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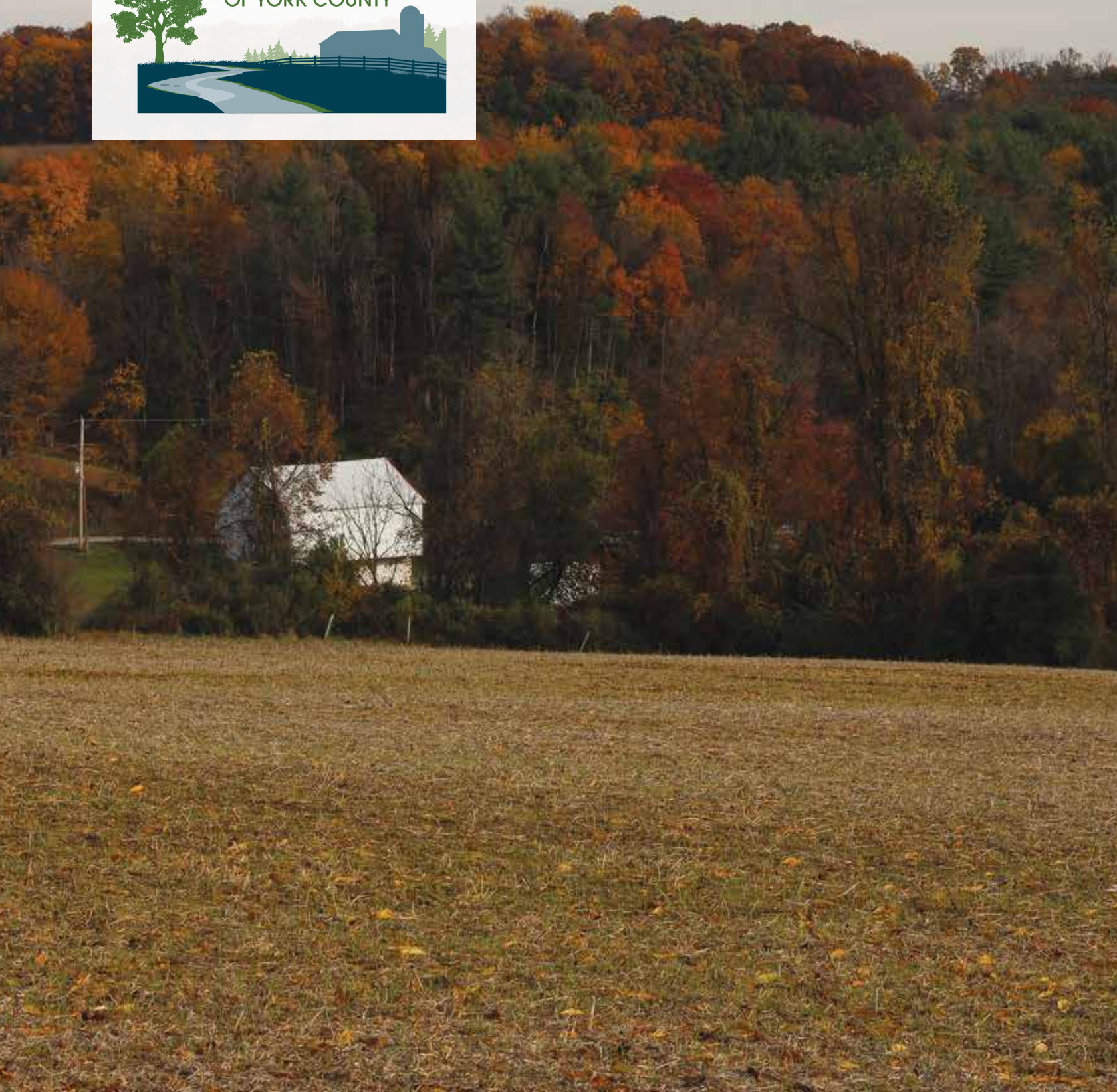
Views

VOLUME 4

FARM & NATURAL
LANDS TRUST
OF YORK COUNTY



SPRING 2023



FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST

OF YORK COUNTY



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

TO CONTACT US:

717.843.4411

skenny@farmtrust.org

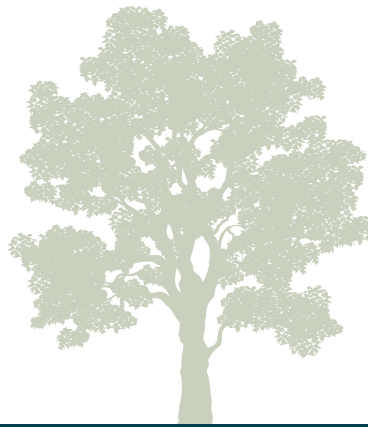
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What Do Fingernail Clams & *Majestic Oaks* Have In Common?

by Priscilla and
Rodger Waldman

Species as diverse as fingernail clams, majestic oaks, mink, and great blue herons have a newly protected habitat, thanks to the conservation easement program of FNL. The 133-acre conserved property's ecological uniqueness, in terms of the presence of wetlands, creek, wooded floodplain, wooded uplands, as well as four acres of meadow, has afforded us the opportunity to enhance the native biodiversity. Hindering this effort has been an overabundance of deer, voles, and the relentlessness of invasive plants, non-native insects, and disease.

Some native plants we introduced, or possibly re-introduced, include a native white dogwood resistant to anthracnose, hazelnut, nannyberry, hazel alder, pawpaw, red and black chokeberry, serviceberry, Allegheny plum, sweetbay and umbrella magnolia, Southern arrowwood, Virginia bluebells, blue phlox, ragwort, two types of mint, coreopsis, and hyssop. These enhanced an existing abundance of native spring ephemerals and other native flowering plants, plus deer resistant native shrubs.

In an attempt to keep the new plants' genetic makeup locally adaptable, when possible, we used regionally collected and sourced seeds. We remain concerned that the continued loss of natural areas will lessen within species genetic diversity of plants and animals possessing limited dispersal abilities, as well as prohibiting the recolonization of formerly occupied habitat.

One particular need we are addressing is increasing white oak trees. Oaks are in decline throughout their native range and are important in promoting biodiversity, with over 500 invertebrates feeding on them. The caterpillars resulting from many of these invertebrates either magically turn into adult butterflies or moths, or food for creatures further up the food hierarchy, such as birds and bats. We have planted over 50 white oaks to date.

One of the most rewarding experiences, out of a number of failures, was witnessing the transformation of a vernal pool area, after controlling for reed canary grass. The wetland plants emerging from the seed bank included burr marigold, arrowhead, and



swamp milkweed, along with various rushes and sedges. Another great pollinator plant we added nearby was the swamp rose. You may have experienced this area if you walk the **Heritage Rail Trail** about a quarter of a mile south of **Hanover Junction**. The deafening sounds of spring peepers and wood frogs can't be missed.

We feel deeply fulfilled in conserving the property's habitat for many native York County species. With help of **Cornell Lab's** Merlin bird sound identification, we have documented over 145 bird species as either nesting or using the property as a migratory stop-over.

Although thankful for all those who conserve York County natural lands, we are especially thankful for those who preceded us in conserving natural habitat along **Codorus Creek** with **FNLTI**. They include **Daniel and Beth Innerst, Karen McCormack, Jeff Snyder, Robert and Anne Kinsley, and** (also featured in this issue) **Luke and Leah Walker**. Together with other organizations helping conserve land along **Codorus Creek**, such as the **Agricultural Land Preservation Board, York County Parks**, and the **Lancaster Conservancy**, the **FNLTI** is crucial to **Codorus Creek** again providing the necessary foundation for a viable, vibrant ecosystem.

Windswept by Chance with the Tanzola Family

by Sean Kenny



A mutual love of horses found **Jim and Carol Tanzola** on a blind date at an event in New Jersey in 1976. At the time, Jim was working in New York City and Carol in York for the **Pfaltzgraff Company**. That chance encounter led to many miles traveled to see each other, and by 1977 Jim and Carol were newly married and then moved to Rhode Island.

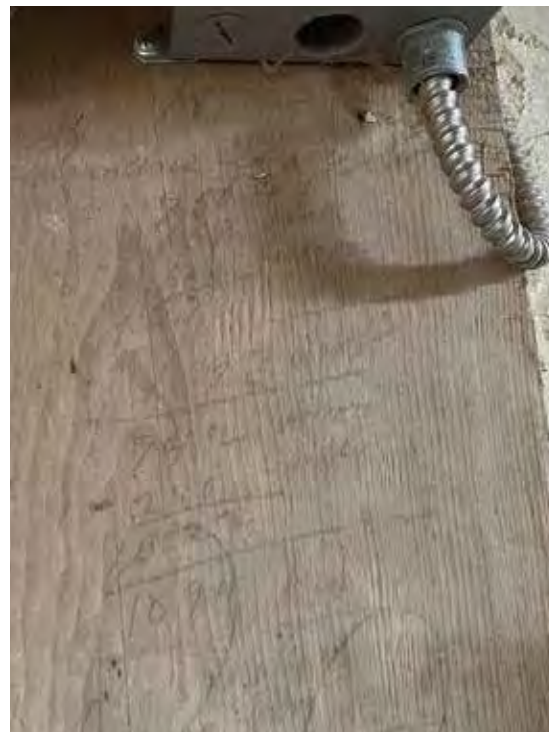
As their family grew, the Tanzolas longed for a more peaceful setting to raise children and dreams of rural life drew them back to York. They started looking at places for sale but weren't having much luck. By chance, someone mentioned a farm that as it turned out was owned by old friends of theirs - a small early 1800s house with some land, a barn and few outbuildings. After knocking on their friends' door, a quick walk of the property led to a handshake deal that day.

The Tanzolas purchased the farm from their friends (and now neighbor) in 1985 and Jim used his building background to begin renovations on the house and outbuildings. His skills were impressive, and Jim was hired by **Bob Kinsley** to build houses - coincidentally, Carol had originally learned to ride horses from Bob's sister **Anne Wagner** (later their children learned from Anne as well)! The Tanzolas pastured their horses, replacing the fencing to avoid their escape - a total of 384 new posts which were surprisingly easy to install considering their proximity to Rocky Ridge Park!

Their love of history guided them through years of renovations, discovering along the way that the farm was a traditional for York County - having grown tobacco and varied crops, with livestock. As their daughters **Jessica** and **Kristan** got older and wanted a pond, the digging turned into an archaeological site with careful removal of bones that were identified, thankfully just pig and cow bones.

In 2015 the Tanzolas worked with **FNLT** to preserve their small farm. A few years later, Jessica (who shares a love of animals) decided she wanted to build a house close to them. The Tanzolas approached the same neighbor and friend about the adjacent 21.27 acres (some of which they had been using already) and purchased the property in late 2021, preserving with **FNLT** in 2022.

Between the Tanzolas and their long-time neighbor, this beautiful section of York County now has over 85 acres of contiguous, **FNLT** preserved historic farmland.





Preservation Momentum in *Hanover*

by Anna Levitsky

Hanover, Pennsylvania. It's arguably best known for being the "snack food capital" of America. And while most people think of manufacturing and retail companies like **Utz Potato Chips** and **Snyder's of Hanover**, many often overlook its rich agricultural history and productive farmland. Throughout the years, **FNLT** has worked to help preserve the rural character of Hanover through various preservation efforts. Our most recent easement, a 41 acre tract abutting **Sheppard-Myers Dam**, is no exception.

Brothers **Andy and Mike Hoffman** fell in love with this property for a multitude of reasons. "The acreage contains a fishing stream, a spring supplied feeder creek, equine trails and excellent bird watching. Everything an outdoor enthusiast could want," Mike explained. Seeing the property firsthand, I can't help but agree. A picturesque sycamore lined pond sits just next to pastureland leased to a neighbor to house their horses and a few inquisitive goats. **The South Branch of the Conewago Creek** flows through the lowlands while walking paths meander through a portion of mature forests that abut corn fields leased to a local farmer.

The Hoffman property abuts another 53 acre previously preserved **FNLT** farm. And the good news doesn't stop there! **FNLT** expects to preserve another property nearby before the end of the year.

When I asked Andy what led him to preserve the property, he commented that he hoped he didn't sound cynical when he said "Pennsylvania being a commonwealth with all the local municipal government fiefdoms, that can change land development policy after every election, it falls to the county government, Land Preservation groups, and finally the individual landowner to actually preserve any land on the local level. We are fortunate to have **FNLT** to assist in York County." While not the answer I expected, I was both encouraged and eager to share it, with the hope that it will resonate and inspire others to play a more active role in the future of their communities.



“The acreage contains a fishing stream, a spring supplied feeder creek, equine trails and excellent bird watching. Everything an outdoor enthusiast could want.”

~ Mike Hoffman



**SUN, JUNE 11 3-5 PM
HEARTWOOD NURSERY**

A native *plant sanctuary*
at a unique property

Join us for this special insight into the unique landscape and operations of Heartwood Nursery, preserved by owner Sue Hunter in 2013. 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 Glaffelter 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!

Back Home Again

with the Walker Family

by Anna Levitsky



It's midnight, and **Luke Walker** is abruptly woken up by his alarm clock that he eagerly set the day before. He quietly sneaks out to the garage where his sled and snow gear are waiting for him, gets ready, and slips out the door to meet his younger cousin for "midnight sledding" on the big hill across the street. This is one of Luke's favorite childhood memories growing up in Glen Rock, where his aunts, uncles, and cousins all lived just steps away. Little did he know at the time that he would one day get married and move back to Glen Rock with his family – purchasing the very property he used to sled on as a child.

The newly preserved 30+ acre parcel offers opportunities for Luke and Leah's two young children that they wouldn't have experienced at their previous home in the Philly suburbs. **"We want our children to understand where food comes from. Explore and play in the woods and experience the fireflies in the summer."**

The property is comprised of corn fields leased to a local farmer and several forested areas. **The Codorus Creek** headwaters start to the west and the creek flows along the northern boundary of the Walker property, making the preservation of this area critical to the early stages of this major waterway. Abutting the land is an additional 173+ acre parcel preserved by the **York County Agricultural Land Preserve Board**.

Encouraging wildlife and creating healthy habitats are especially important to the Walkers. In the near future they plan to convert roughly five acres of lawn and field into a pollinator garden with native wildflowers. **"We've always enjoyed seeing the fireflies come out in June. Hopefully the pollinator garden will encourage even more in addition to butterfly and bees."**

As our conversation was coming to an end, we circled back to his memories of sneaking out to go sledding. **"What would you do if you caught your son doing that now?"** I asked Luke. **"I'll probably join him,"** he replied.

"We want our children to understand where food comes from. Explore and play in the woods and experience the fireflies in the summer."

~ Luke and Leah Walker



Generations of Memories & Love of the Land in *North Codorus*

by Brian Reigart

My parents bought this property in the early 1960s. I have many good memories of playing in the creek, riding our pony, fishing in the pond and exploring the woods. As I got older, those experiences became hunting deer and pheasants, working with my dad to plant trees and maintain meadow and woods.

As a **Certified Tree Farmer**, my father was all about the trees. I remember that when we were hunting, my father often spent more time looking at the trees than he did watching for the game. I used to think that was odd but, just like the commercial about “**becoming your parents,**” now I find myself doing the same.

As my father grew older, those shared experiences became fewer and my responsibilities increased. Ultimately, my parents passed this property to my wife **Mary** and me. Now my father is gone, but I’m blessed to have a son who has had some of the same experiences growing up that I did. And as I’m growing older, he has become more involved and interested in using the property for recreation as well as taking over more of the maintenance chores.

Some of my favorite times have been hunting and working on this property. Both with my father and now with my son. I hope that he will in time have similar experiences and memories of his children and this farm. I trust that putting this property in **FNLT** will help ensure that it can be enjoyed by our family in future generations.

Esh Family's Sunset Valley

Diversified Farm

in New Freedom

by Sean Kenny





Samuel and Martha Esh recently preserved their 82.88 acre farm in New Freedom, just north of the Maryland line in Shrewsbury Township. Each time I traveled to visit the Esh family I found something new. The first visit revealed that I had already worked with Samuel's father on not one, but two properties now preserved with **FNLT**. The next meeting, who showed up but a new baby boy in Samuel and Martha's growing family (for the record, not while I was there, but only a few days prior). Each subsequent meeting I got to see the growth in their other family - the animals!

Driving off Susquehanna Trail on to Country Tea Lane, you're greeted first by a sign for their farm, **Sunset Valley Diversified Farm**. Next you'll see animals - lots of them and lots of variety in shapes and sizes and ages. Grazing in the fields you'll find goats, sheep, chickens, pigs, cows, horses, and one roaming donkey. All grass fed and as free range as you can get - Samuel is working towards the farm being certified organic.

When you arrive closer to the small farm store and the barns near the Esh home, you'll see a large amount of tree tubes in the field. Samuel explained to me he had done a lot of reading on the use of silvopasturing on farmland in England, so he decided with more research to try and replicate that on their farm. In short, this involves livestock

grazing amongst a diverse array of trees - enjoying the shade provided, but also seeds, pods and fruits as a food source as they fall to the ground. It should be interesting to see the trees grow with the Esh children and how they all play a part in the success of their farm.

One more trip was for the Esh's '**Cuddle with the Barn Babies**' at the farm with our kids Oscar and Lucille, plus (board member) Sarah Brown and her husband Jim Morris, with their daughter Claire. The pictures say it all, it wasn't easy to get the kids out of there (and we had to check their jackets to make sure they didn't bring any friends home)!

On my many fun and educational visits with the Esh family, I always managed to leave with an armful of goods made and sold on site (maybe that's why they liked having me down!). Fresh milk, ice cream, whipped honey, eggs, scrapple, pork roll, chipped steak, hamburger, potatoes, and more... you get the picture. Hey - I love to eat... I did get some of their flowers too! **Sunset Valley** has a very active CSA with their vegetables as well.

Next time you're looking for a new place to visit, give the Esh family's **Sunset Valley Diversified Farm** a try and please thank them for preserving their land with **FNLT**!

Securing a *Legacy* in Seven Valleys

by Anna Levitsky

The **Beck** family is no stranger to York County's agricultural community. **Heidi** grew up working on her parents' sheep farm in Loganville, while her husband **Tom's** childhood includes fond memories helping his father on their family farm in Seven Valleys. "**At 5 years old I was running a tractor,**" he laughed, "**you probably couldn't do that today.**"

Tom's parents bought the farm in 1965, raising dairy and beef cows, later growing grain and hay before retiring in 2000 and leasing the fields to a local farmer. "**They aren't making any more land,**" Tom's father used to tell him. So, when the opportunity arose to purchase his family's farm they didn't hesitate.

Recognizing the values and morals that farming instilled in them, they knew that preservation was key to continuing his parents' legacy for generations to come. A joint project between **FNLT** and **York County Agriculture Land Preservation Board** has 264 acres now permanently protected through conservation easements.

The significance of this preservation success can be seen simply by driving past and witnessing the scenic viewshed. In the fall, it is particularly stunning, with acres and acres of unfragmented fields outlined by a brightly colored wooded backdrop. Tucked away from view, a small tributary flows downstream into the **South Branch** of the **Codorus Creek**, in addition to two natural springs that once served as the public water source for the **Seven Valleys Borough**.

"**Preservation afforded us the means to reinvest into the farm by improving soil conservation and erosion control measures. We want to see it stay in farmland. The future of our country relies on healthy cropland for production.**"

With the land permanently preserved, the **Beck** family legacy can now be passed on for many generations to come.



All Aboard

for FNLТ's Annual Meeting

by Sean Kenny

THURSDAY, MAY 4

5:30 - 7:30pm



We invite current and future supporters to join us on Thursday, May 4 from 5:30 to 7:30pm for the FNLТ Annual Meeting. This year we'll be in locomotion – onboard the Northern Central Railway of York's Civil War era replica steam engine! You'll travel along the Heritage Rail Trail, which happens to sit along hundreds of acres of FNLТ preserved land – a true showcase of our work!

Train boarding will take place at 5:30pm at Brillhart Station. Guests are encouraged to car pool and utilize the ample parking at Joseph C. Stump Memorial Park, with a short walk to the trail. On the ride we'll pass several FNLТ preserved properties containing forests, waterways, agriculture and wildlife – you'll get the latest FNLТ news, information on the importance of preservation, as well as insight into the rich history on and surrounding the tracks thanks to our friends at Northern Central Railway of York.

The event will be rain or shine. We'll assume a perfect day and stop to stretch our legs at the Howard Tunnel for a photo op! Guests will enjoy complimentary beverage samples from Brewery Products, as well as brown bagged snacks from Flinchbaugh's Orchard & Farm Market to enjoy on the ride. We'll plan to have everyone off the train at Brillhart Station by 7:30pm.

Full details and registration at www.farmtrust.org or email Sean at skenny@farmtrust.org. We expect this to be popular and space is limited, so please register in advance. There is no charge, we just ask you remember – our Annual Meeting kicks off FNLТ's involvement in Give Local York, which is one of our big fundraisers and a great way to show your love of FNLТ and land preservation across York County!

SAVE THE DATE

14TH SPORTING
CLAY SHOOT
FRIDAY, OCT. 20



PeoplesBank
A Colonial Valley Company

YORKAG

FNLТ CLAY SHOOT TURNS 13!



Top Male & Female Shooter, John Burton & his daughter, Grace

We had a perfect Fall day for our 13th FNLТ Clay Shoot, with a record number of participants and sponsors – thank you all! We look forward to the 14th FNLТ Clay Shoot on Friday, October 20 from noon to 5pm – reach out to Sean at skenny@farmtrust.org if you'd like to shoot, sponsor or volunteer!



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Love what you've read in this newsletter?

All support of FNLТ 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.



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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.