

A MISSION: TO CONSERVE



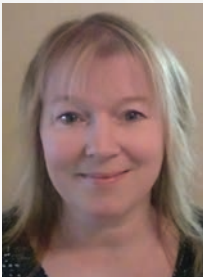
Central Pennsylvania Conservancy protects natural resources, increases access to outdoor recreation, and improves wildlife habitat and connectivity in south central Pennsylvania.



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Central Pennsylvania Conservancy,



Greetings! I write this as we are preparing to wrap up a very busy year and we're excited to share our annual report with you!

This year we've begun some much-needed upgrades and enhancements to two of our "northern" preserves, those in Juniata County—Greg's Woods and Port Royal Wetlands, that include clearing the trails to improve public access, removing invasive plant species, and making plans for future projects to enhance the areas. We've progressed on the Scott Farm conservation, entering into agreements with the National Park Service and are awaiting their completion of environmental clearance documents. We are hoping for a late 2024 closing date for the property. We're furthering our plan to conserve more than 900 acres on South Mountain (part of Camp Tuckahoe) and hope to have the agreements finalized next year. Also, we're in the final stage of an ADA trail design for the Letort Spring Garden Preserve and look forward to the construction of the new trails late next summer. And we will soon be embarking on the development of our new Strategic Plan, which when completed will serve as our guide for the Conservancy's work over the next 3-5 years. In the following pages you will learn more about the conservation work we completed this year, and some new opportunities ahead!

You—our members and friends are our foundation. Your financial support is what sustains us as virtually all of our expenses including staff, rent, and utilities are funded directly through private donation dollars. Please consider how you may be able to become a more involved friend of CPC, whether it be through vital direct financial support or sponsorship of one of our events; as one of our critically important volunteers, a member of one of our conservation committees, or perhaps as a future member of our board of directors. Please reach out to us to learn more about these opportunities. We are eternally grateful to all of you who help us continue to fulfill our Mission: To Conserve and Protect.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and fantastic Staff, I wish you a wonderful winter season, good times with family and friends, and good health throughout the New Year!

Conserving Together,

Sami Danko

Lauri Danko, CPC President



HONORING KEN OKORN

2023 marks Ken Okorn's retirement as a Central Pennsylvania Conservancy Director after over 15 years of service to the organization. Ken's dedication to conservation in Pennsylvania dates back decades when he worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, now Department of Environmental Protection. Ken's passion for fly fishing has inspired much of his conservation work, including serving as a Director for Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. We are grateful for all that Ken has done for the Conservancy and for conservation in south central Pennsylvania.



OUR MISSION

To acquire, preserve, and protect local land and natural resources in south central Pennsylvania.

...

OUR VISION

To create a local network of permanently protected and preserved lands by fostering a community committed to conservation and acquiring key lands and easements.

Spotlight on Letort Spring Garden Preserve Volunteers

CPC hosted two Saturday volunteer sessions each month at the Letort Spring Garden Preserve in 2023. In addition, we worked with a number of businesses and community organizations to host dedicated workdays and projects, the United Way Day of Caring, Work Opportunities Unlimited, Keystone Trail Association, Carlisle Construction Materials, Giant, Carlisle Arts Learning Center (CALC), and Diakon Wilderness Center, whose students planted a new pollinator garden.

By the numbers, let's take a look some notable accomplishments over the past 40 years.

- 267 individual volunteer hours
- 890 volunteer group hours
- 1,157 hours volunteered
- \$36,762.60 hours of donated volunteer time

(Based on 2023 estimated national value of volunteer hours)

We also hosted local birdwatching guides to share the preserve's avian life and collect citizen science data through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird app. Thank you to Perry Yingling and "The Bird Guy Tours" with Andrew Dapkins for hosting the walks.



Carlisle-based Supportive Partnerships for Youth (SPY) visited the Letort Spring Garden Preserve in July.



CONSERVANCY WISH LIST ✓

We are seeking donations to assist with management of our preserves and easements. Specifically, we are in search of a **4WD vehicle** with towing capacity. We are also seeking a **drone** for use in monitoring conservation properties.

CONTACT JASON BEALE AT:
jbeale@centralpaconservancy.org
with any questions and thank you for your consideration!

267🕒
individual
volunteer hours

890👥
volunteer
group hours



UPDATE LAND PROTECTION

Central Pennsylvania Conservancy’s land protection program engages public and private partners to protect natural resources throughout the region. Current priority areas include the Kittatinny Ridge & South Mountain, two of the state’s eight “Conservation Landscapes.” In addition, we are working to protect headwaters and riparian areas within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Improving habitat connectivity and increasing public trail access are two important project components.

Kittatinny Ridge

We are currently working in four counties: Dauphin, Perry, Cumberland, and Franklin. We look forward to finalizing Amberson, a 91-acre ridge top property in northern Franklin

County protecting a section of the 232-mile Tuscarora Trail and the historic Catholic path on Rising Mountain. These trails have been used for public recreation for decades, but they have not been formally protected for public use. This project is funded by the State’s Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

Trail projects ensure that the land will be open to the public forever, but protection is only

one part of these conservation projects. The second part of trail conservation is stewardship, and CPC is proud to partner with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and its dedicated volunteers who will be providing the ongoing stewardship that is essential to trail protection projects.

Recent land transfer to DCNR’s Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area have expanded this popular public trail system where CPC has been a

partner dating back to 2002. We are currently working with DCNR and the National Park Service in a transfer project to permanently protect the Scott Farm, a historic building complex that provides public access to the Appalachian Trail and Conodoguinet Creek. Our acquisition and subsequent transfer to Keystone Trail Association will also ensure the site’s important role as a trail stewardship center for the Cumberland Valley Applachian Trail Conservancy (CVATC).

South Mountain

Encompassing sections of both Cumberland and York counties is the 916-acre Tuckahoe acquisition, CPC’s largest conservation project. This acquisition will add to an existing conservation area of over 2,500 acres while the Boy Scouts of America New Birth of Freedom Council will retain 400 acres of the property to continue their popular camping program which dates back to 1948. We look forward to working with our project partners to finalize this unique opportunity to permanently protect and increase recreation opportunities on South Mountain.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CONSERVING YOUR LAND?

To learn more about CPC’s other work, visit our website at:
<https://centralpaconservancy.org/>

IN MEMORIAL Lida Hail & Bev Grening

There are myriad ways to be a conservationist, and over the years, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy has been blessed with the support of truly wonderful people who never have conservation far from their hearts and minds. Mrs. Lida K. Hail of Middletown, Dauphin County, and Mrs. Beverly L. Grening of Mexico, Juniata County were two of those esteemed people and we mourn their both having passed away earlier this year.



Mrs. Lida K. Hail

Lida insisted we refer to her on a first-name basis only, and every monitoring or follow-up visit to her homestead provided the opportunity to hear tales of her storied life, help out with a little something like refilling the bird feeder or letting the dog out, then go home with a bag of snacks

for the road. Caring was second nature to Lida, as she spent her career working in medical technology and in later life, protected her 150-acre wooded homestead with a conservation easement. Thanks to her keen foresight, one of the largest unbroken tracts of woods in Middletown will never be developed and will remain a haven for wildlife as she wished. Lida leaves behind a legacy and personal connections that will forever be a blessing.



Mrs. Beverly L. Grening

Beverly or Bev, as we knew her, was an early supporter of Central Pennsylvania Conservancy. After her son Greg passed away in 1993, she donated the woods he spent his childhood playing in to CPC so that they would be protected forevermore. Bev was a mother, a teacher, a conservationist, engaged member of her community, and a kind friend to all. She was always eager to hear about the stewardship happening in Greg’s Woods and expressed her gratitude for honoring her son’s memory

through our work. She often showed her thanks to staff with homemade baked goods or joining her for lunch and conversation at the local restaurant. Bev was an honorary member of CPC’s Board of Directors. We are grateful for her longtime dedication to conservation and will miss her kind presence.



The 14th Annual Ironmaster’s Challenge Tests Runner’s Mettle

Over 300 runners and volunteers braved a rainy day, in addition to the challenges of the 15K (9.32 miles) and 50K (31 miles) races. 29 runners earned the “Iron Mettle Medal” for completing both the Ironmaster’s Challenge, as well as the 25K (15.5 mile) Keystone Trail Challenge, hosted by our partners at the Keystone Trail Association.

The Ironmaster’s Challenge is made possible by a team of dedicated volunteers as well as business partners. We are grateful for the continuing support of our co-title sponsors Pennsylvania American Water & F&M Trust.

Race checkpoints, staffed by volunteers, are essential to a safe event, sponsored by Boyer & Ritter, Select Medical; and Boles, Metzger, Brosius, and Walborn. Runners at the finish line were greeted by a new sponsor, the engineering firm Herbert, Rowland & Grubic (HRG Inc.), who also staffed a checkpoint. West Shore Family Dentistry continued their sponsorship of the popular after-race picnic which also including donations from Appalachian Brewing Company, Ever Grain Brewing Co., and Boston Beer Company to satisfy a wide variety of palettes.

We look forward to celebrating the 15th annual Ironmaster’s Challenge with you on Sunday, September 22, the first day of Fall!



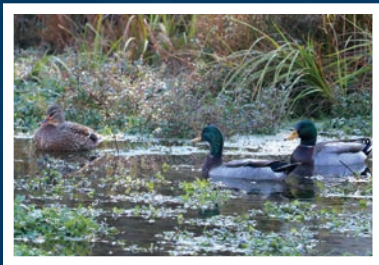
Anthony Becker
50K overall winner



Laura Kepich
50K winner in age class



Eddie Pantoja
15K overall winner



Leaving a Conservation Legacy Planned Giving with CPC

Planned gifts are charitable contributions that are integrated into financial and estate planning. These gifts can be made during your lifetime as well as through your will, with a variety of options to explore. Below are several options for supporting CPC through planned giving:

IRA DISTRIBUTIONS – eliminate income tax on your Required Minimal Distribution (RMD) through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

STOCK TRANSFERS – benefits include capital gains tax reduction

BEQUESTS – gifts directed through your will can reduce estate taxes.
If you have included Central Pennsylvania Conservancy in your will, please let us know so we can thank you!

There are other options to support our mission through planned giving. Call us to learn more: 717-241-4360 or email Jason Beale at jbeale@centralpaconservancy.org.

Note: Central Pennsylvania Conservancy can provide information on how your planned gift supports the organization but **we cannot provide legal or tax advice**. We encourage all supporters to seek independent financial and/or estate planning advice.



CPC thanks our community of conservationists for their continued support!

We are a member-supported nonprofit organization that depends on individuals, families, businesses, and partner organizations to protect and steward the natural riches of south central Pennsylvania.

GRANTS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| • The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation | • Mid Penn Bank | • Rovegno Properties Inc |
| • Partnership For Better Health | • Hershey Sales Fulfillment | • Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources |
| • F&M Trust | • Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. | • Cumberland County |
| • Pennsylvania American Water | • Ever Grain Brewing Co. | • York County |
| • West Shore Family Dentistry | • Appalachian Brewing Company | • K&L Gates LLP |
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| • Boyer & Ritter LLC | • Sheetz | • Mr. William and Mrs. Jane Allis |
| • Select Medical Corporation | • PPL Foundation | • Purple Lizard Maps |
| • Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP | • The Nature Conservancy | |

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Mechanicsburg Sportsmen Association
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Kelli A. Whitfield Fund
Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club
Vanguard Charitable; The Drew and Kathleen Stoken Charitable Fund
Adams Charitable Lead Trust
Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology
Pennsylvania American Water
Partnership for Better Health

BENEFACTOR (\$500-\$999)

Northern Lancaster County Game & Fish Protective Assn.
Shelly Capozzi Living Trust

PATRON (\$250-\$499)

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.,
The Devor Family Fund

SUSTAINING (\$100-249)

Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club
Conococheague Audubon Society
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Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association

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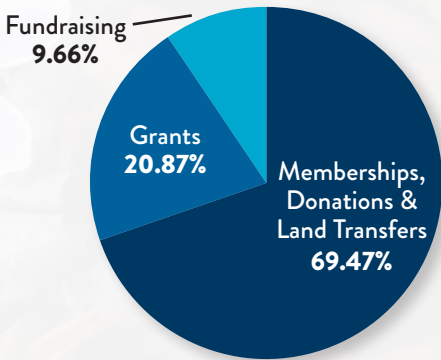
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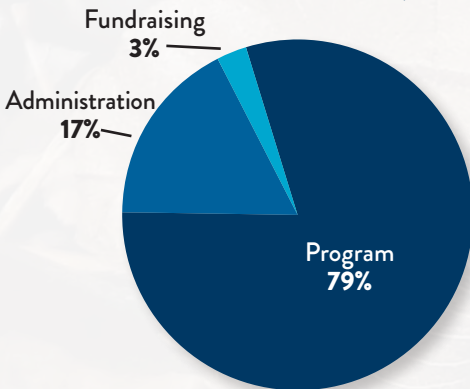
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CPC REVENUE & EXPENSES

2023 REVENUES: \$380,902
(includes restricted grant funds)



2023 EXPENSES: \$402,045





401 E. Louthier Street, Suite 308
Carlisle, PA 17013

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Connecting with CPC

Successful conservation grows from a dedicated community working toward shared goals and we want to work with you! From habitat stewardship to trail maintenance, we have 'hands-on' opportunities at each of our four preserves. Our conservation easement monitoring program trains volunteers to evaluate CPC-protected properties during our annual visits. We are also seeking communication-minded individuals to share their CPC photos through social media, our website, and programs. Interested individuals and groups can contact CPC at: <https://centralpaconservancy.org/get-involved/volunteer/>.

