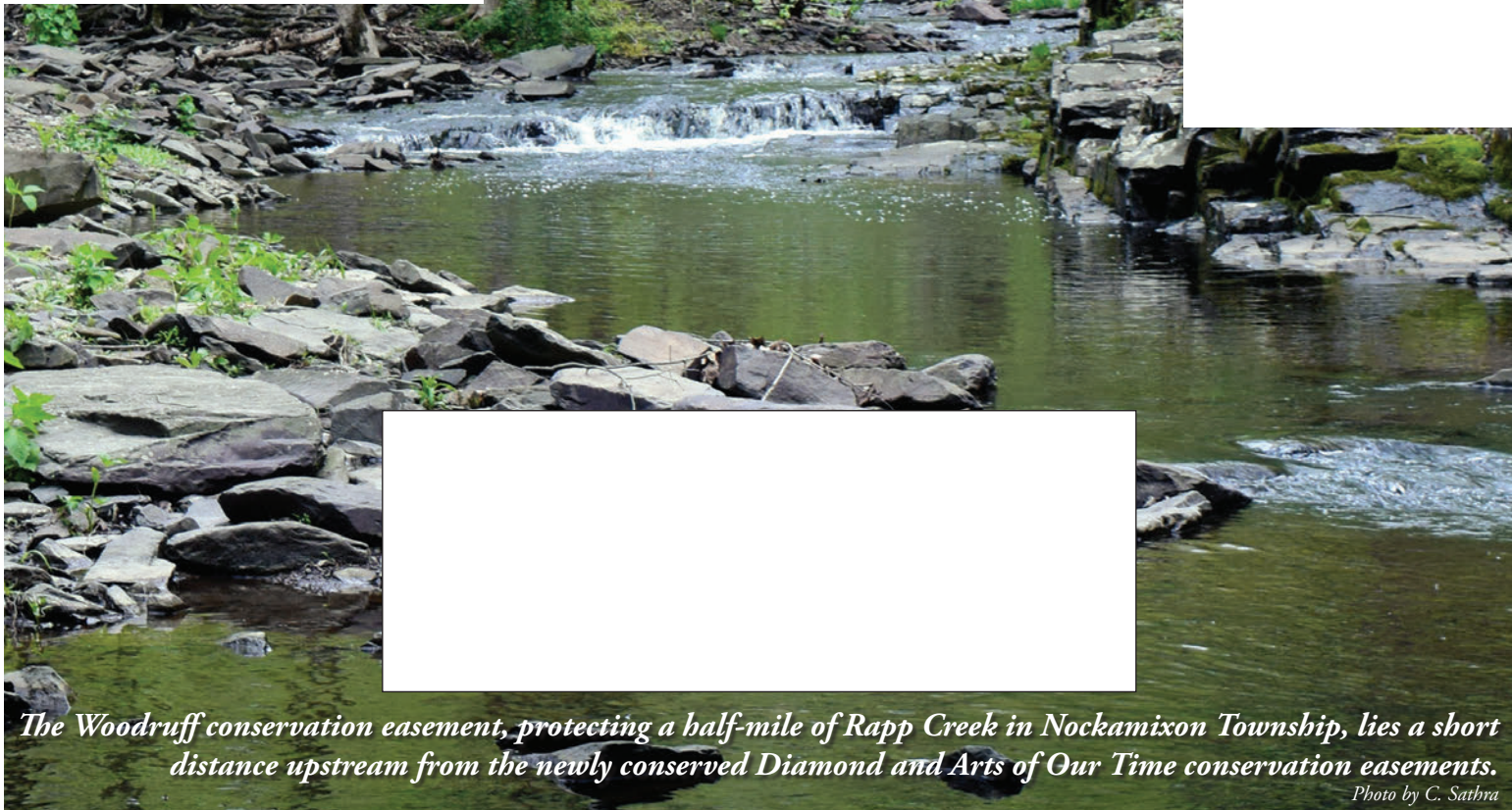




P.O. Box 206
Erwinna, PA 18920



The Woodruff conservation easement, protecting a half-mile of Rapp Creek in Nockamixon Township, lies a short distance upstream from the newly conserved Diamond and Arts of Our Time conservation easements.

Photo by C. Sathra

YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION — THREE NEW EASEMENTS COMPLETED

In late April, the Conservancy along with its partners, the Tincum Township Open Space and Bucks County Natural Areas programs, helped conserve an additional 22-acres of Roaring Rocks Creek near its source. This latest protection effort includes high quality wetlands and continuous forest cover. Both are key ingredients to a healthy environment for a myriad of wildlife species while maintaining high water quality. The three parcels being protected are adjacent to another conserved property that sits on the boundary between Bridgeton and Tincum Townships and only footsteps away from a large

tract of State Game Lands. The Quinby Family, who owns the property, also conserved their 198-acre family farm in 2006.

Earlier this year, two additional conservation easements secured the protection of an additional 2/3 of a mile of land along Rapp Creek. This noteworthy accomplishment was made possible through the generosity of two landowners, Jim Diamond of Nockamixon and Tincum, and Michael Smith and his wife, Paula Shamlee, of Tincum Township. The Tincum Conservancy, worked together with Nockamixon Township, Tincum Township and the

Bucks County Municipal Open Space Program to bring these easements to fruition. The property of Michael Smith and Paula Shamlee borders 2,000 feet along the Tincum Creek and is adjacent to the Diamond conservation easement. In this mostly forested location Michael and Paula live and carry out the work of their non-profit, Arts of our Time Both are highly accomplished artists and photographers.

These two new easements represent another step forward in protecting the watersheds of Tincum, Rapp, and Beaver Run Creeks and highlight the connectedness

of the waterways upon which Tincum and Nockamixon mutually depend. These newly protected properties become part of 300+ contiguous acres of land permanently preserved by conservation easement including a 48 acre property conserved in 2011 by the Tincum Conservancy and located upstream from the current projects. Because of your generosity and the hard-working people of the Nockamixon and Tincum communities, these and future success stories continue for the benefit of all members of this idyllic corner of Bucks County.

SPRING/SUMMER 2017



25th Anniversary

COMMON GROUND

PROTECTING OUR RURAL CHARACTER AND NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED LAND CONSERVATION.

*Lennox conservation easement
Photo by C. Sathra*

CHECK IT OUT

As you travel around on your daily tasks and routines you'll notice the handsome new Tincum Conservancy signs.

Placed at high profile locations these new, easy to read signs proudly announce a property that's permanently protected by your efforts!

Isn't it wonderful to know that this portion of land along your daily travels will be protected for all time.



A QUARTER CENTURY OF CONSERVATION

Prior to 1992, Tincum Conservancy was only a germ of an idea in the minds of a few forward-looking folk, who watched in horror as careless sprawl spread across our southern and western neighbors. Incorporated in 1992 with the goal of protecting our incredible natural resources, farms, and rugged landscapes, the Conservancy has grown from 8 or 10 people around a table in a church basement, to a nationally accredited organization with a professional staff, a dedicated and knowledgeable working board of trustees, and a suite of offices in an historic house at the river's edge.

More than a staff, a board, and a building, however, the Conservancy consists of its donors and volunteers, without whom none of this growth would have been possible. In 1992, the membership list might have covered a couple of pages. In 2016, 319 separate member units (families, couples, individuals), representing about 15% of the population it serves, provided the Conservancy with the financial and in-kind support that make its success possible.

Supporters regularly come out for the annual fall celebration, tours on conserved properties, mailing parties, and various calls for volunteers. Members with specialized talents maintain the website, edit the newsletter, upgrade the

data base, and manage the art exhibits. All of our easement monitors are volunteers, trained to report potential violations of the easements that protect our resources. Monitoring is done according to the rules and practices of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, and careful records are maintained of the annual inspections.

As of this issue, the total land protected by the conservancy includes 115 projects, and covers 4,632 acres over four townships, but watch this space! Conversations with additional landowners are underway, and this number will only increase over time. The majority of conservation easements are donated voluntarily to the Conservancy, but some have come about through an agreement with the township, which makes partial payments based on the resources protected, and shares with the Conservancy the responsibility for upholding the terms of the easement.

A quarter of a century may sound like a very long time, but it seems like a very short time for (mainly) volunteers to have accomplished so much. Our success so far in preserving our water, our other resources, our history and the beauty that surrounds us, bodes well for the future of Tincum and the Conservancy. Happy 25th Birthday to all of us. — *Martie Kyde*



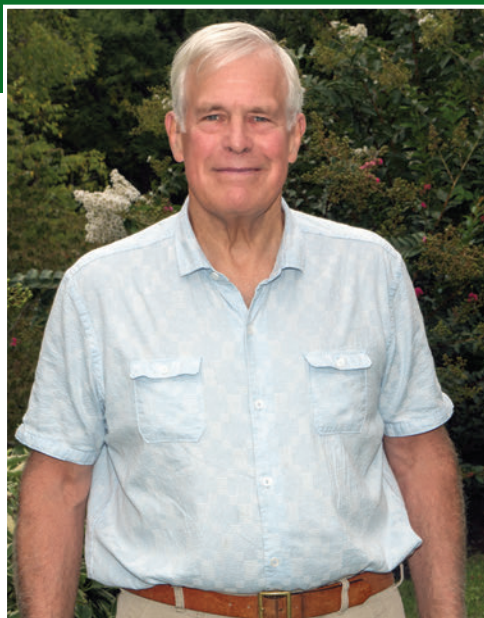
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

County (where no fox will ever run again). Many of us understand the major public benefits for protecting our community and its natural resources. In addition to preventing intensive subdivision of land, please consider these additional benefits:

1. Clean Air – Forests are excellent at capturing carbon and an important tool in fighting climate change. When we protect a forested area, we are protecting the air that we breath. Who's prepared to bet that we shouldn't contribute to the effort to fight human-caused climate change?

2. Safe Drinking Water – Every time that we succeed in placing a conservation easement on another property within one of our local watersheds we are providing nature's best filtration system for cleansing the water that sustains our community. What better gift can we offer to future generations by assuring good quality and quantity of fresh drinking water?

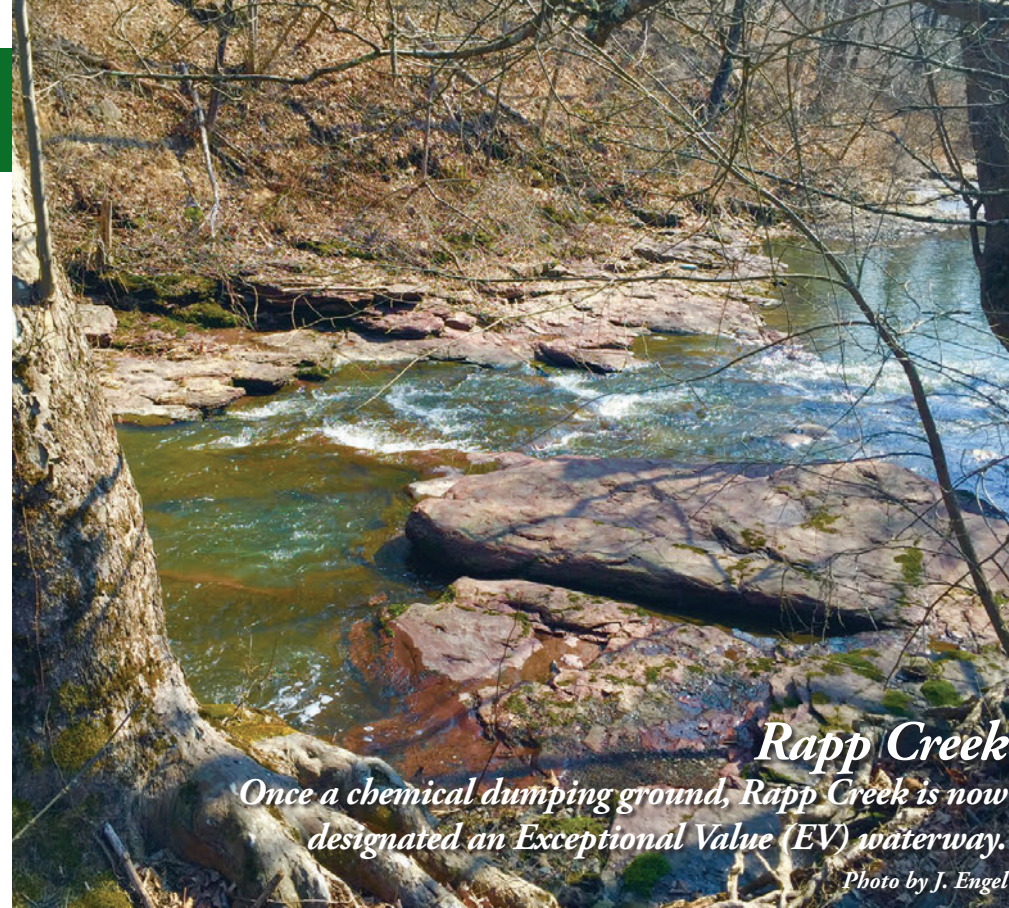
3. Productive Farms – Whenever a farm with high quality soils is protected with a conservation easement, we are protecting our food supply for now and the future. How many of the areas containing the best soils in this County have been swallowed up by enormous, sprawling housing developments? These vital farms will never again provide us



with local, fresh foods. How would that impact you and your family?

4. Abundant Wildlife – Habitat destruction is the major cause for the loss of animal species, and the health of our watersheds and forests is a major way to maintain species diversity. Who's prepared to bet that human life can exist if we don't take care of the plants and animals with whom we share this planet?

For my money, protecting our open spaces is an essential step in assuring that we provide a healthy planet to future generations. Call our office or visit the Conservancy's website to find out how you can help. We need your help for the next 25 years and future generations will say "thank you".



*Rapp Creek
Once a chemical dumping ground, Rapp Creek is now designated an Exceptional Value (EV) waterway.
Photo by J. Engel*

JIM DIAMOND – ENVIRONMENTAL CRUSADER!

Jim Diamond has a long history of community and environmental activism in Nockamixon. In the 1960's it was Jim, then Professor of Agriculture at Delaware Valley College, who spurred the investigation into chemical dumping along Rapp Creek by Echo Chemical Company (later known as Revere Chemical). He and his wife were initially shunned by neighbors who feared jobs might be lost, but when Revere Chemical caused 42 neighboring wells to run dry the whole community got on board. In 1969 Revere Chemical was shut down by the State of Pennsylvania.

Largely because of Jim's efforts, the Creek has now evolved from its once toxic conditions to its current Exceptional

Value designation, the highest quality ranking and protection the state can give to a waterway!

Jim's 38-acre property is aptly named "Clearwater Dell". It parallels about 1,600 feet along Rapp Creek and was formerly leased for "fracking", but the lease was extinguished after Arbor Resources abandoned gas development in this area. The new easement was partially donated by Mr. Diamond and more than a decade in the making. It permanently prevents any surface drilling and limits activities that could damage riparian and aquatic habitats or cause pollution to enter the creek. "It is the legacy that a landowner leaves to future generations," Jim declared.

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

Theodore Roosevelt

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 10th

Photo Exhibit Grand Opening

10:00-4:00. We are celebrating 25 years of conservation with a stunning array of photographs from 13 conserved properties. Hosted here at the conservancy offices.

For more information call 610-294-1077 or email info@tinicumconservancy.org

JUNE 10th

Bird Watching Walk

8:00 AM. Walk with Diane Allison and learn about our local species. (Rain date 6/11)

Contact Karen Budd at 610-294-9096 or kbudd3030@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 16th

Community Celebration!

FREE and open to all residents. Come help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary at the conserved Seifert-Walker property. Join in the festivities while sampling a bit of heavenly ice cream from Owowcow creamery. *Time and location to be announced.*

SEPTEMBER 17th

Paddle the Parks

As part of our 25th anniversary, we want to celebrate the parks and public spaces in our area. The Delaware Canal and the Giving Pond in Upper Black Eddy are prime examples of this. Join us to paddle the canal (if there's water) or on the Giving Pond. We will have the use of the DCNR kayaks/canoes or you can bring your own. Contact Karen Budd at 610-294-9096 or kbudd3030@gmail.com



NOTE: Dates above may change. Stay connected for the latest information by visiting tinicumconservancy.org.

Tinicum Conservancy
965 River Road
P.O. Box 206
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610-294-1077
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jengel@tinicumconservancy.org
www.tinicumconservancy.org



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. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

MAKE THE CONNECTION

We'll keep you informed of the latest news and events.

- Sign up for email news at tinicumconservancy.org
- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us on Instagram

“Oops.” There’s a word nobody likes to hear. We get it: things happen, rules get overlooked, people make mistakes. Each conservation easement the Tincicum Conservancy holds protects a unique set of natural resources. What is allowed and not allowed to happen varies for each property depending on the wishes of original easement grantor. We are required by federal law to visit each property under conservation easement on an annual basis, to make sure each landowner continues to meet the goals and provisions of the easement. We call this our “annual monitoring program” for which we have nearly 40 trained and dedicated volunteers.

So, what happens when the monitoring visit reveals an “oops?” Maybe a new structure was built in a protected area, or protected trees cut from a forest, or ATV use threatens a protected stream, or maybe a neighbor put up a fence or dumped some trash over their boundary. As the Resource Protection Manager, I am responsible for documenting and determining when an issue of non-compliance (or “violation” of the conservation easement) occurs, and working with the landowner and other easement co-holders to find a solution for compliance. Staff and the board of trustees at

the Conservancy take our responsibility for protecting each easement very seriously. If the landowner contacts us before taking an action, a violation can be avoided all together. But when an issue does arise, Tincicum Conservancy first contacts the landowner to discuss the matter. Sometimes a landowner expresses an honest “oops,” or may be unaware of the issue (such as a neighbor trespass). Rarely is a violation intentional, but it happens. Often, we meet with the landowner to observe and understand the issue.

Our ultimate goal is to work with the landowner to find a remedy and gain a commitment to correct the situation. Usually, correcting an issue is easy (such as removing trash) but occasionally, reaching a solution is more complicated (such as a structure built in a prohibited location). In some cases, we must gain the participation of our legal counsel to understand all our options for a legally acceptable resolution.

Most landowners are proud of their properties and the easements that protect them, and rightfully so. We always strive to work together to find a mutually satisfactory solution. After all, we’re in this important work of land protection together

— Kelly Germann

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: AN OPTION TO HELP WITH FUTURE HEALTHCARE COSTS

We’re all familiar with the dilemma of anticipated rising healthcare costs and the increasing risks as we grow older. Either for a friend, family member or ourselves we have asked this question: – *What if we need additional dollars to take care of a future illness, in home care or a long-term care facility for me or a loved one?*

There are several options for answering this important question and only a healthcare expert or legal counsel can answer what is best for you. However, one potentially favorable option is to receive payment for a conservation easement on your land. All too often when I meet with middle aged and older landowners to ask them to consider a conservation easement, I am met with the statement “Oh I can’t do that. I might need to sell my land or a portion of it in order to cover my future health care expenses”. I then go on to explain how a conservancy may provide for this anticipated need.

This response is based on the mistaken belief that the landowner will have plenty of advanced warning about their healthcare needs and/or that the process for subdividing or selling their property can occur quickly

and without any negative financial consequences. In reality, selling can mean that the landowner is forced to accept a reduced price to free up cash quickly and subdividing your land can take years to work its way through local government procedures with no guarantee of success.

In contrast, a conservation easement can provide payment often within a five to nine month time-frame and you still retain ownership of the property and the option to remain at the property or sell the property in the future. Most importantly, this option gives the landowner cash now to fund long-term care or an immediate medical need.

The first step is to learn more about conservation easements and funding that may be available. If you are interested in evaluating this option, please contact Jim Engel, Executive Director at 610-294-1077 or jengel@tincicumconservancy.org

Conservation easements are an important decision and should be evaluated based on all your needs and the needs of your family. Seeking legal counsel to identify whether this option is ideal for you and your family is essential.

— Jim Engel

Through protective land use ordinances and state-accepted water quality standards Tincicum Creek has been designated an Exceptional Value (EV) waterway since 1996.

Photo by P. Leonhardt

Join Today

IT'S EASY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Membership support is critical to the overall success of the Conservancy. Our success benefits everyone who wants pure water, clean air, and beautiful landscapes. To protect our community’s rural character and natural resources through community-based land conservation, we rely on your generosity.

We are a private non-profit organization that depends on charitable contributions to steward over 4,600 acres conserved through our efforts, to protect the environment, and to educate the community about our mission. Your support is essential to realizing our shared purpose.

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 Tincicum are critical to protecting the land we love. Use the envelope in this newsletter or visit tincicumconservancy.org to join today.

Thank you for your support!

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

Get involved — volunteer! Tincicum 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 and invasive plant removal. Or join the easement monitor ranks and make annual visits to monitor the properties on which we hold easements. Visit tincicumconservancy.org/volunteer for 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.

Leave a Legacy, Plan a Gift. When you include the Conservancy in your estate plans, you help secure the future of Tincicum’s natural resources and rural character for future generations. Planning today extends your impact beyond your lifetime. Contact Executive Director Jim Engel at jengel@tincicumconservancy.org or 610-294-1077 to discuss estate planning.

Conserve Your Property. Preserving your land is a profound way to contribute to our community. Contact Executive Director Jim Engel at jengel@tincicumconservancy.org or call 610-294-1077 to discuss an easement.



MOST WANTED

JAPANESE BARBERRY

We have invasive plants wreaking havoc right here in our own backyards. Japanese Barberry and Japanese Stiltgrass are among the biggest offenders. These exotic invasive plants are of no nutritional value to wildlife - deer, birds, small mammals, insects - *whatsoever!*

Japanese Stiltgrass is taking over the herbaceous layer in both shady and open areas. It is an annual that particularly thrives in moist areas and is choking out our native wildflower populations. As with many of the exotic invasive plants, deer do not eat it, so it has a competitive advantage over many of our native herbaceous plants, which deer do eat.

Japanese Barberry is a shrub that is taking over the shrub layer of our forests. In many of our wooded areas, there is nothing growing except barberry. Again, the deer don't eat it so it out competes all our native woodland shrubs.

Volunteers can help landowners with invasive plant removal. For information on stopping these culprits and allowing our native species to flourish once again, contact:

Kelly Germann at kgermann@tinicumconservancy.org or call 610-294-1077



MOST WANTED

JAPANESE STILTGRASS

Q & A WITH NOTABLE NICK FORTE

STEPPING DOWN AFTER 28 YEARS AS TINICUM TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR, WE BID ADIEU AND SEND MANY THANKS FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO PRESERVATION

Q - What motivated you in your efforts for land preservation?

After moving to Tinicum, I wanted to make a long term commitment to the natural and historical qualities that initially brought me and my family here to live. I also admired the diversity of Tinicum with its long-time resident families, weekenders and all the "newcomers." As spread out as we are, there is still a sense of community, yet real respect for privacy. The issues of ground water protection, storm water management and historical preservation have always been important to me. All of these can be addressed through land preservation, which led to the establishment of our Land Preservation Committee.

Q - What made Tinicum's open space program one of the best in the state?

I know we are the best in the state. I believe it started with the overwhelming buy-in of our residents. Our LPC, during its entire existence, has had great leadership and a positive working relationship with the Tinicum Board of Supervisors. I need to mention Norm MacArthur's total commitment to the program that has certainly lead us to this point. His work ethic in this endeavor is hard to match. I am proud to say that all of the easements purchased by the township have been bargain sales, which in turn proves that all the participating land owners believe

in and understand what we are trying to do. By the way, this enables us to preserve more acreage per tax payer dollar.

Q - Why is Tinicum conservancy such a good partner?

Obviously, it is all the individuals who oversee the organization and assure its mission parallels with that of the community and Board of Supervisors. I always looked at the Conservancy as an equal partner to township government in reaching goals in land preservation. It's important to remember that township government cannot do everything all of the time. Land monitoring, mapping and assisting with property owner contracts are among the important functions that the Conservancy provides.

Q - What else was important to you as supervisor?

Being proactive on land use issues certainly was important to me. There are a lot of individuals who helped develop our ordinances and each one of those persons had "the best interest of Tinicum" in mind. However, personally for me, it was important to hear everyone out. It's satisfying that our community and our culture haven't changed much. It's good to know that we still have the blend of residents that make Tinicum such a wonderful place to live.

CONSERVANCY TAKES ACTIONS TO ENSURE MORE OVERSIGHT REGARDING PENNEAST GAS PIPELINE

The Conservancy filed a request with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for "Intervenor" status in the PennEast Gas pipeline process. This precautionary action was taken when an alternative route was proposed by PennEast that would cut across Nockamixon, Bridgeton and the northern

part of Tinicum townships. Intervenor status would give the Conservancy a higher status when responding to the proposals put forth by PennEast and approved FERC. At least one conservation easement held by the Conservancy could potentially be impacted by the proposed alternate route.



Conserved Lands Photo Exhibit
Opens June 10th
10:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Tinicum Conservancy Office
Celebrating 25 years of conservation: A photographic retrospective
Join us in celebrating this unique collection of professional photographs that capture the natural beauty of these properties preserved in perpetuity.

**GIVING BACK TO THE NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY
JIM ENGEL MENTORS OTHER LEADERS**

Tinicum Conservancy's very own Executive Director, Jim Engel is participating as a mentor in the Conservation Professionals Mentorship Program, which is coordinated by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The partnerships facilitate the sharing of knowledge and formation of productive relationships throughout the

Pennsylvania conservation landscape, ultimately helping to develop and empower a new generation of conservationists.

"During my 30 years working to protect our natural world, I have received plenty of wisdom and guidance from experienced leaders that has helped me to do a better job and protect more land. Being a mentor allows me to now return the favor," explains Engel.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: RIVER ROAD CLEAN-UP DATES 2017

June 17th • August 26th • October 28th

Help keep our adopted stretch of River Road trash free from Jugtown Hill Road to Bridgeton Hill Road. "Many hands make quick work" truly applies to this good deed.
Email riverroadcleanup@tinicumconservancy.org for more information.

MANY Thanks

— To **Betsi Cambell**
For her outstanding service as Events Chair!

— To **Jeff Keller, Bill Cahill & Hellyn Sher** for their dedication and service as trustees.

— To **Stana Lennox** for 7 years of celebrating and supporting our landscape and local artists.

JOIN US IN
Welcoming

— **Karen Budd**
returning to our Board of Trustees

— **Neal Feigles & Mark Manchester**
to our Board of Trustees

— **Geraldine Laker**
as our new Events Chair.

— **Patricia Leonhardt** as our new Communications Committee Chair.

HQ VS. EV

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES OF THESE TWO DESIGNATIONS?

High Quality (HQ) Water either supports a high quality aquatic community, shows long-term high quality water chemistry, or is listed as a Class A Wild Trout Stream. Degradation of HQ water is not permitted except for "necessary economic or social development."

Exceptional Value (EV) Water meets all the requirements of High Quality water plus one of several additional conditions which may include location, recreational significance, and ecological significance. No degradation is permitted. No exceptions for social or economic justifications.