully ADA- accessible facility with its own bathroom, designed in such a way that the office can be closed and secure while an event takes place in the new space.



*Above left: Deep trenches convey closed loops of water & alcohol to transmit heat between buildings and the earth.*

*Above far right: The amount of upheaval from geothermal work was spectacular.*

*Center image: A diagram of the main well field & its connections. Another pair of wells service the office (not shown).*



Following those architectural improvements, we'll be ready to take on the final site elements of the capital campaign: comprehensive new signage and wayfinding throughout the Trust, and at headquarters, a new arrival sequence, parking lot, and pedestrian centered head of trails with ancillary gardens and a memorial to one of our founders, Feodor Pitcairn.

While we met our financing goals last year, we continue to watch inflation and material costs so that they do not erode our buying power. We are working on ways to augment our purchasing power through state-funded grants. But happily, and as always it's your donations and the fulfillment of your pledges that ensures that our projects will endure to serve many more generations of nature enthusiasts and conservationists. 🌱



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We offer our condolences to all the donors who have lost a loved one or friend and who have chosen to honor their memory with a donation to Pennypack so that their legacy and what they loved will endure. These gifts were received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022

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## In Kind

Birding with Ruth  
Blue Diamond Expert Window Cleaning  
Bryn Athyn College  
Crooked Eye Brewery  
Fulmor Heights Homeowners Association  
Huntingdon Valley Country Club  
Upper Moreland School District  
Wetlands and Ecology, Inc.

## Event Sponsors 5K Sponsors

LD Davis  
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Swiig  
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REI Co-op  
Certa Pro Painters  
The Keller Family  
Murray Orthodontics  
The Carr Family  
Sword Performance  
Mom's Organic Market  
Athleta  
Be Well Bakery and Cafe 🌿

*“How could we put a price on the value of nature? We can’t. We also undervalue our collective potential to make a difference in our neighborhoods and communities. For me, volunteering at the Trust feels just as natural as taking a walk there. Together, we enjoy and appreciate the Trust. Together, we can do even more to preserve its present and future. I’d love it if you’d join me.”*



*Dan Reynolds is an Elkins Park-based journalist, outdoorsman and poet who assisted in editing the Trust's newsletter this year.*





Preserving and Restoring Land for  
Future Generations

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## THE MISSION OF THE TRUST

and its membership is to  
protect, restore, and preserve the lands of the  
Pennypack Creek Valley so that they:

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Remain forever an enhancement to the quality  
of life in our community,

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Support forever a natural landscape populated  
by native plant and animal life, and

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Become a standard of excellence for innovative  
restoration and stewardship practices to be shared  
with other individuals and organizations joined in  
a common commitment to the environment.

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