



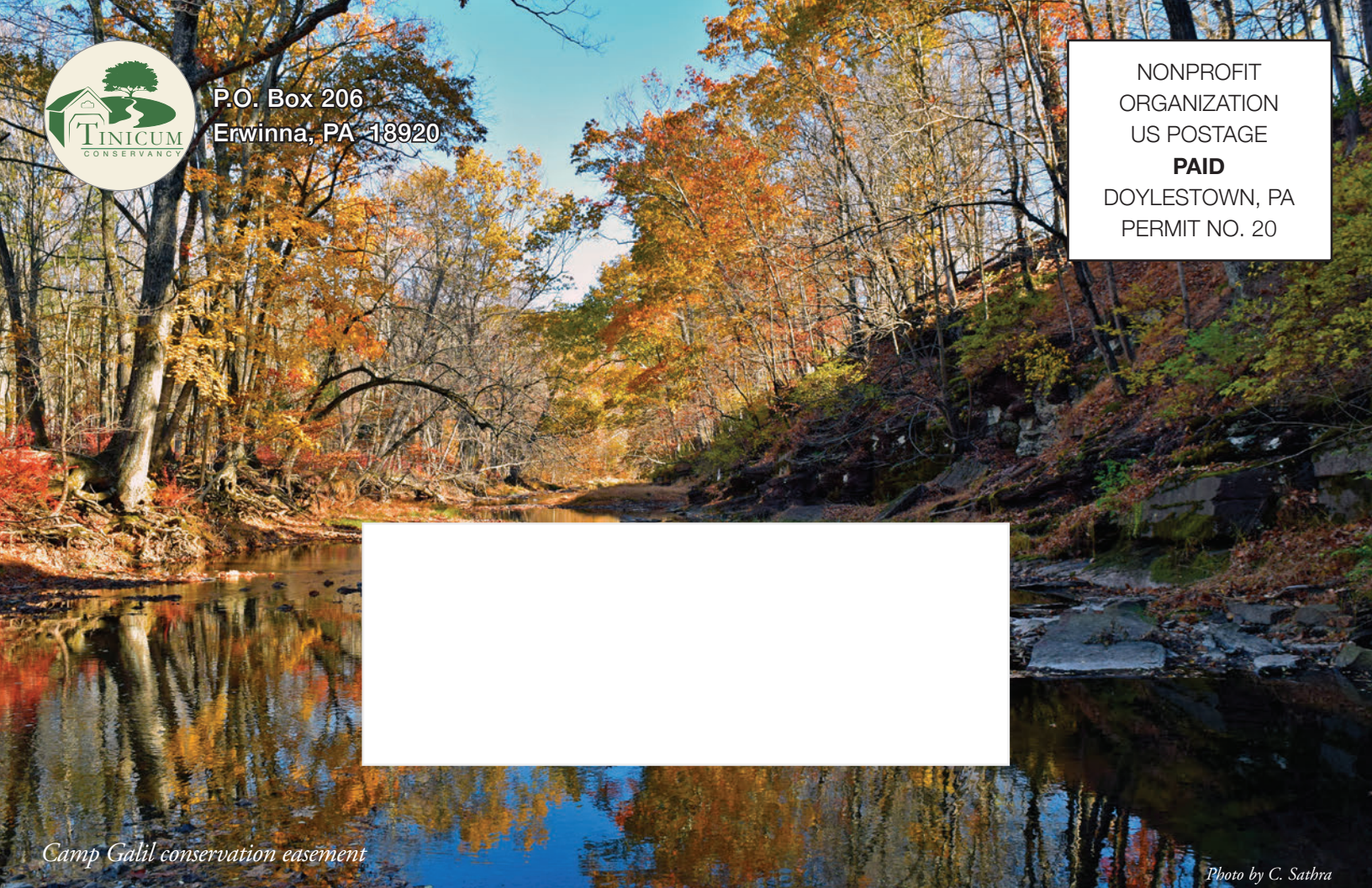
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COMMON GROUND

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



Camp Galil conservation easement

Photo by C. Sabra

57 ACRES PROTECTED IN DURHAM TOWNSHIP THROUGH SHEER DETERMINATION

With the assistance of the Tinicum Conservancy, Carl Kwartnik and Maureen Santina recently conserved their 57-acre farm in Durham Township through the Bucks County Agricultural Open Space Program. Funding to acquire the agricultural easement came through the Bucks County Farmland Preservation and the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement programs.

The property drains into the Cooks Creek watershed, which is a PA exceptional value stream, and borders Lehnenberg Road for 1,600 feet, with scenic views of the upslope portion of the land. The area is notable for its complex geology: the Monroe Border Fault runs through the southern portion of the property, and its underlying bedrock, part of the Hardyston Formation, dates back to the Pre-Cambrian era, featuring a variety of gneisses, or ancient rock types, including hornblende, felsic and mafic.

The path to protecting this beautiful farm started five years ago when the owners purchased the land and then approached the Tinicum Conservancy. They wanted to know what their options were to protect the property's rich soils and natural resources. While there was quick consensus on how to protect the property, funding for the conservation easement proved a little more challenging. Several funding sources that



the farm qualified for had recently run out of funding or had changed their priorities. "It's unusual when we're not able to pull together funding for an important land protection effort like Carl and Maureen's farm," explained Tinicum Conservancy executive director, Jim Engel.

Carl and Maureen refused to give up. With the Conservancy's guidance, they applied for a grant from the Bucks County Agricultural Open Space program. There was only one problem: Qualifying properties needed to be actively farmed for at least three years prior to acceptance. Although the property contained an abundance of fertile soil, more than two decades had passed since it had last been farmed. At one point, a large subdivision had been considered. Before that it had been used as a training site for hunting dogs.

But Carl and Maureen were undeterred. They immediately set about removing invasive plants, including large stands of autumn olive, and returning the fields to their original state. Over the next three

years, they established an alpaca operation and leased a portion of the land for livestock, which enabled their application to finally be approved. Today, they are thrilled that their beautiful property has regained its former glory, and they love the idea that it will continue to be farmed for generations to come. "We couldn't have done it without the help of the Tinicum Conservancy," exclaims Maureen.

The Tinicum Conservancy, along with the surrounding community, is thankful that Carl and Maureen never gave up on their vision to reestablish this once flourishing farm.

— J. Engel



Photos by J. Engel

Save the Date!

Our 10th Annual Community Celebration

FREE and open to all community members

Saturday, Sep. 15th

at Camp Galil, 146 Red Hill Road, Ottsville, PA

3:00 - 5:00

Gathering with appetizers and drinks.

(2:00 optional pre-event walk of the property)

This event is **FREE**, however, you must **RSVP by Sept. 10th** to 610-294-1077 or mfell@tinicumconservancy.org. **Rain or shine.**

OFFICIAL EVENT CORPORATE SPONSORS:



WANTED

Volunteers Needed

Tinicum Conservancy would not exist without its volunteers. We need help with mailings, research, event planning, and more!

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

Visit tinicumconservancy.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...



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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.

STAY CONNECTED WITH NEWS & EVENTS

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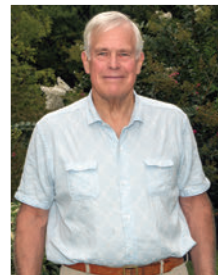
A view of the Delaware looking north, towards Marshall Island

DRIVING CONSERVATION FORWARD

Most people think the Tinicum Conservancy protects land in only one way: by working with landowners and local governments to protect properties with permanent conservation easements. This is completely understandable, especially when you consider the Conservancy has used this very approach to protect more than 4,500 acres in local communities. But the truth is, there are lots of other things we do behind the scenes to help protect our land and its natural resources, and we call these “conservation assists.” The project that first comes to mind is Marshall Island in 2011. While we had no ownership rights and weren’t directly involved in any easements, we teamed up with a number of other groups—including other land trusts, local government and the Philadelphia Port Authority—to ensure that the island’s 142 acres were permanently preserved.

In this issue of Common Ground, we explore a number of conservation assists that the Conservancy is working on to protect our stretch of land for generations

to come, including freeing residents from the burden of unwanted “fracking” gas leases, helping landowners find the funding they need to pay for their conservation easement, and preparing baselines that will guide conservation easement monitoring on key properties in the Tohickon Creek Watershed for decades to come. If you’d like to launch your own personal conservation assist, please join us! Donate today, volunteer or consider conserving your land. It’s only through the support and generosity of people like you that we can continue to protect the land we all love so much.




Boyce Budd, President



STRATEGIES FOR BATTLING THE EMERALD ASH BORER

The emerald ash borer is a small green pest that has already killed millions of ash trees across the US and is here in Bucks County. It is expected to kill 99% of all species of ash trees and up to 50% of our total tree canopy. On Thursday, Feb. 22nd, the Tinicum Conservancy sponsored and coordinated an event to help us learn what we can do to minimize the impact. Donald Eggen of the Bureau of Forestry, Kendra McMillin from Beyond Management LLC and Martie Kyde, Tinicum landowner, delivered in-depth presentations at this standing-room only event that was held at the Tinicum Elementary School.

If you’re concerned about the health and

survival of the ash trees on your property, we recommend you speak with more than one professional (such as a forester, arborist, or resource protection expert) to find the best fit for your personal vision, resource management goals and financial needs. **Please visit tinicumconservancy.org for more information and many helpful resources for landowners and municipalities.**

Donald A. Eggen, PhD.
 Forest Health Manager
 Bureau of Forestry 717-787-2336
 deggen@pa.gov

Kendra McMillin
 Environmental Consultant
 Beyond Land Management, LLC
 610-909-2888
 klmacmill@me.com



Please join us! Contact Graham Place at riverroadcleanup@tinicumconservancy.org for meeting time and more info. Help keep our adopted stretch of River Road trash-free. We clean five miles starting at Tinicum Park all the way up to Bridgeton Hill Road. “Many hands make quick work” truly applies to this

good deed. Plus, you never know what treasures might be unearthed. Meet at the Schneiderwind Farm parking lot on River Road, across from the Frenchtown Bridge. (Vests, gloves, bags, water, and pastries provided.) Hope to see you all at the next one on August 25th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Late Summer River Road Clean-Up

Sat Aug 25th 8:00am

Please join us! Contact Graham Place at riverroadcleanup@tinicumconservancy.org for meeting time and more info.

Community Celebration!

Sat Sep 15th 3:00pm-5:00pm

This year’s 10th annual celebration is open to all residents to thank our community for making it possible to protect our forests, farms, water and way of life. Meet your neighbors, catch up with friends and learn about the Conservancy’s latest projects. RSVP by Sept. 4th to 610-294-1077. Camp Galil conservation easement.

Kayak Paddle

Sun Sep 16th

Kayak paddle on the canal with the cooperation of DCNR. Times and details to be announced. Check our website for updates.

Marshall Island Cleanup

Sun Sep 23rd

Marshall Island cleanup . Details to be announced. (Rain date September 30)

“Managing Your Property for Wildlife” with David Hughes

Sat Oct 6th 10:00am

Field lecture at Weatherwood Design by David Hughes. Contact Karen Budd at 610-294-9096 or kbudd3030@gmail.com.

Fall River Road Clean-Up

Sat Oct 27th 8:00am

Please join us! Contact Graham Place at riverroadcleanup@tinicumconservancy.org for meeting time and more info.

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

Kelly's CORNER A "Conservation Assist" is a Win for Everyone



Photo by K. Germann

Leatherman Farm conservation easement

"The land and water are one," my friend is fond of saying, and it's deep if you think about it. Neither cares for municipal boundaries, or fences, or No Trespassing signs. The Delaware River in New York is the same Delaware River here in Bucks County, and in Maryland, just a few days older. Over 14,000 square miles of watershed-land in five states contribute to its volume and quality, including all the things millions of people can do to land. What we do to our land greatly affects our water. Because all creatures are so dependent on it, what happens to our water touches everyone and everything. We are merely the caretakers of both ground and surface water as we use it, protect or pollute it, on its passage to everyone downstream. This is one of the reasons why we at Tincum Conservancy take very seriously our mission to protect our rural character and natural resources through community-based land conservation. "Community-based" means we work not just in Tincum, but also partner with

nearby communities that influence and are influenced by our shared land and water resources. We can help our partners find funding sources, provide legal assistance, and provide the skills and knowledge to negotiate and manage the many players and moving parts of a new conservation easement. We call this a "conservation assist." Tincum Conservancy has provided a "conservation assist" with partners in Bedminster, Bridgeton, Durham, Nockamixon, and Plumstead townships to help protect over 450 acres of rural character and natural resources surrounding Tincum. Recently, Tincum Conservancy assisted Bedminster Township to help permanently protect 68 acres of agricultural land on two properties by providing Baseline Documentation for the Leatherman Farm and the Slick Family homestead, both in the Tohickon creek watershed. The purpose of the Baseline Documentation is to fully document the resources being protected and the

condition of the property at the time the conservation easement is enacted. This documentation also supports the annual monitoring of the property by illustrating resources, points of interest and potential threats, parcel boundaries and corners, and by providing a baseline of conditions against which any future changes or proposed changes to the property may be measured for compliance. The photos, maps and descriptions within the Baseline Documentation may also be used as an aid in the legal enforcement of the terms of the Conservation Easement.

John and Sandra Leatherman purchased



Photo by K. Germann

Slick conservation easement

an old farmstead on 43 acres in 2013 that had been owned by a landscape company and slated for a housing development. John grew up next door to this farm but didn't give it much thought until nearly 30 years later when, on a nostalgic drive through the roads of his youth, he saw the land up for auction. Nearly sight unseen, he and his wife attended the property auction and became the new owners. Now, with agricultural conservation funding provided by both the Bedminster Township (as part of their Farmland Focus area) and the Bucks County Agriculture Program, the Leathermans are returning the land to farming with crops, pigs and cattle, while protecting natural open space, scenic views and Bedminster's agricultural heritage. Nearby, local veterinarian Joseph Slick raised his family and ran a farm on his 25 acres of land. Joseph's son, Mark, remembers the farm also becoming a permanent home to many abandoned animals his father brought home from the clinic. Joseph always wanted his land

to stay whole and productive, never to be split apart for development. So, when Joseph had to leave his beloved home for a retirement facility, his son Mark worked with Bedminster Township, the Bucks County Agriculture Program and Tincum Conservancy to permanently protect the land's natural beauty and agricultural legacy through an agricultural easement. Funding for the easement also helped make Joseph's retirement financially feasible. Mark says he especially enjoyed working with Tincum Conservancy, from which he learned many interesting facts and natural features about the property he hadn't known before, all of which gave him a deeper sense of appreciation for its permanent protection. While Tincum Conservancy still has plenty of work here at home, we are pleased to be able to offer conservation assistance wherever we can. Because, when we truly understand that the land and water are one, helping to protect our neighbors' natural resources truly benefits everyone.

— K. Germann

Join Today

Every gift makes a difference. Use the envelope provided or visit tincumconservancy.org to donate today. *Thank you.*



The Tincum Conservancy is a private non-profit organization that depends on charitable contributions to steward nearly 4,700 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.

We've come a long way thanks to people like you who care about the land on which you live, but there's a long way to go. 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. Our goal is to use every dollar given to directly support all efforts to protect these natural resources and preserve our precious land.

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. Please use the envelope in this newsletter or visit tincumconservancy.org to join today.

Thank you for your support!

TINICUM TRIES NEW CONSERVATION TECHNIQUE



Photo by J. Engel

For several years, Paul Coleman and Charlene Koretz had hoped to protect their Tohickon Creekside property with a conservation easement. In Paul's words, they wanted "to do what we can to preserve the natural resources that make Tincicum so special."

They talked at length to Tincicum Conservancy Executive Director Jim Engel, but concluded the costs associated with completing an easement wouldn't make the project doable. Still, they hoped their beautiful pond and 700 feet of Tohickon frontage might one day be permanently protected from additional development.

Tincicum Township Land Preservation Committee recommended to the board of supervisors that the township use some of its open space funds to pay the up-front costs, which can be considerable, for landowners to donate conservation easements on their lands. The board passed such a resolution at the end of 2015.

Armed with this financial incentive, Norm MacArthur for the township, and Engel for the Conservancy, approached Paul and Charlene again.

Delighted, the couple initiated the easement process and signed the final documents on December 14th. They expect to work with the Conservancy to make the habitat even better, adding native plants and subtracting invasive ones.

Paul says the process "involves a number of steps and takes a while" but the conservancy was very helpful and "the township reimbursement program made it doable." Then, of course, there are the income tax deductions.

Tincicum is hoping that more people for whom being willing is not quite enough, will take advantage of this innovative program to add to the creeks, ponds, woods and meadows already under conservation easement.

*article by M. Kyde
Bucks County Herald Jan, 2018*



Photo by J. Engel

WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

Get involved — volunteer!

Tincicum Conservancy would not exist without its volunteers. We need help with mailings, research, event planning, and more! For those who prefer the outdoors, we need folks to take part in our River Road cleanups and invasive plant removal. 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 our communities' natural resources and rural character for future generations. Planning today extends your impact beyond your lifetime.

Conserve Your Property.

Preserving your land is a profound way to contribute to our community.

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



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

UPDATE: GAS LEASE EXTINGUISHMENT PROGRAM LOGS ITS LATEST SUCCESS



Courtesy of FracTracker Alliance

In the summer of 2015, the Tincicum Conservancy launched a successful new strategy to help Nockamixon and Tincicum landowners extinguish "fracking" gas leases they had entered into during the mid-2000's. By 2015, many landowners had come to realize the potential negative environmental and economic impacts these

leases had on their land and the broader community.

Recently, the Conservancy worked with three more landowners in the Rapp Creek watershed to extinguish their gas leases, increasing the total land protected to more than 115 acres.

Working closely with landowners, the Conservancy secured the cooperation of gas company officials and covered all the costs associated with extinguishing the leases. Today, the landowners' property titles are free and clear of any encumbrances previously created by these leases.

The original article that details how gas leases are extinguished can be found in the

Winter 2016 Issue of the Conservancy's newsletter, *Common Ground*. <http://www.tincicumconservancy.org/assets/tincicum-newsletter-winter-2016.pdf>

If you are interested in learning whether your property qualifies for the Conservancy's extinguishment program, please contact Jim Engel, Executive Director, at 610-294-1077 or email him at jengel@tincicumconservancy.org for a confidential discussion.



Courtesy of FracTracker Alliance

MULTIPLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT RISES ALONG SUNDALE CREEK

Normally, a large housing development along an Exceptional Value (EV) stream is not something your Conservancy would celebrate... but this development is for the birds. Literally.

With a small grant from the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Management committee, and volunteers from Tincicum Conservancy, the Tincicum Township Land Preservation Committee (TTLPC) has planted a riparian forest on an unwooded section of the Little Tincicum (Sundale) Creek. Of course, at this moment it is neither precisely a forest nor exactly riparian, but merely an incipient precursor. The site once held a pond. The dam failed, was removed, and the stream was left to reassert its preferred channel. Slowly, with the aid of heavy flooding in recent years, the little creek is finding its way through the swampy bottom of the old pond. When it regains its old channel, a riparian restoration will be waiting to shade and cool its waters and provide homes and shelter for new

generations of avian families.

Many people contributed to the success of this project. A and S Performance, a local property management company, provided all the person power for digging and planting at a very low cost. Dublin Agway provided the fencing materials at contractor's prices, enabling us to use stronger, more deer-proof fencing to protect the saplings until they are mature enough to withstand deer browse pressure. All of the 15 trees came from Tree Authority in Perkasio: they specialize in native species, grown in large (5 – 15 gallon) pots, so there is less transplant trauma.

Conservancy members Phil Rushton, Graham Place, John Dey, and Karen and Boyce Budd answered the call for volunteers to weed whack the resident mugwort, and place exclosures around the trees. Stana Lennox helped cut the fencing and provided food, water and encouragement for the workers.

As additional precautions, we added

mycorrhizal fungi to the root area of each tree, spread anti-critter crystals around each one, and sprayed the branches with deer repellent. A & S Performance will water every two weeks as necessary through the summer. We aim to give this little forest-to-be every chance to succeed.

The TTLPC is very grateful to Stana and Richard Lennox for allowing us to undertake this project, and to all those workers, both paid and unpaid, who made it happen. In addition, we are announcing a prize to be given to the first person to spot a nesting Louisiana water thrush in the grove. We expect to hand that out in about 20 years.

— M. Kyde



Louisiana Water Thrush