



MANADA CONSERVANCY

Kayaking for Conservation



Manada Conservancy was a proud partner in the 2025 WeConservePA Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit, co-hosted by Dauphin County Parks & Recreation and Visit Hershey and Harrisburg, which took place from September 21 to 23, 2025, at the Hilton Harrisburg. The WeConservePA website describes the conference as Pennsylvania's premier networking, training, and inspirational event for those engaged in all aspects of trail and greenway work.

Conference attendees enjoyed a scenic paddle along the Swatara Creek and had the opportunity to hear updates on the history of the creek and the Union Canal and about the environmental restoration work being done to improve and strengthen the health the creek.

During the float, the Swatara Watershed Association unveiled their new, illustrated Swatara Creek Watershed Map, created by Artist-in-Residence Meg Lemieur. Since the Swatara Creek Watershed is a part of the Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape, this map beautifully showcases an area we are deeply committed to protecting. We're excited to share this artwork with you as both a celebration of local conservation efforts and as a unique way to appreciate the landscape we all care about.



Scan here to see the full map
or visit swatarawatershed.org



Message From Our Board President

Landscapes in Action

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LAND PROTECTION SPECIALIST

Land protection gives a landscape the possibility for everything that depends on it to continue. Stewardship gives it its life, a life capable of spreading far beyond boundaries. Conservation requires both.

A landscape is not simply land. It is the exchange between soil, water, wildlife, and people. When you see a Manada preserved sign at the edge of a property, it represents a landowner who chose to act and a community of Manada members who made that choice possible. Protection happens because of its existing conservation value.

Stewardship happens because of the potential of what it can become. Look closely across our region and you will see that very story unfolding. Native plant gardens, meadow restorations, and riparian buffers begin as small acts of care and grow into healthier, stronger, more connected landscapes. None of it looks remarkable at first, especially the rows of green tubes. But those tubes mark the beginning of transformation.

These plants carry more than leaves. They carry the beginnings of balance and the promise of renewal. Their shade cools the water. Their roots steady the banks. Insects, birds, and the quiet signs of recovering ecosystem. A once barren piece of land becomes a living corridor capable of improving entire landscapes.

These are Landscapes in Action.

None of this happens alone. It takes landowners who protect their land and those who tend their woods, fields, and gardens every day. It takes volunteers who plant, weed, water, and return. It takes partners who guide restoration with skill and patience. And it takes leaders whose steady presence shape our land into thriving landscapes.

As we look toward 2026, our theme Landscapes in Action reflects a simple truth. Conservation is not still. It moves through people and across the land. Landscapes grow and respond to the care they receive, and we share the responsibility and privilege of shaping what comes next.

In the year ahead, I invite you to see the land not only for what it is, but for what it can become. Notice and share the action around you. Celebrate the small changes that grow into big ones. And join us in the work ahead.

Together, we are not only protecting landscapes. We are helping them thrive.



Volunteer Voices

Hats Off & On for Shawn Jacobs

BY ANNE WAIN



Former Stewardship Director Shawn Jacobs has transitioned to a volunteer role. While sad to leave Manada staff, he is excited about his next chapter. We're glad Shawn's contagious positivity will remain part of the Manada family.

Shawn's first interaction with Manada was as a volunteer at a buffer planting. The trees weren't the only ones to set down new roots that day. Shawn heard people talking about a stewardship position vacancy, threw his hat in the ring-and got the job.

Shawn wears many hats-especially ear-warming styles. "I'm a big winter sports guy. Growing up in Maine I spent my time ice fishing, snowmobiling, and skiing." He also served 12 years in the Navy and worked for T Mobile for 22 years.

These days Shawn sports both a Penn State Extension hat-he's Coordinator for the Lower Susquehanna Master Watershed Steward program-and a "thinking cap" for his new consultancy business.

He hopes to lead volunteer teams on field projects like last summer's Milton Hershey School crews at the Clawson Preserve, whose tireless work in buggy, boggy conditions removed massive amounts of invasive vegetation. Shawn was "grateful for those strong teenage muscles" that pulled not only invasives but also the School's bus from some very deep mud.

Welcome New Staff

BY ANNE WAIN



Logan Andrew Daly joined Manada Conservancy in October as our new Land Protection Specialist. With degrees in Humanities and Philosophy, he is an American Studies PhD candidate and adjunct lecturer at Penn State Harrisburg,

studying how narratives shape our understanding of nature.

He discovered land preservation while working at Fort Hunter Mansion & Park, where Manada board member Anthea Stebbins introduced him to conservation easements. "I always knew there had to be a way to save special natural places," he said.

In his new role, Logan enjoys property inspections, working with landowners, and navigating compliance standards. In his free time, he bands northern saw-whet owls, reads, plays guitar, and fly fishes.



Caitlin Troxell joined Manada staff as Outreach Specialist in May 2025. From the Gettysburg area, she graduated from college in Florida and served with AmeriCorps VISTA in Alaska before returning to PA. She had never heard of Manada

but loved its service-oriented, environmentally focused mission.

Her 4Ocean internship was her first taste of mission-driven work, and she has "always gravitated towards helping communities, supporting education, and strengthening connections to the natural world." She enjoys interacting with staff and volunteers and attending Conservancy education programs

An avid hiker and travel buff, she is discovering Pennsylvania's outdoorsy offerings after her far-North and sunny-South experiences. In her free time, she enjoys knitting, stained glass, and painting.



Manada Conservancy
 P.O. Box 25
 Hummelstown, PA 17036
 717.566.4122
 www.manada.org

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