Farm & Natural Lands Trust is a private non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization recognized by the IRS as a qualified recipient of land conservation interests. Contributions to FNLT are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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The FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST has preserved more than 14,000 acres to date.

**TO CONTACT US:**

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The County of York
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FALL 2022
VOLUME 3

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    for Future Family Traditions
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    Farm Life Preserved
All of us at FNLT hope you’re enjoying the start of Fall and time outside. Thank you for your support of FNLT and land preservation in York County – we really couldn’t do what we do without you.

As you can tell by the weight of this issue of Preservation Views – we’ve been busy! We’ve had our Annual Meeting, Give Local York, Sasquatch Trail Run, hired our first new full time staff person in 14 years, and importantly – preserved six new properties, with even more to be completed by the end of 2022.

I want to take some time to thank some additional parties who help make all the great things you see at FNLT happen, in one shape or form. The County of York / York County Commissioners and York County Planning Commission play an integral part in our work, so when you see them, please pass along your thanks for their help in preserving land. The Arthur J & Lee R Glatfelter Foundation, Powder Mill Foundation, J. William Warehime Foundation and Kinsley Family Foundation all have helped lift FNLT’s work to a higher level through their support. You can see our Board members listed, so their leadership and other volunteers who help on committees or events are essential to guiding our success. If you’d like to play a part – reach out to me!

As I mentioned, we welcomed a new staff member recently, you’ll read all about Anna shortly. Around the same time – Rochelle Black recently celebrated 29 years at FNLT, next to my paltry recent 14 year anniversary, haha.

I take pride in the family feel we have at FNLT, which in all honesty, we carry over in everything we do. I consider that family to extend to the partners, volunteers, staff, land- owners and YOU!

So with that I’ll dry my misty eyes. There’s a lot to cover so read on and take pride in whatever role you play in our growing FNLT family.

~ SEAN P. KENNY
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It was a beautiful morning on the preserved South Branch Farms property in Seven Valleys and the Sasquatch Trail Run had just begun. It was my first week working for FNLT and I was tasked with event photography. I hitched a ride on a UTV with Paul, former FNLT board member, volunteer and neighboring landowner who graciously drove me around the course. As we chatted, he told me he and his family lived right down the road at a neighboring farm. He purchased it after moving back home from the West Coast several years ago. “I know a lot of people who grew up in York County and moved away. But more often than not, they seem to end up back here,” he said. “It’s a great community to be a part of.” Having a similar experience, I could relate.

I was also born and raised in northern York County and attended college nearby at Shippensburg University, graduating with a bachelor’s in Geo-environmental Studies. Following graduation I accepted a position with a small land trust in northern Maine, focusing on conserving land and shoreline within the Chiputneticook Lakes region and western New Brunswick. Looking back, I laugh thinking about my first impression of the area, and the area’s first impression of me. I was fresh out of college, eager to please, a kayak strapped to the roof of my Dodge Dart and my dog “Beyonce” riding shotgun. After passing a sign that read “US/Canada Border 1 Mile” I had finally arrived at what I remember thinking was “the middle of nowhere”, AKA my new home.

I spent the next five years working there as the Trust’s Conservation Manager and my final year as Executive Director before meeting my husband, Josh and relocating back to PA. I was preparing for my new career in grassroots organizing for a conservation organization when COVID-19 abruptly disrupted those plans. With those aspirations on hold, I began working at Central Penn Sporting Clays where I met Sean Kenny at FNLT’s annual sporting clay fundraiser. “I have a really good feeling about this,” I remember telling my husband after meeting Sean for the first time. Coming from the same field of work, he was kind enough to answer my barrage of questions and I was encouraged to learn that some of the properties I grew up admiring were preserved through FNLT.

Now almost a year later, I’m grateful to be a part of an organization that I immediately admired. I look forward to using my experience to serve the community I grew up in and am excited to meet landowners and supporters who share a passion for preservation. If you own a preserved property, please don’t hesitate to say hello or join me during the annual FNLT site inspection in the coming months!
I’m really sorry if you missed it, but we had an idyllic Spring day at the amazing Millbourne. Over 150 new and longtime FNLT supporters enjoyed a self-guided tour on this unique, preserved property.

We shouted our many recent successes and offered a bit of what’s to come from both FNLT President JT Hand and myself. Chris Paules from Millbourne explained Louis and Jody Appell’s legacy in the creation of the varied gardens and importance of stewardship of all that lies within the grounds.

Guests enjoyed some treats thanks to Flinchbaugh Orchard & Farm Markets and a tasty beverage sampling from Brewery Products.

Next year – all abooooaaaard! We’ll be hopping on the Northern Central Railway’s train for an in motion, unique view of FNLT preserved land located along the Heritage Rail Trail. Save the date in 2023 on the evening of Thursday, May 4th – keep an eye out at www.farmtrust.org for further details.

The next day was Give Local York, which is the biggest fundraising day in York County – while probably the wettest day of the whole year! Fortunately, our Annual Meeting was the night before, and most of the fundraising the day of Give Local York was online.

We’re happy to report that FNLT had our largest amount of individual supporters, largest amount of new supporters AND most funds raised yet in the five years of Give Local York. Thank you to the White Rose Leadership Institute and everyone involved in this important day for many of York’s organizations.
On Dairy Road in North Hopewell Township, six generations have grown crops, raised livestock, and planted their roots. Over thirty years ago, Rick and Karen Doyle, my parents and the sixth generation, planted their first field of Christmas trees on the very land that Karen's family had worked since the early 1800s. Now known in the community for its Christmas trees and seasonal produce, the name Family Tree Farm conveys a legacy of family, tradition, and agriculture.

Rick and Karen had a goal of sharing their love of the family farm with others, which is why hundreds of families visit Family Tree Farm each year for choose and cut Christmas trees, pick your own apples and pumpkins, and a host of other delectable fruits and veggies. It warms my parents’ hearts to know that the farm is a tradition for many other families besides ours.

Purchased in 1810 by Adam Strayer, my great, great, great, great grandfather, the farm was originally self-sufficient, meaning that the Strayer household grew everything they needed, even flax for clothes. For a time, they also grew tobacco. My great grandmother, Estie Strayer Flinchbaugh, was listed as a cigar maker in the 1900 census. Her son and my grandfather, Howard (Hops) Flinchbaugh, along with his wife Lorraine (née, Brenneman), were dairy farmers from the 1950s to 1978 when Hops “retired” to crop farming.

In 2016, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture formally recognized Family Tree Farm as a Bicentennial Farm. My mother, Karen, spent many years gathering land records and genealogical information to qualify for this designation.

The farm currently consists of 115 acres, 92 of which are now permanently preserved through FNLT. Our entire family looks forward to seeing what the farm will become in the generations to follow, now with the comfort of knowing that the hard work of generations before us will be preserved into the future. We hope that you visit and share in our celebration!
As 250 runners and volunteers for FNLT’s 11th Sasquatch 5 & 10K Preservation Trail Run warmed up at the starting line of the FNLT preserved South Branch Farms, I was crouching behind a bush, transforming. First, the body covers with thick, coarse hair. Then, the large loping feet and hands. Finally, the snarling furry face every 5K and 10K runner has learned to fear appears. I’m ready. The distant sound of Cannonball Charlie’s starting fire rings out, and I know my prey are on the way.

Each of us Quatches has our own style of approach. How many of us are there, exactly? No one knows for sure. I’m mostly shy, and just let the runner catch a glimpse of me as I slide into view when they pass. After they jump back into their skin, I let them take a selfie and give them a high five. I’ve learned to say ‘cheese’ in your language. Both the 5K and 10K courses through this rugged preserved landscape are tough, so we try to be more encouraging than menacing.

After the final runners have returned for refreshments and winner announcements, we usually lope into sight to try to steal bananas from your peoples’ Flinchbaughs Orchards & Farm Market, lunch from your peoples’ White Rose Bar & Grill, and a beer from your peoples’ Brewery Products (or two – we can’t live on forest berries alone!). Lots of folks want to document our existence, so we pose for pictures until it gets too hot and we need to slip back into the cool woods again. On the Kinsley family Sasquatch preserve, we’ll hibernate and await next September, and plot our new hiding place.
### 10K - FEMALE

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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jill Krebs</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Nicole Register</td>
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### 5K - FEMALE

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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Cora Minnich</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Renee Green</td>
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### 10K - MALE

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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Caleb Roth</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Bobby Kinsley</td>
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### 5K - MALE

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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Timothy Weaver</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Connor Quinn</td>
<td>24</td>
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*Overall Winners*
Our love of this property began over 65 years ago when my wife and her parents, older sister and younger brother moved to the original farmhouse abutting Indian Rock Dam Road. My wife attended Violet Hill for Kindergarten, but her real education occurred at home while playing with animals and exploring the barn, springhouse, stream and surrounding countryside. Her father, Richard C. Paul, (known by some as Dick), shared the same passion for the land as his youngest daughter. Several years after moving to the farm, Dick divorced and sold the dwelling with ten acres of land, retaining approximately 30 acres of woodland and farmland. He walked the farm and trimmed the woods and added plantings on the land for over 70 years.

On June 18, 1990, Dick and his wife Lois, transferred two acres of land to my wife, Kitty, and me. One year later we moved into our newly constructed home with our two sons. It was a dream come true for Kitty, returning to the land she loved so dearly as a child. Upon Lois's passing, Kitty and I acquired the remaining acreage from her surviving siblings.
Over the past 30 years, our love of the land has grown, and with it, the realization that it needed to be preserved, not only for us but for the adjoining lands and community at large. In addition, we have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with our neighbors John Miller and his son Dave who have cultivated our acreage over the years. The Miller family's shared love of the land further encouraged our family to pursue preservation. We hope this action will be a catalyst for the remaining farm owners in the valley to consider a conservation easement on their land. This would allow all people passing through the valley to enjoy the scenic beauty that has existed for many generations.

I am a retired attorney, and during my career served on the board of the FNLT for many years, including a term as president. Having seen and experienced the success of the Trust and the joy it has brought to so many York County landowners, we felt compelled to act. It has been a pleasure working with the Trust staff to facilitate the placing of the conservation easement on our land. The whole experience has been very rewarding for my wife and me, and equally important for Dick who, we believe is looking down with delight on his beloved land.
Large Wooded Tract Preserved Along

Rehmeyer’s Hollow

by Brian Reigart

My father bought the main part of this property in the early 1960s from one of his cousins. A few years later he purchased some additional acreage from a neighbor to increase the wooded footprint. My father intended use of the property for recreation, primarily hunting, but through his love for trees it became a Certified Tree Farm. He was named the Pennsylvania Tree Farmer of the Year in the early 1980’s.

My parents passed the property to my wife Mary and I, and we continue to use it as a means to enjoy God’s creation. We of course love to hike, and I hunt, but also still manage the tree farm with the advice of a forester we’ve worked with over the years. The property is divided into seven zones. We’ve done several cuttings for lumber and stand improvement. This maximizes the lumber value, keeps the forest at different stages of growth and diversifies wildlife habitat.

I’ve known about FNLT for some time but began to investigate the details when I was thinking about the next generation. We’re hoping our daughter and son and their families will be able to enjoy this property as we have. I’m hoping that preserving the property will help to ensure that.
Adding to our Family Farm

by Tedd & Anne Druck

You might remember a few years back that we, Tedd and Anne Druck, preserved our Seven Valleys farm with FNLT and were quite pleased as everything went so smoothly. At the farm’s highest elevation, you get an incredible view of an agricultural and wooded scene, that with a little imagination could be from almost any time in the County’s history.

A 180-degree turn gives a similar but less dramatic look at a small 12-acre parcel with few remarkable features: a bit steep with a spring in the bottom, surrounded by fence rows and the neighbor’s livestock beyond. The field has places of shallow soil and scuffed shale where someone was unable or forgot to steer around the rocks. The field’s slope would usually have designated it as a woodlot, but someone needed to farm it. John Vernun was the first settler recorded to own the field as part of a larger property. In 1767 he followed procedure by obtaining a warrant from the Penn Family, had it surveyed and then was issued his ownership patent. Even then, in a time when farms were larger the field laid in a confluence of property lines. Vernun called his new farm “Troublesome Trach”.

The oldest aerial photos show changes in agricultural use, including pasture, grain farming and possibly orcharding in its earlier days. You can see severe run-off damage around the 1940s (likely when tractors replaced horses) followed by attempts at contour plowing and wooded fence rows that come and go. The parcel has been added to and cut off from larger farms, changing hands over time. With no farm home on site the little field appears to have a history of being used hard and sold. Hopefully that hard use helped someone make ends meet.

There is always a threat of some development, so when an opportunity to purchase the parcel and protect the rear border of the present land was considered, we included preserving this piece in our decision to purchase the property. The FNLT income and tax benefits from the conservation easement helped the bottom line.

A closer look at the hillside shows that soil is better and deeper than one would expect. Erosion is controlled and our plan is to have the field taken out of production. With assistance from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the property is slated to be planted in its entirety with native trees. After 250 years the little field has done enough and will enjoy a rest. Being preserved will give a future owner the choice of a leaving it as a woodlot or returning it to agriculture.

Thanks to the help from the FNLT, we have been pleased to be able to purchase and conserve the property for future generations. One item important to note, this creates a large block of three contiguous FNLT preserved properties.
Years ago I saw this painting by local artist Jessica Lee at a gallery and immediately recognized it as FNLT Past President Dave Davidson and his wife Linda’s beautiful farm in Springfield Township. When we moved into our new office, I kept thinking back to this painting and knew it would fit perfect, so I contacted Jessica, bought the painting and gave it a new home with FNLT.

I saw it as a tribute to the Davidsons for their long-time support, but also a reminder in the beauty around us. In talking to Jessica, her inspiration was nothing more than being in the area and loving the view - she was so glad to find out it was a FNLT preserved farm.

In 2023, FNLT will roll out a new series of casual hiking events - we’re calling it Preservation Steps: Touring YoCo’s Hidden Landscapes. The plan is for our landowners like the Davidsons to tell their stories - how they fell in love with the land and why they chose to partner with FNLT to preserve and steward it for generations to come.

So stay tuned for Preservation Steps info and we hope you can join us. You’ll get some fresh air, hear from the landowners, learn from local experts on interesting parts of the land, and a bit from FNLT about the importance of preservation. Plus you’ll spend time with some of the best York County has to offer - FNLT supporters! Of course some snacks and a variety of ways to stay hydrated as well. Stay tuned, but a few locations (in addition to the Davidsons) will be the Heartwood Nursery, Rambo Run Club, Orchard Valley Farm, George’s Court, Twin Arch Farm… and more to come!

Join FNLT supporters for this special insight into the unique landscape and operations of Heartwood Nursery, preserved by owner Sue Hunter in 2013. This is a great chance to learn about native species that can be added to your home property - regardless of the size - for beauty and the environment.

Preservation Steps: Touring YoCo’s Hidden Landscapes is presented by our friends at Glatfelter Insurance Group, with thanks to additional support from: Brewery Products Co., CGA Law Firm, C.S. Davidson, Inc., Stock & Leader - Attorneys At Law and YC Precision Fabrication!
Farming has been in Mike Barndt’s blood since he was a boy. From early mornings in the field with his father, studying agricultural at Penn State, teaching it at Dover High School to eventually purchasing and expanding the family farm - Mike has a long devotion to the agricultural community. Not unlike many others in the community, Mike has grown increasingly more concerned at the rising loss of farmland to residential and commercial development. So, when a nearby, retired beef farm went up for auction, he decided to purchase it to help reduce the threat of additional fragmented farmland in the area.

Today, a portion of the property totaling 52.4 acres is preserved with FNLT adding to the 567+ acres of additional FNLT lands under conservation easement within a half mile to the south. In conjunction with the property’s history, Mike continues to use the fields to harvest hay, while the barn and pastures are now home to several horses belonging to a neighbor. Just past the pasture, nestled within wetlands, is the confluence of North Beaver Creek and Beaver Creek. Framed by tall stands of trees, the stream provides habitat to a healthy population of brook trout that thrive in the cool, shaded water. Thank you to Mike Barndt for honoring the traditional landscape of York County with the preservation of another beautiful farm!
All support of FNLT goes directly to our important agricultural and environmental preservation work. We make your support of any amount go a long way, as preservation is important now, and for generations to come.


NAME: __________________________________________________________

PHONE: ________________________________________________________

EMAIL: _________________________________________________________

Contribution Amount: ________  □ Check  □ Credit Card:  ○ Visa  ○ MC

Name on Card: __________________________________________________

Number:________________________ Exp:_______ Security Code:__________

Contributions can also be made online via credit card at www.farmtrust.org.