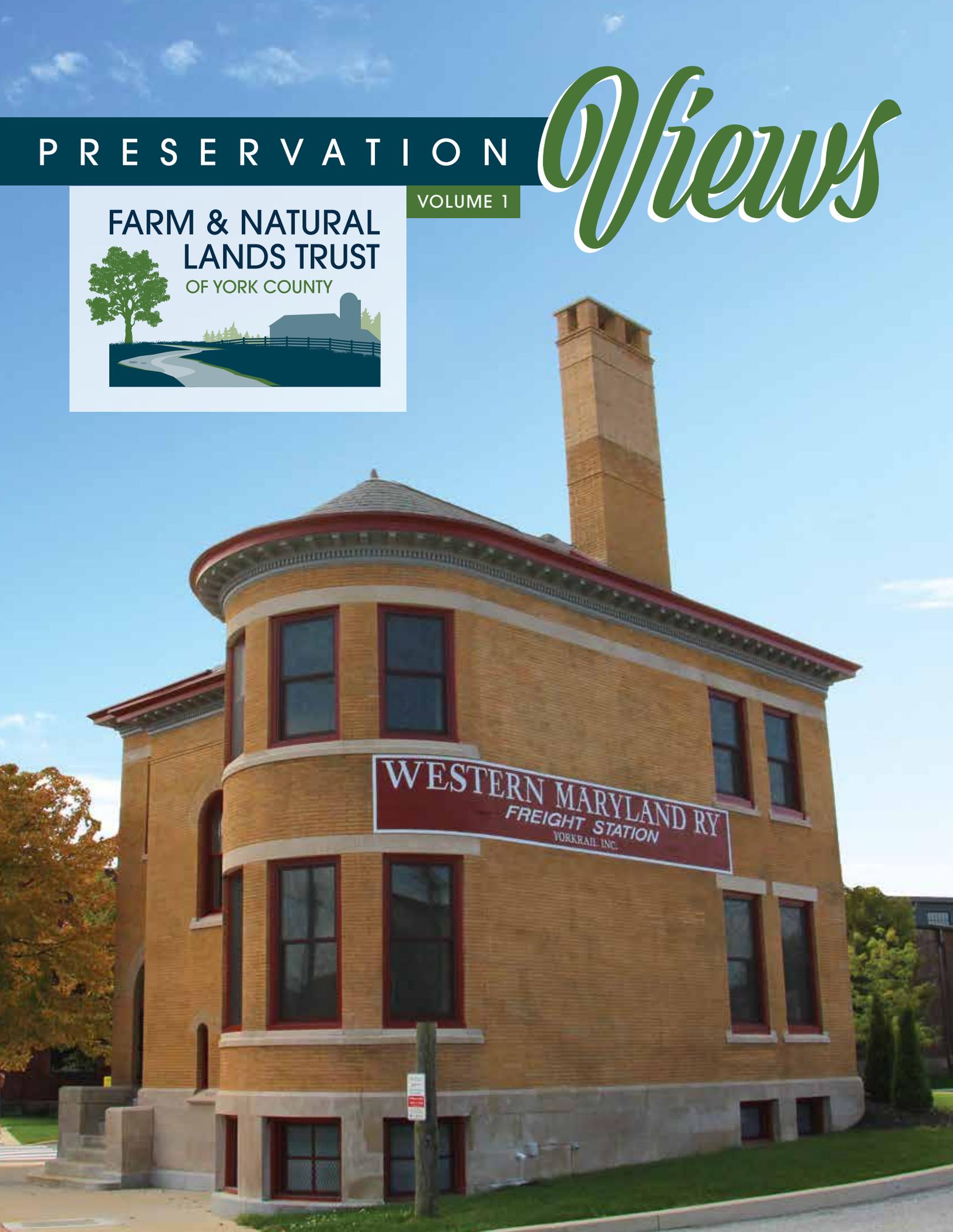
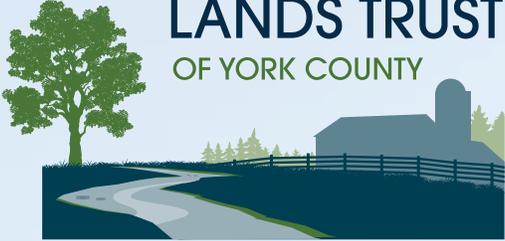


P R E S E R V A T I O N

Views

VOLUME 1

FARM & NATURAL
LANDS TRUST
OF YORK COUNTY



Thank you

to our corporate sponsors

PRESERVATIONIST

Agriculture & Land Preservation Fund
of York County Community Foundation
Glatfelter Insurance Group
The Joseph Roberts Foundation
PeoplesBank

CONSERVATIONIST

CGA Law Firm
C. S. Davidson, Inc.
Domani Wealth
The Graham Group
Keller-Brown Insurance Services
KBG Law
White Rose Bar & Grill

WOODS & WATER

Aquatic Resource Restoration
Brewery Products
Flying Feet Sport Shoes
The Kinsley Foundation
M&T Bank
OSS Health
RKL – Reinsel Kuntz Leshner
YC Precision Fabrication
York Water Company

FIELD & MEADOW

AgChoice Farm Credit
Artistic Foods Catering
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
Body Mind & Spirit
Brown Advisory
Flinchbaugh's Orchard & Farm Market
Fulton Bank
Hively Landscapes
Lee Fence & Outdoor
MPL Law Firm
Republic Services Foundation
Stock & Leader
York Revolution
York Traditions Bank

FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST OF YORK COUNTY



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 FNLNT are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J.T. Hand – President
David M. Davidson, Jr. – Vice President
Felicia Dell – Secretary
D. Hunter Mink – Treasurer
Sarah Brown
Sarah Doyle
Paul Heffelfinger
Dr. Jamie Kinsley
John Linton
Scott Michael
Christian Miller
Jamie Reid
The Reverend Patrick J. Rooney STS
Matthew Scarpato
Ted Ventre
Tom Warman

STAFF

Sean P. Kenny – Executive Director
Rochelle Black – Operations Manager

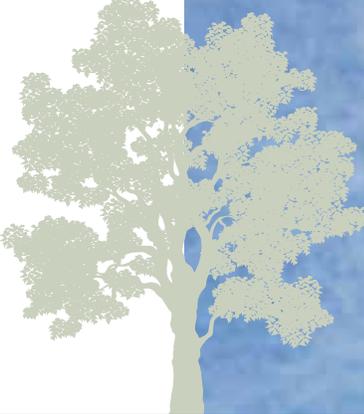
Tim Bupp – Solicitor

**The FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST has
preserved more than 13,000 acres to date.**

TO CONTACT US:

717.843.4411

skenny@farmtrust.org

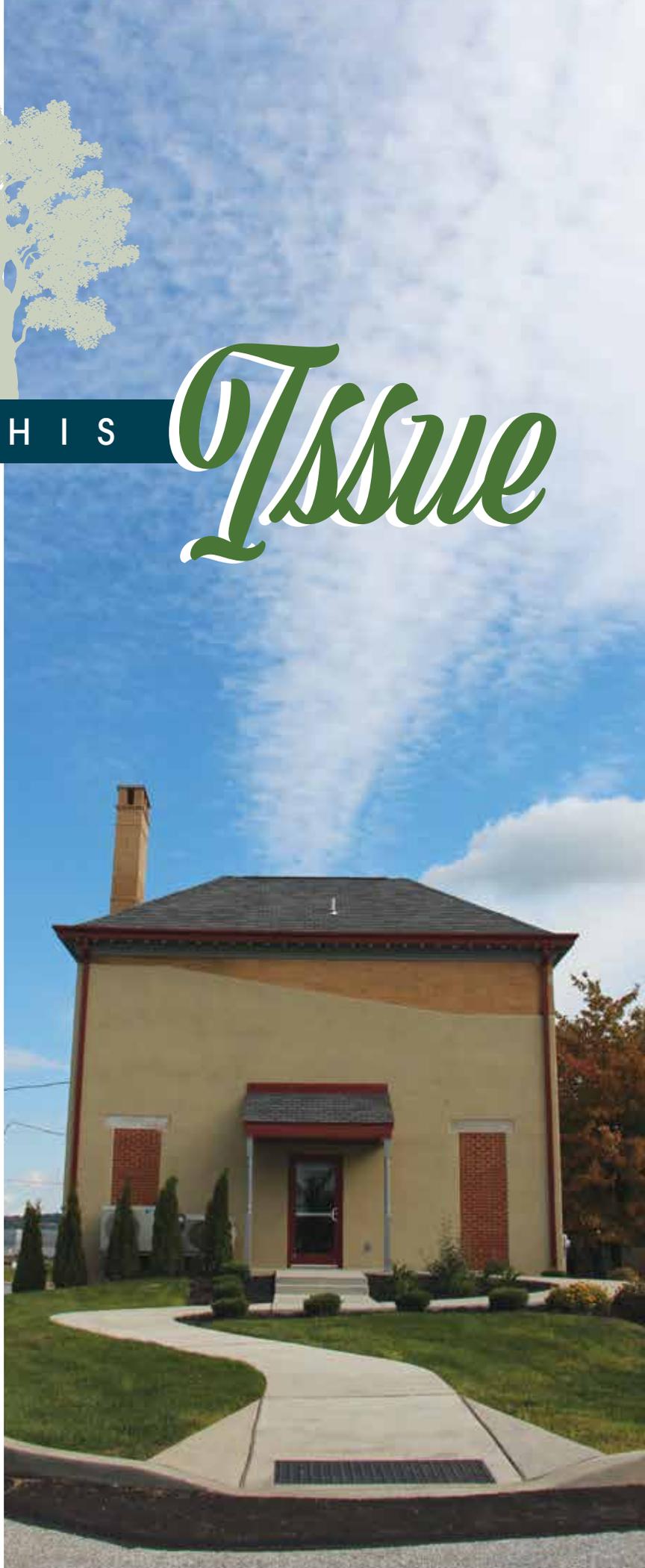


VOLUME 1

I N T H I S

Issue

- 04 Letter from Sean
- 06 The Druck Family Preserves Their Ag Roots
- 08 The Esh Family Back with FNLT
- 10 Keeping Up with Preserving the Joneses
- 12 Rewarding Lessons from Restoring a Farm
- 14 Land Ethics: Planting a Living Legacy
- 16 Preservation of the Bonham Wake Robin Wildlife Sanctuary
- 17 Saving the Spirit of Camp Echo Trail
- 18 History of 1021 Old Westminster Road
- 19 550+ Acres of Sheppard Family History



Greetings

Friends of FNL



It's been a while – we sure miss you! It's been an interesting twelve months in every way imaginable, but your FNL has been making the most of every day.

Hopefully by now you've noticed a new look for our organization. Did you know 2020 was our 30th anniversary year? It was sorta hard to celebrate though, wasn't it? Our new logo freshens things up and honors the milestone year and moving forward, then we figured we'd give this publication a revamp. No longer the **Preservation Quarterly** name, instead now, **Preservation Views**. FNL thanks Missy Jones of Honeybee Studios for all her work in creating the new looks – we love it and know you will too! We've worked with Missy on almost every design need for over 10 years with events, newsletters and basically everything that has to look better than we can make it!

Next up in big news – we've moved! Our new home is the historic Western Maryland Headhouse building located at 350 North George Street in Downtown York. The new office is AWESOME and we can't wait to show it off. Many thanks to the Kinsley family for renovating this unique Dempwolf designed structure to house our organization – we won't leave until they kick us out! There is great energy in the area with the trains passing by, Keystone Kidspace under construction, York Academy students in motion, York Revolution/ PeoplesBank Park, the Codorus Creek and more. Very soon the Heritage Rail Trail connection will pass a stone's throw from our office and take users from the City of York to some incredible FNL preserved views along the path.

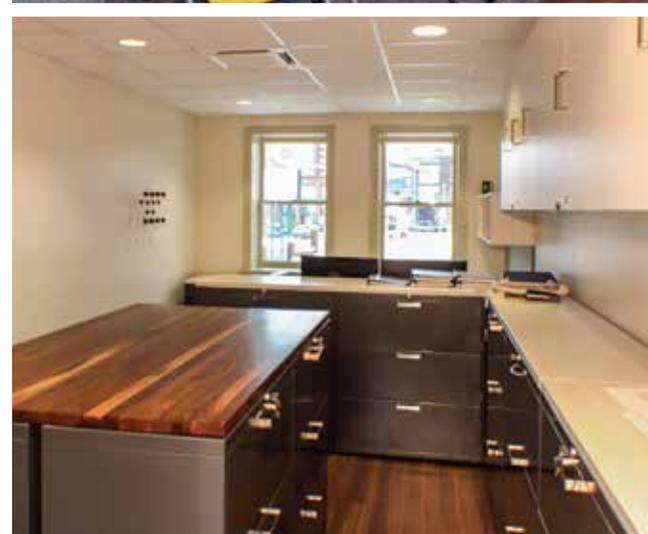
In addition to the huge thanks to the Kinsley family, FNLT owes major thanks for grants awarded from the Powder Mill Foundation and the J. William Warehime Foundation to assist us with outfitting all new office interiors, our new look and more. Also, two friends - (new mom) Elizabeth Rutherford from Warehaus (also, our new next-door neighbors) whose donated time created the office layout and (new dad) Jonathan Hutton of ADU who helped us get a great deal on our appliances.

In this inaugural **Preservation Views** you'll see our 2020 resulted in ten properties preserved totaling close to 1,200 acres - one of our best years! Sadly, 2020 resulted in zero special events, and we're not sure when we'll be back close with you... but rest assured that when we're back, it'll be a blast!

I'd like to thank our supporters, Board of Directors, preserved landowner family, my coworker Rochelle, and sheesh (getting misty eyed) - **YOU** specifically for helping us succeed through these interesting days.

Keep well out there but be sure to get outside and take in some of those York County views - we'll keep working to save them.

Sean P. Kenny
Executive Director



The Druck Family

Preserves their Ag Roots

By Rochelle Black



Tedd and Anne Druck are both 7th+ generation York Countians, with all previous generations involved in agriculture of almost every variety. Though they don't personally make our living from the land now, they feel a close connection and a lot of pride.

The Drucks have preserved their 32.5 acre agricultural property with FNL. They learned the neighboring 96+/- acre property was preserved by the FNL and wanted to learn more, so they called the FNL office. After some 'Intro to FNL', they asked, "what is needed to begin preserving our property with FNL?" Simply put, it is a desire to keep the land relatively open and to follow good management practices in the use of the land in whatever way you decide. Anne and Tedd thought this would be a good fit for them.

After completing FNL's form to begin the process, a title search is done, and a FNL Inquiry Form is completed to begin the draft Conservation Easement (CE) document. A baseline documentation report generated by FNL is started which details the property in written form, with photographs, mapping and various online reports from governmental agencies obtained – this shows the makeup of the land at the time of preservation.



Eventually, the fun part happens when we walk the property to take photographs! This site gently slopes up from the road allowing travelers to see a large portion of the parcel. The view is a rotation of corn and soybeans planted for harvest. Tedd wanted to do something for the wildlife in the area too. Several wildlife food plots were planted including a linear one in sunflowers. Another area was planted in Egyptian wheat (a member of sorghum family known for its height of 8-12 feet) forming a nice visual hedge with the neighboring residence, supplying thick wildlife cover with tassel seeds for birds.

The Drucks would like to attract as much wildlife as possible by continuing to provide food plots for wildlife and plant an area in native hardwoods and conifers. They're certainly off to a grand start with the plantings they have done already.

"Sean and Rochelle at FNL were professional, knowledgeable and made it easy and stress free to participate in the FNL Conservation Easement program. They explained the incentives and our responsibilities clearly. Rochelle made the site visit very educational. I would recommend any landowner to call FNL to see what they can do for your property." – Tedd Druck

Congratulations Anne & Tedd on your recent ownership, continuing the preservation efforts in the immediate area, and may all your dreams and goals for this property become reality!



The Esh Family

Back with FNL

By Rochelle Black

The recently preserved **John & Annie Esh** farm is located in Manheim Township, a predominantly Agricultural zoned municipality that borders the PA/MD line. This is the second property placed under easement by John & Annie Esh. This 144+/- acre parcel totals their protected lands to over 230 acres.

The road bisects the site, making it very visible to travelers. You may see someone in the field readying the land for planting using mules, see chickens roaming, cows and heifers in the pasture area and crops of corn, hay and pumpkins. Yes, this is a working Amish farm. It has typical Germanic architecture similar to most York County farms built in the late 1800s to early 1900s. The products from this farm help to support the family's retail agricultural business in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, DC.

The headwaters of two tributaries to Gunpowder Falls originates on the neighboring parcel to the east. These two tributaries join on the preserved lands, creating a rather large wet area and wetland area. This area is also fed by springs and seeps and eventually runs through a steep, but small riverine before existing the boundary.

There is also a nice stand of trees at the far end of the property. A variety of oaks and other hard woods make up the composition of the wooded area including the American Holly. The day I walked the site, the daisy Fleabane, skunk cabbage and many other spring native plants had already pushed through the soil and were displaying their uniqueness and beauty. A young red-tailed hawk was also learning to take flight with one of the parents STRONGLY objecting to our presence.

Thank you John & Annie Esh for adding another working, picturesque farm to the FNL family of permanently preserved landscapes!



Keeping Up

with Preserving the Joneses

By Rochelle Black

A short drive south of Glen Rock Borough is a charming 65-acre property owned by **Linda and Luther 'LG' Jones**. Pulling in the driveway, you will see a well-maintained York County rural farmstead consisting of a large Germanic style bank barn, chicken/animal houses, sheds, summer house and a lovely 2-story farmhouse with a walk-in basement. You can feel the quiet sense of pride and respect the family feels now and historically for the land. This land is part of Linda's heritage.

A lot happens on the 65 acres. There is a tillable area of about 25 acres supporting a rotation of corn and soybeans, pasture area for five head of cattle and two goats, a (newly restored) spring fed pond, and about 29 acres of woodland along the northern boundary. The land slopes upward from the road providing a nice scenic view of a once busy working farm homestead and land. The buildings are no longer full of livestock and feed but give nice definition to a good, all-around rural farm homestead providing for its family.

The woodland area has more diversity than most. In the photographs you can see a nice understory of plant communities. This understory (or lower shrub like area on the forest floor) can provide cover, habitat and breeding area for both small and large mammals. Some of these native shrubs, like the lowbush blueberry and deerberry, can be a wildlife food source.

This was the first preservation project started during the Covid stay-at-home order last year. There is no better way to stay busy during a pandemic than to work with nice folks to preserve a beautiful property – thank you Linda and Luther for your safe accommodations!

"Thank you so much for the article. We wanted to send this updated photo of the "new" pond that was completed this fall. We look forward to seeing the newsletter. It was a pleasure to work with you. Thanks and keep safe," LG and Linda.







Rewarding Lessons from Restoring a Farm

By Jamie Kinsley



Tradition is important for **Joe and Cecelia Berkstresser**. Like his parents, Joe wants to raise their children to enjoy a farm similar to how he grew up in Fulton County. This, they tell me, was their driving factor for purchasing their 40-acre East Manchester Township farm in 2014. They want to grow their children's life skills, including how to cut down a tree and stack wood, drive a tractor, bale hay, and care for animals to instill a respect for nature and hard work. Just like they restore character back to their handsome farm, the farmstead builds character in their children.

The farm is their happy place where the Berkstressers recharge their batteries. It's where they go to get away, and just be. Some men retreat to their man cave or the bar, but Cecelia knows if she can't find Joe, she can "guarantee he's at the farm. He needs his tractor time," she says.

Agriculture is brand new for Cecelia. But that hasn't stopped her from maintaining nine bee hives since they purchased the property seven years ago. Sometimes, she'll walk to the top of the hill and gaze across the open space, along the way admiring the pollinators visiting the property. She's steadily working on identifying and removing invasive species and replacing them with native cultivators such as anise hyssop, elderberry, echinacea, and linden trees to help sustain her bees and support other pollinators.

Your Support Counts

Give Local York 2021

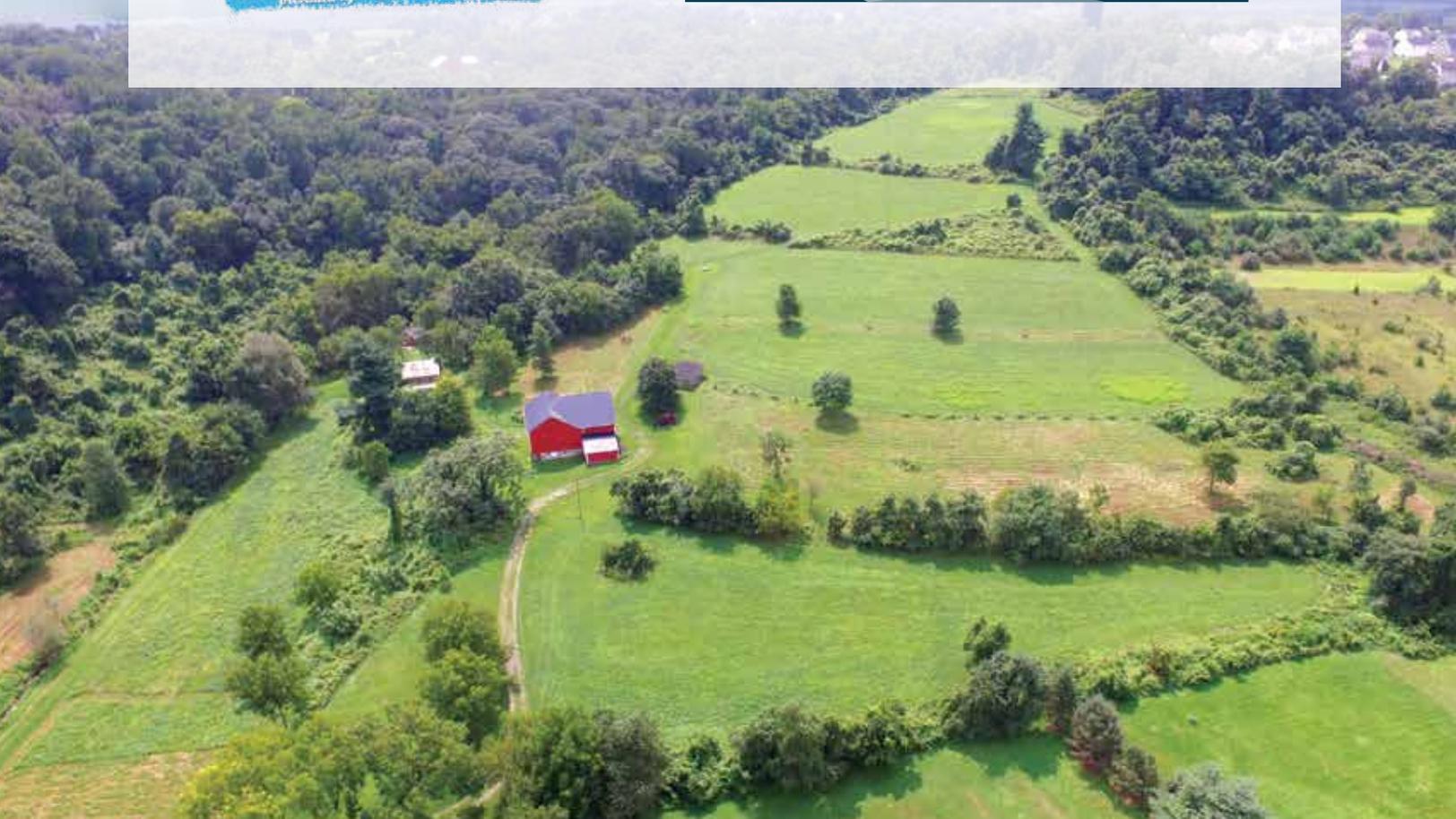
So... no events for a long time, but we could sure use your support in our land preservation efforts. The first chance you'll have is **Give Local York's Big Give Day** – all 24 hours of the day on **Friday, May 7**.

Mailings are moving in a new direction in 2021: We are limiting our membership renewal letters to two large mailings, once in the spring and once in the fall. Then we will do all donation letters/receipts for your tax purposes at the end of the year. This allows us to be more efficient with our resources. (Of course, we are always glad to accept your support any time!)

Follow us on Facebook for updates, and visit www.farmtrust.org during Give Local York's Big Give Day to help us continue to preserve the local lands you love.



FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST
OF YORK COUNTY



Land Ethics:

Planting a Living Legacy

By Jamie Kinsley





"This was a 95-acre junkyard," **Dean Smith** tells me. After tearing down 13 dilapidated buildings, their Dover Township home is now known as Phoenix Farm. Just like the tale of the bird born out of ashes, Dean and his wife, **Vicki**, initiated the land's rebirth. Before, the over-farmed, barren land left little habitat for wildlife. Now, mink nest in the streams, barn owls roost in the silo, and close to 7,000 trees grow all over the hillsides (compared to the dozen or so trees when they first purchased the farmstead). They have so much diversity now, "it's easier to tell you what I don't have" Dean says.

Called a riparian buffer, 55 acres serve as a vegetated area along a water source that protects the wildlife, cultivating the growth of lost habitat. I see white tubes that protect young trees and a healthy stream with rocks, bugs, and birds. Dean compares it to the Lion King's circle of life where the environment serves as a sustainable biome. The Smiths see our species as links in the chain of life among the oak trees, deer, and barn owls, guarding the ecosystem.

York County has seen a consistent growth of industry since the 19th century. Land ethics like a riparian buffer do not inhibit alterations, management, and use of natural resources, but it does give Mother Nature a fighting chance. Starting in the 1960s, more local people officially lived in an urban area compared to a rural area. Compared to the rest of America, in which this transition occurred by the 1930s, we've held on to our agrarian roots longer than most. However, it's people like the Smiths that ensure development can coexist with farms and natural lands, not simply destroy it.

"I view life this way," Dean explains. "Conservation is a lock. Like a padlock. If you want to open that lock, you have to have the right key, and that is conservation management." The Smiths' role is one of land citizenship, not conqueror. The Smiths extend land ethics to more than just people, but to the animals, soil, water, and air. Preserving means they are a part of the community, stewarding the flora and fauna alike.

I ask Dean, "Where do you find your purpose?" Pointing to a book in a blue case, he says, "Right there." It's a Bible. "What I'm doing it for," Dean says, "is I want Him to say I'm doing a good job with what he wanted to do with this place." Dean continues, "I understand the full concept of the abandonment, the loss." He confesses that he's made some mistakes, but he asks Jesus and the land to forgive him. The farm is like his atonement.

"You're only encumbered by your own imagination," Vicki says. **"If you say you can't do it, that's just your mindset."** Together, Vicki and Dean Smith have found the good life in America right here on their York County farm. This is their legacy. This will be how they are remembered – their living monument.

Preservation of the Bonham Wake Robin Wildlife Sanctuary

Info provided by The Conservation Society of York County



Upon her passing in 1965, **Elizabeth S. Bonham** left a portion of her estate to the **Conservation Society**, having admired their interest in songbirds, stipulating they establish a special place for wildlife. In 1968 the Conservation Society authorized buying two parcels of Lower Chanceford Township land. One parcel was the 120-acre J.B. Spencer farm, another parcel was a 66-acre woodland "wilderness" tract near Indian Steps.

The Spencer farm, located in the African Valley in the Airville-Woodbine-Bridgeton sector would become the Wake Robin sanctuary Elizabeth Bonham dreamed about. The Conservation Society paid \$25,000 for the land and made agreements with the Garden Club, the Children of American Revolution, and the York County Bird Club to help in the development of the area.

Dirt roads divided the farm and the stream had six springs. The Soil Conservation Service was considering a pond to attract herons and egrets. 1,544 shrubs and trees were planted, The Southern York County Flower Club put in a flower garden, Rev. Jay Arnold installed bird feeders and blue bird boxes, three food plots of 30 apple, pear, peach, plum, cherry and persimmon trees were all planted.

In 1977 the community center was dedicated on the property by famous conservationist Dr. Maurice Goddard, secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources, who said "People are the healthiest, the happiest, when living in a clean, healthy, attractive environment, and that's why a place like Bonham Sanctuary is so important. It recognizes that natural resources are capable of satisfying our psychic and recreational needs as well as material demands." Bonham-Wake Robin, Goddard said, will be "appreciated more and more in years to come by York Countians and Pennsylvanians alike."

FNLT is pleased to play a part in the history of this beautiful property, now included with our family of preserved properties in close proximity and throughout York County.

Saving the Spirit of Camp Echo Trail

By Sean Kenny



A few years back there were mixed feelings of the news that the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania planned to divest of the property well known as **Camp Echo Trail**, located in Chanceford Township, in close proximity to the Susquehanna River. Mainly many worried the expansive property would face development pressure, and thus the many memories of campers and the wildlife habitat would be gone for good.

Fortunately, Paul and Melinda Blymire went into quick action to formulate plans to make purchase of the property feasible. The plan? Make a portion of the property their future home, create a site for Riverhill Retreat*, and ultimately, preservation and stewardship of the sensitive landscape.

A portion of this property totaling 78.9 acres has now been preserved by FNLT. This area will be the location of the Blymire's homestead. The Girl Scouts had this property heavily logged prior to the sale, so the Blymires are working to regenerate the wooded areas under conservation easement, as well as the other areas including a portion of an important tributary known as Mahala Run.

The regeneration of these forested areas will be invaluable to the health of wildlife in the region. From the property, views of the Susquehanna River are endless and beautiful. As the Blymires regenerate the forest canopy, the viewshed looking toward York County from both Lancaster County and those recreating on the Susquehanna River, will be equally inspirational.

RiverHill Retreat is a nonprofit organization set up for children and their families that are struggling with incurable diseases by giving them a place to come and enjoy nature and see different animals.

Thank you to the Blymire family for working as stewards in preservation for this important piece of York County's unique landscape.

The History of

1021 Old Westminster Road

By Heather Sheppard Lunn

The property at **1021 Old Westminster Road** has always been a productive farm on a well travelled route between Hanover and Westminster. During the Civil War, the property was owned by a J. Gitt as a family homestead. It was raided by the Federal and Confederate armies immediately prior to the Battle of Hanover and subsequent battle of Gettysburg. The farm is located on what would have been the supply route from the Union Mills Homestead. According to documents provided by local historian John Crebbs, reparation filings for the property included grains, various supplies, a good plow horse and an old Nag.

Not long after the Civil War, the property was owned by D. E. Winebrenner and family. Owner of one of the first canning companies in York County, he encouraged local farmers to produce a large surplus of vegetables to supplement his own production of crops to supply his canning company, D.E. Winebrenner Canning, located on Poplar Street in Hanover.

Part of the property was purchased from the Winebrenners by Lawrence Baker Sheppard in 1964 to create the Long Arm Dam, the large reservoir next to which this farm resides. The dam was created to help keep up the supply of water for Hanover's growing need.

Upon the completion of the Long Arm Dam, the Winebrenners built the feedlot operation in the latter part of the decade. Able to run 600 steers at one time, it was a well designed facility that could handle large volumes of cattle with few handlers.

Thomas Bross bought the 171-acre farm from the Winerbrenners and continued to farm and raise cattle on the property until 1997, when he sold it to Peter H. Sheppard on behalf of his three children, Kathryn, Heather and Thomas. The Sheppard Family continues to farm and maintain the property, but currently does not run the feedlot operation. It has been converted to storage and a sawmill location for making lumber for their Scotch Highland Cattle farm's use. The fields are cultivated with a no-till agricultural process and natural fertilizer by the Arentz Family to prevent erosion and promote nutrient retention.

The three siblings have decided to preserve the property for many reasons. It is a water recharge area. It is home to a variety of wildlife, from bald eagles and other raptors, to foxes, weasels and the occasional black bear. Moreover, it is a beautiful, historical landscape that should be protected for future generations.



550+ Acres

of Sheppard Family History

By Sean Kenny

Members of the Sheppard family have a long history in South Central Pennsylvania as stewards of landscapes of both active agricultural operations, as well as environmental significance. After working on permanent preservation with our friends at the Land Conservancy of Adams County in 2019, Sheppard family members came to FNLTL to seek the same for some of their property in York County.

First up (as discussed on previous page) was a stunning farm that actually teeters the County line, with 171.23 acres in both West Manheim Township and a portion in Adams County. Travelers coming and going to and from York to Adams County are greeted by panoramic views of cropland on one side of the road, and on the other side more farmland hugs the perimeter of the Long Arm (also known as Sheppard-Myers) Reservoir. In addition you'll find the homestead, barns and outbuildings – all with historic charm.

Next was 383.27 acres of mostly forested land and a few crop fields located in Manheim and West Manheim Townships. The Sheppards plan was to preserve this property to be sure it would remain open space in perpetuity, and then sell the plan to two neighboring landowners who has expressed interest in the property.

The good news was that one of the purchasers was already familiar with what our organization does, having preserved an adjacent farm property with FNLTL over ten years prior. The other good news is that the other purchaser has expressed interest in preserving some of their adjacent land in the near future as well.

In addition, a large section of the boundary of this property borders Codorus State Park, creating a significant area of vast wooded landscape for wildlife in this region.

Let's all thank the members of the Sheppard family for their preservation efforts in the region, and welcome these lands to the FNLTL family.





Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
York, PA
Permit No. 600

350 North George Street
York, PA 17401

Love what you've read in this newsletter?

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.



FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Contribution Amount: _____ Check Credit Card: Visa MC

Name on Card: _____

Number: _____ Exp: _____ Security Code: _____

**FARM & NATURAL
LANDS TRUST**
OF YORK COUNTY



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

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.