SOME GOOD NEWS!
Manada Conservancy is awarded grant to protect 225 acres

On December 5th, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) announced the long-awaited awards recipient list, and we are on it! We will receive a grant to help purchase a conservation easement on 225 acres on Peter’s Mountain. The grant will cover partial cost of the easement and partial cost of the necessary transaction expenses. Matching costs will be made up of private donations.

We are very excited and grateful to DCNR and the Keystone Fund to be able to conserve these lands. It brings together so many parts of our mission and the missions of a number of Conservancy partners. We are so appreciative of the landowners for their vision for the future of our mountains, and for their recognition of the special resources on their property.

Once the official papers are received, work will begin on the project, and more information about it will be published. Dave McNaughton, Sally Zaino and Jen Hine all worked hard to make this grant application a success.

NOW OPEN! Manada Conservancy's Online Native Plant Pre-Sale
Visit www.manada.org to shop the online store for native perennials, trees, shrubs, and more.

Marsh marigold (Caltha palustris) is the perfect plant to provide a much-needed pop of color after a long winter!

How about a native vine that just happens to be a magnet for hummingbirds? Trumpet Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens)

View these and many more at Manada’s online store.

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It is December 21st, the solstice, as I start composing this letter, a short, largely gray day that used to fill me with dread of the coming winter. Inexplicably, this year I feel instead a sense of quiet joy and the possibility of renewal. It would be easy to feel powerless, to be overwhelmed by all of the problems that face the world. But I have confidence that if we identify just one issue at a time, we can slowly work to fix that problem. And then go on to the next. It helps to have resolute strength and conviction of the need for change coupled with a community who shares that goal. As a physician, I am tremendously encouraged by the medical work of Partners in Health, Doctors without Borders, and closer to home, Bethesda Mission. As an environmentalist, I see enormous world problems that I can’t address at a global level. But we have an opportunity to make a difference locally. We can strengthen the health of our people and the bio-resilience of our county by preservation of land, conservation of resources, and education of our citizens, and the community of Manada Conservancy is essential to achieving that goal.

We have successfully completed our 20/20 campaign! Over 150 (more than 1/3) of our members contributed to match the very generous seed money of $20,000 provided by the Glatfelter Family Foundation. About $15,000 of this money will be used in 2018 to provide support for our general operations that advance our strategic plans. I will let you know as we determine how best the rest of the money might be spent, but we have many choices to consider – signage, equipment for property maintenance, educational programs or supplies, outreach, and land preservation.

We very recently learned that we have been awarded a grant from DCNR to help acquire an easement on 225 acres of very precious mountainside swampland, contiguous to state gamelands and other preserved swampland. This habitat is home to several statewide species of concern, and by preserving this property, we greatly improve the chance that these species can thrive.

The end of the year is also a time to reflect. As I look back on this year, I am very grateful to our members who are so generous of their time and financial resources, our board, and our staff. We have recently added 2 Board Directors, Tom Abendroth and Kyle D’Angelo, who bring much treasured special expertise in administration and finance, as well as good judgment and devotion to our mission. Jen quite smoothly transitioned officially to Executive Director and was able to recruit, identify, and hire Mark Vibbert as Stewardship Director and Karen Haldeman as Office Manager, both of whom not only provide us with very high quality work but are also a joy to work with.
In November we made a very difficult decision to end the employment of our recently hired Development Director, something we have never had to do before. We learned, in part from our members, that the fit was not optimal and not all expectations were shared. From this we learned some valuable, if painful, lessons.

And finally, at this time I look to the future. I feel fortunate to be part of a vibrant and growing organization that has an important mission and is working to make this small part of the world better. We will be busy. We have some excellent educational programs coming up and several easements and a land acquisition to complete this year. And I look forward to joining you in accomplishing all that we can.

With best wishes for a peaceful year,

Richard Zaino

~ Gifts for the Greenway ~
Through our Swatara Greenway Stewardship Program, Manada Conservancy works to create a healthier local watershed by connecting with municipalities, businesses and private landowners to promote good stewardship of the streamside buffers on their land. Through this program, we also regularly host tree plantings and creek-side trash cleanups. We are grateful for recent funds that will be used for these efforts.

Many thanks for the donations received in memory of our dear friend Ben Cooper to be used specifically for tree plantings and creek-side restoration, an effort he found very worthwhile.

We are grateful for the continued support from SUEZ. SUEZ is a Swatara Greenway Steward. The company has partnered with Manada for several riparian planting projects in the past, contributing both financially and with the help of their employees as volunteer planters. Their recent contribution of $500 will help fuel our 2018 efforts.

Just in time for Giving Tuesday, the Newman’s Own Foundation Holiday Challenge, a special online competition through the social fundraising platform CrowdRise, included Manada Conservancy in its launch. We are pleased to report that a little over $1,000 was raised! Many thanks to those who gave support and helped to spread the word through social media about this special opportunity. All funds received through the Challenge will be used to help cover costs associated with creek-side restoration along the Swatara.

Details for a spring planting project are in the works. Stay tuned!

#ManadaConservancy ~ One easy way to help Manada is simply by spreading the word! Look out for our spring events and be sure to share them with your friends on Facebook and Twitter.
Chuck Cladel Retires from Board
Chuck Cladel recently told us of his decision to step down from the Board of Directors upon completion of his term at the end of 2017. The personalities of our Board are quite diverse, and it is Chuck who has been the quiet observer who listens attentively, speaks relatively seldom, occasionally asks questions, and usually has an important observation to make when he speaks. When differences of opinion are noted, he reminds us of our mission and core values, and from those characteristics, we have benefitted greatly.

Chuck (Charles) grew up in Ithaca, NY, and majored in mechanical engineering at University of Rochester, where he met and later married Nancy (in 1962). He attended Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse and was inspired to specialize in Child Psychiatry. His residency was interrupted by 2 years of Air Force service in Anchorage, Alaska, and then completed at the University of Michigan. He, Nancy, and their two children, David and Anne, moved to the Hershey area, where he has practiced in academic medicine and private practice, including providing assistance to children at several schools, over the past 40+ years. He and Nancy share a curiosity about natural history, both local and global, which caused them to visit the Galapagos Islands, the Pantanal, Patagonia (where their son, David, now lives), and the island of Madagascar. His absence from Board meetings will be missed, but fortunately for the Conservancy, Chuck plans to continue to serve on the Preservation Committee. He and Nancy have protected their historic property in East Hanover Township and give much time and attention to the Cladel Preserve. Many thanks, Chuck!

Welcome Tom and Kyle!
Longtime Manada member Tom Abendroth (shown right) was welcomed to the Board this past October after serving as a member on both the Administration and Finance Committees for several months. Tom has a background in information technology and pathology. He is a physician and has served as the Chief Information Officer at Hershey Medical Center among other positions.

At the beginning of this year Tom took on the position of Administration Committee Chair. Among many things, he will be guiding the Board and staff as they work to align Manada’s policies with the recently updated Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices. In his free time, Tom enjoys spending time outdoors, home brewing, and baking. We are fortunate to have him onboard!

We are pleased to introduce new Manada Board member Kyle D’Angelo (shown left). After getting to know the Conservancy’s inner workings through the Administration and Finance Committees, Kyle was welcomed to the Board of Directors this past fall. With a background in accounting and business management, Kyle has been working as Senior Accountant/Analyst for the Hershey Trust Company since 2014.

He has a special appreciation for the Swatara Creek and is eager to become more active with Manada’s land preservation efforts, particularly the Conservancy’s Swatara Greenway Stewardship program. We are happy to announce that Kyle has agreed to take on the role of Conservancy Treasurer and now chairs the Finance Committee.

You’ve taken steps on our Pathway to Preservation!
The donations received for this special fund are designated specifically for Manada’s land preservation initiative and used on the costs associated with land acquisitions or conservation easements. Thank you for your continued support of Manada’s Pathway to Preservation initiative!

The following recipients were recognized with Footprints this season:

James Foster & Tracey Ash (2)  Sharon Fulton  Anne Wain
David & Sharon Cin  Riitta Lukkari (4)  Sally Zaino (2)
Joe & Julia Cin  Carrie & Jesse Moss
**Upcoming Events**

**Nature Therapy: The Health Benefits of Spending Time in Nature**  
Thursday, Feb 8th at 7:00pm  
South Hanover Township Building (161 Patriot Way, Hershey)

Many of us enjoy spending time in nature. But did you know that time spent in nature can lower your blood pressure, boost your immunity, and improve your sense of well-being? Nature Therapy, in particular Forest Bathing, has become a hot topic nationally but has been practiced in Japan for decades. Come and enjoy a talk exploring the health benefits of spending time in nature and how this directly connects to the vision of Manada Conservancy.

Matthew Silvis, MD, is a Professor in the Departments of Family & Community Medicine and Orthopedics & Rehabilitation and is Program Director of the Penn State Hershey Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship. He is also team physician for the Hershey Bears Hockey Club, Lebanon Valley College, and Hershey High School. An avid outdoorsman, Dr. Silvis enjoys hiking, mountain biking, running, gardening, and photography.

*This program is free and open to the public.*

Please register by contacting the Manada Conservancy office at (717) 566-4122 or office@manada.org.

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**NOW OPEN! Manada Conservancy's Online Native Plant Pre-Sale**

Visit [www.manada.org](http://www.manada.org) to shop the online store for native perennials, trees, and shrubs at a 10% discount from the regular sale day price from now until April 15th. *Favorites sell out quickly so shop soon for best selection!*

As this newsletter is going to press, temperatures are frigid and spring seems far away. However the Native Plant Sale Committee has been busy anticipating spring’s arrival! Native perennials, trees, and shrubs can be found in the online presale catalogue. Spend a cozy evening planning the additions to your home landscape. We have an abundance of offerings this year, many of them not easily available elsewhere. Purchase early to be assured of the best selection. Remember, all of our native wildlife depends upon native plants to survive. This includes the butterflies and birds we so enjoy watching as well as the insects that pollinate our food.

*Mark your calendar! Manada Conservancy’s 18th Annual SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE*  
**When:** Saturday, April 28th, *Rain or Shine* 10am-3pm (Members Only from 8am to 10am)  
**Where:** Boro (Schaffner) Park in Hummelstown

Thanks to Manada Board member Dave McNaughton for leading us on a fun hike through the fall foliage at Dauphin County’s recently opened Detweiler Park. The event was one of many going on throughout the state on October 1st as part of the *Walk in Penn’s Woods* initiative to get folks outdoors to enjoy and learn more about our beautiful Pennsylvania forests.

*Stay tuned for details on more outings in 2018!*
Manada Conservancy is grateful to our Corporate, Business & Event supporters!
**Manada’s Director of Preservation Honored**

We are thrilled that Manada’s own Sally Zaino, Preservation Director, was selected by the Lower Dauphin Alumni Association for the LD Distinguished Alumni Award for having been an original founder of the Conservancy and for “her many years of stewardship of the area’s watersheds, forests, and fields.” Shown here is Sally (right) with fellow awardees. More information can be found at www.ldsd.org.

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**Wish List**

- Wagons for hauling plants
- Tables for events (white folding or other)
- Metal U-posts for signs
- Deer camera
- CD/DVD organizer
- Fire-proof safes

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**MEMBERSHIP**

- **NEW MEMBER**
- **RENEWAL MEMBER**

Please Enroll me as a member in the Manada Conservancy for 2018 at the level I have indicated below

- **V**ISIONARY / **C**ORPORATE $1000+
- **B**ENEFACTOR $500 - $999
- **C**ONSERVATOR $250 - $499
- **G**UARDIAN / **B**USINESS $100 - $249
- **S**TEWARD $50 - $99
- **F**RIEND $25 - $49

**Name:** __________________________________________

**Address:** ________________________________________

**Phone:** _________________________________________

**Email:** _________________________________________

**Amount Enclosed:** __________  Check #:___________

**Credit Card:** ________________________________

   Exp.__________  CCV__________

**Signature:** _____________________________________

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**THANK YOU!**

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Mission Statement
Manada Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to preserving the natural, historic, agricultural, and scenic resources of Dauphin County through land conservation, environmental education, and community engagement.

*Manada Conservancy is a member supported organization.*