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## Our Vision

The Penns Valley Conservation Association seeks to foster an engaged community that preserves our rural way of life while protecting our natural environment. PVCA's Mission is to serve as a steward for the natural and cultural communities in the Upper Penns Creek watershed, seeking to preserve and honor the agricultural roots of Penns Valley by protecting and conserving its waters, farmlands, forests and rural heritage. We envision a community, where growth is balanced with support for healthy natural systems that foster the local economy. PVCA sees our valley assets as dark night skies, clear streams, healthy forests, prosperous farms, and local jobs.

## Fall/ Winter Newsletter 2020



### **Fall Meeting and New Bylaws Vote:** **Thursday, September 10th 6:30- 8:00 pm** *at the Coburn Park Lawn*

Plan to join us Thursday evening, September 10th, 6:30-7:30pm to discuss the codification and amendments of the bylaws. Come and cast *your* vote. Please go to the website to see the newest bylaws or click the link on upcoming Blast announcements for the meeting.

Stay for a socially distanced presentation on Through Hiking the Mid-State Trail: by Kristin Joivall and Kevin Busko. Kristin is an avid hiker and completed a through hike of the Mid-State last year. Kevin is the President of the Mid-State Trail Association.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**August- October:** Bike the Watershed Self Guided Tour

**August 1st- September 5th:** Raffle Tickets on Sale

**August 30th:** Banff Adventure Films Movie Night

**September 5th-:**Raffle Drawing

**September 10th:** Fall Membership Meeting





## Join the PVCA Team

### Volunteer Opportunities

Join an engaged community of your friends and neighbors who share your love of the beauty of the Penns Valley region. Help us protect and preserve this special place, while getting outside and having fun!

#### Board Members Sought

The nominating committee is looking for motivated, dedicated people. We have two openings for the 2021 term. Contact: smithcath@ecu.edu

#### Join a Committee

Help make sure PVCA remains a strong and vibrant organization as you help shape the future of our events, activities, and plans. Build friendships while using your skills to make a real difference in the quality of life in our community.

#### Get On The Radio

No radio experience is needed! Help put great programming on the air.

To volunteer, contact PVCA at [conservepennsvalley@gmail.com](mailto:conservepennsvalley@gmail.com)

## PVCA's 2020 Crick Lover's Raffle August 1st-September 5th:

Take a chance on our Labor Day Raffle! This online raffle makes participation easy! Prizes Include:

**Two night stay at Coburn on the Creek**

**Handmade Live Edge Walnut Coffee Table by Gary Gyekis**

**Two Professional Rubber Inner Tubes**

**Original Framed Art Work by Jennifer Tucker**

**Overnight Stay at the Nature Inn in Bald Eagle State Park**

**Antique Replica Candle box**

*To participate-go to our website/ Facebook events/eBlast link*

*Proceeds benefit the PVCA Education programs in Penns Valley schools.*



### ***Bike the Watershed with PVCA A Self-Guided Bike/***

***Driving Tour:*** *Bring your bike and tour several of PVCA's Riparian Buffers and witness what impact they are having on the wildlife, the land and the water quality. Map and information about each site available on our website and through our E-Blasts. On this tour you will see several sites including:*

**Manicured to Managed:** See how Willow Springs Farm is creating space for native trees and meadow plants.

•**Planting for Healing:** See the Elder Grove planted by herbalist Sarah DePasquale and the rows of native medicinals and berries.

•**Keep the Cows Out:** See the stream bank fencing along Pine Creek's tributaries at four farms along the route.

•**Thousands of Trees:** PVCA has created a young forest at Cemetery Road. See the colorful flags denoting alders and locusts that have turned this open field into a songbird haven.

## Movie Night August 30th Adventure Films for the Explorer in Us All - Saturday Night at Coburn Park

Bring the family/ friendship bubble, the popcorn and load the car for this family-friendly and fun adventure film series. With the support of our friends at Sierra Club Moshannon Group, we will be transported to the world of outdoor adventure! Films may include Banff Film Winners: OUT ON A LIMB (designing prosthetic limbs for climbers) LIFE OF PIE (How pizza and mountain biking cures everything) ELECTRIC GREG (too Vertical climbs fossil free), THABANG (South Africa's premier trail runner)



## Centre Gives A Big Success!

CentreGives, an annual, two-day, county-wide fundraising event sponsored by the Centre Foundation, has become one of our most successful fundraisers thanks to loyal supporters like you. Together we raised over \$10,000- our largest amount to date. The value of these unencumbered funds can not be underestimated. All of our grants need matching funds or paid staff time to manage, record, and report. These funds go a long way to help PVCA achieve our mission.

**Taproom Takeover Virtual Concert Thank You!** When challenged by Centre Gives to hold a virtual event- our thoughts went to WSOV. Kurt Grotz organized and executed a live online concert at the Green Drake Gallery. Thanks to Karl Leitzel, Gary Gyekis, Kurt Grotz, and Walt Witmer for their music. Thanks to Kurt and Jim Flanagan for hosting. It was wonderful- Plus Elk Creek Cafe & Ale Works gave everyone who donated during that hour a free beer!

## Welcome to the Board:

### Liz Ebling:

Liz Ebeling, an Administrative Officer in the Bureau of Fisheries, was appointed by the PVCA Board as our new Treasurer this Spring. PVCA had been looking for a board member who could serve in the vacant role of Treasurer and is excited to have someone who can bring extensive expertise in financial management. Liz earned her MBA while working and caring for her two daughters. In her current position at the Fish and Boat Commission, she manages the complexity involved with payroll, taxes, and grant administration. Liz is already familiar with many of the agencies we partner with to develop a robust and effective Watershed Committee.

A Centre County resident all her life, she moved to Penns Valley in 1969 and graduated from Penns Valley High School. Together with her husband, Rob McClenehan, she has made Penns Valley her home. Liz's two daughters graduated from PVASD and the mission to bring meaningful environmental enrichment into the schools resonates with her own career and passions. Liz brings her love for this valley, her business acumen and considerable financial skills as she takes on the role of treasurer. Thank you, Liz!

### Pat Leary:

"My late wife and I bought our property in Georges Valley in 1985. After her death I was asked to serve as a charter member of the Gregg Twp Zoning Hearing Board (2000-2005). In 2005 I was asked by the Township Board to fill a vacancy. Served as Chair (2005-2013). Held several committee seats with the Pennsylvania Assoc. of Township Supervisors during my tenure. Concurrently served as the Gregg Twp representative on the Board of Directors for the Penns Valley Emergency Medical Service (2000-2018). Member of the Pa Dept. of Agriculture Dog Law Advisory Board (2008- now). Twelve years as a pregnant dog foster home for Centre Co. PAWS with my wife Julie Mason. Gregg Township lent equipment and personnel for stream clean up and mud sill projects and was municipal partner on many PVCA grants during my tenure on the Board. I support low impact living and respect for the natural world, I know that humans cannot exist without a healthy planet but that the planet could do quite well without humans. A healthy watershed is a major part of living locally and gently in a vibrant community. I hope that I can advance that by my service to PVCA."

## **PVCA Job Announcement: Executive Director**

A Unique opportunity to lead a progressive watershed-based non-profit organization

The Penns Valley Conservation Association (PVCA) seeks a dynamic and motivated individual to serve as a part-time Executive Director (ED). A growing environmental non-profit, PVCA has established itself as an effective and prominent community-based conservation association. In more than 20 years of operation, PVCA has worked to achieve its mission as stewards for the natural and cultural communities in the Upper Penns Creek watershed.

Our office is located in Millheim, PA, the hub of beautiful Penns Valley. PVCA works closely with governmental agencies, private foundations, and other conservation allies. The ED reports to the Board of Directors and will have overall strategic, financial, fundraising, and operational responsibility for carrying out PVCA's mission.

The ideal candidate has strong fundraising abilities, a solid business background, exhibits attention to detail, has excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal skills, and possesses a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues. S/he must be comfortable in a dynamic environment and exhibit high energy, integrity, and the initiative to help shape the future of PVCA.

How to Apply: Submit resume, cover letter, and two writing samples to PVCA Hiring Committee, [conservepennsvalley@gmail.com](mailto:conservepennsvalley@gmail.com). Posted on August 1st, 2020 – position open until filled.

This is a 30 hour/week position with the opportunity to grow into a full-time salaried position.

Applicants and inquiries will be notified of salary range and benefits.



### **Farewell to Joshua Brock**

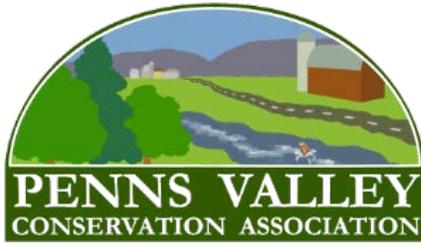
It is with sad heart that I must announce my resignation as Director of Operations from PVCA. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 2 1/2 years with this incredible organization, working with our Board, volunteers, and partner organizations alike on PVCA's many projects throughout Penns Valley. My wife and I have recently relocated to Montoursville to be closer to family, and my full-time position at AccuWeather has changed drastically due to the COVID-19 situation. In addition, our Farm in Saint Marys is requiring more time than ever. As such, the time and focus I can offer to PVCA is not what it needs to be for this position. Moving forward now as a member and volunteer, I will continue to offer my skills to PVCA regarding our IT and website needs. I want to thank everyone for their support over these past few years and I wish PVCA continued great success in the years ahead.

All The Best!  
Joshua

### **Keeping Penns Valley Clean! Ag Plastic Recycling Program Funded by PVCA:**

Anyone who has been downwind of a farmer burning their agricultural plastic knows it is a caustic, toxic smoke. In an effort to raise awareness about the health hazards to the farmers who stand next to these burn piles, and to their neighbors, human or otherwise, Bob Vernon launched a campaign to educate farmers and make recycling affordable and appealing. The PVCA Board enthusiastically supported his proposal and has funded and promoted these efforts. After years of success, the recycling market dried up but Bob Vernon persisted until he found a Pennsylvania company that could use the materials. For the past two years, together with Martin's Feed Mill, PVCA has recycled 85 tons of plastic and the program is continuing to gain momentum. This project fits the mission of PVCA to protect the air and water quality of our watershed by offering an easy and accessible alternative to burning this plastic waste or sending it to the land fill. Partnering with a local business such as Martin's Feed Mill allows the campaign to reach more farmers and spread the word that PVCA supports clean, family owned agriculture in our watershed. Thank you, Bob, for your work towards keeping Penns Valley clean!

**Highway Clean Up Report:** Phil and Karen Yanak have been members of PVCA since its inception. As part of their commitment to the welfare of the Valley, they have been in charge of the litter clean-up on Route 45 between Aaronsburg and Paradise Road. This is under the umbrella of PennDOT's Adopt A Highway program. The torch was passed to them by Nick and Tony Brink late in the last century. Since then they have maintained this section with sporadic assistance from the PVCA membership. This year, due to concerns of coronavirus spread, PennDOT has cancelled roadside litter removal. Phil and Karen will return to their mission as soon as the all-clear is sounded. Members are encouraged to join this effort. Please take note of the two Adopt- A -Highway signs on Route 45 that indicate PVCA's 20-year participation in the program. One is located on the south side of Route 45 just east of Paradise Road. The other can be found on the north side of Route 45 just to the west Aaronsburg.



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**Are You A Current Member?**

We love our members! Your membership dollars not only fund our programs and staff, but they also help us get the matching grants that make our work possible. Please consider joining PVCA for 2020-2021 or making an additional gift. Go to [www.pennsvalley.net](http://www.pennsvalley.net) for details.

***Thank you to James Bradley for selecting PVCA as his Facebook Birthday Fundraiser .***

**Board of Directors**

Tom Doman, Chair  
Pat Leary, Vice Chair  
Loanne Snavely, Secretary  
Liz Ebling, Treasurer

**Board Members**

Kat Alden, Spring Mills  
Peter Buck, State College  
John Smith, Spring Mills  
Eli Ward, Millheim

**Executive Director:** Hiring process has begun!

**Environmental Education:** Jim Flanagan

**Newsletter:** Kat Alden

**Webmasters:** John Smith & Open Position

**Database:** Joshua Brock

**Bookkeeper:** Rebecca Bragg

**2020 Business Members**

- Anders Olsen Construction and Renovations Inc.
- Bucher & Montgomery Properties
- Brush Mountain Lodge
- Dennison Press & Design
- Don Myers ReMax Farm and Rural Lifestyle Division
- Envinity
- Elk Creek Cafe + Aleworks
- Freeze Thaw Cycles
- James Krum, Architect
- Kuppels Auto Center
- Martinec Farms
- Millheim Small Engine Repair
- Nittany Health Centre
- Over the Moon Farm
- Pedals and Pints
- Penns Creek Guides
- PC Medics
- Pennsylvania Certified Organic
- Stover's Repair
- Tamarack Farms
- Tussey Mountain Outfitters
- Winghaven Nursery
- Woodward Camp