

Winter 2020

PRESERVATION QUARTERLY



Farm & Natural
Lands Trust of
York County

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The FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST has preserved over 11,000 acres to date.

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WARM GREETINGS

As we move into 30 years of FNLТ preserving land, there is no shortage of excitement. Thank you for all you do in supporting our land preservation efforts throughout York County – you’re the reason we do what we do! We were so busy at the end of 2019, the newsletter got delayed and hence this larger edition. There’s more to come for a big 2020!

Our 30th year will be bringing some fun changes to FNLТ. We’re moving our office to a new (yet old) space that we hope will be ‘home’ for a long time. Watch for details as we’ll invite everyone for a visit. Until then we’ll be tight lipped. Around the time we move, watch for a refreshed logo and look for FNLТ as well.

The biggest change occurred in December when the York County Commissioners made a landmark decision to dedicate 1/10th of a mill of taxes specifically to land preservation. This was a group effort that started nearly four years ago under the guidance of the Commissioners, with a goal of finding dedicated funding to the organizations protecting important open spaces. In addition to FNLТ, York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, York County Conservation District, York County Parks, and other organizations or municipalities preserving land now have reliable funding (which often is multiplied by matching funds and donations).

What does that mean for FNLТ? FNLТ now has increased, dedicated, reliable funding for acquiring conservation easements through Bargain Sale, where the landowner receives compensation for a small portion of the development value they are giving up and the balance of the value is donated as a charitable gift. Some funds will be used to offset our expenses in completing entirely donated easements as well. We’ll run the same program, now with a bit more to offer to projects that need an extra push.

Thank you to York County Commissioners Susan Byrnes, Doug Hoke and Chris Reilly; Felicia Dell and Wade Gobrecht from York County Planning Commission; and County Administrator Mark Derr. Also, much appreciation to the leadership of the organizations doing this work. We look forward to continuing making everyone proud!

30 years in and we’re learning, growing and improving what we do. We do it for the people who appreciate our work – including you!

Best wishes in 2020,

Sean P. Kenny, Executive Director

THE STAMBAUGH'S PEACEFUL VALLEY IN SPRING GROVE

As you walk down one of the two long and narrow treelined dirt roads leading to Doug and Sherry Stambaugh's 64 acres in North Codorus Township, you won't know what you'll see when you finally reach the opening in the pine groves. When you arrive, sweeping views of a tree lined valley greet you in almost eerie silence.

This is the work of the Stambaughs, who have been developing this property as a nature getaway since they purchased it in 1999. In that time, they've planted over 10,000 trees! Doug was renting and eventually purchased a tree planter from the Glatfelter paper company to create the scenes you see in these photos, which he took while hunting one recent winter morning.

In addition to the trees, the Stambaughs have planted cool season grasses and food plots in the center of the property, and added access trails. Walking the land in lower areas, there are seasonal springs and some flowing water creating a wetland.

You can see the amazing love Doug and Sherry have poured into this property, and FNLТ is thrilled to welcome them to the FNLТ family. The Stambaughs are also bringing another close-by property back to wildlife and – who knows – maybe someday you'll read about that one here too.



photos by Doug Stambaugh

*Thursday,
March 19
6 to 9pm*

at WAREHAUS

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JOHN & ANNIE ESH – PRESERVING LAND A FAMILY AFFAIR

John and Annie Esh, who live on a farm preserved by our friends at Lancaster Farmland Trust in Quarryville, have been providing their Amish, farm-raised products to retail establishments in York County (and beyond) for over 20 years. John says he was spending so much time traveling to York for delivery, that they wanted to find land along the route to grow their beef cattle business.

Their search crossed this 86.39 acre hillside property in Shrewsbury Township many times over many years until they finally purchased the property in 2010. The property was ideal in many ways, with a gentle upward slope of grazing land from the road with many water resources and some forested area. There was, and still is, no house, plus few outbuildings on the property. John and Annie hope that someday one of their children will create a home and family there of their own.

Thank you John and Annie; FNLТ is grateful to add this newly preserved farm to the FNLТ family. You've got more of our family of preserved properties in close proximity! FNLТ is excited that in 2020, we plan to work on another one of John and Annie's farms in Manheim Township, where one of their children has been planting their roots and continuing the family tradition of producing quality agricultural products.



Photos by Rochelle Black

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2020!

**11th Annual
Downtown Hoedown
Thursday, March 19**

**30th Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 30**

**Give Local York 2020
Friday, May 1**

**10th Annual
Sasquatch 5 &
10 K Trail Run
Saturday, September 12**

**12th Annual FNLТ
Clay Shoot
Friday, October 9**



SAM'S NOOK OF THE WOODS IN DOVER

Leslie Kaufman wanted to honor her late husband, James S. 'Sam' Smith, who passed away in early 2019. They had talked of preserving the 23 acres of wooded property in Dover Township he called home and took so much pride in prior to his passing, so moving forward with those aspirations was important to Leslie.

Sam enjoyed the serenity of the land; almost the entirety of the property is under tree canopy. Over the years the agricultural areas were transitioned in favor of wildlife habitat and a buffer for the water resources of Fox Run and Tributary 08418 to Fox Run. There are also numerous larger wetland areas, as well as a few 'Sam-made' ponds – you can see a turtle that was spotted during the site walk, one of many inhabitants to the area.

We'd like to thank Leslie for preserving this special place with FNLT, and hope that whoever buys the property continues to love the land the way Sam had.



MCGUINN'S HOLLOW ON MILL ROAD

Bill & Tammy McGuinn are another familiar name to FNLT supporters. In 2017 they preserved their farm in Shrewsbury Township. Thrilled with their experience with FNLT, they knew they wanted to preserve their 19.6 acre home property in Springfield Township where they've lived and raised a family since 1996.

Their lovely home sits in a valley and nearby in the neighborhoods are numerous FNLT preserved properties.





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GEORGE'S COURT FARM – LIKE FINE WINE *by Jeff Brown, Landowner*

In December of 2000 an article appeared in the WITF publication *Central PA Magazine* about the farm at 884 George's Court: "Fred and Lynn Hunter, a pair of psychologists from Philadelphia, looked at more than 107 farms before they chose the acreage that is now Seven Valleys Vineyard Winery. Nestled in the verdant hills of rural Glen Rock, their vineyard is producing reds and whites that win awards at the national level, as well as dessert wine that will send your senses reeling."

The Hunters purchased the Glen Rock farm in the 1970s with the dream of turning it into a vineyard and winery. Growing up in Napa Valley, California, Fred wanted a similar environ for Lynn and him to retire and spend their final days. Their dream came true. Our paths crossed in early 1990 when we owned and operated a local B&B known as Christof Kolter house in Shrewsbury. The Hunters had a son who was getting married and with out-of-town guests and they needed a place for them to stay nearby. After a week of being the innkeeper for the Hunters, I tried my hand at home wine making. This long-ago experience set in motion the sequence of events that would create Logan's View Winery today.

We became friends and since the farm is just over the hill from our home, my wife rented the property for my 50th birthday celebration. A few years later we had our daughter's wedding rehearsal by its water lily-covered pond. A trusted relationship grew and I wrote the insurance on their property for many years. While we loved this farm, never in a million years did we ever imagine owning it. Our time and resources were devoted to running Keller-Brown Insurance Services and raising three active children.

Time marched on, Fred and Lynn passed away, our kids grew up and married, we became grandparents, and our daughter Sarah became the agency's fifth generation President and CEO. Joy and I began to think about retirement. Just like Fred Hunter wanting to return to his Napa Valley childhood, I yearned for some land. Growing up on a farm and doing farm work most of my life, farming was in my blood. Joy is an exceptional gardener and between the two of us, at 62 years of age, we began looking for a farm to buy. The stars must have been aligned. We approached the Hunters' estate and in 2017 our dream came true – and our work began!

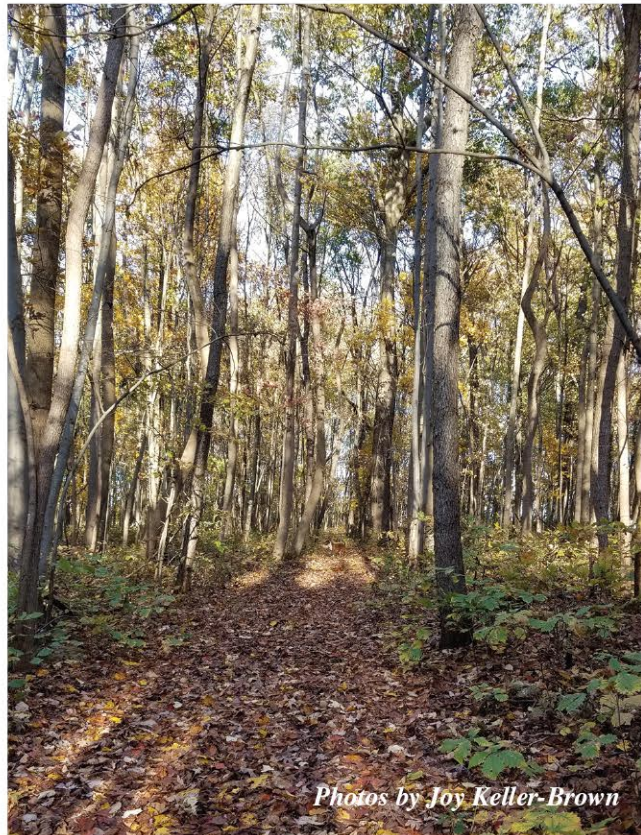
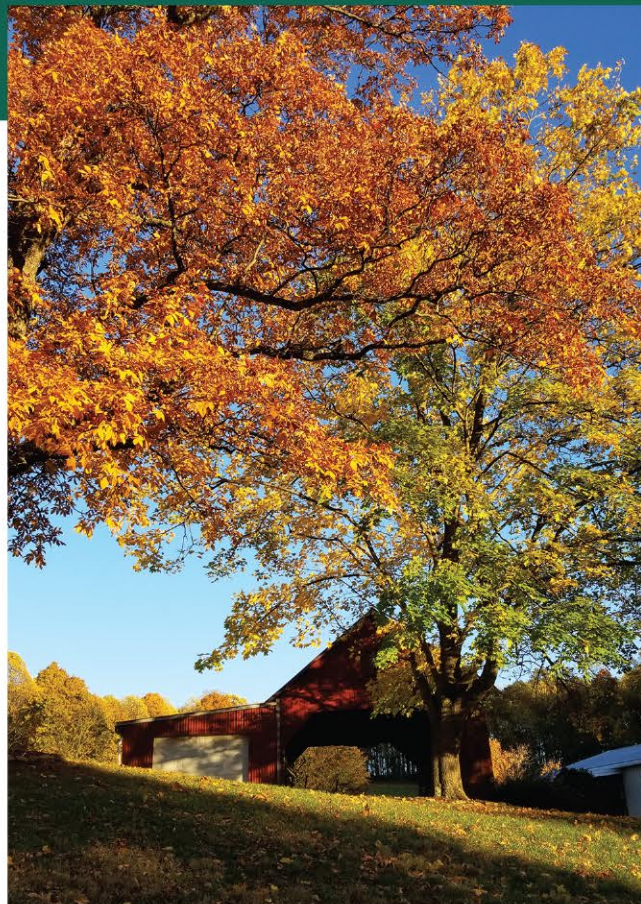
GEORGE'S COURT FARM – LIKE FINE WINE *(continued)*

In Having four restoration projects under our belts already, we commenced renovations with vigor. New well, septic system, recontouring of land, and restoration of the 1740s stone dwelling were few of the initial projects. The vast array of mature trees and shrubs originally planted by the Hunters were overgrown with weeds, vines and brambles. Enter my brother George Brown who now occupies the stone cottage. He has turned the unkept lawn into an estate-like vista and lovingly cares for the beautiful home and surrounds.

While once a vibrant 40-acre vineyard, by the time of our acquisition all but four acres of grape vines had been removed. The vineyard manager was tasked by the Hunter estate to eliminate the vines.

At time of purchase we put the kibosh to that scheme and asked the vineyard manager, Nancy Beard, to stay on with us and turn the ship around. With instruction to produce the best wine grapes possible, Nancy went about getting the remaining vines in top shape. In 2019 we planted 750 additional vines, with more new vines planned for 2020. Local home winemakers and wineries are once again filling their bottles with Cayuga, Chambourcin, Seyval, Vidal, and Riesling harvested here at George's Court.

With the buildings, landscaping, and vineyard back in order, we thought about preserving this paradise for future generations. The conservation easement through FNLTL was the perfect answer. Sean and Rochelle were so patient with us and explained all our options. The 84-acre farm includes 40 acres of woods with native species, rolling hills with fertile soil, never-ending springs, and a pond. We cleared walking trails through the woods which provide a wonderful place for a stroll through nature's beauty and peace for one's soul. A tractor ride doing some kind of work on the land or an occasional picnic on the high point looking over beautiful Southern York County is just how we want to spend our remaining years – enjoying a glass of homemade wine from George's Court, of course!



Photos by Joy Keller-Brown

REDDING'S ROCKERY ROAD

The names of Larry and Loretta 'Peach' Redding have familiarity to the eyes of FNLT supporters over the last several years with their work in Spring Grove. Their first involvement with our organization started with their purchase of the Beefeater Farm, once owned by Glatfelter family members who donated the property in full to FNLT. We preserved the land via conservation easement and were thrilled to place it under the stewardship of the Reddings.

Who knew that relationship would blossom so much further? Since that time, the Reddings purchased a neighboring wooded tract and eventually the adjacent Lake Club property – where Larry and Peach had one of their first dates – both previous holdings of the Glatfelter paper company. The Reddings have invested in renovating the Lake Club clubhouse into a successful wedding and special events venue (and they were kind enough to host our last Annual Meeting).

FNLT is pleased to add 83.7 acres to the expanding preservation area of the Reddings, with a property known as Rockery Road. Also previously owned by Glatfelter family members, this property is split between actively farmed land and woodland canopy. There are no structures on the entirety of the property and a gentle slope creates an excellent hillside viewshed in the community.

In total, Larry and Peach now have over 330 acres connected and preserved with FNLT. In addition to renovating the Lake Club clubhouse, they have undertaken significant tree plantings, work on streambank restorations and, if we might say so, have the properties looking fantastic. We look forward to the phone ringing again soon to work with them on another project! Join us in thanking the Reddings for all their hard work.



Photos by Rochelle Black

FALL WEATHER & THE 11TH ANNUAL FNLT CLAY SHOOT

The FNLT Clay Shoot's new 'home' in the fall months has proved to be a wise choice for our supporters, who enjoy a Friday afternoon out of the office warming up their aim for hunting season. This year a full field was out and, even after 11 years, we're still going strong and having a heck of a lot of fun. Thanks to all donors, sponsors, volunteers and shooters!

TOP TEAMS: 1. Brown Advisory, 2. M&T Bank, 3. Warehaus
TOP INDIVIDUALS: 1. Mark Bare, 2. Rod Krebs, 3. Josh Lecker



photos by Sean Kenny

THANK YOU TO OUR 11TH ANNUAL FNLT CLAY SHOOT SPONSORS

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9TH SASQUATCH 5 & 10K TRAIL RUN *by Jamie Kinsley, Sasquatch Runner*

“You’re doing great,” She says while passing me, “keep it up!” Her black skort and bouncing ponytail comes up on my left. “Thanks,” I reply. Or, more like pant as I inch up the hill. Even though I’ve been training, the steep incline proves too much. Forced into gravity’s submission, I walk. Watching her leap up the hill like a deer, Tanya Navarro grows smaller as she scales the hill, earning her first place for the Sasquatch 10K. Her talent must run in the family because her daughters, Leah and Isabella, both took first overall females for their ages in the 5K (Age 9 and 13 by the way).

In September, 354 runners traversed the backwoods trails of Seven Valleys for the 9th Annual Sasquatch 5 & 10K. That’s 90 additional finishers from last year, with runners from all over south-central Pennsylvania including Westminster, Landisville, Hanover, New Cumberland, and Carlisle.

As a pack, we navigated walnut-mined stone paths, grass fields, four-wheeler tracks, and horse trails. Coming out of the woods, we ran alongside the creek sometimes spanning three feet, sometimes eight, but always just enough to pass, or be passed as in my case. The best sections open up to large landscapes of treelines tracing soybean fields with cows on the hillside and a farmhouse anchoring the entire scene.

From far away, the hills seem manageable but they grow larger as we begin the ascent. Just when we feel a sense of relief - the sight of the summit’s within leaps - the downward rock navigation begins. Like reverse whack-a-mole, runners dodge rocks and braches as momentum carries uneasy legs to the bottom. My mother used to say to me, “I didn’t name you Grace for a reason!” This Saturday proved no different.

Near the end, after passing the iconic yellow bank barns, the last obstacle approaches. Crossing the South Branch of the Codorus brings cool relief yet always seems to make me feel like a racoon is holding on to my ankles. Right when I think, “where’s that damn finish line?” the race is over and we make our way to the refreshments - fruit from Flinchbaugh’s Orchards & Farm Market, beer from Brewery Products, and lunch from White Rose Bar and Grill.



9TH SASQUATCH 5 & 10K TRAIL RUN *(continued)*



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Maybe it's the wild child in all of us or maybe it's the solitary beast, but there's something freeing about running through the woods with a pack of friends. To be able to have such a beautiful countryside, preserved in perpetuity, stabilizes an era marked by fast-paced changes. Don't mistake conservation efforts as anti-modernism. We enjoy our indoor plumbing, Wifi, and highways. But we also understand that wilderness, farms, and natural environments need protected.

That's what FNLT does - it protects areas on the fringe of our civilization. Like local tourists, we can temporarily visit nature thanks to trail runs like these.

As racers came through the finish line, loved ones cheered and congratulated their efforts. After the race, Tanya congratulated me with a smile and happiness in her eyes. Standing about a foot away, she placed an arm on my elbow and I thought to myself, "this is why we are out here in nature." We preserve the farms and woodlands so people like Tanya and her family can spend some time outdoors together, away from technology and screens. The wilderness and natural environments, the non-human world if you will, came before us and will be here after us. But if we want to co-exist, we must make an effort to draw a line in the sand, a boundary for ourselves, and say "this land is worth preserving."

If you missed it, join us next year on September 12th for the 10th Sasquatch Preservation Trail Run!

10K Top Women

1. 56:06 Tanya Navarro
2. 57:21 Jamie Kinsley
3. 58:41 Tasha Bittinger

10K Top Men

1. 43:17 Garrett Patrick
2. 45:52 Riley Anderson
3. 46:03 Joseph Nardo

5K Top Women

1. 25:49 Leah Navarro
2. 26:24 Isabella Navarro
3. 27:10 Deanna Anderson

Sasquatch 5K Top Male

1. 25:03 Ian Moore
2. 25:04 Jesse Martin
3. 25:35 David Paul



Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County

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PRESERVATION QUARTERLY *Newsletter*

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I would like to receive an information packet about preserving my land.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free within PA: 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.