



MANADA

CONSERVANCY

IN THIS ISSUE

A Letter From the Executive Director	2
Protecting the Kittatinny Ridge Through Partnership	3
Volunteer Stewardship Makes an Impact Along the Swatara	4
Endless Mountain	6



Experience Art in The Landscape

This September, Manada Conservancy is inviting the community to experience one of our permanently protected properties in a unique way: through the eyes of local artists.

On Saturday, September 12, we're partnering with the Hershey Area Art Association to host a Plein Air Event at the scenic Pronio Family Farm. Throughout the day, talented painters will spread out across the property, capturing its fields, woodlands, pond, and rolling countryside in original works of art created entirely outdoors.

Derived from the French phrase meaning "in the open air," plein air painting is the tradition of painting directly from nature rather than from photographs or in a studio. Visitors will have the opportunity to watch artists as they work, meet the participating painters, and see the beauty of this conserved landscape transformed onto canvas.

Continued on page 3.





A Letter From The Executive Director

I'm often asked what it means when we say Manada Conservancy protects land "in perpetuity," and it's a valid question. My favorite answer is simply,

"forever," but that doesn't usually satisfy folks. It isn't uncommon for them to press me on whether I truly mean *forever*. I get it; it sounds a little far-fetched to think that our organization exists to protect land not just for one generation, but for all those to come. A more satisfying answer is the following anecdote...

Last year, while I was working as Manada Conservancy's Land Protection Specialist, I came across a letter in the file for Seek No Further Farm, protected by Casper "Cap" Kohler through a conservation easement in 1999. The letter I found was written by his children in 2011 to notify us that the property had been sold. Most of the letter was practical, sharing the date of the transfer, the names of the new owners, their contact information, etc. Near the end, however, Cap's children wrote something that stopped me:

"We have appreciated working with the Conservancy since our dad's death in 2003. Your support in helping us to understand and appreciate what our dad did in preserving the farm has meant a lot. We knew how important it was to him to 'leave this speck of land' better than he found it."

I'll admit, I'm a sap. That part of the letter brought tears to my eyes and put the meaning of

"perpetuity" into perspective. It was confirmation that Cap's commitment to the land did not end with his life, nor did Manada Conservancy's commitment to his family end when the farm changed hands. Today, Seek No Further Farm is owned by Ed Arnold, who did not establish its conservation easement but inherited both its protections and the responsibility of caring for it. He is a wonderful steward of the property, and he remains in regular contact with us beyond our annual monitoring visits.

This is what perpetuity looks like.

It is a landowner making a decision with an impact that will extend far beyond his own lifetime. It is his children coming to understand the significance of that decision. It is a new owner embracing the responsibility that comes with protected land. It is also Manada Conservancy remaining present through every transition, not merely holding a legal document but sustaining a relationship with the people who care for that place.

So, when we say "in perpetuity," we really do mean forever. We mean that long after today's landowners, staff members, and board members are gone, Manada Conservancy must still be here keeping promises made to people like Cap and protecting the land they trusted us to protect.

That is the responsibility we have inherited. With your support, it is one we intend to honor for generations to come.

Logan Andrew Daly
Executive Director

STAFF



Jennifer Dunlap
Land Protection Director



Chris Silvis
Director of Finance



Caitlin Troxell
Outreach Specialist

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

Kyle D'Angelo	President
Hilary Peery Vesell	Vice President
Virginia Bonifant	Secretary
Anthea Stebbins	Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Mike Adams	Anita Pritchett
Jennifer Fetter	Michelle Wohlfarth
Chad Saylor	

EMERITUS BOARD

Tom Abendroth	Suzanne Donovan	Sharon Rannels
Bobbie Boyer	Jim Egenrieder	Lindsey Scheib
Greg Burgdorf	Linus Fenicle	Richard Williams
Nancy Cladel	Mary Houts	Rich Zaino
John Conner	Sally McKeever	Sally Zaino
Tracy Devenyi	Bonnie Rannels	

Continued from page 1

In addition to live painting, we've expanded this year's event with a full schedule of activities for all ages:

10:00 AM-1:00 PM: Nature Scavenger Hunt

By completing the activity children will explore the property, learn about nature, and become a certified Junior Conservationist.

11:00 AM-12:00 PM: Nature Journaling Workshop with Jennifer Dunlap

Discover how nature journaling combines art, science, and mindfulness while encouraging observation, curiosity, and stewardship of the natural world.

12:00-1:00 PM: Brush with Nature Children's Painting Session with Sally McKeever

Young artists are invited to create their own masterpieces inspired by the living landscape surrounding them.

2:00-3:00 PM: A Conversation on Land Preservation

Join Manada Conservancy staff and partners for a question and answer panel exploring how land is protected forever, why conservation matters, and how local landowners can preserve their own properties.

Throughout the day, guests can also enjoy delicious food from MKT Tacos and sweet treats from Cubby's Cruiser Ice Cream while exploring the farm and supporting local artists.

Come celebrate the connection between creativity and conservation and experience firsthand how protected landscapes continue to inspire artists and our community alike.



Interested in getting involved?
See what volunteer opportunities are available here!

Protecting the Kittatinny Ridge Through Partnership

By Jennifer Dunlap, *Land Protection Director*

Stretching nearly 200 miles across Pennsylvania, the Kittatinny Ridge is one of the Commonwealth's most important and recognizable landscapes. Its forests and working lands support wildlife, protect water resources, and form the natural backdrop of northern Dauphin County. Protecting this portion of the Ridge is central to Manada Conservancy's mission.

This past June, Manada joined approximately 90 representatives from conservation organizations, government agencies, academic institutions, and other partners at Fort Indiantown Gap for the first Kittatinny Ridge All Partners Meeting. The gathering brought together partners involved in both the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape and the newly designated Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape to discuss shared priorities for the region.

The Sentinel Landscape designation recognizes an important overlap: the same farms and forests that



Photograph by Katie Orlinsky/Wildpath

support wildlife and local communities also help protect Fort Indiantown Gap's ability to carry out its military mission. Development around the installation can reduce open space, increase light pollution, and create conflicts with training. Protecting the surrounding landscape therefore serves both conservation and military-readiness goals.

Continued on page 4.

This is where Manada fills a distinct local role.

Regional partnerships help identify priorities and bring resources together, but permanent conservation still depends on organizations that can work directly with willing landowners and accept responsibility for protecting their land forever. In Dauphin County, we carry out this work through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program in partnership with the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation.

Through this partnership, we connect with landowners to permanently protect farms, forests, and other important open lands surrounding Fort Indiantown Gap. The properties remain privately owned and continue to be used by the people who care for them, while conservation easements ensure that they remain protected in perpetuity.

Manada has now completed eleven land-protection projects through the REPI program. Each one contributes to the larger effort to protect the Kittatinny Ridge, but each also begins with an individual landowner making a lasting decision about the future of their property.

The All Partners Meeting was a reminder that our work in Dauphin County is part of something much larger. It was also a reminder of the role Manada fills, which is translating regional conservation priorities into land protection realities.

That work continues. We are currently pursuing the protection of approximately 500 additional acres through the REPI program in 2026 and look forward to sharing more as those projects move forward.



Volunteer Stewardship Makes an Impact Along the Swatara

By Logan Andrew Daly, *Executive Director*

Over two recent workdays, volunteers made a remarkable amount of progress at Manada Conservancy's Clawson-VanDeHei Preserve in South Hanover Township. The preserve lies along the Swatara Creek and was the first official piece of the Swatara Greenway. Originally six and a half acres, it grew to eight acres in 2024 when we acquired an adjacent property, giving the community a dedicated parking area and direct access to the creek. Although small in size, this preserve protects important riparian habitat along the Swatara, provides public access to nature, and contains a section of the historic Union Canal and towpath.

The larger of the two workdays was held in partnership with the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association (PWEA) along with planning and coordination support from Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG). More than 40 volunteers came together to install over 600 native plants throughout the preserve. This project also included the installation of interpretive signage that will give

visitors a better understanding of the property's ecological and historical significance, highlighting both the native plants added to the property and the environmental context of the Union Canal.

That same week, a team from Schneider Electric returned to the preserve for another day of hands-on stewardship. Their volunteers removed invasive multiflora rose and planted disease-resistant elm trees, continuing the long process of restoring a healthy native plant community at the preserve.

This work builds upon several years of invasive removal and native planting on this property and stands as a great example of how we want to continue engaging the community in the valuable stewardship work entrusted to us. As a membership-based land trust, it is our community that not only enables us to pursue our mission but also helps shape our vision for the future. Through volunteering, our members shape that vision directly.

A sincere thank-you goes to PWEA, HRG, Schneider Electric, Jacobs Environmental Stewardship, and every volunteer who gave their time to these projects. The results are already visible, but the full benefit will emerge over the coming years as the new plants take root and the preserve continues to grow.



Volunteers have...



Installed informational Signs.



Planted over 600 native plants.



Installed a rain barrel to support tree watering during growing season.

MANADA CONSERVANCY PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

Partners in Preservation have protected land with Manada Conservancy

Anonymous
Barry & Deborah Everly
Carolyn Shaffer
Casper Kohler
Charles and Nancy Cladel
Chuck & Brenda Witmer
County of Dauphin
Don and Jennifer Smith
Doug & Nadine Neidich
Dr. William S. Gordon
Gary Clawson & Diane VanDeHei
Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA
Goldie Boyer & Fern Hartman
J&J Hospitality Enterprises

James & Louise Irwin
Jay Megonnell
Jeff Neely
Joseph & Linda Taylor
Kenneth & Karen Lehman
Mary Louise Sherk
Mary Osbakken & Lynn Holmes
Max & Erika Lauffer
Parkway Farms, Inc.
Peter & Mary Houts
Rhonda & Murray Laudenslager
Richard & Doris Vickroy
Richard and Sally Zaino
Rob Fritchey

Shirley Witmer
The Detweiler Family
The Dougherty Family
The Ernest Champagne Family
The Horvath Family
The King Family
The Logan Family
The Pronio Family
The Shirk Family
Vic and Jean Rohrer
Walter & Diana Koerber
Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation



Endless Mountain

How the Kittatinny Corridor Provides Beauty, Value, and Life.

Stretching across Pennsylvania's landscape, the Kittatinny Ridge is far more than a scenic backdrop; it's one of the most important wildlife migration corridors in the eastern United States and a vital part of our region's natural heritage.

Join Manada Conservancy for an engaging presentation exploring how the Kittatinny Corridor supports wildlife, strengthens local communities, and contributes to the health of ecosystems across the hemisphere. You'll learn why this iconic landscape is considered one of the most valuable and resilient conservation corridors in North America, hear about the latest scientific research, and discover the ongoing efforts to protect it for future generations.

The program will be presented by Sally Zaino, one of

Manada Conservancy's five founders and a lifelong conservation advocate. Sally has played a leading role in protecting hundreds of acres within the Kittatinny Corridor and has served on numerous conservation and land-use planning initiatives throughout Dauphin County. In 2020, she received the Pennsylvania Forestry Association's Mira Lloyd Dock Conservationist of the Year award for her dedication to Pennsylvania's forests.

Whether you're interested in conservation, wildlife, local history, or simply want to better understand the mountain that defines our landscape, this presentation offers a fascinating look at one of our region's greatest natural treasures.

Family Nature Walks

Get outside and discover the wonders of nature together! Join Manada Conservancy for a fun, guided family walk as we trek the trails, look for wildlife, discover plants and insects, and experience the changing season at a relaxed pace. This is a great opportunity for children and adults to explore and make lasting memories outdoors.

Thanks to SHARE (Sandy Hollow Arts and Recreation for the Environment) for the generous contribution to the program.

September 27

2 sessions designed for different age groups:

2-2:45 PM (ages 4-10)

3-3:45 PM (ages 8+)



Explore our upcoming events and register here!

MANADA CONSERVANCY IS GRATEFUL TO ALL OF OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS WHO HELP PROTECT DAUPHIN COUNTY!



Dauphin County Woodland Owners Assoc.
Hankins Computer Service, Inc.
Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy

Jacobs Environmental Stewardship
Stony Creek Valley Coalition Inc.

MEMBERSHIP

☐ NEW MEMBER

☐ RENEWAL MEMBER

Manada Conservancy is a 501(c)3 organization. Our tax identification #25-1784517.

- ☐ BUSINESS PARTNER \$100 AND ABOVE
- ☐ FRIEND \$35 - \$49
- ☐ STEWARD \$50 - \$99
- ☐ GUARDIAN \$100 - \$249
- ☐ CONSERVATOR \$250 - \$499
- ☐ BENEFACTOR \$500 - \$999
- ☐ VISIONARY \$1000 - \$4999
- ☐ TRILLIUM \$5000+

Monthly donations must be set up online.



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

Use this QR code to donate online, or visit
www.manada.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Check #: _____

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

☐ PLEASE CALL ME TO DISCUSS PLANNED GIVING OPTIONS.

☐ I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER; PLEASE CONTACT ME.

THANK YOU!



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

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 564



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING 2026 EVENTS

Check our website, Eventbrite page, your inbox, and future newsletters for details about these and other events!

August 11, Champions for Conservation
5pm - 8pm | Linglestown American Legion
505 North Mountain Rd, Linglestown, PA
An evening with five-time NASCAR Cup winner and wildlife conservationist Ward Burton. Dinner included. Buy your tickets now!

September 3 | Endless Mountain
7pm - 8pm | East Hanover Township Building
328 N Crawford Rd, Grantville, PA
Learn about the ecological importance of the Kittatinny Ridge and why protecting it matters. Free education program.

September 12, Plein Air at Pronio Farm
10am - 4pm | Pronio Family Farm
401 Douglas Rd, Hummelstown, PA
Join us for a special day of outdoor painting, children's activities, and food at the beautifully preserved Pronio Family Farm.

September 27 | Family Nature Walks
East Hanover Township Nature Park

328 N Crawford Rd, Grantville, PA

2-2:45 PM (ages 4-10)

3-3:45 PM (ages 8+)

Join us for a fun, guided family walk as we trek the trails, look for wildlife, discover plants and insects, and experience the changing season at a relaxed pace.

Thanks to our education program sponsor!

