



December 18, 2018

Conserving for tomorrow...today!

Season's Greetings,

Thank you for your past support of Central Pennsylvania Conservancy. I am writing today to tell you about our recent projects and how CPC is poised to escalate the pace of land and water resource protection in our local region. After these updates, I hope you will consider an end of year contribution to support the growth of your land trust's conservation mission. **You helped get us to this point, and we cannot keep growing without your continued commitment.**

This year, CPC acquired a new nature preserve in South Middleton Township, just south of Carlisle in Cumberland County and accessible via the Letort Nature Trail and a rustic parking area. A public dedication was held on September 15, 2018 to celebrate the new preserve and commit the property to the public trust as deed-restricted for conservation purposes. Named the **Letort Spring Garden Preserve**, the property is an historic watercress farm covering 35 acres, and located at the east branch headwaters of the Letort Spring Run, abundant in aquatic life, bird life, trails, and wetland habitat. If you are a fly angler or know a fly angler, you should be familiar with this treasured limestone spring run, spawning grounds for wild brown trout, and home waters to many fly fishing legends. The site is also the former homestead of the first European settler to Carlisle, James LeTort, in the 1720's (called Great Beaver Pond).

To purchase the property, CPC raised \$420,000 in grant funds from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Keystone Fund, Cumberland County's Land Partnerships Program, South Middleton Township and private support from organizations, corporations, and individuals like you. **Beyond acquisition, we aim to raise sufficient funds to care for the property through maintenance and stewardship activities, restoration of the exceptional value wetlands/springs/and upland buffers, education, and improvement of historic structures.** Consider becoming a Letort Leader (see enclosed info.) to help kick-start a broad fundraising campaign for the new preserve.

CPC acquired a second property this year via a bargain sale, known now as the **Windemaker Preserve**, 80 acres on the Kittatinny Ridge along the Tuscarora Trail in North Middleton Township on the border with Perry County. The purchase was made possible by grant funds from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Keystone Fund, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and a donation of value by the landowner. It is sandwiched between State Game Lands #230 and provides important connectivity for sportsmen to hunt on both sides of the ridge. **Raising stewardship monies is a big priority to further open public access, develop and post signage, implement habitat improvements in partnership with PA Game Commission, and promote the use of this property among sportsmen, hikers, bird lovers, and for educational purposes.**

We are in progress with a third land acquisition, the **Spangler Addition to Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area** in Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin County. This project will connect Boyd Big Tree with a local township park (Hocker Park), protecting a gap in the ridge and the former

Darlington Trail along the ridgetop, as well as provide a new trailhead and entrance to the conservation area from Blue Mountain Parkway. Funding in the amount of \$229,000 for this project was recently announced by DCNR, and we have a commitment from a private foundation as well as a generous donation by the landowner, a dedicated conservationist, to cover the balance.

We are also proud to announce a conservation easement project with **Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries' 170-acre Wilderness Center**, surrounded on all sides by state game lands and the Appalachian Trail corridor, owned by the National Park Service. This project, a priority for protection of the South Mountain landscape and Appalachian National Scenic Trail, is being funded by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Landscape Partnership Action Fund Grant Program, Cumberland County's Land Partnerships Program, and as always, in-kind support by CPC for project development and coordination.

And finally, but perhaps most importantly, **CPC was awarded the seal of accreditation by the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission** this fall. An award that recognizes Central PA Conservancy as meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence, accreditation means that our organization is compliant with rigorous standards for sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship. Among 23 accredited land trusts in PA and 411 nationally, CPC is proud to have demonstrated proven best practices with the goal of steadily advancing the pace, process, and support for land protection and stewardship in our region.

There are several additional project opportunities we are pursuing; however, with only 2-part-time staff members to move this work forward, we are limited in our capacity. Our organization is small and the needs are large, despite the commitment and diligence of our board of directors, staff and volunteers. **In order to continue securing public and private funds for our 5-county service region to protect and steward additional, natural resource lands, we need to grow.** Your support today can help ensure that CPC has the current and future capacity to pursue these opportunities. And, the biggest benefit of your support is the knowledge that you are directly helping to protect Central PA woods, water, wildlife, ridges, farmland, trails, and natural heritage for future generations.

We want to continue to count you as one of our valued supporters. Please rejoin our team today by completing and mailing in the enclosed tear-off form, along with your end of year contribution! Thank you so much for your generous support of conservation in your community.

Sincerely,



Kenneth R. Waidelich
President

The official registration and financial information of Central Pennsylvania Conservancy may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. effective stewards of your generous contribution. I am always available to answer any of your questions or discuss CPC's efforts. Please feel free to contact me at ayelk@centralpaconservancy.org or 717-241-4360.