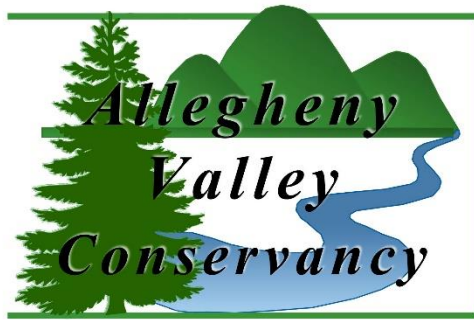


Allegheny Valley Conservancy



Message for the Fall 2023

From the President Deb Frawley

The year is coming to an end again, but the mission of the Allegheny Valley Conservancy (AVC) doesn't wane. While AVC's mission involves the promotion of good land use and providing public access through the protection, conservation and management of the wonderful natural-resource-rich land in the watershed, our goal also includes connecting with people. Read on to learn about the fun we had with new friends and the story telling remembrance of a previous land donor. We are also working with a new land owner to help conserve her land. And we have a new look to our website. While we love to connect with the public and landowners, we are also working behind the scenes. Our volunteer board members mowed grass, encouraged bees to build their nest somewhere other than in our pavilion, treated an invasive plant species to keep it from spreading, placed signs and boundary markers and worked with other like-minded conservation groups to further their projects. AVC also wants to thank our members, donors, and event sponsors. Your contributions enable us to do our work, pay the insurance and provide access to you to enjoy this natural world. Read on to learn how you can join us.

Summer Sojourn Fun with New Members

The AVC has had a wonderful summer and are continuing our work into the fall. We had a lovely sojourn in early August with lots of folks floating on the Allegheny and then gathering for some food and beverage. There were fifteen folks in kayaks on the river putting in at the launch at the SaltBox Visitor Center and traveling south to the takeout at Fisherman's Cove about nine miles downriver. There were a few of the AVC board paddling along with our guests who enjoyed the sunshine and the beautiful views from the river. Afterwards, we were transported to the parking lot at the SaltBox by OARS, one of our sponsors, and from there met again at the Trails to Ales II to enjoy some food and conversation. We had the chance then to talk about the goals of the Conservancy and how our participants saw these goals as some of their own. We were pleased to present information about our current properties and to talk about our hopes for the future. We awarded some gifts donated by our sponsors to our guests, and all in all had a lovely afternoon. Each participant's registration fee included a one-year membership in AVC. Our non-profit, all-volunteer organization depends on donations and memberships. We are planning this event for next summer, and hope to involve more young people in this fun activity.

Land Donor's Visit to Remember When

Later this summer, we met with Ed Woll, the donor of the property that has become the Woll Nathanson Preserve. He came from his home in California to visit some friends in Pennsylvania, so also came north from Pittsburgh to spend some time hiking on the land that he treasured. This tract was important enough to Ed that he donated it to us so that it could be available to others for walking, hiking, hunting and camping. Ed was delighted to spend a few hours, even in the rain, walking across the property that he loved many years ago when he was a student at Carnegie Mellon. He and his friend Harvey Nathanson came up on weekends to this region to explore and enjoy the outdoors here. Over the years they would come occasionally with family but their desire to make this space available to the public caused them to search his options here. They chose the AVC as the best chance to preserve this wonderful property and make it open to others. We spent a delightful evening having dinner with Ed, listening to his hopes and stories of his adventures here and how happy he is to have this place open to others.



More Potential Land News

The Alleghany Valley Conservancy is working with a potential land donor whose property on French Creek has valuable forest and conservation characteristics. We walked the property with a forester who informed us about the value of the wooded areas there, and have had a realtor assess the value of this property, including the donation of a conservation easement. We aren't sure at this point what might come of it but there is a great deal of potential for this property to serve in many different capacities for education, conservation, recreation or agriculture. The owner is hoping to find the right opportunities to donate this place as homage to her late husband, with whom she cleared brush, planted native trees and plants, and built a small house.

New AVC Website!

We are also pleased to introduce to all of you our updated website. The talents and skills of our president Deb Frawley made possible this new site which has much more information, more photos, better insight into our properties, and is more interactive. Thanks, Deb! Check out <https://www.avc-pa.org> to explore this expanded look at who we are, what we do and where and why we are doing it.



Our pavilion at Dotter is now free of some bees who'd hoped to camp there. That means that it's open and available to you. With a table and a nearby fire ring, it's a great place to hang out before or after using the launch to spend some time on the river.

If you have interest in assisting with our mission of conserving valuable properties and making them available to the public, please become a member of the AVC, through the information below, and perhaps offer to volunteer through a method that works for you. We can use help with outdoor projects, administrative planning, public relations and promotion, fundraising and grantwriting and other areas. Please complete the form and send it to the address below.

Allegheny Valley Conservancy Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Select your membership category

Individual: \$20 _____ Family: \$25 _____

Patron: \$50 _____ Benefactor: \$100 _____

Lifetime: \$1000 _____

Please submit form with your check to The Allegheny Valley Conservancy, P.O. Box 96, Franklin, PA 16323.

