



LANCASTER NEWS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Newsletter for the Lancaster Group of the Sierra Club

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Hand's Woods Receives a Helping Hand from Grant Awards

Hand's Woods is continuing the process of becoming a place for people to explore, enjoy, and protect in Lancaster City. Through the Stevens Foundation, Hand's Woods received a grant, written in part by Tracy Daniels and Carl Kanaskie of the Sierra Club - Lancaster Group, from Lancaster County Community Foundation, which has resulted in a master plan produced by Land Studies. Input for the plan via charette meetings were held with the surrounding community, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology faculty and students, and the committee consisting of local organizations and stake holders who support the project.

Hand's Woods also received a grant directly from the Sierra Club - Lancaster Group.

See page 2 to learn more about our grant program to help the environment in Lancaster County.

8th Annual Polar Bear 5K Trail Run/Hike set for January 13, 2018

Preparations are in full swing now for our next exciting Polar Bear 5K Trail Run/Hike, which will take place **Saturday, January 13, 2018**; that's almost seven years to the day when we staged the first of these races. Since then, hundreds of Sierrans and friends crossed the finish line during these 3.1-mile wintertime jaunts, traversing the course in all kinds of weather to make "tracks for change." This run, our **8th Annual**, will take place in picturesque Lancaster County Central Park, kicking off at 10 a.m. from the starting gate near Kiwanis Lodge.

We invite all runners and hikers to register for the race, our biggest fundraiser of the year and an event that is packed with fun and camaraderie. And, don't forget, this is the 5K that allows you to bring a dog to run or walk with you, as long as they're on a leash.

The race will follow the same route as the last one, winding through the park on scenic, well-maintained trails with a few hills. Race day registration and check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the park's Pavilion 22 (Kiwanis Lodge).

Prizes will be given to our overall top three male and female runners. Additionally, the first of our three finishers with dogs (any age group) will be recognized.

The registration fee is \$25 from now until December 20 (2017); \$30 after this date and until race day. If you want a T-shirt, they're guaranteed for all people who register by January 3 (2018). For registration forms and more information, please visit <http://lancastersierraclub.org/home/polar-bear-5k-run-hike-or-walk-your-dog/> or www.lancastersierraclub.org, email sierraclubevent@gmail.com, or "Like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sierraclublancaster>. Registration opens November 21.

Money raised in this event will help finance our "green project" grant program, which has awarded grants of up to \$500 to 20 Lancaster County organizations over the past several years. Some of the funds also will support development of our free outdoor activities and educational programs that are designed to help people better appreciate, protect and preserve the environment.

Despite early morning icing last January, registration figures were quite impressive. Some 250 people participated in the race, scores of great volunteers kept everything on an even keel, and 45 well-behaved dogs on leashes either ran or walked with their masters.

We hope to see you in January!



Check out our ongoing event calendar at: www.lancastersierraclub.org



Lancaster Sierrans Support Tree Planting at Lancaster County Central Park

On a spectacular late summer morning last September, many members of our Lancaster Group led other volunteers in a joint, fun-filled tree planting event at Lancaster County Central Park.

We helped plant some 100 trees along a scenic stretch of the Mill Creek stream bank adjacent to the Exhibit Farm Trail—the same area in which our Group placed numerous saplings several years ago. Trees planted in this location will help prevent farmland siltation from entering the creek, stabilize the stream bank, provide shade for spawning fish and habitat for wildlife, and clean the air.

This was truly a cooperative effort. Holes for the trees were dug in advance by the Lancaster Park and Recreation staff. The trees were provided by PPL. And the labor, which was not exhausting, was handled easily and efficiently by our members and other volunteers.

Six More "Green Project" Grants Awarded to Lancaster County Organizations

As announced on Earth Day of this year, April 22, we awarded "green project" grants to six more Lancaster County organizations, each of which revealed a need to support a venture that promoted sustainability, expanded environmental awareness and improved green infrastructure. Counting this latest round of awards, ranging up to \$500, a total of 20 Lancaster County organizations have received our grants over the past two years.

Those organizations receiving grants last April, along with their projects, include: the City of Lancaster, maintaining and/or replacing newly planted trees in a one-acre riparian buffer along the Conestoga River; Hand's Woods, advancing development of a master plan for its multifunction ecological preserve in southeastern Lancaster; Lancaster Against Pipelines, offering education and training associated with The Lancaster Stand, the group's outdoor symbol of opposition to the planned natural gas pipeline through Lancaster County; Lancaster Tree Tenders, enhancing Lancaster's urban forest by engaging and empowering neighborhoods to plant and care for trees; Susquehanna Waldorf School, enhancing its Organic Soup Garden, an on-site botany lab in which students learn about soil composition, nurturing plants, and the health benefits of fresh foods; and The Stone Independent School, purchasing a Berkey Water Filter for use as part of its curriculum on water quality and research.

Applications for the grants were evaluated on criteria such as environmental objective, unique aspect of the project, quality of submission, and how our Group might be involved with the project. Awarded once a year, the grants are funded with money generated through our annual Polar Bear 5K Trail Run/Hike.

Charitable, educational or business organizations in Lancaster County that demonstrate a commitment to the Sierra Club's mission of "exploring, enjoying and protecting the planet" are eligible to submit grant proposals. Application deadline for the next cycle of awards is March 1, 2018; recipients will be announced on Earth Day. For more details about the grant program, please visit <http://lancastersierraclub.org/grant-program/>, call (717) 475-0586, or email jimsmeen@gmail.com.



Working for Change

In addition to the grant program, outings, educational presentations, and other community events, members of Sierra Club - Lancaster Group have been actively working for change by participating in the Climate March in Washington, D.C., last April and hosting an Activist Panel locally last March. Representatives from Citizens Climate Lobby, the Lancaster County League of Women Voters, and Lancaster Against Pipelines gave a short presentation about how we can all get involved to make a difference and have our voices heard. This was followed by a Q & A session and then a time to write postcards to our representatives in government about timely issues including resolutions about climate change.

How To Work for Change

- * Call or write a letter or email your legislators at all levels of government. For national legislators, go to www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. For the PA General Assembly, go to legis.state.pa.us.
- * Write a Letter to the Editor of your local paper.
- * Take action through sierraclub.org.

Thank you for considering the Sierra Club - Lancaster Group in this year's Extraordinary Give. **Together we can make a difference!**

Almost every month the Sierra Club - Lancaster Group has something happening. We invite you to share your ideas at our business meetings which will occur the 3rd Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Lancaster Country Day School, 725 Hamilton Road, Lancaster.

The official registration and financial information of the Lancaster Group of Sierra Club may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling, toll free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Thoughts from the Co-Chairs

Fellow Sierrans! I'd like to thank those of you who have helped me with all the activities that have occurred during my Co-Chairpersonship of the Lancaster Group. I feel quite satisfied with the accomplishments that we've achieved in the last couple years. We've grown the Lancaster Group to 1,400+/- members from 1,000 in a very short period of time. Much of this increase is due to the concerns that we all have for the decisions that are being made by the new president and his administration. The Sierra Club from top to bottom appreciates your financial contributions in the form of your memberships. Without the funds in our coffers, we would not be able to protect the environment that we all love to explore and enjoy. Having said that, we really need for you to consider spending some time with our group. We only have a handful of individuals who make it to our local business meetings, at which time decisions are made about outings, conservation projects, educational projects, and political activities. There is so much more we could be doing to improve the environment here in Lancaster County with just a few extra hands. Write, call, text, even carrier pigeon me to discuss our group and what you could do to achieve our mutual goals. Or just call to say hello. — Jim Meenan

717-475-0586 jimsmeenan@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting Sierra Club. By being a member, you are helping to save the environment. But we all know we can do more. Renew, reuse, recycle. Don't neglect to vote. Watch what those in power do, not what they say. Most of all, don't believe that one person can't make a difference. Never before in history has it been possible for individuals to reach so many people on a global scale. Speak up for your planet. — Steve Heim

Membership moving upward

The Lancaster Group continues to grow. A recent S.C. report indicates that some 1,480 Sierrans now reside within our Group's area, which is outlined by the boundaries of Lancaster County.

Let's come together to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect Lancaster County!

Cast Your Vote for These Executive Committee Nominees

Erin Freeman: I grew up in Lititz with a penchant for hiking, singing, and creepy crawlies. I have a degree in environmental sustainability from Eastern Mennonite University and last summer, after a few years in Indiana and Virginia, I moved back to Lancaster to work in environmental education. I work full time as the live animal programming and volunteer coordinator at North Museum and volunteer with Harrisburg's Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program. I care about making quality environmental education accessible to people who historically have not had this resource and believe that the Sierra Club has a lot of potential to increase that equity in Lancaster. When I'm not hanging out with snakes in the museum, you can find me cooking over a campfire, walking in a river, or petting dogs.

Robyn Weaver: My name is Robyn Weaver and I live in Lancaster. I train horses, and I'm working on a degree in social sciences. With the Sierra Club, I serve as the Equity Chair for the PA Chapter and have co-facilitated several workshops for volunteers. I've also been trained as an outings leader and hope to engage in local outings in 2018. I would like to join the Lancaster Group ExCom so I can engage with members of the community to build new relationships that support a healthy and clean environment. Thank you for considering me for the Lancaster Group ExCom.

Voting Ballot for Lancaster Group - Executive Committee Members

Vote for either or both of the following candidates to serve on Lancaster Group's Executive Committee.

Place a ✓ beside your choices and mail this ballot to:

Sierra Club-Lancaster Group, P.O. Box 8344, Lancaster, PA 17604

or email your response to: SCLancasterElections@gmail.com

or cast your vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y5KSXC2>

☐ Erin Freeman

☐ Robyn Weaver



Take a look at what's in the works for 2018:

- The Polar Bear 5K Trail Run/Hike in January—see page 1.



- More speakers—including some of our grant recipients—who will share about what is happening in Lancaster County and how we can improve our environment.



- More hikes and other outings. See page 4 about a garlic mustard pull, and join us for the annual wildflower hike at Shenk's Ferry in April.



- A film festival to bring the community together to celebrate and learn more about the wonders of nature. Stay tuned for more information.





Sierra Club – Lancaster Group
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**SIERRA
CLUB**

Do You Know Your Garlic Mustard? — Take the Quiz—Then Join Us for a Pull



True or False

1. Garlic mustard is an invasive plant.
2. It first appeared in the US in 1951.
3. It grows well in bright sunlight.
4. Each plant produces 1000s of seeds.
5. White-tailed deer enjoy eating it.
6. It threatens the rare West Virginia white butterfly.
7. There are many native plants that may be mistaken for it.
8. Hand-pulling it can be an effective means of controlling it.

Read on to find the answers . . .

Garlic mustard is an invasive plant that threatens the local ecology. It was first recorded in the US in 1868 and was likely brought by European settlers for food and medicinal purposes. It grows in moist, shaded areas and can penetrate even high-quality, mature forests. Each plant produces thousands of seeds, which can result in heavy infestations. White-tailed deer may aid in infestation as they consume and thus eliminate many native plants, which they highly

prefer to the taste of garlic mustard. Some native butterfly species, including the rare West Virginia white butterfly, are greatly impacted by the spread of garlic mustard. The butterflies lay their eggs on it, mistaking it for their native host plant, toothwort, but, unfortunately, the garlic mustard is fatally toxic to the butterfly larvae. Many other native plants can be mistaken for garlic mustard. Depending on the infested area, hand-pulling can be an effective means of controlling this invasive species.

So, now that you know why we should get rid of garlic mustard, join the Sierra Club - Lancaster Group to do just that at Tucquan Glen on Saturday, April 28, (raindate Sunday, April 29).

And check out other ways to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet with us at Sierra Club - Lancaster Group on Facebook or our website.

Bill Johnson

Sources for the quiz include the websites for the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



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