



OUR MISSION IS...

to Conserve

...natural resources in Central PA through land acquisition, conservation easements, education, and outreach. For over 30 years, CPC has functioned as the local land trust for Franklin, Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin, and Juniata counties. CPC stewards and operates the historic Ironmaster's Mansion at Pine Grove Furnace State Park where it also hosts programs and events.



2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the President

Kenneth R. Waidelech, CPC President

Dear CPC Members and Friends,
In my second term as president of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, I am proud to report on the tremendous progress CPC has made in 2017 and 2018, in terms of completed projects as well as strengthening our organizational structure and excellence as part of a 2-year process to attain national accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Since 1982, CPC has protected over 6,000 acres of land through conservation easements, land acquisition, or transfer acquisitions to state agencies. Today, CPC now stewards 25 easement properties and 5 preserve properties. In 2017, we permanently protected 2 properties via conservation easement (232 acres total). In 2018, we completed 2 fee simple acquisitions--34 acres at the Letort Spring Run east branch headwaters (former watercress farm), and 80 acres referred to as the Windemaker Tract, on the Kittatinny Ridge in Cumberland County, a parcel surrounded by state game lands. We have an additional 2 easement projects and 2 acquisition projects in progress.

CPC continues to operate the historic Ironmaster's Mansion at Pine Grove Furnace State Park as a hostel for hikers on the Appalachian Trail, a group rental facility, and an educational, historical, and community resource. We look forward to offering the 6th Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute this summer at this location, a camp program for youth ages 13-15 that features lessons in water

ecology, land use, leadership & volunteer service, outdoor adventure activities, and a trip to the Chesapeake Bay.

CPC responds to land conservation needs and opportunities at the grassroots level, in our own backyards, and works in tangible ways to protect what we all love about Central Pennsylvania—its scenic farms and open spaces, meandering limestone streams and springs, forested ridges and slopes of the Kittatinny Ridge and South Mountain, and the wildlife that depends on these special habitats. This report details our recent efforts and requests your help to make it happen.

Regular support from our members is critical to maintaining our current growth and being able to respond to new opportunities. Annual membership dues are essential to supporting our core operations while we pursue grants and sponsorships for designated projects. Staffed by a small group of dedicated part-time professionals, CPC has little overhead but accomplishes a great deal each year to advance its mission.

I urge you to please consider supporting CPC. If you are already a member, please take the time to renew your membership. I share your commitment to conservation and thank you for entrusting CPC to carry out its mission.

In Conservation,

Kenneth R. Waidelech, CPC President

CPC receives DCNR grant for the Windemaker acquisition on Cumberland County's Kittatinny Ridge



On May 15th, 2018, CPC purchased a 79.4-acre mountain tract between two previously disjointed tracts of SGL #230 in Cumberland County-North Middleton Township. The tract covers the ridgeline at Cranes Gap on the Kittatinny Ridge to 400 yards downslope and is bisected by an historic segment of Cranes Gap Rd, which CPC has reopened as a trail. CPC will hold the property and manage it for public access and recreation, healthy forests, and intact habitats. Mountain land that could have stayed in private hands, posted 'No Trespassing', and seen home development, will stay wild, forested, and open to the public.

Mr. Earl Windemaker of Carlisle purchased the property dividing the two tracts of game lands in 1986, marking the only sale between 1908 and 2018. His nephews and heirs described him as a generous man who loved collecting, hunting, and the outdoors. To protect the tract in his memory, they offered it to CPC well-below fair market value.

The acquisition was funded by a \$95,000 grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. This year marks the 25th anniversary of legislation establishing the Keystone Fund, financed by a real estate transfer tax. The Keystone Fund has collected and distributed over \$1B for parks, trails, community green spaces, and libraries.

The PA Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) made a critical contribution of \$10,000 early on to support the project costs. The Windemaker acquisition locally advances NWTF's goal to open access for half a million additional acres, as part of its commitment to 'save the habitat, save the hunt.' The Pennsylvania Game Commission has also been a key partner in the project, supporting the survey and title work, partnering to enroll the property in the hunter access and habitat improvement program, and serving as a potential transfer entity for long-term management in the future.

This project marks another success for the Kittatinny Ridge Land Partnership, a partnership effort administered by The Nature Conservancy and formed by 7 regional land trusts to advance land conservation efforts on the 185 miles of ridgeline that runs through Pennsylvania providing critical habitat for migratory birds and mammals and a safe north-south migratory corridor.

CPC is proud to have demonstrated how conservationists across the board can collaborate to complete an acquisition that would not have been possible otherwise.

After 3 years of fundraising, **CPC's Letort Preserve** has been **acquired** and plans forge ahead for **restoration, education, and recreation**

This year, CPC completed the long sought acquisition of the former watercress farm at the east branch headwaters of the Letort Spring Run—a spring-fed, limestone trout stream that runs through southeast Carlisle and flows into the Conodoguinet. This exciting accomplishment-generously funded by public and private sources—creates the foundation for continued ecological and recreational improvements and community partnerships to protect this legacy watershed. CPC's work only begins with saving the watercress farm and former homestead of James LeTort from subdivision, development, or other uses that would cause continued impairment.

By restoring the stream, wetland, and meadow system, creating opportunities for recreation and education, and collaborating with our partners, neighbors, and volunteers, CPC aims to restore the property to the conditions that James LeTort encountered almost 300 years ago, working to establish a healthy watershed overall and a better awareness in the community of its function, benefits, and significance.

— Anna Yelk, CPC executive director

After acquiring the property in late February 2018, CPC planned and executed a spring tree planting effort

on the property, in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's *Ten Million Trees* initiative. Spread out over the Earth Day weekend in April, about 40 volunteers planted over 400 trees to improve and diversify the degraded forest riparian zones. "When given the opportunity to thrive, native vegetation creates natural food sources for local wildlife," states CPC's director of land protection and stewardship, Ben Mummert, "Oak leaves in particular are an important food source for macroinvertebrates, such as the stonefly, which are vital to a healthy trout population." Although 140 native plants have been identified on the property, there are also 120 invasive species that must be removed or managed. CPC is now raising funds for stewardship and the development of a comprehensive management plan.

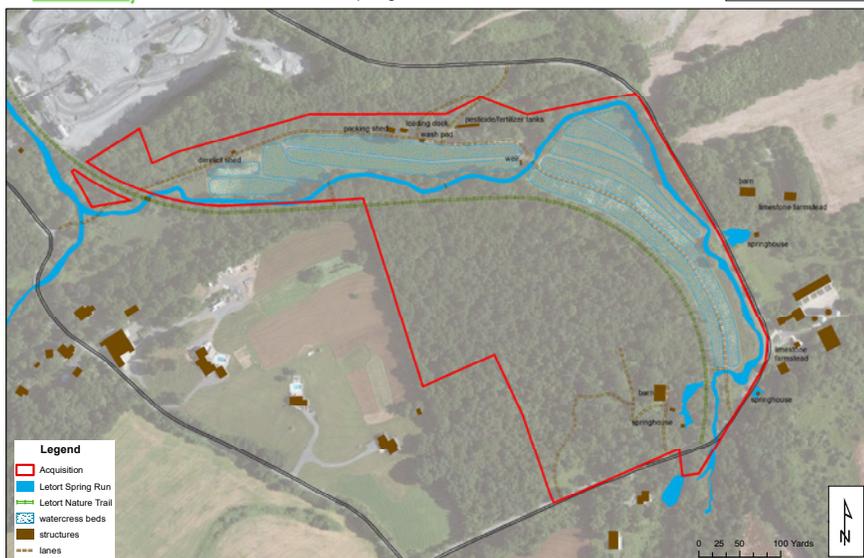
PLEASE JOIN US on Saturday, September 15, 2018, 3-6 pm for a public dedication and celebration of the new preserve.



Letort Spring Garden Headwaters Acquisition

Burgoon Watercress Tract
South Spring Garden Street, Carlisle

Site Map



LETORT PRESERVE KEY FEATURES



Historical Values

James LeTort settled this area around 1720 and named it Great Beaver Pond. It functioned as a commercial watercress farm from 1891-2014.



Ecological Values. The Letort's upper reach is a preeminent coldwater fishery, designated Exceptional Value and a Class A Wild Trout Water. South Middleton Township recognizes it as a PA Scenic River. The wetlands serve as the kidneys for the Letort, scrubbing excess nutrients and degrading pesticides.



Trailhead and Recreation

As the southern trailhead for the Letort Nature Trail, managed by our partner Letort Regional Authority, the preserve will also provide many opportunities to get outdoors and experience a little wild in an otherwise developed area.



Letort Greenway

With the help of its partners, CPC will continue the momentum created by this acquisition to expand protection and trails along the entire Letort Greenway as depicted on the Cumberland County Conceptual Greenway Map.

National Land Trust Accreditation in sight!

In May, CPC delivered its final submission for land trust accreditation, having persevered through an organizational assessment, a board training, a pre-application process, a comprehensive application submission, a formal interview with Accreditation Commissioners, and a final submission of requested documents. After a 2-year process, we will receive a final determination in a few short weeks and look forward to joining the ranks of the 22 accredited land trusts in Pennsylvania.

The CPC Board of Directors authorized this process in an effort to strengthen CPC's structure and standards, and therefore create a more sustainable organization that employs national best practices. We want our partner landowners, supporting donors, and the general public to have the confidence they need that lands under our responsibility will, in fact, be protected and stewarded in perpetuity.
— Ken Waidelech, CPC president

The success of every charity depends on public trust, and this is especially important for the land conservation groups that handle billions each year in tax incentives, public funds, and charitable gifts. The new land trust accreditation program gives land trusts, like universities, hospitals, and museums, the opportunity to be publicly recognized for their excellence and ethics.

— Diana Aviv, President and CEO, Independent Sector (2006)

CPC establishes the Cliff Jones Stewardship Endowment

In 2017, the CPC Board of Directors established the Cliff Jones Stewardship Endowment, a quasi-endowment setup by the board with reserve funds for the purpose of covering the perpetual cost of stewardship and legal defense on all of CPC's protected properties, whether held in fee or as a conservation easement. Annual income from the fund covers monitoring, review, reporting, and legal defense.

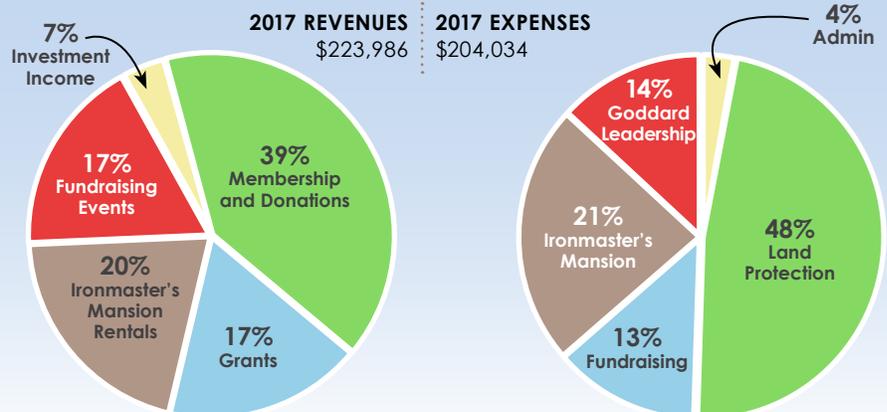
Coldwater Conservation Award presented to CPC

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) is a collaborative effort between the PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, and the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, formed for the purpose of providing leadership, coordination, technical assistance, and funding support for the evaluation, conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams.

CPC's director of land protection, Ben Mummert, accepted the award at this winter's Keystone Coldwater Heritage Conference in State College, PA. A grant of \$8,000 was awarded to support CPC's acquisition of the Letort Spring Garden headwaters for protection, restoration, and development of a preserve, trails, and a historic site. It is one of the first grants in this program to support a land acquisition, recommended by the Letort Watershed Conservation Plan of 2000 that was developed by one of CPC's key partners, the Letort Regional Authority (LRA).



We are pleased to report the following allocation of revenue and expense for FY 2017 (Oct. 1, 2016– Sept. 30, 2017).



DONORS WISE to Invest!



CPC **thanks** our supporters for their **generosity** and **commitment** to **conservation**

LETORT ACQUISITION ORGANIZATIONAL GRANTS & DONATIONS (2017-2018)

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (\$207,940)
Cumberland County Land Partnerships Program (\$116,500)
South Middleton Township (\$28,480)
Coldwater Heritage Partnership (\$8,000)
Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation (\$6,250)
Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited (\$5,750)
LeTort Trust (\$5000)
Doc Fritchey Chapter Trout Unlimited (\$2500)
Blue Mountain Safari Club (\$2000)
Artisan Pizza (\$560)
Appalachian Audubon Society (\$525)
Molly Pitcher Brewing Company (\$392)
Carlisle Arts Learning Center (\$250)

LETORT ACQUISITION PRIVATE DONATIONS (2017-2018)

Drew and Kathleen Stoken Charitable Fund
Jane Earle in memory of Larry Jackson
Jack V. and Sue C. Peck Charitable Fund
Joseph and Pia Gensbigler
Fred Bohls • Ronald and Devera Lang
Thomas Lanyi • Michael College
Michael and Susan Coulson
Paul Showalter • Philip and Kelly Neiderer
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Jim and Susan Boling • Haddon C. Carryer
Michael Tilson • Richard Littlefield
Randy and Kristen King • Dieter J. Rollfinke
Frank Evelhoch II

WINDEMAKER ACQUISITION GRANTS AND DONATED LAND VALUE

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Jeffrey Davis and George Trayer
National Wild Turkey Federation

MAJOR GRANTS, SPONSORSHIPS, & STEWARDSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

PA Land Trust Association • Helen Michaels
Matthew Rice • Sylvia Rambo
Foundation for Enhancing Communities
Kate Svitek Memorial Trust
Chris Thorpe Foundation
Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC)
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park
PA Parks and Forests Foundation
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
F&M Trust • Pepper Hamilton, LLP
M&T Charitable Foundation • Mid Penn Bank
Boles, Metzger, Brosius & Walborn
Select Medical Corporation
West Shore Family Dentistry • Boyer & Ritter LLC
Sun Motor Cars Inc. • Edwin Heim Company
Cumberland County Conservation District

GUARDIAN (\$1,000 OR MORE)

Joseph Tarris • Phillip and Susan Durgin
Jack V. and Sue C. Peck Charitable Fund
Joshua and Amanda Parrish
Peter and Anna Yelk
Joseph and Pia Gensbigler
John W. and Karin Carter Carroll
Penn Cumberland Garden Club
Jay and Rony Ziegler • Mary Soderberg
Northern Lancaster County Fish & Game
Ken Waidelich and Sabrina Spirito

BENEFACTOR (\$500-\$999)

Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club
Appalachian Audubon Society
The Coyle Family Foundation
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IRONMASTER'S MANSION

AT PINE GROVE FURNACE STATE PARK

Year in Review:

OVERNIGHT HOSTEL

Contact the Ironmaster's Mansion innkeeper for all reservations and booking arrangements at 717-486-4108; ironmasterspinegrove@gmail.com.

EVENTS & PROGRAMS



CPC renovated a new private guest room, available for rent this season. Support came from the Cumberland Valley Visitor's Bureau, Pine Grove Furnace State Park, and the Friends of PGF.



The 2018 Ironmaster's Challenge was a success, raising \$32,000, thanks to the great volunteer crew. Over 500 participants enjoyed the trails, comradery, and finish line picnic.



Ben Mummert presents to South Mountain woodland owners about conservation easements at a May 2017 workshop at the Mansion.



2017 GLLI participants show off a rain barrel installation at the AT Museum
GoddardLeadership.org

WWW.IRONMASTERSMANSION.COM

Our top giving levels are listed above—there's not enough room to list all of CPC supporters that gave lesser amounts. We are truly appreciative of gifts of any size —thanks to you all!



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Carlisle, PA 17013

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Stewardship, Ben Mummert
Bookkeeper, Kathy Greiner
Ironmaster's Mansion Innkeeper,
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“ITS LIMESTONE SPRINGS ARE REMARKABLE FOR THEIR CLARITY AND VOLUME. THE RESULT IS A HABITAT UNIQUELY RICH IN FLY LIFE... CURRENTS THAT REMAIN ICE-FREE IN WINTER...AND WATER TEMPERATURES SO CONSTANT THAT FISH FEED AND GROW STEADILY THROUGH THE ENTIRE YEAR.”

ERNIE SCHWIEBERT ON THE LETORT SPRING RUN



ANNUAL REPORT & A MISSION
to Conserve