

PENNSYLVANIA LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

APRIL 3-5, 2024 | BETHLEHEM



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Cover Photo: Wildlands Conservancy

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Northampton County Conservation District welcomes you to the 2024 PA Land Conservation Conference! We have been committed to protecting the soil and water resources of Northampton County since 1961.



www.northamptoncd.org

AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

9:00AM – 5:00PM Registration open

10AM – Noon | Session A

10AM | Landscape Conservation Within the Kittatinny Ridge and Minsi Lake Greenway Corridor tour departs **LOBBY**

11AM | Jordan Creek Greenway tour departs **LOBBY**

Noon – 1:30PM | Lunch **MONOCACY/MORAVIAN**

1PM – 4PM | Soil Health Walk & Talk (attendees travel on-their-own)

1:30PM – 4PM | Session B

5PM | Reception **POOL DECK PATIO**

THURSDAY APRIL 4

8AM – 6PM | Registration open

8AM | Breakfast **MONOCACY/MORAVIAN**

9AM – 10:30AM | Plenary & Keynote **MORAVIAN**

11AM – Noon | Session C

Noon | Land, Water & Tree Crop Conservation tour departs **LOBBY**

Noon – 1:30PM | Lunch **MONOCACY/MORAVIAN**

1:30PM | SteelStacks and South Bethlehem Greenway tour departs **LOBBY**

1:30PM – 3PM | Session D

3PM | Afternoon break **MORAVIAN**

3:30PM – 4:30PM | Session E

5:30PM | Reception, dinner, and award presentation **MONOCACY/MORAVIAN**

FRIDAY APRIL 5

8AM – 1PM | Registration open

7:30AM | Breakfast **MONOCACY/MORAVIAN**

8:30AM – 10:30AM | Session F

8:30AM – 9:30AM | Session G

9:45AM – 10:45AM | Session H

10:30AM | Morning break **MORAVIAN**

11AM | D&L Bike Tour departs **LOBBY**

11AM – Noon | Session I

Noon – 1PM | Lunch **MONOCACY/MORAVIAN**

1PM – 2:30PM | Session J

Detailed session information, pages 9-13

Detailed mobile seminar information, pages 16-17



Wildlands Conservancy



Scan to view full agenda online



Photo Credit: Sherry Acevedo

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: DR. DIANE HUSIC Budburst, Bird Migrations, Bloom Times, and Bug Hatches: Their Times They Are a Changin'

For centuries, seasonal activities of animals and plants have been monitored for cultural purposes and celebrations, by farmers and gardeners to determine planting and harvesting times, and by naturalists. This observational practice evolved into a scientific area of study known as phenology. Dr. Husic will share history and examples and provide connections between phenology, conservation science, and land management.

 [More Information](#)

OTHER FEATURED SPEAKERS



Seth Cassell
Pennsylvania State Forester
PA DCNR



Cindy Adams Dunn
Secretary
PA DCNR



Phillips Armstrong
Lehigh County
Executive



Lamont G. McClure
Northampton County
Executive

LIFETIME CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD | PRESENTED DURING THURSDAY, APRIL 4 DINNER


The Lifetime Conservation Leadership Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to conservation in Pennsylvania over the course of their life. Since its establishment in 2004, the award has honored both conservation professionals and volunteers for their commitment to and leadership in conservation.

STEVEN J. SCHIFFMAN, ESQ.



Steven J. Schiffman, Esq. (Steve to those who know him), has for decades given generously of his time to and shared his extraordinary breadth of knowledge with conservation organizations and causes, helping with myriad issues big and small. Steve has been a leader in the conservation movement, from identifying litigation where WeConservePA involvement could make a difference for conservation to lecturing on complex legal subjects at Pennsylvania and national training events. He has engaged in countless behind-the-scenes, ad hoc task groups and conversations addressing the threats and opportunities for conservation.

Steve has consulted with and represented numerous conservation organizations through the years and is proud to currently be affiliated with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, and Manada Conservancy. He served four terms on the WeConservePA board of directors (2007-2013 and 2015-2021) and continues to serve on the WeConservePA policy council.

 [More Information](#)



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SESSIONS

FOR FULL SESSION DESCRIPTIONS, SEE WECONSERVEPA.ORG/CONFERENCE/AGENDA

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3 SESSION A 10AM–NOON

Wilderness First Aid Basics for Stewardship Staff BUCKS

This workshop will introduce people to basic concepts in Wilderness First Aid, train people in basic lifesaving methods, and discuss accident prevention and response planning considerations. This will not result in a certification but will instruct participants in basic life saving measures and will encourage participants to enroll in a certification course.

Speaker: Keith Williams. [.2 CEUs]

Condemnation and Conserved Land MONROE

In this session, attendees will hear from four land trusts on how they have navigated the threat of condemnation, either stopping it or working with the condemning authority to make the best of the situation. **Speakers: Erin McCormick, Kris Kern, Pam Brown, Shelly Tichy, Lauren Pregmon, Anna Scuderi.** [2 CLE; .2 CEUs]

SESSION B 1:30–4:30PM

Amending Easements for Conservation Success in the Long Run MONROE

This session will begin with an overview of how state law, the IRS, Standards & Practices, accreditation, and the actual text of an easement document might influence decision-making. It will address why you should seek to amend pre-2001 easements whenever the opportunity arises and touch on sometimes viable alternatives to amendment. It will then explore various facets of amendments in more depth through the exploration and group discussion of various scenarios that land trusts may face.

Speakers: Andy Loza, Justin Hollinger, Lauren Pregmon. [2.5 CLE; .25 CEUs]

Ecological Stewardship: Managing What We've Protected BUCKS

This session will focus on ecological stewardship – exploring methods to identify critical conservation values of a natural area, and then plan for, prioritize, and monitor stewardship actions to address common threats. To do so, we will cover the steps in creating a stewardship plan to guide management of an area, discuss assessing the existing conditions of a natural area and determining desired conditions, and how to prioritize stewardship actions to make management more feasible, the importance of monitoring, and look at examples of how these steps were put into practice. **Speakers: Kelsey Boyd, Ephraim Zimmerman, Roger Latham, and Jeffrey Wagner.** [.25 CEUs]

THURSDAY APRIL 4 SESSION C 11AM–NOON

Let's Talk: Developing Meaningful Communications with Farmers and Rural Landowners MONROE

In this session, join two experts to learn some tricks (and potential pitfalls) of communication with farmers and rural landowners. Attendees will leave the session with a better understanding of how their organization can approach farmers, strategies their organizations should avoid, and a set of ideas for how to “sell” preservation and agricultural best management practice implementations to rural landowners through conversations and relationship-building.

Speakers: Jeb Musser, Gordon Hoover. [.1 CEUs]

Implementing Northampton County's Livable Landscapes Open Space Plan NORTHAMPTON

Since 2006, Northampton County has invested over \$19 million of Livable Landscapes grant awards in land conservation, ecological restoration, streambank stabilization, regional trails, parks, recreation, open space plans, and municipal park development and rehabilitation. Participants will learn how the County Parks, Open Space program, and regional trail networks continue to advance in Northampton County working in partnership with our 10 municipal open space programs, municipal partners, and regional, state, and national organizations.

Speakers: Sherry Acevedo, Bryan Cope. [.1 CEUs]

Utility-Scale Solar in PA: Local Decision-Making Impacting Emerging Energy Development BERKS

This presentation will: take an updated look at the current trends driving utility-scale solar development; offer an in-depth assessment of how solar ordinances can direct solar facility siting; and examine the key issues officials might want to consider in the development of a solar ordinance. Discussion will focus on the latest options for agrivoltaics and how energy and agricultural production on the same land can potentially mitigate the overall loss of prime soils. **Speaker: Charlie Schmehl.** [.1 CEUs]

Dam Removal in Your Neighborhood: Everything You Wanted to Know About a Dam Removal Project, Process, Benefits, and Challenges LEHIGH

Wildlands Conservancy has implemented dam removal as a restoration strategy for over 10 years in the Lehigh River watershed and Lehigh Valley. During this session, participants will learn more about why dam removal is such an effective approach in stream restoration with its extensive ecological and community benefits. This will cover ecological benefits, resiliency to climate change, aquatic connectivity, recreation, and community benefits. **Speakers: Kristie Fach, Dr. Dru Germanoski.** [.1 CEUs]

Dealing with What Is Left Behind: Dumps, Structures, and Other Bits on Your Preserves BUCKS

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Land Stewardship Manager Tyson Johnston will discuss approaches to dealing with unwanted and unsightly dumpsites, structures, tanks, and more. Topics covered include: ways to avoid including buildings in your acquisition from the start; how to frame fundraising requests to include funding for cleanup; when to use volunteers and other cost-savings measures to clean up and when to rely more on the expertise of a firm. **Speaker: Tyson Johnston.** [.1 CEUs]

Using Build Out Analyses to Balance Natural Resource Protection and Future Development DELAWARE

Conducting a build-out analysis can be an effective tool for demonstrating the importance of strong natural resource ordinances, appropriate zoning, and proactive land preservation efforts at the municipal, landscape, or watershed level. This session will highlight the steps undertaken in GIS to perform the analysis, demonstrate the benefits to a build-out analysis, and share examples on how this tool can help identify opportunities for conservation, increasing community resiliency, and strengthening existing easements. **Speakers: Sarah Sharp, Kristen Frentzel.** [.1 CEUs]

SESSION D 1:30–3PM

Harnessing Remote Sensing to Inform Watershed Planning and Restoration Efforts [1:30-2:30PM] DELAWARE

Pennsylvania senior watershed planners for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation invite attendees to join them to discover a wide range of ways remote sensing can inform your conservation efforts. **Speakers: Caitlin Glagola, Brian Gish.** [.1 CEUs]

STEELS: The What, Why, and How of Pennsylvania's New Educational Standards [1:30-2:30PM] LEHIGH

This session will provide an overview of the STEELS standards and PDE resources, highlight examples of STEELS standards-aligned lessons and curricula, and facilitate a discussion on the many ways that environmental educators can play a vital role in bringing new and exciting learning opportunities to students across Pennsylvania. **Speakers: Paula Purnell, Karen Rose Cercone.** [.1 CEUs]

Beyond Blocking the Bad: Enhancing Conservation Values on Eased Land MONROE

What viable options does an easement holder have to advance proactive management for a healthier, more resilient landscape? In this session we will hear from five organizations on how they approach landowner relations and seek to connect landowners with the why behind the easement. They will explore how land trusts can build partnerships and leverage resources to empower landowners and land trusts to engage in ecologically productive land management. **Speakers: Carl Martin, Andrew Fetterman, Karl Russek, Jason Andrew Beale, Katie Toner.** [.15 CEUs]

County and Regional Planning: Working Together to Achieve Common Goals BUCKS

The Land Trust community and County Planning Commissions (CPC) often have similar goals with respect to natural resource protection; the provision of open space; securing agricultural resources; enhancing environmental resiliency; and providing for outdoor recreational opportunities. This session will explore those common goals and provide a discussion that focuses on actions our local County Planning Commissions are taking that mutually benefit and broaden our collective impact. **Speakers: Rob Daniels, Becky Bradley.** [.15 CEUs]

Protecting Public Parks and Open Spaces in Perpetuity BERKS

Join this session to learn about protections afforded to local parks and open spaces under Pennsylvania law and steps a community can take to buttress these protections. We will look at recent assaults on supposedly protected places and discuss the various factors that come into play in mounting a defense: PA statutes and Constitution, state grants, deed restrictions, etc. We will walk participants through the newly refreshed Model Declaration of Public Trust, which provides municipalities with a customizable tool for maximizing the protection of public parks and open spaces. **Speakers: Kate Harper, Andy Loza.** [1.5 CLE; .15 CEUs]

SESSION E 3:30–4:30PM

Land Protection Roundtable MONROE

The land protection and stewardship roundtable is open to people involved with acquiring and stewarding land and conservation easements. Meet colleagues to share techniques and experiences and discuss challenges. **Speaker/Moderator: Andy Loza.**

Natural Burial: Connecting People with Land from Cradle to Grave BUCKS

Green burial is a logical complement to land preservation that provides value for the community in which it exists and furthers land management goals at the same time. Find out how natural burial can facilitate and complement the many goals of land preservation, including restoration, reforestation, and climate resiliency to name a few, while generating significant income for the property and the organization at the same time. **Speaker: Carin Bonifacino.** [.1 CEUs]

Personal Injury Liability: RULWA Provides Protection BERKS

The Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA) offers protection from personal injury lawsuits to landowners and managers when public access is allowed without charge for recreational purposes. Many are unaware of the protections afforded by RULWA and explaining that the law exists and how it works is sometimes necessary for landowners and land managers, and their advisors (attorneys or insurance agents) to feel comfortable in allowing for public use of their land for trails or recreation. By understanding the law, recent cases and amendments, and by identifying its remaining weaknesses, we will be better prepared to use the law better, and to be more effective in advocating for change. **Speaker: Kate Harper.** [1 CLE; .1 CEUs]

Fostering Forest Bird Habitat and Ecosystem Resilience Through Management DELAWARE

For the past three years, National Aviary researcher Dr. Steve Latta has partnered with The Foundation for Sustainable Forests (FSF) to explore the impact of this uneven-aged management approach on two groups of birds of conservation concern – early successional species, and species requiring interior forest habitats. During this session, Dr. Latta will describe his bird study in FSF-managed forests and share findings after three years of study. The FSF team will provide an overview of their methods and offer tips for land trusts looking to implement forest management programs on their land. **Speakers: Guy Dunkle, Steve Latta, Annie Maloney.** [.1 CEUs]

GIS Roundtable LEHIGH

Join fellow GIS staff to discuss current topics in conservation mapping and fieldwork. This informal session will be an opportunity for GIS users to “talk shop” with their colleagues. **Speakers/Moderators: Megan Boatright, Irina Beal.**

Cell Phones Aren't Going Away. So, Let's Use Them for Education & Conservation! [3:30-5PM] NORTHAMPTON

In this session, research findings supporting the inventive use of cell phones to enhance outdoor experiences will be shared and (weather permitting) participants will venture outdoors to learn firsthand how apps and digital data collection can be used to monitor landscapes (in urban or other environments) for biodiversity studies, pollinator activity, phenology, and invasive species. Participants should bring a small notebook and their cell phones that have the Merlin, eBird, iNaturalist (with the PA iMapInvasives project), and Seek apps downloaded. **Speaker: Diane White Husic.** [.1 CEUs]

FRIDAY APRIL 5 SESSION F 8:30–10:30AM

Visual Storytelling: Take Photos That Inspire Action and Drive Your Mission Forward LEHIGH

In part one of this two-part workshop, attendees will learn how to utilize photography in their visual storytelling to drive strategic priorities, initiatives, and mission forward. In a hands-on part two of the workshop, participants will receive guided instruction in making impactful imagery on their phones to share a story. Participants should bring a fully charged phone and proper layers for the day's weather. Tools reviewed will include: phone camera, SharePoint, google drive, phone storage systems, Instagram, Facebook. **Speaker: Lindsay Dill.** [.2 CEUs]

Consider the “Why and How” for DEI in Your Organization BUCKS

Diversifying staff and membership is critical and it must be done in an integrated and strategic manner – not to replace or oust the other pillars of DEI. In this session, panelists from different entities will share their experience carrying out organizational change within and beyond their respective roles and departments. Leaving room for dialogue, presenters will delve into the discourse of social justice and workforce development: from implementing equitable hiring practices, to carrying out inclusive outreach, to diversifying the board of trustees. **Speakers: Keisha Scovens, Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Doryán De Angel, Tiffany Sowers.** [.2 CEUs]

Tools for Shifting Board Culture in Favor of Fundraising NORTHAMPTON

Board culture issues are very common and many of them involve issues with fundraising. Join fundraising expert David Allen as we explore practical tools that can begin to change Board culture. We'll look at conditions for success, structural ideas that can help, and communications needs. And we'll save some time for dealing with specific circumstances. Change

doesn't happen overnight, but understanding HOW change does happen can help begin the process. **Speaker: David Allen, Sally Zaino.** [.2 CEUs]

Land Protection 101 DELAWARE

New to land conservation? Whether you're a new board member, staff, or volunteer, this session will bring you up to speed on land conservation concepts. Learn the basic tools of the trade – how land trusts responsibly acquire and steward land and easements. **Speakers: Dawn Gorham, Erin McCormick, Greg Snyder.** [2 CLE; .2 CEUs]

SESSION G 8:30–9:30AM

Farm Succession: Soft Skills & Family Communications BERKS

In this session, you will hear an overview of farm succession planning, effective farm family communication tactics, resources available through PA Farm Link, and discuss farm succession scenarios. **Speaker: Tyler Hoffman.** [.1 CEUs]

Trials and Triumphs in Ecological Restoration on Public Spaces MONROE

Wildlands Conservancy has been working for decades to bring together strong partnerships and diverse funding sources to improve natural resources on public open space, establishing native riparian buffers along streams, converting turf grass or large areas of invasive species to meadow and grassland habitat, and restoring degraded streams. For this session, Wildlands Conservancy and Northampton County staff will discuss the process for these projects, the unique challenges in funding and implementing them, and successes in restoring and stewarding natural resources in public spaces.

Speakers: Kate Ebel, Bryan Cope. [.1 CEUs]

SESSION H 9:45–10:45AM

Building Partnerships, Increasing Stewardship Capacity, and Amplifying Conservation Through Birds [9:45-10:30AM] BERKS

This session will demonstrate how the Cornell Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative, coordinated regional efforts, and resources, such as the online bird checklist program eBird, eBird science data visualization products, and the Land Trust Small Grant Program, can substantially increase the impact and cost-effectiveness of land and bird conservation. We will introduce the Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative Mapping Tool. Within this ArcGIS online platform a user can increase local and regional conservation impact, inform land planning, generate fundraising dollars and grant support, and bring birds into the picture when addressing ecological priorities and land conservation. **Speaker: Sara Barker.**

The Land Conserved Over Time: Trends in Pennsylvania Land Protection MONROE

This session will reveal trends in Pennsylvania land protection over the last thirty years. We'll look at the pace of conservation and how it compares to broader conservation goals. We'll also examine where and how conservation is happening, both in general and with an emphasis on publicly accessible land. **Speakers: Josh VanBrakle, Nicole Faraguna.** [.1 CEUs]

SESSION I 11AM–NOON

Inspiration and Structure for Engaging and Effective Conservation Storytelling BERKS

This session will focus on maximizing storytelling opportunities by focusing on communications best practices, such as: rhetorical strategies to engage the reader; maximizing statistics for impact; leveraging images to increase engagement; including powerful quotes from project stakeholders; and more. Attendees will leave the session with the fundamental tools they need to craft engaging and effective project press releases.

Speaker: Robert Campbell. [.1 CEUs]

Land for People: Conservation and Affordable Communities MONROE

For a variety of reasons, conservation organizations may be interested in situating their missions within a broader context of social and racial justice, while promoting smart, resource-sensitive development practices. One possible avenue involves partnerships with affordable housing organizations to pair high-quality land conservation with affordable, equitable housing opportunities. This session will provide a brief overview of possible tools and mechanisms, including community land trusts, and an overview of national examples of successful projects and partnerships.

Speaker: Justin Hollinger. [1 CLE; .1 CEUs]

Essentials for Growing a Sustainable Planned Giving Program LEHIGH

Planned giving thrives when seeds are planted early and consistently in fertile soil. Gift planning is frequently seen as being overly complex, expensive, and difficult. This does not need to be the case. The most successful planned giving programs are developed over an extended period of time. For those seeking to start or expand their efforts, for what are frequently the single largest gifts donors will ever make, this program will focus on the building blocks to educate, cultivate, and secure legacy gifts.

Speaker: Stephen Link. [.1 CEUs]

Property Review: Selection Standards & Criteria DELAWARE

This presentation will review LTA Accreditation Standard #08 and demonstrate how two organizations approach new property inquiries differently through an established review process. The Allegheny Land Trust follows a multi-step process involving completion of a property inquiry form, initial property review, and project evaluation form. Similarly, Natural Lands' multi-step project review process includes an initial landowner contact/intake form, preliminary yes/no desk review, and criteria evaluation. While these two processes take slightly different approaches, they both serve a critical role that best suits the organization when evaluating new projects.

Speakers: Casey Markle, Robyn Jeney. [.1 CEUs]

Methods to Identify Pollinator Conversion Projects: A Case Study Converting Mowed Grasses to Meadows BUCKS

North American Land Trust is partnering with DCNR to present useful programs that other land trusts can present to their landowners to enhance the quality of their habitat. This in-depth look shows how you can take action to halt the trend of lawns on eased property and municipal lands, receiving technical guidance and the know-how to confidently create pollinator habitat. **Speakers: Wyatt Moyer, Teddi Stark.** [.1 CEUs]

SESSION J 1-2:30PM

Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscapes Across Pennsylvania and the Northeast MONROE

The federal government recognizes Native American Ceremonial Stone Landscapes (CSLs) as significant archaeological sites across the nation. This conference session will focus on the identification of CSLs, their physical characteristics, relationships to the cosmos, connections with Indigenous worldviews and sacred stories, dating their construction and the need for professional archaeologists, conservationists, and regulatory officials to identify, catalog and preserve these objects of living history and their sacred stone landscapes. **Speakers: Laurie Rush, Jim Wilson.** [.15 CEUs]

Capital Campaigns Can Be Fun! BUCKS

If you are thinking that a capital campaign might be in your future sooner or later, now might be a good time to learn about campaigns and how they work. Join fundraising expert David Allen as we dissect capital campaigns and show how all the parts and pieces work together. There are good reasons to do a campaign and not to do one. We will talk about both. Then we'll explore how Feasibility Studies work, how campaigns are structured, the need for recognition strategies, the role and cost of consulting help, campaign timelines, and budgets. **Speaker: David Allen.** [.15 CEUs]

Navigating the Federal Tax Maze: Latest Cases and Trends DELAWARE

This session will cover current notable U.S. Tax Court and Circuit Court of Appeals legal decisions that affect charitable conservation contributions. The IRS, in its focus on shutting down a tax avoidance scheme, known as "syndicated conservation easements," has employed diverse, and at times unpredictable, legal arguments with varying success in its enforcement efforts. The presentation will dive into the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations, case law, and IRS arguments. The presentation will offer considerations for reducing future risk. **Speakers: Diana Norris, Debra Wolf Goldstein.** [1.5 CLE; .15 CEUs]

The Three Ps of Proactive Communications: Small Team Strategies for Effective Storytelling BERKS

Telling stories is how we share our work. Without a sustainable strategy, communications can be a scramble that leads to frustrated staff and missed opportunities. Proactive Communications is structured for consistency and flexible enough to be nimble and responsive, and it's easily transferable between staff to accommodate seasonal conflicts, personnel changes, and shifts in responsibilities. **Speakers: Kelly McGinley, Jeanne Ortiz, Kristen Hand, Christine Proctor.** [.15 CEUs]



Full Course Information



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We are an accredited Land Trust, preserving public natural lands along with private farmland and open spaces in Bucks, Montgomery, and Northampton Counties.

Preserve History
We hold facade easements, share stories on local history, and maintain a Register of Historic Places with close to 700 entries.

Engage & Educate the Community
We partner with schools to offer environmental education programs, teacher information and resources, and outdoor experiences. We host events to connect our community with nature.



HERITAGE CONSERVANCY

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 Binky Lee Preserve | Chester Springs, PA | 112 acres | Photo by Randy Richard



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MOBILE SEMINARS

Mobile seminars will start boarding 15 minutes prior to posted departure from the hotel lobby. Mobile seminars are held rain or shine unless otherwise noted.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

Landscape Conservation Within the Kittatinny Ridge and Minsi Lake Greenway Corridor (10AM – 4PM, includes lunch)

This mobile workshop will showcase landscape scale conservation and connectivity within the Kittatinny Ridge and the Minsi Lake Greenway Corridor. Featured sites will highlight the compatibility and success of land conservation, stewardship, habitat restoration, and recreation in environmentally sensitive areas. [.35 CEUs]

Stops include:

Nelson Lodge, Kirkridge Retreat Center (walk to Kittatinny Ridge overlook); Columcille Megalith Park; Minsi Lake

Need to Know:

Total walking distance is approximately 2.5 miles on earthen trail surface of dirt, grass, and rocks with a slight incline and decline through woodlands and meadows and a paved trail. Wearing appropriate gear for weather and wind conditions and hiking boots are strongly recommended for the rocky trail surface.

Jordan Creek Greenway Mobile Tour (11AM – 4PM, includes lunch)

Join Wildlands Conservancy for a mobile tour of the Lehigh Valley's Jordan Creek Greenway. The tour includes 3 stops with speakers on completed and ongoing projects. [.3 CEUs]

Stops include:

City of Allentown greenway sections (including safe crossings); Covered Bridge Park; Trexler Environmental Center

Need to Know:

Most stops include a walking tour of the site with accessible paved or gravel paths that might include mild slopes. Dress for the weather.

Soil Health Walk & Talk: Evolution of a Small Family Farm Using Agritainment (1PM – 4PM)

This tour will focus on the practice of the use of cover cropping best management practice, using broadcast seeding of cereal rye over corn crop residue to maintain soil



quality, prevent erosion, providing potassium exchange and supplement nutrients over the winter season. We will also be exploring the evolution of a small family dairy farm, Klein Farms Dairy & Creamery, and how they turned this operation around in a difficult milk market. [.25 CEUs]

Need to Know:

This tour, part of the PFFPA annual spring meeting, is open to Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference attendees, but travel to the site is on-your-own. Location information has been provided to registrants.

THURSDAY APRIL 4

Land, Water, and Tree Crop Conservation in an Urban Environment (12PM-4PM, includes lunch)

Learn techniques, programs and initiatives to continue to build, restore and rehabilitate lands within a sprawling urban environment. Touring three locations within the Northampton County Parks system, attendees will learn about stream restoration, agroforestry, regional land conservation efforts, securing volunteers and participating. [.25 CEUs]

Stops include:

Gertude Fox Conservation Area; Louise W. Moore County Park; Wayne A. Grube Memorial County Park; (bus will also travel through a route conducive to a discussion of warehouse development, land conservation, and the Karst Geology Advisory Council)

Need to know:

Total walking distance of roughly four miles on mostly flat asphalt, rubber, and natural surface trails. (slight slope to trail along the creek at Gertrude Fox Conservation Area). Wear appropriate footwear for walking, and dress for the weather.

Tour of the Hoover-Mason Trestle at SteelStacks and Interpretive Walk on the South Bethlehem Greenway (1:30PM-3:30PM)

The tour will feature up-close views of the former steel plant and an educational experience about its role in our county’s history. As the group walks along the greenway, planners from the City of Bethlehem will describe its origins, communal and environmental benefits, and efforts to further integrate the greenway into the regional trail transportation network.

Stops include:

Hoover-Mason Trestle at SteelStacks; South Bethlehem Greenway

Need to know:

The total walking distance of this tour will be approximately 1 ½ to 2 miles, over sidewalk and asphalt surfaces. Wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather.

FRIDAY APRIL 5

Delaware & Lehigh Trail System Bicycle Tour (11AM – 3PM, includes lunch)

This 10-mile tour of the historic Delaware and Lehigh trail system will follow the towpath, providing a relatively flat and smooth, mostly gravel, surface for biking. Participants will stop frequently along the trail for guest speakers. Lunch will be held at the Charlie Brown Ice House, where restrooms are also available. [.25 CEUs]

Stops include:

Sand Island; Charlie Brown Ice House; Freemansburg Lock #41; D&L History Museum

Need to know:

The trail follows the towpath and provides a relatively flat and smooth, mostly gravel surface for biking. Items like bottled water, a backpack, and closed toed shoes are highly recommended for this trip. Dress for exertion and the weather. Bicycles and helmets are included. In case of inclement weather, the workshop will be held as a walking tour in Hugh Moore Park.



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WeConservePA helps people care for, wisely use, and enjoy what nature offers. We help organizations and individuals to effectively and efficiently conserve land, protect and restore waterways, implement sustainable practices, and connect people to the outdoors. We foster understanding of conservation and advocate for pro-conservation governmental policy to promote a high quality of life for all.

WeConservePA brings leadership to a diverse array of organizations and individuals at work in communities across Pennsylvania. It builds communities of shared interests for land trusts, environmental advisory councils, trail groups, municipal open space programs, and others with conservation goals. It helps volunteers and professionals connect with and learn from one another, and provides them with resources, equipping them to make Pennsylvania a better place. And by uniting people who conserve land, protect and restore waterways, and foster healthy communities, WeConservePA creates a powerful advocacy voice for conservation.

WeConservePA.org/about

