



The Spring Newsletter of

***The Allegheny Valley Conservancy***

P.O. Box 96

Franklin, PA 16323

***A Message from our President, Debra Frawley***

We are entering a new season. Winter has turned to spring, migration is happening, the usual changes that come as the world keeps spinning. The Allegheny Valley Conservancy is also entering a new season. 2022 brought unexpected changes to the Board of Directors with the death of a long-time member and the marriage of another. But, our Board is also growing with new members bringing new perspectives.

The visibility of our properties is also growing. Our boundary markers placed where people can see will help to invite them to investigate the land we are helping to conserve with conservation easements and the lands we own which are open for public visits. Last year brought us a new property owner looking to conserve her property as an active sanctuary for the ecosystems and wildlife found there near French Creek. She and AVC are working out the details of protecting her property. And partners we have previously worked with are continuing to monitor and manage their lands while neighboring landowners are learning more about us.

As 2023 brings new challenges and opportunities to AVC as an organization, we invite you to also enter into new possibilities by learning about your land and natural community and how the Conservancy can help. Join us at our events this year and if you can, support us with a membership or donation.

Thank you,  
Debra Frawley, President

**Allegheny Valley Conservancy Officers and Board of Directors**

President: Debra Frawley

Vice President:

Secretary: Sue Hilton

Treasurer: John Holden

Directors: Kelly Holden, Devin Lineman,  
Keith Pemrick, Terri Wittreich

## Lance Bowes, Our Beloved Board Member 1965 - 2022



Long-time AVC board member and current vice president Lance Bowes died unexpectedly on Friday, September 30, 2022, leaving both a hole in our board and holes in our hearts. Lance had served on our board for many years and was an integral part of our organization.

Lance was the District Manager of the Venango Conservation District, a position he'd held for many years. His work there, along with his knowledge of the conservation community, contributed substantially to the work of the Conservancy. He held a degree in geology from Clarion University. He is survived by his wife Melissa and their daughter Samantha Whitmer and her husband Jordan.

Lance brought his knowledge of his craft to help with our projects. Debbie Frawley, our President who has worked with Lance on many projects both inside and outside of the Conservancy, called him our technical advisor. He knew all of the rules, regulations and recommendations about how all of the elements of a project should work. For example, he knew the grades of materials and their thickness and slope that would build a kayak access. His expertise helped build and maintain the river access at our Dotter property.

His familiarity with the entire conservation community was also quite valuable. He knew the agencies and organizations working in this field and knew most of the people working in them. He was always able to put us in touch with people we could help us with whatever question we couldn't answer ourselves.

Board member Keith Pemrick admired Lance's quiet presence in meetings, knowing that he was carefully listening to others, and that when he would contribute to the conversation, it would be in an important and impactful way.

Lance was also a very calm, respectful and optimistic person. Board member Sue Hilton recalls that he always ended each conversation or email by sending well wishes, hoping we all had a great afternoon, or sending a blessing. He was cheerful and always pleasant, and interacted with all of the board's contacts with respect and interest. He could talk with anyone about our work, listening to their concerns and helping them to understand how our work could benefit them.

Lance loved to be outdoors, even at a hot work session at Dotter or being on the river at one of our cleanups. He was a big champion of this event, working hard from the first steps of planning through to the end of the day and writing up the final details. He was a great grant-writer and was able to secure funding for us for events and restoration projects. As you can see, we miss him sorely.

## ***Our Summer Event, August 4, 2023 - A Tribute to Lance***



For the past several years, every August, we've held a clean-up event somewhere on the Allegheny River. This important body of water is key to our work and our region, and we've enjoyed having folks join us in kayaks and canoes to gather trash from various sections of the river. Then we've awarded prizes and have some lunch at the end site with our volunteers. We're planning to switch things up a bit this year. We'll still be on the river for part of the day, and end the time with some refreshment and conversation.

***Friday, August 4, 2023***

***Float the Allegheny River from Franklin to Fisherman's Cove***

***Meeting at the SaltBox Visitor Center at 9:30 am***

***River Float 10 - 2***

The Allegheny River is always beautiful but this section is one of the prettiest anywhere on its length. While our main purpose is not to collect trash, we hope you'll pick up anything you find. When we get off the river at Fisherman's Cove (it's about a 3-1/2 – 4 hour float), we will have shuttles to get you and your boats back to the SaltBox.

***Gather at Trails to Ales II on 12<sup>th</sup> Street Franklin***

***Private Gathering at this venue 3 – 5 pm***

We have this lovely site to ourselves for a couple of hours to enjoy the food and beverages they offer while having lots of good conversations, anything from discussion about what the river means to you, to which areas or elements of our region deserve protection.

### **More plans for this season**

There is much more work to be done this season. Feel free to join or support us.

- Keeping the kayak access and picnic area at Dotter safe and fun to use;
- Maintaining our properties. There are remnants of past owners that still need to be removed;
- Planning a visit from a former owner who donated his family property to AVC to conserve it and make it available to others; he's coming from California;
- Working with new friends who want to conserve their property;
- Updating our website so that we can interact with you better and more frequently.

## ***Membership in the Allegheny Valley Conservancy***

As we start this summer season, we reflect on all that we have been able to accomplish through the support of our partners, friends and community. We are thankful for the confidence placed in us by those who have conserved their property with our assistance. But there is much more to be done, and we can't do it without you.

Your membership in AVC is critically important to us. It provides us with a bit of regular income. It helps us to know that our work means enough to you that you will join with us in membership. It's reassuring to know that a group of like-minded people are around to support us. Please print out the membership form below and mail it to us with your check, or contact us through our website.

Membership isn't the only way you can help, though. Perhaps you'd like to work on maintenance of our physical properties, or help with research, grant-writing, publicity or fundraising. Perhaps you know of someone who is thinking about how to preserve their property for the long term.

There are many ways you can help the AVC continue its important work. Please think about it, contact us and we'd be happy to sit down and have a talk about how you can join with us in our mission.

### **Allegheny Valley Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Membership Category**

Individual \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Benefactor \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_

Are there volunteer projects/skills you'd like to contribute?

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Please return form with check to the Allegheny Valley Conservancy, P.O.Box 96,  
Franklin, PA 16323.

[www.avc-pa.org](http://www.avc-pa.org)

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