



# Volunteer Newsletter

June 2014

## Volunteer Efforts So Far

### Projects:

Front desk, Bristol Marsh Educational Outreach, Quakertown Nesting Bird Survey, Gardening at Aldie, multiple mailings, Introduction to Fishing, Bellwood Trail Cleanup, multiple committees, and more!

**Total Volunteers so far: 203**

### Volunteer Hours:

April = 326.07; May = 224; June so far = 132

**TOTAL Volunteer Hours = 1,393!**

## *Working Together to Tell the Tale*

*By Akire Bubar, Volunteer Newsletter Editor & Volunteer Receptionist*

In the past few weeks we've gotten a lot of positive feedback regarding last month's first-ever edition of the Heritage Conservancy Volunteer Newsletter – and we're so glad you're pleased! Since then a number of people have stepped up to contribute articles & photos to this month's newsletter, and it's really exciting to see such enthusiasm. We are hoping to truly make this a newsletter for *and* by our volunteer community. If there's a volunteer event that you'd like to write about, or photos you'd like to share, please let us know! Feel free to contact Shannon Fredebaugh at [emailaddress@heritageconservancy.org](mailto:emailaddress@heritageconservancy.org) or 123-456-7890 x987 if you want to contribute.



*Cooks Creek Tributary, Fuller Preserve*

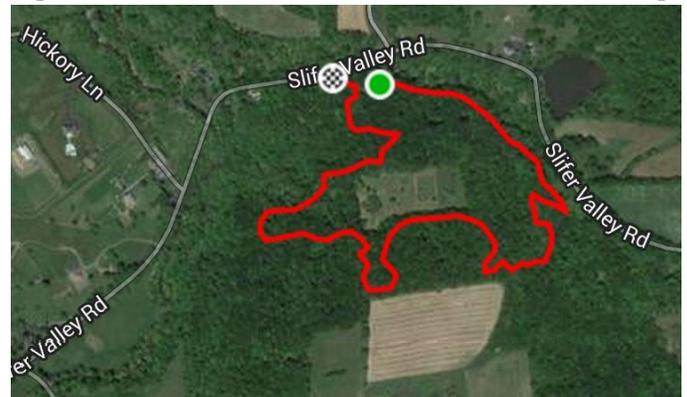
*Photo by Bill Brodhead*

## *Fuller Preserve Cleanup*

*By Bill Brodhead, Trail Volunteer*

The Heritage Conservancy has many beautiful properties, but there is one in particular all of its members should know – Fuller Preserve. Soon after Joan and Peter Fuller

transferred 64 wooded acres to the Conservancy 20 years ago, a hiking trail in the preserve that runs along a Cooks Creek tributary was dedicated to Jere Knight. Jere was a local writer, teacher, editor, ecologist, poet, and citizen of the world. She was also renowned for her dedication to Cooks Creek. This year the Jere Knight Trail has been expanded from a walk above the creek into a 1.6 mile loop



that wanders along the tributary, past a deep ravine, alongside two meadows, and through some old growth forest areas. The diversity of the scenery is amazing, and this trail has to be considered one of the prettiest loop trail

hikes in all of Bucks County. A group of Conservancy volunteers donated a Saturday afternoon on June 7<sup>th</sup> to help improve the trail and work on soil erosion prevention. This is an ongoing process, and the trail is in need of additional volunteer work. For now, the trail is open to anyone hiking, dog walking, or just enjoying the sheer beauty of it. Parking is limited to one or two vehicles. For an overview of the trail, maps, directions, photos, and a link to more info about the dynamic woman for whom the trail is named, please refer to the following website:

<http://www.wpb-radon.com/Jere.Knight.Trail.html> .

*Website created by Bill Brodhead; Satellite View & Map of Jere Knight Trail, Fuller Preserve, provided by Bill Brodhead*



*Trail Cleanup Volunteers at the Fuller Preserve*

## ***Many Faces, One Voice:***

***Nancy Pond Brown – Committee Member and Volunteer Extraordinaire***

***By Akire Bubar, Volunteer Newsletter Editor & Volunteer Receptionist***

This month we'd like to introduce you to a volunteer who has contributed greatly to the Heritage Conservancy for over 40 years! Nancy first connected with the Heritage Conservancy, then called the Bucks County Conservancy, while chairing the Doylestown Borough Architectural & Historical Review Board, an office she held from 1971-1980. This was one of the first such boards set up through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. She went on to serve on the Bucks County Conservancy's Board of Directors from 1986 until 1995. Nancy writes, "The Conservancy's headquarters, at that time, were housed above a store in downtown Doylestown, and the organization was poised to become a significant part of the



developing conservation movement. It was an exciting time as a dedicated membership was actively growing the organization and augmented the work of our small, talented staff."

Nancy served on the Development Committee when Aldie Mansion was first acquired. Following the move to Aldie, as the Conservancy went through a period of rapid expansion, Nancy formed a steering committee to develop the volunteer component of the Conservancy's operations.

Nancy is currently a member of the County Architectural Review Board, which is responsible for evaluating properties for the County Register. She is also on the Membership Activities Committee of the Heritage Conservancy.

Aside from her work for the Heritage Conservancy, Nancy has held many notable positions locally, including the Superintendent's Council and the Bucks County Commissioner's Task Force on Open Space. She was appointed President of the Woman's Committee of the Bucks County Historical Society at the Mercer Museum. She describes herself as having always been "a student of, and advocate for, how to manage our natural, historical and community resources through changing times." Nancy Brown is a tremendous asset to the Heritage Conservancy community, and we are lucky to have her!

## ***Volunteers Assist with Nesting Bird Survey in Quakertown Swamp***

***By Akire Bubar, Volunteer Newsletter Editor & Volunteer Receptionist***

One of the most exciting projects this month has been the nesting bird survey in the Quakertown Swamp. Over the course of about two weeks, expert volunteer birder Diane Allison led a group of Delaware Valley College students and volunteer birders through the Quakertown Swamp at various times of day to observe the local bird population. Focusing primarily on the Heritage Conservancy's 84 acre wild plant sanctuary at the heart of the swamp, participants watched carefully and recorded all of the different species of birds seen engaging in nesting behaviors. To ensure uniform collection and recording of data, all participating birders were provided with the codes and data sheets used by the PA Breeding Bird Atlas. More than 91 species of birds are known to nest in the swamp and over 50 species of birds were spotted during the course of this study, the purpose of which is to assemble comprehensive data about

the breeding bird population in the Quakertown Swamp. This information will then be used to assist the Heritage Conservancy in stewarding the unique habitat and vital natural resources of this important wetland area.



*From left to right:  
Elizabeth Grietzer,  
Larissa Babicz,  
Jennifer New  
and Diane Allison*

This survey is part of a larger plan to create educational materials about the varied ecosystems within the swamp and the birds living there for visiting birders. In particular, the Heritage Conservancy plans to produce a self-guided bird tour of the Quakertown Swamp, with the added goal of helping to advance eco-tourism in Bucks County. The Conservancy is also planning a few workshops later in the year on birding and creating habitat for wild birds. Stay tuned to the Heritage

Conservancy's website or Facebook page for more details!



## ***Farm-to-Table Fundraiser, July 26<sup>th</sup>*** ***By Lisa Schubel, Business Membership Committee & Farm to Table Committee Volunteer***

Heritage Conservancy's Farm to Table fundraiser is a fun-filled evening under the stars filled with great food and company. This is my fourth year as chair of the Farm to Table committee. It has been a fantastic experience, not only because it is such a wonderful event but also because I have met many like-minded individuals who share my vision of open space, historic preservation, and sustainable living. I love that the event is held at Lindsay Farm Preserve, one of Heritage Conservancy's picturesque properties, because being there affirms the spirit of preservation. Both silent and live auctions will be held that night and proceeds will benefit land preservation efforts, including the preservation of the Lindsay Farm barn.

Please join us for the Heritage Conservancy's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm to Table fundraiser on Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup> 2014. The event begins at 6pm at Lindsey Farm Preserve in Warwick (Jamison), PA. Enjoy a delicious meal made using fresh ingredients grown on local farms, prepared by acclaimed chefs from Jamie Hollander Gourmet Foods and Catering. Winner of the Bucks Happening Award for Best Foodie Event, it's an evening you won't want to miss.

### **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

—Please contact Shannon Fredebaugh at [emailaddress@heritageconservancy.org](mailto:emailaddress@heritageconservancy.org) or 123-456-7890 x987 if you want to help or have more questions.

**Gardening at Aldie Mansion** - Spring is finally here! Come enjoy the historic beauty of Aldie Mansion while helping to weed, water, and plant in the gardens. This will help to ensure the grounds are in top shape for the community to enjoy throughout the year! **Days/Times Available:** Flexible during business hours – Monday through Thursday 9am to 5pm, or Fridays 9am to 1pm. **Where:** 85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown, PA

**Weekend Watering at Aldie Mansion** – Once the flowers are planted, we'll need someone to come out on the weekends to water them & then turn the water off before leaving. **When:** Once per weekend all summer. **Time:** Before 11am (there are weddings in the afternoon). **Where:** 85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown, PA

**Barn Tour Road Rally** - Heritage Conservancy is developing a self-guided Barn Tour of 18 barns & a covered bridge in Central Bucks County. We're having a Road Rally to celebrate this exciting new tour of our heritage. **What:** We'll need 3-4 volunteers to help at registration & 2 volunteers for set-up & clean-up of tables, chairs, food, etc. at the Post Rally Celebration. **When:** Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. **Time:** Registration at 9am; Post Rally celebration starts around 10:30am. **Where:** Rolling Green Barn, 2725 Aquetong Rd., New Hope, PA 18938