

## OLC Now Has A Permanent Home!

Open Land Conservancy of Chester County is the largest private landowner in Tredyffrin Township, having responsibility for over 470 acres. But the organization has never had a permanent location . . . until now.

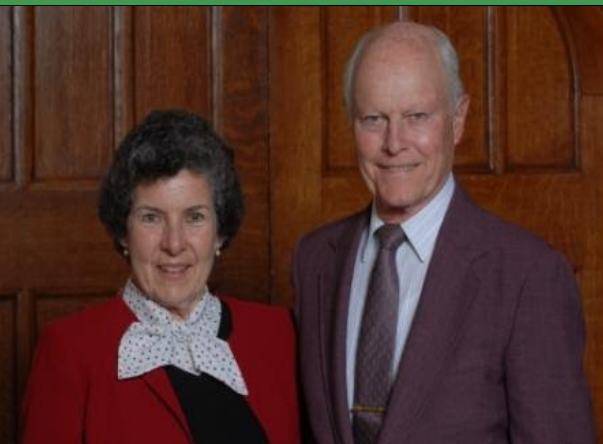
The gate house to Magnet Stone Farm, the former Lorimer farm on LeBoutillier Road, will now serve as the headquarters for the Conservancy. The house was included in a gift of land from the Lorimer family in 1980. Conservancy President Mac Wilson states “Not only will the Gate House serve as a location for our day-to-day business, but we will now have a venue for business meetings and events for our members and other constituents.” The house is next to the LeBoutillier Road entrance to the Lorimer Preserve.

The gate house was a two story structure until the second story was removed in 1941. During World War II, it served as the meeting place for the air raid wardens in the area. In an upcoming *Landmarks*, we will explore the full history of the Lorimer farm, and the role it played in the area.



Board Members helping to spruce up the new Headquarters.

## OLC Awarded Grant from The Miller Fund



Open Land Conservancy has received a grant for an environmental enhancement project in the Cedar Hollow Preserve. The grant is administered by the Chester County Community Foundation.

The Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller, Jr. Charitable Fund will donate \$2,500 to help to supplement a TreeVitalize grant for the removal of 1.75 acres of *Phragmites australis* invasive grass and restoration with 750 native tree seedlings, protected from deer and mice/vole predation. Removing the phragmites will help shade the creeks and re-introduce diverse native trees to the area. Stay tuned for volunteer planting opportunities!

**Many Thanks to the Millers!**

***From the exotic ruby-throated hummingbird to the common gray catbird,  
birds are all around us all the time.***

Please join us to learn more about birds in our OLC Preserves and back yards with Lisa Kiziuk and Blake Goll from the Willistown Conservation Trust.

**Monday April 3, 7:30 The Great Valley Presbyterian Church**

## Board Member Profile: Tim Magee



Tim Magee has been an OLC volunteer since 1995 and an OLC Board Member and Manager of Cedar Hollow and Miller Preserves since 2009. In 1994, while Tim and his wife Yolanda were looking for a home that was within walking distance from a train station for business travel, and also abutted a nature preserve, they found a great house in Paoli next to the Airdrie Preserve. Shortly after moving in, Tim and Yolanda began volunteering with the Conservancy.

Tim was raised in western Pennsylvania where his family enjoyed many outdoor activities including forestry. The family property still displays trees that were planted over the last four generations. One close family friend who helped raise Tim shared many stories of being a forester in the 1930s helping to survey the Great Smoky National Park.

Tim spent over 35 years in the financial industry. Before moving to Paoli he worked for Standard & Poor's in New York City. After his wife won a fellowship to the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, DE, they relocated and Tim joined PNC Bank in Philadelphia.

Tim and his wife Yolanda have one son, Max, who is a junior at Conestoga High School. Tim has a BA in sociology from the College of Wooster in Ohio and an MA in International Relations from the American University in Washington, DC.

## A Special Thanks To All Members Who Have Joined in The Past Year!

The Open Land Conservancy is managed almost entirely by volunteers: board members, finance, legal guidance, preserve managers all serve without compensation. Our funding comes from grants, donations and membership dues. So we are so very pleased to recognize those who have joined OLC, and become involved in the past year!

*Carol Armstrong*  
*The Behans*  
*Nancy Brown*  
*Lois Bryman*  
*Mark Calhoun*  
*James Cramer*  
*Mike Donovan*  
*The Doughertys*  
*The Drasses*

*Judith Ford*  
*Covered Bridge Garden Club*  
*The Joneses*  
*Scott Lafreniere*  
*Richard Lytle*  
*Katherine Miles*  
*Courtney Miron*  
*The Olsons*  
*Martin Page*

*Sarah Paylor*  
*Dan Phelan*  
*Michael Precopio*  
*The Rosses*  
*Mark Saylor*  
*Johan Scholdstrom*  
*David Scudder*  
*The Silverangs*  
*Tom Smith*

*The Spincics*  
*Frank Tamulonis*  
*TC Atwater Land LP*  
*United Health Group*  
*Christina Vaughan*  
*Fred Verhage*  
*Bo Wen*  
*The Winnings*  
*The Woods*



## Preserve Highlight: Miller Preserve

The Miller Preserve, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Morris Miller, though small at 2.3 acres, is rich in both history and plant life. The history of the Miller Preserve, since the European arrival in the area, covers over 300 years. The land was associated with the “Welsh Tract” granted to a group of Welshman, by William Penn, who had received Pennsylvania from Charles II. The original 40,000 acres did not extend as far North as Tredyffrin, but by 1686 the area had expanded to over 100,000 acres and included what is now the township and this OLC preserve.

### MILLER PRESERVE FACTS:

**SIZE: 2.3 acres TRAIL MILES: 0.2**

#### SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Wooded flood plain along Valley Creek
- Remnants of mill dam 100 ft. west of Church Road Bridge
- Reforestation project of native trees

The Miller Preserve, south of Valley Creek and West of Church Road was the site of several mills. Around 1737 a fulling mill (woollen cloth making) was constructed by Samuel Lilly, sold to John Rowland and passed on at his death in 1745 to his wife Letitia. In the 1770s or early 1780s the use changed from a fulling mill to a grist mill (grinding corn and wheat). In 1798 the parcel was owned by Jonah Frances and occupied by William Jones. The property was noted as having a log house (now restored and standing on the east side of Church Road

across from the Miller Preserve), a stone Grist Mill (St Peters Mill) and a stone stable. Breou’s farm map, published in 1883, shows that the mill was still in operation then as a saw and grist mill, owned by George Fetters. However, an 1897 map shows that the property was owned by Fetters’ estate, and by 1912 the property was owned by a Mrs. George H. Smith. It is said that in the 1920s the timbers of the mill were sold to Wharton Esherick who used them to build his studio on Diamond Rock Hill.

Most of the Miller Preserve consists of grassy floodplain woods under an open canopy of black walnut. This area was the site of a project to grade the stream back and connect the creek with the floodplain. Native grasses, herbs, scrubs and trees were planted in 2008 and some of these persist. River-rye, showy tick-trefoil, ox-eye, and golden alexanders were noted along the inner edge of the floodplain. The most notable area of the Miller Preserve is the narrow steep ridge in the extreme south, jutting almost into Valley Creek. Here, along the east slope and at the base of the tip, is a small sampling of the original woodland flora of the area, including miterwort, basswood, wild gooseberry, a fallen but still living hop-hornbeam, the fern blunt-lobed woodsia and several clumps of wild columbine.

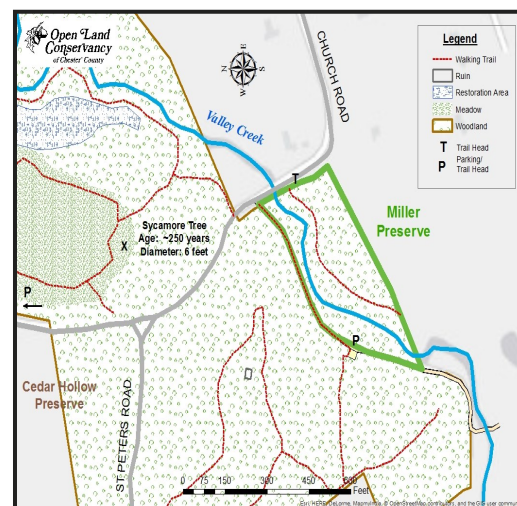


Remnants of the Mill Dam

Miller Preserve as a gift by Mr. and Mrs. Morris Miller (no relation to the donors on page 1) , while Cedar Hollow Preserve started in 1999 with the acquisition of approximately 60 acres funded with grants from Chester County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the “Growing Greener” program. Miller Preserve offers the public many forms of passive recreation, such as bird watching and trout fishing.

Another Open Land Conservancy focus is working with youth groups on environmental projects, such as tree planting and removal of invasive species to cub scouts picking trash off the floodplain. In fact, the Miller Preserve has been the beneficiary of two major scout group tree planting projects: the trees in the tubes on the creek banks were planted by girl scouts, the trees in the enclosures further inland were planted by boy scouts. Both installations are thriving and adding to Preserve diversity.

Miller Preserve is there for our community to enjoy. *Tim Magee*



The Miller Preserve and Cedar Hollow Preserve now appear as one contiguous property but have distinct provenance. Open Land Conservancy acquired the



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4

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**Contact Us!**

The best way to contact us is via our website at:  
**[openlandconservancy.org](http://openlandconservancy.org)**

**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!)

**Follow Us!**

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- On Facebook at **[www.facebook.com/openlandconservancy](http://www.facebook.com/openlandconservancy)**

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Paoli, PA 19301

**Phone:**

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!*

