Tour the Preserved Pronio Farm!

Need an excuse to get outside with plenty of space around you? Want to see an example of Manada Conservancy’s preserved farmland? The Pronio Family welcomes you to visit their property during two days in October. Half of this farm has already been preserved, and the other portion will be preserved in phases over time. It is managed as working fields and woodlands and includes a section of the Horse-Shoe Trail along a stream on the eastern side. While we are losing farmland every day, the Pronios are ensuring that their farm will not be one of those lost.

Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Stop by either day to enjoy a gentle walk around parts of this bucolic farm. Maps will be available, and refreshments will be served courtesy of the landowner. Volunteers (wearing masks) will be on hand with information about Manada Conservancy membership and land preservation, and some “Manada swag” (including logo hoodies perfect for fall weather) will be available for purchase. Many thanks to the Pronio family for inviting us to enjoy their property!

This is a free event, but please contact us at office@manada.org or (717) 566-4122 to RSVP and receive directions to the farm. 

NOTE: please wear a mask while at the farm.
Dear Friends,

I have learned a lot in the last months. I believe that times like these bring out the best in most people, as they navigate through whatever personal challenges are added to the larger, all-encompassing ones.

I’ve also learned more about stress. One stressor expressed to me is a feeling that the world is spinning out of control and that we are helpless. But as I read the news (only in the morning!), one thing is also apparent: people are showing their love by stepping up to the greater need—from food banks to health organizations to land trusts like ours. These are organizations whose work, which is outside of any political arena, gives us a steadiness through times like this. These organizations, and the people who make them, are making a difference.

I’m what you might call a “fixer,” so it’s easy for me to get that helpless feeling. But I have come to see that the work we are doing here at Manada Conservancy is even more important than I realized. Not just in the long term, but right here, right now. It makes me feel like we are helping, not being passive, doing what we do best, to help ensure a safe and healthy future, even in the face of the daily roller-coaster of events.

In spite of the challenges, our work has not slowed down. Although we can’t have the in-person events we were looking forward to, our land preservation work is keeping us quite busy. We are very excited to be working on a variety of projects—some private land that protects pristine waterways, some scenic land that preserves open space, and some land that we all will be able to walk on and enjoy up close. We hope to be able to share details with you soon. This makes me feel as though I, and all of you, as part of the Conservancy, are contributing to something bigger than ourselves, and that we are making a difference. When I see how people are flocking to parks and preserves to hike, kayak and just walk and observe nature, it becomes even more evident that the work we are doing is incredibly important.

Every day I am grateful for our dream team of staff (Jennifer, Mark, Karen, and Chris) who are working under difficult circumstances to keep everything on track. I am grateful for our Board of Directors and committee members who, in spite of the many distractions and the inability to meet in person, remain deeply engaged in our day-to-day work and who remain passionate and committed to our mission. And I am grateful for all of you whose support has not wavered and whose enthusiasm is so encouraging. Please keep sending your photos and messages!

Sally
Walk in Penn’s Woods: getting creative!

The annual Walk in Penn’s Woods event evolved from a statement made by landowner Ruth Park: “I do wish we could ALL get out into the woods for a walk one day!” That idea birthed a partnership of forest organizations and woodland owners, motivating people throughout the state to get into the woods on the first Sunday in October. The organizer of this annual statewide event is the Center for Private Forests at Penn State. Manada Conservancy has participated in this event for the last three years.

Our 2020 walk, originally planned for the Stony Valley Rail Trail, will have a virtual twist this year. In partnership with the Dauphin County Woodland Owners Association and the PA Game Commission, we plan to create a virtual walk, with narration about the rich history of Stony Valley and the wildlife and forest that makes it one of the lovelier and more accessible trails in Dauphin County. We hope to record this in early October, so look for it on our website, in your email, and on social media later in the month.

In the meantime, we invite you to create your own woodland adventure! Visit your favorite forest, or visit Stony Valley yourself to walk or bike the Rail Trail. Send us your photos and stories!

Mysterious Creature of Penn’s Woods: The Allegheny Woodrat

Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 pm (virtual program) Join DCNR Forestry wildlife biologist Aura Stauffer to learn about this tiny, secretive creature that lives in remote rocky habitat. This presentation will discuss the natural history of the woodrat as well as efforts to study and conserve this threatened native woodland packrat. Register at our website (www.manada.org/events) to receive the program link, or contact the office for assistance. (photo: Cal Butchkoski, PGC)

Virtual Trail Guide Available for Clawson-VanDeHei Preserve!

When his summer plans changed, college student Nick Silvis (a volunteer since childhood, and current Public Policy & Environmental Studies major at Gettysburg College) volunteered to create trail signs and a virtual tour highlighting features along the trail at the Conservancy’s Clawson-VanDeHei Preserve. Stop by to enjoy the trail using Nick’s guide, or take a tour virtually! Use your smartphone to scan the QR code here or at the trailhead. You can also download the guide from our website (www.manada.org/preservation/projects/clawson). This trail is open to the public and is accessed at Little Meadow Park in South Hanover Twp. Thanks, Nick, as well as neighbor Tom George for assistance and Home Depot (Derry Street) for donating materials.

Thank you to our education program sponsors!
Walk Supports Manada Conservancy
By Karen Haldeman

Chad Stebbins was planning to support Manada Conservancy through the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community in May 2020.

But when COVID-19 changed the Walk’s structure to a virtual walk only, he expanded his plan to include a long-time dream of hiking the Appalachian Trail. He and a friend took time off work for a “walk-ation,” packed a week’s worth of gear into 25-pound backpacks, and headed to the trailhead at the Mason Dixon line in southern PA. Their goal was to hike 100 miles; they ended up covering 140 miles, exiting the trail a week later near Bethel, PA.

Chad describes the adventure as “the most exhausting and relaxing thing I’ve ever done.” One day was designated as “marathon day,” when they hiked the marathon distance of 26.2 miles. Another day, after a heavy overnight rain, they had to ford the swollen Clark’s Creek without finding the log bridge. Red-headed woodpeckers, colorful newts, and a variety of snakes greeted them occasionally. Mountain laurel blooms at their peak during the hike shared their visual beauty. The rocky geology along the trail in this section of “Rocksylvania” provided stunning views of the state’s forested valleys, compensating for blistered feet.

Having experienced the wildlife, varied habitats, natural grandeur, and uninhabited areas of the trail, Chad saw firsthand how important it is to preserve land. He supports Manada Conservancy because of its local land preservation mission, impacting the community in which he lives.

Chad inspired his friends and family to support his walk by donating over $700 to Manada Conservancy. Their generosity was inspiring to both Chad and the Conservancy. Thank you!

The Rockville Bridge crossing the Susquehanna as seen from the Appalachian Trail. Photos by Chad Stebbins.
Could you use some help integrating native plants into your home landscape? Through Manada Conservancy’s Gardening for Nature program, you can schedule a consultation with our experienced native plant consultant, Laurie Crawford. She will visit your property, discuss your goals, and prepare a suggested landscape design specific to your property. Plan now for planting next spring! Email Laurie at gardeningfornature@manada.org.

Details about services and fees can be found at www.manada.org. A portion of the Gardening for Nature consultation fee helps Manada Conservancy to further our mission of land conservation, environmental education, and community engagement.

Thank you to The Hershey Pantry, we received over $120 from their “Dining for Dollars” program in August. And thanks to YOU for purchasing meals that added to this donation!

Thanks also to Tracy Devenyi and others who have set up birthday fundraisers through Facebook! These easy fundraisers allow your friends to honor your special day and to benefit an organization that is important to you.

New Greenhouse Location Still Needed
Thanks to those who called about potential locations for our native plant nursery greenhouses. We are still assessing sites and searching for an ideal location. The site needs to have a water source, a storage space, and room to place our portable greenhouses as well as to overwinter plants. A permanent (or long-term) central location near Hummelstown/Hershey is important. We don’t have the financial resources to purchase a property or to pay much rent. However, we DO have a vision of expanding native gardens and meadows in our area.

If you know of a property that meets these needs please contact our office by email or phone.

Our online spring and summer native plant sales were very successful. Thanks to everyone for their support!

We are working on plans for 2021. If you are interested in plants and would like to volunteer your time taking care of plants or with planning, please let us know. You don’t need to be a native plant expert; you will learn as you go and have fun in the process.

We are also seeking carpenters to shore up our greenhouse tables. We’d appreciate your skills!

Hey Kids!
Looking for something to do outside before the weather gets cold? Be a detective and help us on a mission to find evidence of animal life! Find a link to some activity pages on our website (www.manada.org/education). Take them with you on your next outdoor adventure. Then share with us what you find!

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Thank you to these recent volunteers!

| Tom Abendroth | Dan Petrucci  |
| Chris Balogh  | Anita Pritchett |
| Bobbie Boyer  | Bonnie Rannels  |
| Dan Boyer     | Sharon Rannels  |
| Greg Burgdorf | Steve Rannels  |
| Paulina Burgdorf | Paul Roundy |
| Carol Buskirk | Mack Ruffin  |
| Kathy Carter  | Nick Silvis    |
| Chuck Cladel  | Anthea Stebbins |
| Nancy Cladel  | Pat Swartz     |
| Moira Cullen  | Lorna Thomas   |
| Kyle D’Angelo | Hilary Vesell  |
| Sue Davis     | Jan Wessell    |
| Tracy Devenyi | Donna Wierzbowski |
| Sue Drexler   | Tom Winner     |
| Kristin Eckert | Richard Zaino |
| Lindsey Glessner | Sally Zaino |
| Caroline Parke |
Manada Conservancy is grateful for our Corporate, Business & Event supporters!

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.
Stewards—that’s you!

The word steward is ancient, derived from the Old English stiwards or stigweard, formed from sty or stig (a hall or pen for cattle or pigs, from the time when this was part of a house) and ward or weard (a guard). The person who manages a pigsty does not initially bring to mind an honored individual, but in fact they were; they protected the primary source of food and clothing for the family and village. In early England and Scotland, steward became the title of the class who managed the affairs of an estate. It later became the Scottish royal house of Stewart. We need such stewards now, to help protect our mission.

Today, stewards are all of us, those of us who support this organization and who provide the foundation of land preservation and environmental education that is the Conservancy mission. You—our members—are part of this honored foundation. Your membership and additional contributions are essential. Renewal time is coming up. Renewing now for 2021 avoids letters and reminders later, so we encourage you to use the coupon below to renew your membership or to become a new member.

About two years ago, we announced the establishment of the Manada Conservancy Endowment Fund. When fully funded, income from this will help to cover some essential expenses each year. We believe that this is a truly critical component of our promise to protect and defend our eased and owned properties forever. Many of you have contributed to this fund, and it is growing. Adding to our Endowment is a true and lasting stewardship, providing a legacy that will help us to steward the primary source of life for our family and village.

If you have questions about the Manada Conservancy Endowment Fund, please contact Rich Zaino at rzaino@manada.org or call (717) 645-2407.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Please enroll me as a member of Manada Conservancy for 2021 at the level I have indicated below

- □ NEW MEMBER
- □ RENEWAL MEMBER

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**Please mail to:**
Manada Conservancy
PO Box 25
Hummelstown, PA 17036

or renew online www.manada.org

- □ I HAVE INCLUDED MANADA CONSERVANCY IN MY LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANS.

**Thank You!**
**Membership level:**

**Membership expiration:**

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October 2020

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper

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**Honoring Manada Conservancy’s Founders**

In 1997, five friends and residents of East Hanover Township formed Manada Conservancy because they were concerned about the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat in our region. Now nearly 25 years later, this organization they founded has preserved nearly 2500 acres of land, hosted dozens of free environmental education programs, developed the Swatara Greenway Stewardship program, and promoted the use of native plants to improve habitat in home landscapes and community spaces… to name a few accomplishments.

To honor these founders—John Connor, Sally Zaino, Suzanne Donovan, Nancy Cladel, and Rich Zaino—the Conservancy’s Board of Directors gifted them with plaques at the December 2019 meeting. And the Conservancy staff recently planted five native white oak trees at our Clawson-VanDeHei Preserve in their honor. As they grow over the coming years, the trees will be both a reminder of the solid foundation these five friends laid and a beacon calling us to continue their vision.

*Karen, Mark, Chris, and Jen plant trees at our Clawson Preserve… with help from four-year-old Emmy Silvis.*