



P.O. Box 206
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WINTER 2018

COMMON GROUND

"Protecting our rural character and natural resources through community-based land conservation."



*Come Along Farm conservation easement
Photo by C. Satbra*



Photos by M. Santina

THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

Carl Kwartnik and Maureen Santina have done it yet again. In less than a year, they have conserved two key properties totaling more than 66 acres in Bucks County. In 2017, they conserved their 57-acre farm in Durham Township (*see the Summer 2018 issue of Common Ground newsletter for details*) and now they have just completed the donation of a conservation easement on their Tinicum Township property, which is surrounded on three sides by more than 600 acres of state gamelands. The property is part of the Coffman Hill Conservation Landscape, which contains the second largest block of interior forest

in Bucks County. The property protects a headwaters stream of Swamp Creek and rare vernal pools, which provide critical breeding habitat for amphibians.

"We are thrilled that this special place that we call home will remain as it is long after we are gone," said Santina.

By donating the conservation easement, the landowners were able to have all project-related costs covered by the Conservancy and Tinicum Township. "It's a win-win for everyone, in both the human *and* natural communities" said Jim Engel, Executive Director of the Conservancy.

You can make a difference!

Leave a Legacy, Plan a Gift.

When you include the Conservancy in your estate plans, you help secure the future of our region's natural resources and rural character for future generations. Planning today extends your impact beyond your lifetime.

Get involved — volunteer! Tinicum Conservancy would not exist without its volunteers. We need help with mailings, research, event planning, and more! If you prefer the outdoors we need folks to take part in our River Road cleanups.

Please contact Tinicum Conservancy trustee Karen Budd at (610) 294-9069 or email kbudd3030@gmail.com for questions and more information.

Double Your Impact with an Employer Matching Gift.

Maximize your Conservancy support with an employer matching gift. Many companies make it easy to double or triple the amount you donate! Check with your human resources department.

Conserve Your Property. Preserving your land is a lasting way to contribute to our community.

Please contact our executive director, Jim Engel, at 610-294-1077 or email jengel@tinicumconservancy.org for questions and a confidential discussion about your options and opportunities.

Looking for a fresh Holiday Gift idea?

Take this special opportunity to give the gift of membership! Share your passion for nature and the community you love with friends and family when you give them a gift membership to the Tinicum Conservancy. It's the perfect gift for fellow conservationists (and favorite neighbors) on your shopping list.

If you've purchased a membership as a gift, you can choose for it to be sent directly to you, or to the gift recipient. If you choose to have the gift sent direct to the recipient, you'll still receive a written confirmation of your donation.



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Land trust accreditation is a mark of distinction awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation performance.

The Tinicum Conservancy is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization established in 1992. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

2018 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



Visual demonstrations by Executive Director, Jim Engel, helped illustrate one of the many ways the conservancy protects our drinking water and environment, much to Boyce Budd and Maria Fell's chagrin!



John Seng



Lynda Kling and Joe Dugan and Kevin Marez



Trustee Michael Kauffman



Dot Parker, Lary Brandt and Cindi Sathra



Joe Billingham and Brian Murphy



Norm MacArthur and Carl Kwartnik



Reny Willoughby and Nancy Bousum



Stana Lennox and Maria Fell



Marian Sumner, Penny and Robin Lochner



Bill Novak and Terry Clemons



Trustee Neal Feigles



Bill Ballantine and Trustee Mark Manchester

On Saturday, September 15th over 100 community members gathered for the annual celebration of donors, volunteers and others who support our mission. It was a beautiful, bright and sunny day as attendees enjoyed each other's company, and snacked on delicious treats, desserts and refreshments. The event was held at Camp Galil, a 61-acre property

protected by conservation easement. Thanks to Camp Director David Weiss and the hard work of On-Site Manger Jeff Smythe for making this happen. Special acknowledgment to Maureen Santina for these great photos, the Cactus Grill for thier donation of delectable food and corporate sponsors Webrung's Lumber & Home Center and Dear Garden Associates, Inc. for thier generous contributions.

SAVING THE PLANET ONE BEE AT A TIME



"I know where all the bees have gone. They have all come to my yard...And now the bees and butterflies have become a source of wealth"
 -Slambovian Circus of Dreams

Fred Ammerman wasn't born to be a beekeeper, and it isn't wealth that he seeks from his new hobby. But his passion and curiosity for bees and beekeeping isn't any less intense. Fred sees his two hives as a small but important contribution to saving our most important pollinators and the plants that depend on them.

Until recently, most of us assumed we had learned everything we needed to know about bees in grade school, but more and more we've been hearing about the alarming increase of CCD, or colony collapse disorder. CCD occurs when most of the worker bees in a colony abandon their hive, leaving the queen bee behind. The worldwide occurrence of this phenomena has reportedly doubled during the past five years, and the impact has been devastating to both natural and agricultural landscapes where plants depend on bees for pollination. CCD is potentially caused by pesticide use, habitat loss and infections from mites.

In the two years that Fred has been keeping bees, he's suffered more than a few

setbacks, but none worse than the total loss of all his bees last winter. But ever the optimist, he remains undaunted in his quest to help rebalance the world of pollinators. He learns new ideas from other more experienced beekeepers and experiments with his own ideas on what might work to maintain a viable colony.

Fred's bees gather pollen on his ten acres of protected property, which is surrounded by hundreds of acres of additional protected land — all preserved with easements by the Tinicum Conservancy.

If you think you hear the calling to start a beehive of your own, you're not alone. Fred attends meetings of the local Bucks County Beekeepers, and he tells us there are new beekeepers at every meeting, an observation supported by ample evidence around the world that the rising popularity of beekeeping is starting to make a difference... one bee at a time! Learn more about bees and how you can help the cause by visiting the Pennsylvania Backyard Beekeepers Association at www.pennapic.org.

— J. Engel

Join Tinicum Conservancy Today!



We've come a long way thanks to people like you who care about the land on which you live, but we must remain vigilant. The current threats to our natural world are real, and it's up to all of us to help keep our forests healthy, our land fertile and our waters clean.

If you haven't donated before, or if your membership has lapsed, please consider what new milestones we can reach with your support. Annual memberships of \$50, \$250, or the \$1000 Friends of Conservation are critical to protecting the land we love. Every gift makes a difference. Use the envelope provided or visit TinicumConservancy.org to donate today.

Thank you for your support!



Jim with show host Laurie K.

Our very own Executive Director, Jim Engel, was interviewed by host Laurie K. on Penn-Jersey Educational

Radio WDVR FM 89.7's program "Let's Talk" on August 27th. It was a great opportunity to talk to the broader community about all the progress we've made and the programs we offer, as well as our many goals for the future. The weekly talk show airs every Monday from 3-5 pm with music, interviews and news of local import. It's a great way to keep in touch with what's happening in our community!

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