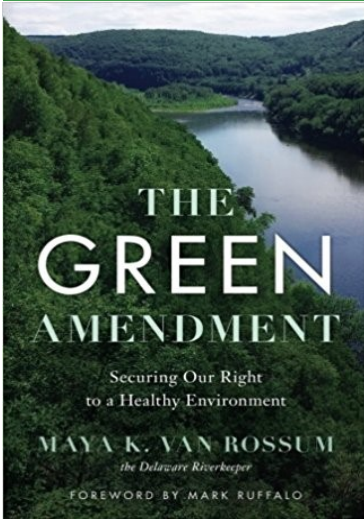


OLC Annual Meeting Features Acclaimed Environmentalist Maya K. van Rossum



A very special presentation is planned for the Conservancy’s Annual Meeting, Tuesday, April 4th at the Great Valley Presbyterian Church. Maya K. van Rossum will be giving a presentation based on her recently published book: *The Green Amendment*.

Maya is a veteran environmentalist who joined the Delaware Riverkeeper Network in 1994 as executive director and since 1996 has served as the Delaware Riverkeeper, championing the rights of people to a free-flowing, clean, and healthy Delaware River and its tributary streams. She has testified before US congressional committees, and has received numerous awards and accolades for her work.

Since her book was published in November, 2017, Maya has been on a nationwide whirlwind promotional tour. *The Green Amendment* argues that there is an alternative approach to successful environmental activism:

bypass the laws and turn to the ultimate authority—our state and federal constitutions.

After Maya and her team won a watershed legal victory that affirmed the constitutional right of people in Pennsylvania to a clean and healthy environment, van Rossum inaugurated the Green Amendment movement, dedicated to empowering every American community to mobilize for constitutional change.

During her presentation, she will discuss how legislative environmentalism has failed communities across America, the transformational difference environmental constitutionalism can make, the economic imperative of environmental constitutionalism, and how to take action in their communities.

We hope you will join us for this engaging evening.



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 to keep our Preserves accessible, natural, diverse and secure 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!

Vic Burriss	Heidi Kohrs	Timothy Ross	Jason Sweet
Michelle Eisenberg	Lisa Lapp	Kevin Silverang	Joseph Yanick
Donald Finn	Dennis Meyer	Mark Simon	Donn Young
Michael Heaberg	William Nelson	Agnes Skondin	Gloria Yu
Michael Koenig	Matthew Norris	Thomas Smith	

**Mark your Calendar for the OLC Annual Meeting:
7:30pm, Tuesday April 4th, The Great Valley Presbyterian Church**

Board Member Profile: Sharon Danbach



Sharon Danbach has been the Executive Secretary for the Open Land Conservancy's Board of Directors since 2006. She provides clerical support to the Board, bookkeeping assistance to the Treasurer and is responsible for maintaining our Membership data base.

Sharon was the Office Manager for Arthur Cox Wilson & Associates for over 25 years and retired at the end of 2016. While working for OLC's President, Mac Wilson, she became interested in the work of the Conservancy and its mission to preserve open space and protect our natural resources.

Sharon has lived in the Malvern/Great Valley area her entire life and has seen firsthand the transformation of this once rural community. It is her hope that more people in the Great Valley area will visit the Preserves and see for themselves how important it is to support the work of the Conservancy as they conserve this beautiful land for future generations.

Conservancy Pursuing Accreditation

In 1982, a group of land trusts got together and formed the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), to enable organizations like the Open Land Conservancy to accomplish more as a team than they could on their own. One outcome is a set of Standards and Practices to which all land conservation organizations should adhere. According to the LTA, "these guidelines describe how to operate a land trust legally, ethically, and in the public interest, with a sound program of land transactions and land stewardship." OLC's board voted to adopt the LTA Standards and Practices several years ago, and we are now taking an even more significant step to improve our operations.

The LTA established a voluntary accreditation program in which an independent commission evaluates a land trust's adherence to the Standards and Practices. Last spring, when OLC

moved its headquarters and associated files to the Lorimer Gatehouse, we decided to pursue accreditation status. To that end, we contracted with a trained consultant to perform an assessment of our current operations, focusing on administrative, legal, and financial processes as well as stewardship of our nature preserves and conservation easements. The assessment was recently completed, and a report was produced highlighting our strengths and weaknesses across the full spectrum of Standards and Practices.

OLC is now reviewing and revising several policies, reorganizing our files, and tightening up our easement documentation, among other tasks. As an all-volunteer organization, we are spreading the workload over two years and multiple individuals so we can implement changes without detracting from ongoing operations. We plan to apply for accreditation in early 2020. In the meantime, the continued support of our members, both financially and through volunteer efforts, remain critical to our success and to the overall success of land preservation in Chester County. —*Tim Lander*



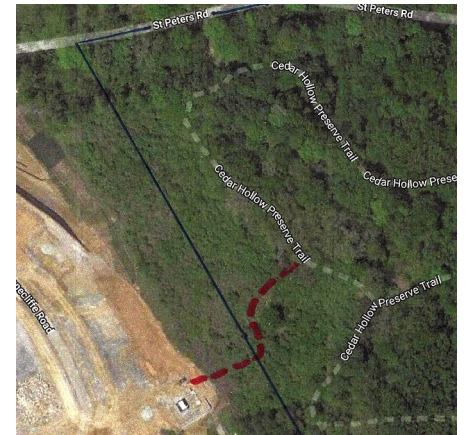
Volunteers and Results From a Recent Vine Day

Win, Win, Win—The Atwater Success Story

OLC relies heavily on volunteer labor to achieve its mission of both improving the natural health of the preserves as well as working with the community. Some of the most enthusiastic and most productive volunteers have been boy scouts doing their Eagle projects. The goal of an Eagle project is to demonstrate that the Eagle candidate can manage the logistics and labor of a project from start to finish. Over the years the OLC and the boy scouts have had a mutually beneficial relationship where the OLC receives enhancements to its preserves and the boy scouts satisfy their Eagle requirements.



Usually, one key benefit for scouts working with the OLC is the lack of bureaucracy. When a scout presents a well organized idea, the OLC Board provides input and gives a resounding “yes” quickly. However, there are exceptions to every rule - the last OLC Eagle project took four months of presentations and reviews before the scout got permission for a trail connecting The Haven at Atwater Village, east of Route 29, to the Cedar Hollow Preserve, south of St Peters Road. This trail would give the residents of The Haven easy access to Cedar Hollow Preserve.



The path, in red, coming from Atwater to Cedar Hollow Preserve.

Unbeknownst to the OLC, Atwater Village was going to transfer ownership of the pump house (sewage) to East Whiteland ownership to maintain. Because the pump house was the logical entrance for the trail, OLC needed approval from East Whiteland Township to proceed. After several months of phone calls, emails and visiting the township building in search of a responsible official, an ally was discovered in Rich Orlow, then a Supervisor of East Whiteland Township, who is active in scouts. Immediately Rich got the appropriate individuals to respond. A meeting was scheduled with the Park and Recreation Board—their only requirement was permission from the Atwater Home Owner Association. The HOA quickly gave their approval.

At last, after four months of effort, the Boy Scout had permission from OLC, Atwater management, East Whiteland Township and the Atwater HOA. The actual work on the trail was done by a team of boy scouts and parents and took two days.

Atwater Management was an excellent partner in the project. Realizing that easy access to the OLC preserve would be a wonderful amenity to the residents of Atwater Village, they were extremely cooperative both in time and resources. Atwater’s biggest contribution was sending an experienced driver with an excavator who cut a rough trail through a maze of Russian Olive trees and Mile-a-Minute Vine. This saved the boys scouts many hours of hard manual labor. Also, Atwater’s staff spread 15 tons of gravel at their trail entrance to stabilize the soil and to avoid mud during precipitation. The main job for the boy scouts was to pull out roots and level the trail and build an informational kiosk.



Scout Jack Roadcap with parents Jim and Zara

The finished trail was a win, win, win. 1) The residents of Atwater Village now have easy access to Cedar Hollow Preserve. 2) OLC will have increased usage of the Cedar Hollow Preserve and hopefully additional members and volunteers from Atwater Village. 3) Finally, and most importantly, the Paoli 1 Eagle Scout candidate completed his project, and is scheduled to receive his Eagle Rank next June—he learned the importance of perseverance when dealing with bureaucracy.

Tim Magee

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Paoli, PA 19301

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Contact Us!

The best way to contact us is via our website at:
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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*Are you interested in preserving the open space
of Chester County for future generations?*

*Ask us about becoming an OLC
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