



## Central Pennsylvania Conservancy Quarterly E-News October - December 2022

Welcome back to our newsletter, we're glad you're here! Central Pennsylvania Conservancy has been busy this autumn and we can't wait to tell you all about it.

### Letter from the Executive Director



December greetings,

As we close in on the Winter solstice and shortest day of the year, it's a natural time to reflect on the past year, and look ahead at what's to come. We're currently finishing up the annual monitoring season for our thirty-two conservation easements, supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. Volunteers were also essential to the success of this year's Ironmasters Challenge, providing a fun and safe experience for 300 runners and their supporters. Our relationships with the communities we serve continue to grow through engagement at our preserves. We continue to improve access at the Letort Spring Garden Preserve in Cumberland County and look forward to sharing the preserve with the public through our weekly Wednesday Walks, starting January 4th, 8-9:30am. We're also excited to reintroduce the Conservancy's three oldest preserves, located in Juniata County, this spring in the northern section of our service area.

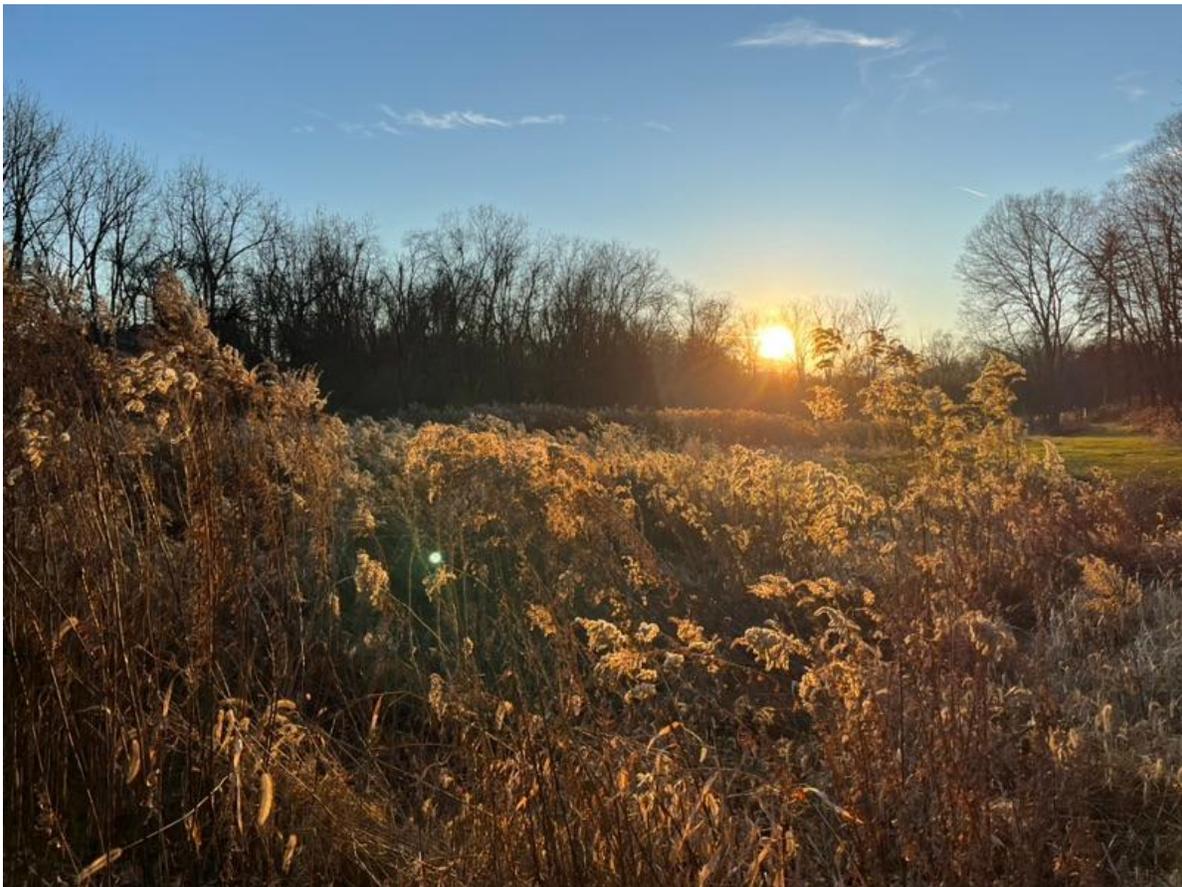
The Conservancy's protection efforts are strengthened through partnerships along the Kittatinny Ridge and South Mountain, two of Pennsylvania's priority Conservation Landscapes. We continue to build on the 3,800 acres that Central Pennsylvania Conservancy has transferred to public agencies, most recently through the Windemaker Tract, which closes a gap between two sections of State Game Lands 230. Expanding core conservation areas and improving connectivity between habitats, for wildlife and people, continues to be a top priority. While we receive essential support for our projects through grants, it is our members and donors that support the staff and daily operations of the Conservancy. Conservation is about community and we couldn't do it without your support. On behalf of the board and staff, we thank you for another successful year in protecting and sharing the rich natural heritage and beauty of the Keystone State.

Please check out our annual report below for more details on the above projects and learn how you can get involved this coming year.

Yours in conservation,  
Jason Andrew Beale

## What's been happening at CPC?

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Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) looking extra golden in the low autumn light. The deeper color palette of this season is really rocking our world.

Autumn is nearly over and we're pretty close to being blanketed with snow, but the conservation never stops! As the seasons transition, so do we in terms of the work we do to protect and preserve land in south-central Pennsylvania.

After spending the summer regrouping with a new Executive Director, Land Steward, and Land Protection Specialist, we are focusing our efforts on reaccreditation of our Land Trust Alliance accredited status, building volunteer capacity, developing new training programs, revitalizing our Juniata County preserves, and continuing to forge new and nurture established relationships throughout our service area.

In late September, our 13th annual Ironmaster's Challenge at Pine Grove Furnace State Park welcomed runners from all over the region, with 232 completing their races. The race proceeds will go toward the acquisition and stewardship of natural spaces in our local bioregion.

Both the 15K and 50K races went off without a hitch despite three seasons of weather in

the span of a half-day, with runners enjoying beautiful vistas and rugged terrain, hydration courtesy of Pennsylvania American Water, as well as a barbecue lunch and drinks from BBQ Machine LLC sponsored by West Shore Family Dentistry, adult beverages from Millworks, plus an awards ceremony with locally hand-crafted medals from Alley Laser Art and finisher prizes from Personaliteez.

We greatly appreciate the support of our continued Check Point sponsors Boyer & Ritter, Mid Penn Bank, Select Medical, and Boles, Metzger, Brosius & Walborn, as well as event hosts DCNR, Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club, and the Keystone VHF Club. Our thanks also goes out to Yellow Breeches EMS for again keeping runners safe and healthy during the event. This event is a success because of the willingness of passionate community members and partners to team up in support of conservation, and to everyone involved, we extend to you our deepest gratitude and look forward to seeing you at next year's race!

September also saw the culmination of the Bosler Memorial Library's Water Conservation Educational Series in conjunction with community partners like Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited, and the beginning of

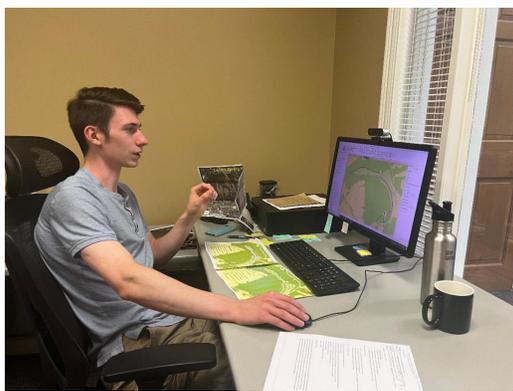
Summer has been endlessly busy for all of CPC's five staff members, who are working together to improve upon our existing offerings and build new conservation capacity.

Next newsletter, we'll introduce you to the rest of our hard working staff.

Project and Stewardship Coordinator Brennan Ka'aihue is working hard to re-establish CPC's presence in our Juniata County public properties (Greg's Woods, Port Royal Wetlands, and the Brady Bryner Preserve) and will soon be seeking community support for stewardship of these beautiful places, and our amazing bookkeeper Jo Ann Littlefield continues to make sure that CPC's financial business is in order.

We hope everyone is in good spirits and in good health and

Thanks to your support, we are in the process of rolling out a new volunteer program, community programming, and stewardship efforts with more to come. CPC turns 40 years old this month and we look forward to getting you involved to honor our past, celebrate our accomplishments, and look to the future!



Cameron hard at work creating maps!



Jesse taking a break to snap this photo.

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**Call for Volunteers!**

Support land conservation and volunteer for our 12th annual Ironmaster's Challenge 15K and 50K Trail Race! We're in need of help with runner registration, handing out participant t-shirts, and staffing water stations. Check out the openings and sign up [here](#). It's an exciting day and lunch + drinks and a shirt are provided for volunteers. Please email us with any questions.



Happy volunteers from the 2015 race!



### Letort Spring Garden Preserve Updates

There's always lots happening at Carlisle's favorite greenspace, the Letort Spring Garden Preserve! As you may be aware if you follow our Facebook page or website, we recently had some excitement in the form of sinkholes appearing in the former watercress beds. Our area is prone to the formation of sinkholes due to the underlying *karst* geography, which is associated with soft, water soluble bedrock. Thankfully, they popped up in



areas that are not visited by guests, but preserve trails around the beds were temporarily closed off as a precaution.



A sinkhole that was filled at the Letort

Our neighbors at Union Quarry worked hard to get these holes filled up according to DEP standards and all trails at the preserve are back in business as of September 1st. While we're out and about at the Letort regularly, should you notice any new sinkholes forming, please get in touch with us as soon as possible to report them so they can be safely addressed. For more information on karst landscapes, check out this link from the National Park Service [here](#).



A 'hoppy' resident of the historic springhouse pool by the barn, a Green Frog/*Lithobates clamitans*. *Litho*, in Greek, means 'a stone', *bates* means 'one that walks or haunts', and *clamitans* is Latin for 'loud calling'. Those Latin binomial names (usually) tell you a lot about a species!

The big field where you may now find ample parking for your Letort Spring Garden Preserve activities!

### Parking Update

As we prepare to rehabilitate the roadside area around and leading up to the historic barn at the Letort, we are asking visitors to begin parking in the large grassy field along S. Spring Garden Street. Input the preserve (1110 S. Spring Garden St.) to your GPS and it will route you to the proper parking area. For safety purposes, we request that cars no longer park in the roadside pull-off just past the one-way bridge. We have big plans to continue stewarding the wildflower meadow along the road, as well as improve the woods up the hill from the field.



More construction! Thanks Jesse!

As we've given the Letort a break this summer from intensive ecological restoration, Land Steward Jesse has been busy tending the landscape around the historically developed area surrounding the barn to be more conducive to passive recreational use for our visitors. He has created a beautifully sculpted trail by hand that leads from the new designated parking area in the field to the historic Melester barn. In coming months, we also hope to have an ADA accessible trail installed along a different path that leads from the field to the barn and sitting/picnic areas for your use. Check it out next time you're at the preserve.



A *Bombus* (species unknown, but it's definitely a bumblebee!) visiting Great Blue Lobelia/*Lobelia siphilitica*. Ecological treasures like these await you at the Letort!

Cup plant/*Silphium perfoliatum* in all its glory. This native wildflower grows tall, topping out at 6 feet like our specimen here. It is an absolute pollinator magnet, and is so named because the cup shaped leaf holds water, which in turn attracts birds. You'll have to go see the height and cup shaped leaf for your self; we had to save a little excitement for you to discover!



There's too many gorgeous summer blooms not to share! The purple-pink flower is Purple Coneflower/*Echinacea purpurea*, with Woodland Sunflower/*Helianthus divaricatus* filling in the background. We love our native species maybe just as much as the pollinators do.



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**The 2022 Ironmaster's Challenge is almost here!**

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On Sunday, September 25th, hundreds of runners will converge on the rugged terrain at Pine Grove Furnace State Park for the region's premier 15K and 50K Trail Race!

Don't miss this opportunity to explore rustic trails in fall color, enjoy breathtaking

South Mountain vistas, celebrate at the finish line picnic with a picnic lunch and free beer, put your trail running and hiking skills to the test, and support local land conservation. Registration is still open

at <https://www.pretzelcitysports.com/onlineform1.php?id=1602>

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## Calendar of Events

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- **September 7** at 8 am - Letort Foray #1, Join our Executive Director Jason Beale for a stroll through the Letort Spring Garden Preserve to learn about its treasures. Bring water, sturdy shoes, and binoculars and dress for the weather. Park and meet at the field at 1110 S. Spring Garden St. (Google map [click here](#)). This event will be held weekly until Thanksgiving!
- **September 7** at 5 pm - Love the Letort! Work day at the Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited property at 914 S. Spring Garden St. Please register in advance. More information and flyer can be found [here](#).
- **September 8** at 6:30 pm - Local History & Watersheds presentation (with door prizes!) at the Bosler Memorial Library
- **September 10** from 10-11 am - Hydrology Tour of Boiling Springs, a field event for the Bosler Library's Water Conservation Series. Informational flyer [here](#).



Before photo of the start of the eastern boundary trail at Greg's Woods, a very special forested wetland property open to the public in Juniata County.



After photo of the start of the eastern boundary trail! Project and Stewardship Coordinator Brennan Ka'aihue is working hard to get this public access property's trail system back in good shape!

- **September 20** from 10 am to 2 pm - Manada Conservancy Native Plant Sale, details [here](#)
- **September 10** at 5 pm - "Last Supper" Picnic and Fellowship at the Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited property at 914 S. Spring Garden. Please register in advance. More information and flyer can be found [here](#).
- **September 14** - Happy 40th Birthday CPC! Letort Foray at 8 am (same information as above)
- **September 15** at 6:30 pm - Life in and Around Streams Presentation at Bosler Memorial Library
- **September 17** - Streamside at Letort Park, field event as part of the Bosler Water Conservation Series. Visit <http://cutt.ly/ConnectingUsAllSeries> for time and registration
- **September 21** at 8 am - Letort Foray at the Letort Spring Garden Preserve
- **September 22** in the morning - Carlisle Waterworks field event, details and register [here](#)
- **September 22** at 6:30 pm- Stormwater Problems and Solutions presentation at the Bosler Memorial Library
- **September 24** from 9 am to 2 pm - York County Parks Native Plant Sale at John C Rudy County Park, 400 Mundis Race Road, York, PA 17406. Fall is a great time to get some native plants for your garden! Support local community native plant vendors and your local ecosystem!
- **September 25** from 7 am-5 pm - Ironmaster's Challenge 15K and 50K Trail Race! Hope to see you there!
- **September 28** - Letort Foray at 8 am. What wonders will you discover



Spotted Joe Pye Weed/*Eutrochium maculatum*, because why not! This 7 foot tall beauty is the ultimate native pollinator plant and can be found with hundreds of buzzing beings during peak bloom season.

today?

- **September 29** at 6:30 pm - Recreation and Conservation presentation at the Bosler Memorial Library
- **October 1** from 9-10:30 am - Fall Foray at the Letort Spring Garden Preserve, part of the Bosler Library Water Conservation Educational series. Click [here](#) for more information and [here](#) to sign up, as registration is limited.
- More October events on our Facebook page as they are confirmed [here](#), and the potential for an October newsletter containing such.

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Thanks for reading! This summer has been a time of transition and re-grouping for CPC, which warranted a quarterly newsletter instead of monthly. Let us know your thoughts on if you'd prefer this schedule, or a monthly e-newsletter by participating in the poll below.

Would you prefer a monthly e-newsletter or quarterly?

Monthly

Quarterly (Every 3 months)

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