

PENNSYLVANIA LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

APRIL 2-4, 2025 | STATE COLLEGE



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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Elizabeth Crisfield

ClearWater Conservancy (Host)

Donnan Stoicov

ClearWater Conservancy (Host)

Franklin Egan

Centre County Farmland Trust (Host)

Linda Friend

Centre County Farmland Trust (Host)

Dan Guss

Centre County Farmland Trust (Host)

Allyson Muth

The James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State (Host)

Caitlin Seiler

Allegheny Land Trust

Ryan Brett

Berks Nature

Jason Beale

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Elizabeth Pirrone-Brusse

Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

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Jen Shuey

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Ellen Ferretti

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Renee' Carey

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Travis Wingard

Penn State Extension, Area 5

Andrew Zadnik

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

HOSTS



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conservancy



**Centre County
Farmland Trust**

EXHIBITORS

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The Hamer Foundation

USDA-NRCS

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Wildlands Conservancy

COURTYARD LOUNGE

FARMLAND PRESERVATION ARTISTS EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

4/2	12pm-7:30pm
4/3	7:30am-8:30pm
4/4	7am-3pm

The Farmland Preservation Artists of Central Pennsylvania are once again pleased to present an exhibition of local art to the land conservation professional working hard across the Commonwealth to protect what we value most.

Formed in 2005 as a joint enterprise of the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania and the Centre County Farmland Trust, the FPA's mission is to promote the preservation and appreciation of farmland through the visual arts.

The eighteen artists juried into this group work in a variety of media and focus on portraying the beauty of the rural landscape, local farms, and the agricultural products they yield; highlighting farm life, local food markets, and the farm economy; illustrating the issues facing farmers that affect our communities; supporting farmland preservation through exhibition and sale of art; and promoting the goals of the cosponsoring organizations, the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania and Centre County Farmland Trust.



"Four Ladies from Belleville" by Cinda Kostyak

A portion of the sales from this exhibition will be donated to WeConservePA to strengthen conservation organizations across Pennsylvania and Centre County Farmland Trust to help save more farms.



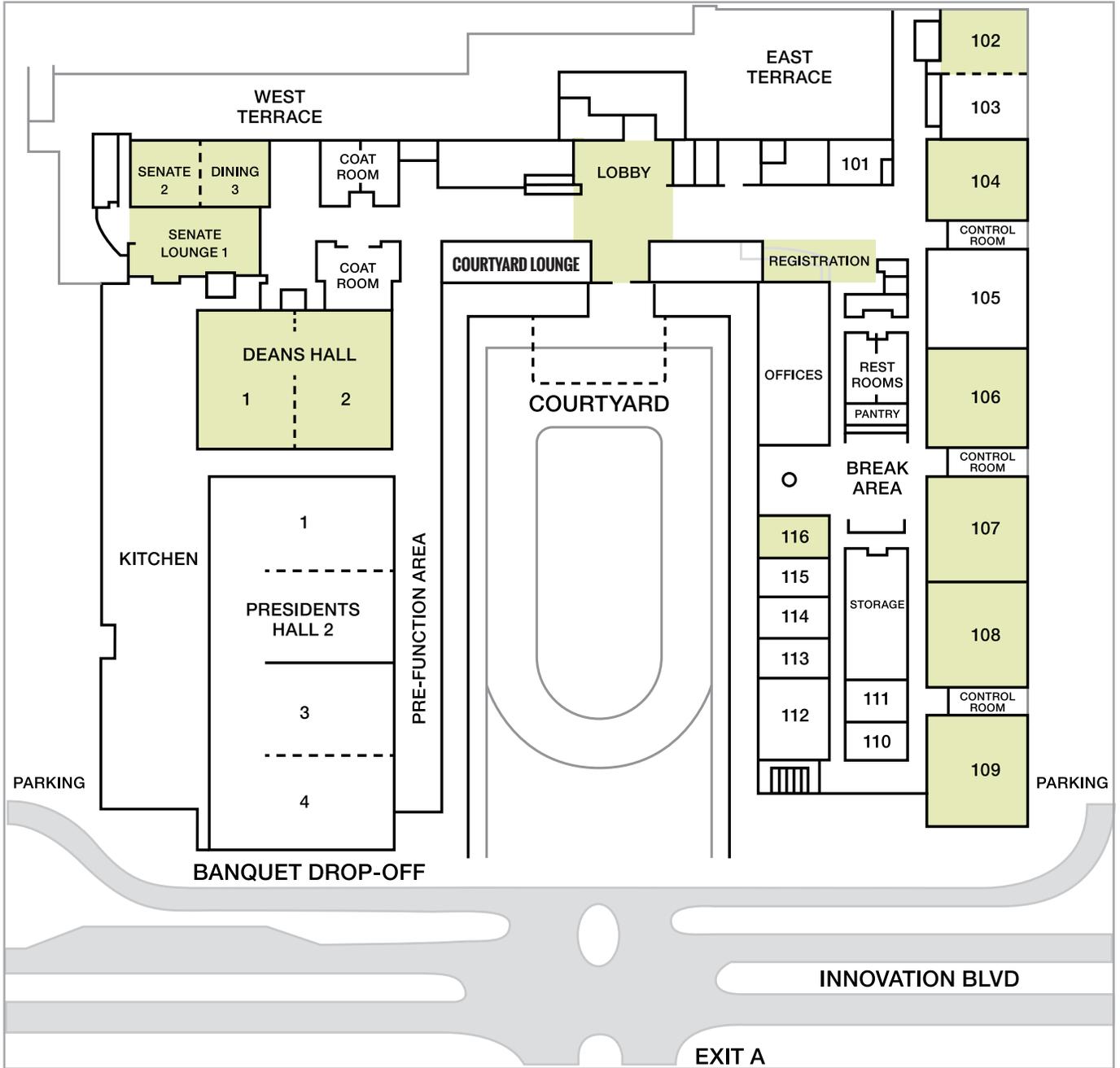
"Market Reds" by Cinda Kostyak



"Storm Coming" by Jeffery Mathison



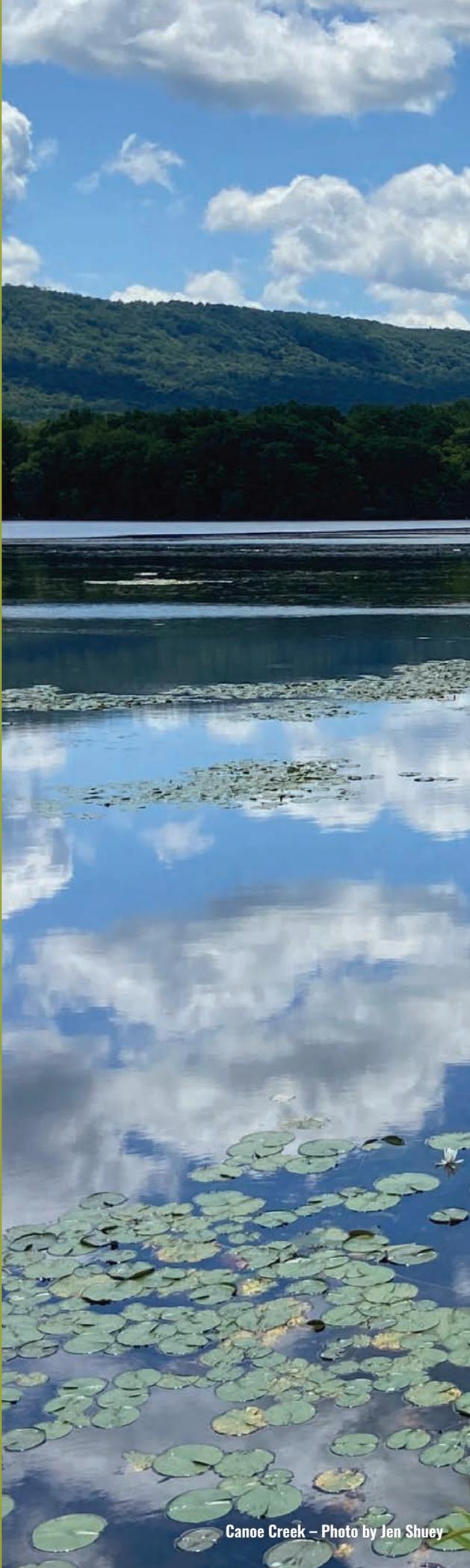
The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center



Main Level

Happy Valley Information





Canoe Creek – Photo by Jen Shuey



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CLEARWATER *conservancy*

Serving the Community & Environment

ClearWater is a locally-formed, nationally-accredited land trust organization that has been serving central Pennsylvania since 1980.

The ClearWater Compass guides the long-term strategic plan to connect, protect, restore, and steward the region's natural resources. At its center is a dedicated community working together to preserve the natural beauty and resilience of Centre and surrounding counties for future generations.

To learn more & get involved visit:

ClearWaterConservancy.org





KEYNOTE SPEAKER: NANCY G.W. BAKER

“Informed Decisions in A Changing World, Lessons in Adaptive Management”

Nancy G.W. Baker is a Pennsylvania forest landowner; she owns and manages 163 Northern Tier acres from which her great-grandfather cut the original timber in the 1860s. While her land is used to demonstrate a Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Plan, it also exhibits an array of 21st century forestry challenges. Mrs. Baker is a graduate of Bucknell University, with a MS in Forest Ecology from the University of Georgia. She serves as the chair of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards and represents it on the advisory council of the James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association’s board of directors and co-chair of their education and communications committee, publishers of the quarterly magazine *Pennsylvania Forests*.

PLENARY SPEAKER: GINDY ADAMS DUNN, SECRETARY, PA DCNR

Cindy Adams Dunn has served as the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources since 2015. She has served multiple positions in the agency under three governors during the last three decades. During her tenure, Ms. Dunn has helped position Pennsylvania as a leader in land conservation, outdoor recreation, green practices, and public land management.



LIFETIME CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD | PRESENTED DURING THURSDAY, APRIL 3 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.



CYNTHIA CARROW

Cynthia Carrow began her career at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) in March of 1973.

Over the five decades she has committed to WPC, she has held several leadership positions. In her current role as vice president, government and community relations, she has

oversight of all public policy matters and strategic government affairs. In addition to these responsibilities, she also directly manages the Heritage Program and the Community Greening Program.

Since 1997, Cynthia has been appointed by the Pennsylvania Senate Pro Tempore to serve on the Citizen’s Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Carrow serves on

the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board and DEP’s Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board. She is also a longtime member of the Growing Greener Coalition executive committee. A fixture of Pennsylvania’s conservation community, she has been instrumental in many conservation victories, including notably the establishment and expansion of the commonwealth’s Growing Greener Program.

More Information





SCHEDULE – WEDNESDAY APRIL 2

		LOCATION					
		HOTEL LOBBY	104	106	109	THE GARDENS	SENATE SUITES
TIME	10AM	10am-4pm MOBILE SEMINAR Conservation in Lock Haven: Wetland Mitigation and Working Forest Easements Renee' Carey, Thresa Lingenfelter, Rich Marcinkevage, Sara Schlessinger, Mike Wolf, Kevin Yoder	10am-12pm Fundraising 101 (If You Don't Know This Stuff, You Should) David Allen	10am-12pm Model Grant of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants: The Basics Lauren Pregmon-Tetreault			
	11AM						
	12PM	12pm-5pm MOBILE SEMINAR Balancing Farmland Solar and Conservation Pamela Adams, Jason Brown, Franklin Egan, Elizabeth Pirrone-Bruce, Elwin Stewart			12pm-12:45pm Part 1: Slab Cabin Run Initiative Jennifer Dombroskie, Ryan Hamilton, Suzy Yetter	12pm-1pm LUNCH (Penn Stater Ground Floor)	
	1PM	1pm-5pm MOBILE SEMINAR Part 2: Slab Cabin Run Initiative Strategic Planning for Farmland Preservation, Riparian Restoration, Groundwater Protection, and Recreational Access Jennifer Dombroskie, Ryan Hamilton, Brian Heiser, Mike Toolan, Justin Ulanoski, Suzy Yetter	1pm-4pm (Addressing Fear Related to) Asking for Money in Person David Allen	1pm-4pm Easement Violations: Prepare, Respond, Resolve Steve Gosch, Justin Hollinger, Erin McCormick, Jeff Swinehart, Andrew Szwak			
	2PM						
	3PM						
	4PM						
	5PM						5pm-7pm WELCOME RECEPTION
6PM	Full Course Information 	Speaker Details 					

108	109	HOTEL LOBBY
<p>11am-12pm</p> <p>Restoring Floodplains for Climate Resilience</p> <p>Kelly Gutshall</p>	<p>11am-12pm</p> <p>The Basics of Land Protection via Fee-title Acquisitions</p> <p>Sarah Costlow, Casey Markle</p>	
		<p>12pm-4pm</p> <p>MOBILE SEMINAR</p> <p>Halfmoon Creek Partnership: Working with Farmers to Implement Best Management Practices</p> <p>Jennifer Dombroskie, Ryan Hamilton, Brian Heiser, Mike Toolan, Justin Ulanoski, Suzy Yetter</p>
<p>1:30pm-3:00pm</p> <p>Forest Resilience Checklist: Assessing What You Have and Taking Action to Improve It</p> <p>Annie Maloney, Allyson Muth</p>	<p>1:30pm-3:00pm</p> <p>From Concept to Detail Design: The Path to Shovel-Ready Trails</p> <p>Sarah Walter</p>	
<p>3:30pm-4:30pm</p> <p>Timber Harvests on Conserved Land</p> <p>Guy Dunkle, Annie Maloney, Emma Thompson</p>	<p>3:30pm-4:30pm</p> <p>Greenways Bolster Ecosystems and Land Trusts</p> <p>Sean Brady, Joey-Linn Ulrich</p>	



SAVE THE DATE

Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference

April 29 - May 1, 2026
 LANCASTER MARRIOTT | LANCASTER

WeConservePA.org/conference

Photo Credit: Nick Gould, Courtesy of Lancaster Conservancy

SCHEDULE – FRIDAY APRIL 4

LOCATION

	THE GARDENS	REFRESHMENT & 116	102	104	106	107
TIME	7AM 7am-8am Breakfast (Penn Stater Ground Floor)					
		EXHIBITS OPEN	8am-9:30am A Research-Informed Model for Conservation-Based Estate Planning Allyson Muth, Paul Roth	8am-9:30am Connecting People with Disabilities with the Outdoors: Identifying & Addressing Information, Program, & Physical Barriers Peter Doehring, Sarah Walter	8am-9:30am The Landowner's View: The Journey from Easement to Improving Conservation Value Jim Appgar, Trever Gell, Cindy Hooks, Carl Martin	8am-9:30am GIS Roundtable Megan Boatright, Irina Beal
			9:45am-10:45am Marketing Matters: Bringing Awareness to Conservation Mikaela Bender, Chandra Crosson	9:45am-10:45am Prioritizing PA Communities for Outdoor Recreation Investments Jennifer Clinton, Celina Daddario, Owen Franklin, Sara Satullo	9:45am-10:45am Exploring Land Conservation Intent, Means, Priorities... Ellen Ferretti, Annie Maloney, Emma Thompson	9:45am-10:45am Using Cell Phone Data to Understand Visitation, Use, & Economic Impact of Conservation Lands Silas Chamberlin
			11:00am-12:00pm 911 Addressing for Outdoor Recreation Renee' Carey, Pete DiBiase, Will Hunt, Bob Stoudt	11:00am-12:00pm Free the Land! The Philly Peace Park Tommy Joshua Caison, Nyasha Felder, Jackson Plumlee	11:00am-12:00pm Restoration Projects: Tips & Techniques for Success Greg Kedzierski	11:00am-11:45pm Awe for All: The How & Why of Inclusive Outdoor Experiences Olivia Stas, Bridget Whyte
	12PM 12pm-1:15pm LUNCH (Penn Stater Ground Floor)					
				1:15pm-2:15pm Addressing Water & Soil Protection in the Planning & Conduct of Timber Harvests... Chuck Coup	1:15pm-2:15pm Large-Scale Solar in PA Thomas Beresnyak, Daniel Brockett, Joseph Conklin, Matthew Svetz	
			3PM Full Course Information		Speaker Details	

108	109	HOTEL LOBBY
<p>8am-9:30am</p> <p>PA Fish & Boat Commission Grant Programs & Services/ PA Game Commission's Private Lands Programs</p> <p>Penny Ayers, Mark Morrison, Tyler Neimond</p>	<p>8am-9:30am</p> <p>Storytelling That Connects, Convinces, and Converts</p> <p>Kelly McGinley</p>	
<p>9:45am-10:45am</p> <p>NRCS Technical & Financial Assistance</p> <p>Melissa Hanner, Susan Parry</p>	<p>9:45am-10:45am</p> <p>Less Plastic, Faster Forest.</p> <p>Jennifer Dombroskie, Justin Ulanoski</p>	
<p>11:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Land Trust Alliance's NRCS Conservation Acquisition Team: Helping Land Trusts Access ACEP-ALE & RCPP Funding</p> <p>Dyan Holt</p>	<p>11:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Cultivating Collaboration: A Blueprint for Better Meetings</p> <p>Kelly McGinley</p>	
		<p>12pm-3pm</p> <p>Connections in Nature: Outreach Opportunities on Conserved Lands</p> <p>Danny Brumbaugh, Jennifer Dombroskie, Ryan Hamilton</p> <p>MOBILE SEMINAR</p>
<p>1:15pm-2:45pm</p> <p>Local Land Conservation Funding Programs of Municipal and County Governments</p> <p>Laura Brown, Dennis DeMara, Christine Dettore, Sean Kenny, Todd Sampsell, Dave Stauffer, Ryan Szuch</p>		<p>1pm-3:30pm</p> <p>Art in the Landscape: Penn State Creates a Gateway for Creative Expression at the Palmer Museum of Art & The Arboretum at Penn State</p> <p>Jennifer Shuey, Donnan Stoicovy</p> <p>MOBILE SEMINAR</p>



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Hildacy Preserve | Media, PA | 55 acres | Photo by Jaime Thomas

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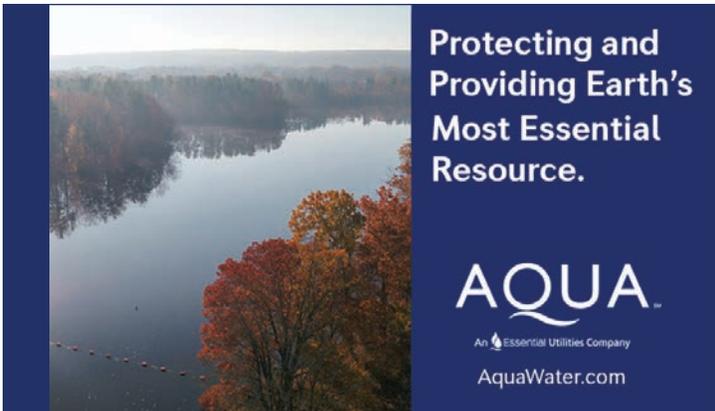


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Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor –
Photo by Sandy Miller



Talleyrand Park
Centre County –
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A Tonelli



Canoe Creek –
Photo by
Olivia Stas



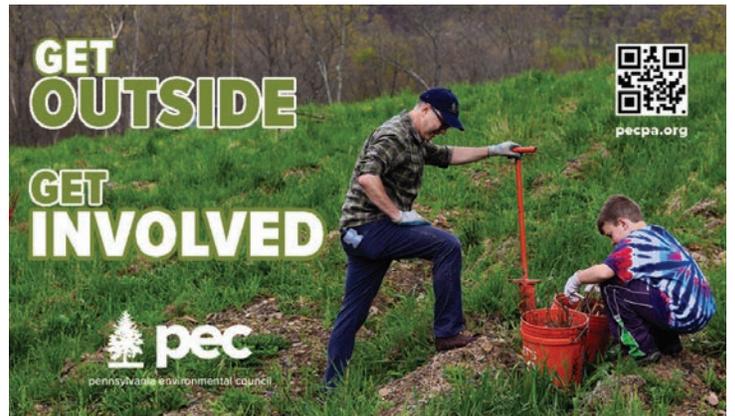
Colerain Forges Mansion –
Photo by Danny Brumbaugh

The James C. Finley Center for Private Forests at Penn State

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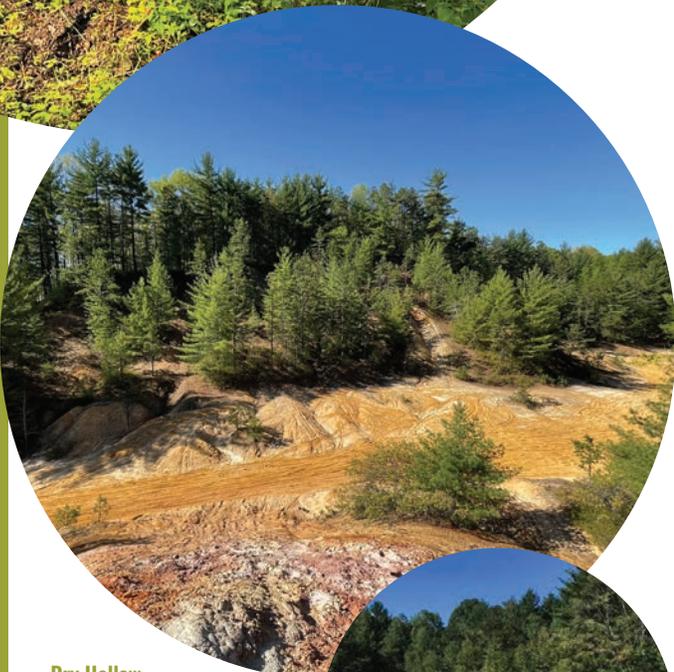
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Dry Hollow –
Photo by Gina Thompson



Dry Hollow –
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Millbrook Marsh –
Photo by Ryan Hamilton



Canoe Creek –
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Western Pennsylvania
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WaterLandLife.org



Aaronsburg Tour –
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ABOUT WECONSERVEPA

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

