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The best way to contact us is via our website at:
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What Can You Do On-line?

- Become an OLC Member
- Make a Donation
- Become a Volunteer
- Obtain Information on OLC Preserves Including Preserve Trail Maps
- Find Out About Upcoming Events
- Report a Safety or Maintenance Issue
- View the Landmarks Newsletter (and much more!)

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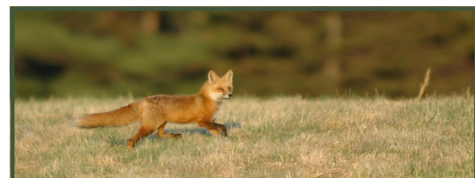
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Paoli, PA 19301

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610-647-5380



Are you interested in preserving the open space of Chester County for future generations?

Ask us about becoming an OLC Board member or volunteer!

Talbots Helps OLC Fund Raise and Encourage Community Involvement



For the entire day of March 30th, 2017, OLC was featured as part of Talbots “Look Good, Feel Good, Do Good” event. During the event, 10% of pre-tax sales were donated to OLC and between 4pm and 8pm Talbots hosted a reception with pastries and beverages. OLC board members Molly Duffy and Susan Kokat joined the staff at Talbots to greet shoppers and share information about the Conservancy properties and encourage shoppers to kick off the spring season with a purchase that would also benefit the work of OLC.

OLC member Aliina Ross provided beautiful photography of the Preserves which was displayed throughout the store. The photography helped to share the beauty of the land and inspire shoppers to get outside and visit. Aliina was on hand to discuss the photos and the diversity of landscapes available free of charge to the public only a short distance from the store. Allyson Ross also joined in the fun by sharing her enthusiasm for the Preserves along with a selection of naturalist books from her personal library. Yolanda Van de Krol handed out preserve maps and encouraged everyone to become OLC members. Michelle Eisenberg, an OLC member, came out to support the event, and said “My husband and I visit the Preserves regularly with our two young sons. Thank you OLC.” - *Susan Kokat*

Once Again, Conestoga Interns Help the Conservancy

In last Fall’s Landmarks we described the Conestoga High School intern program, where seniors are introduced to a professional work environment. The Conservancy participated again in 2017; our interns were Thomas Updike and James Yeagley from the Easttown section of the School District. They worked with Preserve Managers from each Preserve, undertaking a variety of projects that had a significant impact on the habitat and visitor experience.

These projects included maintenance of our growing (both number and size!) new tree plantings, trail blazing in Diamond Rock, removal of invasive *Ailanthus* trees and installation of a new gate in Cedar Hollow, repair and reinstallation of bluebird boxes from Cedar Hollow to George Lorimer near the OLC HQ, and participating in a site meeting with the Millers, generous donors for the Cedar Hollow Riparian Restoration project. In addition, they also worked in one of the Conservancy’s easements, owned by the Brentford Lane HOA, evaluating ash trees for disease and along the way cutting many of the vines infesting the mature woodland.

Thomas and James were enterprising and constructive colleagues. The Conservancy is very grateful for their help and we wish them as much success and enjoyment in their careers as they had with us! - *Ray Clarke*

Vine Days 2017/2018

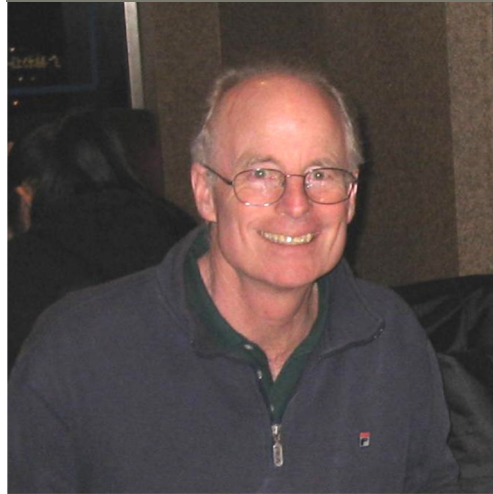


Over the past decade or more, Conservancy Vine Day volunteers have been gradually transforming the Preserves from vine-infested jungles to healthy woodlands, and we plan to continue the process in the upcoming winter.

So, plan on the usual schedule of meeting from 9am to noon on the second Saturday of the winter months, beginning on December 9th. During the Fall we will survey the Preserves and decide the specific locations for each month.

Stay Tuned!!

Board Member Profile: Ray Clarke



Ray has been a Conservancy Director for a decade and was elected Vice-President this year. He chairs the Preserve Management and Inspection Committees, and co-ordinates the Conservancy Vine Day and internship programs.

Ray, his wife and two daughters moved from Arlington, VA to Tredyffrin in 2000, when they were fortunate enough to find a house neighboring Valley Creek Preserve. The scenery and well-maintained trails were reminiscent of the footpaths of his native Britain – although the then invasive-dominated meadow was indeed something foreign.

Ray grew up in South London, studied Chemistry at Oxford University and through a series of mostly fortunate events came to the US in the late 70's. He obtained a Masters in Management from MIT and went on to a career in management consulting and executive management. The first phase of his retirement in 2006 gave him an

opportunity to give back by joining the Conservancy.

The time allowed by full retirement has allowed Ray to assist in the Conservancy's evolution from completely passive management of its precious open space towards a philosophy that allows for giving nature a hand against the onslaught of invasive species, particularly in the valley Preserves, helped by funding from operational efficiencies.

When he is not out in the Preserves, Ray attempts to encourage our local government and school district to apply the same disciplined financial management as does the Conservancy, and does his best to maintain that ever-so-lucky property investment next to the Preserve.

A Short History of Our New Headquarters

As was mentioned in the last issue of Landmarks, the Conservancy now has a permanent home: the Gate House for Magnet Stone Farm, on LeBoutillier Road, now part of the Lorimer Preserve. You can see the house and the spring house circled in red in the lower right of the adjacent aerial picture, which was taken in 1967.

The farm was an original Benjamin Franklin land grant property – the farmhouse itself was built in 1789. George Lorimer bought the farm in 1945. He was attracted to the property because gas rationing was in effect for the war effort, and he felt he would have enough fuel to get to and from the Paoli train station in order to get to his work in Philadelphia.

The farm was a working enterprise until the late 1960s. Black Angus cattle were raised there as well as sheep and a few horses.

The Gate House has served many roles: as a residence for workers on the farm, as a playhouse for grandchildren, and during World War II, the local air raid wardens had monthly meetings there, and were told to go there immediately if there was an attack. The building originally had 2 stories – in 1941, the second story was removed – no one is quite sure why.

The spring house, which you can also see in the picture had a pump which supplied water to the whole property, (and supplies the gatehouse today) and served as a slaughtering area for animals raised on the property. The large pond (not visible on the picture), was built in the early 1960s as a water source in case of fire.

The Preserve was donated by Graeme and Sarah Lorimer in 1980 in memory of their son, George, who died in a car crash in 1979. The OLC is extremely fortunate to have such a charming headquarters in a beautiful location. - Bud Coleman with John Etherington



Airdrie Preserve Tree Signs



There are thousands of trees throughout the 75 acres of the Airdrie Forest Preserve, but many of us would be challenged to accurately name more than a handful of them. The average Preserve visitor is familiar with the shape of a maple leaf, and can recognize an oak by its acorns, but is probably stumped by the rest of the trees that surround us here in suburban Paoli. Recognizing an opportunity, an enterprising Eagle Scout candidate has recently completed the installation of over twenty tree identification signs on the main trail around Airdrie, beginning at the Fennerton Road entrance.

Ryan Casciato, with the Great Valley 106 Scout Troop, was inspired by a similar project on the nearby Chester Valley Trail. Working with Conservancy board members, he identified the most common native trees found in Airdrie, and also located several species that are found much less frequently. Ryan and fellow troop members constructed and installed the signs next to their respective trees in late spring. The result is a very useful new addition to the Preserve, one which helps

fulfill the Conservancy's mission to educate the public about our natural world.

By perusing the signs, Preserve visitors are now able to see the leaf shapes for a variety of oaks, maples, hickories, and cherries, and learn some facts about the trees as well. Both common names and Latin names are included on the signs, so you will learn that the northern red oak is formally known as *Quercus rubra*, while the black cherry is *Prunus serotina*. If you study the signs and their adjacent trees often enough, you will soon be able to identify many trees by their bark alone: the smooth gray bark of the American beech; the deep furrows of the chestnut oak; and the scaly bark of the black cherry are all found throughout local woodlands. Spotted less frequently are the knobby-barked hackberries, but Ryan found a good example in Airdrie which now has its own sign, along with a black gum and flowering dogwood.

This initiative is the fifth Eagle Scout project to be completed in Airdrie in the past decade, augmenting new trails and the recently installed kiosk. Partnering with the Boy Scouts is a mutually beneficial activity and one that the Conservancy hopes to repeat many times in the future. Please look for the signs the next time you are in Airdrie and see if you come away a bit more knowledgeable about the trees you find there, and throughout Eastern Pennsylvania.—Tim Lander



Riparian Buffer Restoration in Cedar Hollow - Project Update

The Conservancy has been moving forward steadily with its two year project to replace the *Phragmites* on 1.75 acres along Valley Creek and Cedar Hollow Run in Cedar Hollow Preserve.

Last Spring we highlighted the contribution from the Miller Foundation that allowed us to transform the site from the invasive-dominated "Before" to the "After" status shown in the attached photographs. Our professional partners at Weeds, Inc. and Lentzcaping provided expert control and mowing services. Conservancy managers Magee and Clarke conducted additional site preparation and Weeds, Inc. recently completed a follow-up treatment.

Long time Conservancy friend and consultant Margot Taylor shepherded a successful Tree Vitalize grant application and together with Board member Scott Bush developed a menu of 12 native tree species designed to fit the conditions of the site, the tree protection system and availability.



On October 12th and 14th, 750 trees were planted along with protective tubes and stakes installed (see photo). Many thanks to the Green Team from Siemens Healthineers (on the 12th) and to the Tredyffrin EAC, Conestoga High School Key Club, West Chester University service organizations, Trout Unlimited and many regular OLC volunteers (on the 14th). This community effort is big step forward for the Preserve! - Ray Clarke

