

# STEWARDSHIP PERSPECTIVE

A PUBLICATION OF THE BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY'S ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CENTER

Spring 2005, Vol. 15, No. 1

## Private Land Conservation in United States Soars

As the Brandywine Conservancy intensified its conservation efforts over the past several years, so did land trusts across the United States. Between 1999 and 2004, the Conservancy protected over 8,300 acres through more than 100 conservation easements, bringing the total land protected by the Conservancy to nearly 40,000 acres. Local, state and regional land trusts across the country also experienced tremendous success during the same period, protecting 4.6 million acres and doubling the amount of land that had been protected by land trusts nationwide prior to 1999.

The Land Trust Alliance, a national association that the Conservancy helped found in 1982, recently released its census of progress made over the last five years. The nation's local and regional land trusts have conserved over 9 million acres as of December 31, 2003. Indicating growing popularity at the local level, new land trusts are being formed at the rate of two per week.

The National Land Trust Census, the nation's only tabulation of the achievements of the private, voluntary land conservation movement, describes how people are helping to safeguard water quality, preserve working farms and ranches, and protect wildlife habitat and other natural areas. The census identified several milestones.



*Since its founding in 1967, the Brandywine Conservancy has permanently protected nearly 40,000 acres. Photo by Ed Camelli.*

- Local and regional land trusts have now protected 9,361,600 acres of natural areas, acreage four times greater than Yellowstone National Park. Although this census tallies data only from local and regional land trusts, national land trusts have protected an additional 25 million acres.

- Acreage protected by conservation easements has increased 266% since 1998, from 1,385,000 to 5,067,929 in 2003.

- A record 1,526 local and regional land trusts were in operation in 2003, a 26% increase over the number (1,213) that existed in 1998.

- Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the U.S. in the number of land trusts (88) and ninth in total land protected by land trusts (399,679 acres).

The Brandywine Conservancy is proud to have contributed

since 1967 to the growing land conservation movement. Our efforts to protect land in the Brandywine Valley and other selected areas are complemented and enhanced by the efforts of conservationists across the nation. We are encouraged that more local organizations nationwide are taking steps to conserve land and natural resources for future generations.

Additional information about the National Land Trust Census is available online at [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org).

## Henry H. Meigs (1925-2005): Esteemed Conservationist

The Brandywine Conservancy offers to the Meigs Family its sincerest appreciation and respect for Henry H. Meigs and his valuable service.

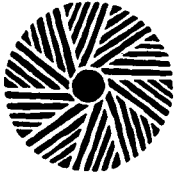
Henry enthusiastically served on the Conservancy's Environmental Committee from 1982 to 1992. His counsel helped guide the Conservancy during a challenging yet exciting period in its history.

Henry was a strong advocate for conservation easements and foresaw the difficulties in their long-term management. He recognized the need to endow easements and pushed to establish a dedicated fund for their management. Due to Henry's strong leader-

ship, the Conservancy's conservation easement program is on a firmer fiscal foundation.

Henry was a significant force urging the Conservancy to take on the King Ranch project. He recognized more than most the property's importance and the unique opportunity that we had in saving it.

In recognition of his many years of dedicated service, his valuable contribution to our success, and his commitment to environmental principles, the Brandywine Conservancy recognizes Henry H. Meigs as a great friend and a great conservationist.



## Brandywine Conservancy

Environmental Management Center

U.S. Route 1, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania 19317

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage paid  
Chadds Ford, PA  
Permit #7

## Easement Inspection Season is Approaching

The Conservancy conducts annual easement inspections year-round, but the majority of inspections occur in June, July, August, September and October.

You should receive a letter approximately two weeks before a Conservancy representative visits your property. Please fill out and return the information sheet enclosed with the letter, so that we can update our records. To reschedule an appointment or set up a meeting, please contact Melissa Burke at [mburke@brandywine.org](mailto:mburke@brandywine.org) or 610-388-8340.

We are privileged to be your partners in conservation and want our relationship with you, the landowner, to be more than an annual meeting. Our staff is always available to answer questions about easements and to help with land management and landscape restoration information.

## Conservancy News

**Kevin Anderson** joined the Conservancy staff in September as an Associate Planner. In this role, he supports the Municipal Assistance and Conservation Design Programs. Kevin earned a Bachelors degree at Saint Michael's College and a Masters degree in Regional Planning at Cornell University. Prior to the Conservancy, Kevin worked for the Downeast Lakes Land Trust in Washington County, Maine.

**Erick Marklund** is now the Conservancy's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Manager. Erick holds a Bachelors degree in Geography from the University of Delaware where his main focus was GIS. A resident of Centreville, DE, Erick spends much of his free time mountain biking and running in Brandywine Creek State Park.

**John Meisel** moved from Washington, DC, to accept a position with the Conservancy as a Senior Planner. He was most recently employed by Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc., a planning, urban design, and landscape architecture firm. John's extensive experience includes work with Land Ethics, Inc., National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Park Service, and The Nature Conservancy. John is a graduate of the University of Maryland and holds a Masters degree in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia.

**Jessica Moore** was recently hired as an Assistant Land Manager to help oversee the Conservancy's Laurels Preserve and Waterloo Mills Preserve. Jessica graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelors degree in Biology and German. A native of Coatesville, she currently resides in East Fallowfield and is an avid equestrian.

## Calendar of Events

**Brandywine River Cleanup** *April 23*  
Help the Young Friends of the Brandywine Conservancy remove trash from a 14-mile stretch of the Brandywine riverbank. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. To volunteer, call 610-388-8315.

**Spring Bird Walk** *April 23*  
Kevin Fryberger, manager of the Brandywine Conservancy's Waterloo Mills Preserve, guides a morning walk of birding through the Preserve. Meet at the Waterloo Mills parking area at 8 a.m. Call 610-388-8340 to register. Space is limited to 20 people.

**Spring Warbler Walk** *May 7*  
Dave Davis and the Brandywine Conservancy invite visitors on a spring walk through the Laurels Preserve to search for spring warblers. 8 to 11:30 a.m. To register, call 610-388-8340. Space is limited to 20 people.

**Spring Wildflower Walk** *May 14*  
Take a spring wildflower walk through the Conservancy's Laurels Preserve with Janet Ebert, one of the area's premier botanists. Call 610-388-8340 to register. Space is limited to 20 people.

**Spring Bird Walk** *May 18*  
Join the Conservancy's Brian Byrnes and Kevin Fryberger on a bird walk through the Laurels Preserve to learn about its avian residents. 8 a.m. Call 610-388-8340 to register. Space is limited to 20 people.

Visit our website at [www.brandywineconservancy.org](http://www.brandywineconservancy.org)