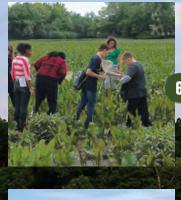
# 2014 Annual Report Annual Report



CONCERTS IN THE GARDEN



NEXT GENERATION



PRESERVING OUR FARMS A MATTHEW TO CALL SHOW AND A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

## From the Leadership Team



Whether it's increasing home values, protecting water supplies, or improving our quality of life, land preservation affects us all. We're fortunate that you recognize how unique our area is and how crucial our mission of preserving and protecting our natural and historic is for the benefit of a stronger community. Heritage Conservancy remains committed to this mission because it's committed to this community.

It wouldn't be enough to just protect our open spaces and historic places—we want everyone to benefit from our mission by enjoying and experiencing firsthand the beautiful landscapes that our area provides. This year, along with remaining committed to our mission, we focused greater attention on community engagement and connecting people to our heritage. Our organization's resource protection efforts are only successful in the long run if we make conservation a part of our community ethos.

In support of this effort, we increased our number of outreach opportunities and activities to increase awareness of the broad scope that our mission encompasses. Some of those unprecedented events included Concerts in the Garden at Aldie Mansion, a self-guided driving barn tour, foraging for mushrooms, hikes on our preserved properties, and many more. In total, we shared our area's heritage with more than 1,500 of you at these events. Heritage was really happening this year!

Along with this promising turnout, increased volunteerism in 2014 shows that our mission is important to the community and that it's thriving. Compared to 2013, 39% more volunteers donated 25% more hours this year toward helping us to preserve and protect our natural and historic heritage. We value our community, and it's inspiring to see that you value our mission.

It's because of supporters like you that we have the means to coordinate these outreach and volunteer opportunities and accomplish our land preservation goals. Thank you for helping us to strengthen our mission within the community.

With the close of 2014, we thank our exiting Chairman of the Board, Marvin Woodall, for the many important milestones that he helped our organization to achieve. Although he will no longer serve Heritage Conservancy in such a capacity, Marv will continue to be a vital part of our organization as a member of our Board of Directors. We are pleased to welcome our new Chairman of the Board, Christopher B. Chandor, Esq. With the support of our donors, members, volunteers, and community partners, we look forward to another successful year ahead!

L Marshall

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Marshall President Linda Cacossa Chief Operating Officer

## Mercer Sculpture Exhibit

The heritage of Doylestown and Bucks County is deeply rooted in the history of the Mercer brothers.

The older of the two, Henry may be the more acclaimed brother, but William was equally as talented. Along with commissioning the design and construction of Aldie Mansion, which our organization adaptively reuses as its headquarters, William Mercer designed and cast hundreds of beautiful concrete sculptures, and many of them sat languishing in our basement for years. A basement is no place for Mercer legacy artifacts, but until this year, we didn't have the proper place to display them safely. Thanks to support we received from 40 donors, we had the means to hire Milford Enterprises, Inc. to produce and install several museum-quality cases in Aldie Mansion's dining room.

Our community deserves to see and appreciate its heritage. We are thrilled that William's sculptures are now on display for everyone to enjoy. If you'd like to take a guided tour of Aldie Mansion and see this exciting new exhibit, contact Tammy at 215-345-7020 ext. 107.



## **Barn Voyage!**

As you drive through Bucks County, it's impossible to miss its picturesque views. What you could be missing, however, is...



...the hidden beauty of the scenic routes that you might not ever travel. Our organization has created a series of self-guided driving barn tours that take Bucks County natives and tourists alike off of the main roads and onto the back roads that help to discover the story of Bucks County.

Thanks in part to funding from Visit Bucks County, Heritage Conservancy was able to turn its vision for "Barn Voyage!: A Self-Guided Driving Barn Tour of Bucks County" into a reality in 2014. This four-part series of barn tours allows you to explore our truly unique countryside while learning about its history along the way. Many of our "castles in the fields" stood witness to the American Revolution and the founding of this country. Whether they are still being used on working farms or adaptively reused as

houses or offices, barns remain relevant fixtures and guardians of the history of our county and country.

The feedback and response since launching the central Bucks County tour in May and the upper Bucks County tour in December has been overwhelming! We're thankful that this tour is connecting so many people in our community to the history that we're fortunate to still have intact. We believe that if we can educate while generating an appreciation for our history, people will be more inclined to want to protect it.

To request brochures for the central and upper Bucks barn tours, contact Alex at 215-345-7020 ext. 131, or visit our website at HeritageConservancy.org/Barn-Voyage. Stay tuned for more information about the remaining two tours!

## Annual Garden Party

At Heritage Conservancy's annual Garden Party that celebrates our supporters, we honor nominated members of the community with Heritage Partnership Awards. The awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to land and historic preservation, environmental protection, and quality of life efforts that help to make a difference in our community. Below are the 2014 winners and their remarkable stories.



#### Land Conservation Award

The Land Conservation Award was bestowed upon Jim and Dolores Keller and John and Linda Keller for the difference they've made in our community by preserving their properties that total over 400 acres combined. Jim and Dolores own the last remaining dairy farm in Springfield Township, and they had it preserved by the county in 2001. A few years ago, they allowed Heritage Conservancy to begin a habitat restoration project in the middle of one of their pasture areas; in order to do this, Jim and Dolores had to rearrange their pastures and grazing schedules for the cattle. They didn't have to agree to this project, but they cared so deeply about the cause that they were willing to disrupt their lives for it. Thanks to the Kellers, the Conservancy was able to enhance and further protect critical wetlands that contain rare and endangered species of plant and wildlife. Environmental conscientiousness runs in the family. John and Linda Keller preserved two farms in 2006 that totaled over 150 acres. With the proceeds they received from the sale of the conservation easement, they purchased a 70-acre property in Richland Township. On this property, they restored the old farmhouse, cleaned it up, and made it an important part of the scenic landscape in the township for everyone to enjoy.



#### **Youth Award**

At 14 and 11 years old, Jacob and Callie Danko's volunteerism and contributions to conservation earned them the Youth Award. This brother-sister duo has already made a huge difference in our community, and they are just getting started! As huge fans of Steve Irwin, the wildlife expert best known as the "The Crocodile Hunter," Jacob and Callie were motivated to take action after his unfortunate death. They contacted the Australian Zoo, and the zoo encouraged them to become Junior Ambassadors for Wildlife Warriors, a wildlife habitat conservation organization. Together, they have raised over \$8,000 for the organization. As Junior Ambassadors, they promote conservation by speaking in front of classmates and holding educational booths at community events. Along with this, they attend many local property cleanups throughout the year to help keep our area beautiful. For historic preservation, an important component of the Conservancy's mission, they volunteer with the annual Boileau Festival at the last colonial farmstead in Upper Moreland Township, and they helped petition to save the stone barn circa 1802 on Illg's property in Warrington Township by obtaining over 80 signatures. Jacob and Callie are inspirations, and they are true testaments that you can make a difference at any age.



#### Community Leadership/Grassroots Partnership Award

The Doylestown Food Co-op received the award for Community Leadership/ Grassroots Partnership. This group started as a small but mighty group of individuals who believed in the importance of supporting local agriculture. The Co-op began as a pickup and distribution food club in 2009 that provided residents with better access to locally-produced foods. After an influx in membership, it was apparent that there was a need for a brick and mortar store. It took years of hard work and dedication to get the Doylestown Food Co-op store up and running, but they persevered, and the community is benefitting as a result. Linda Cacossa, Chief Operating Officer for Heritage Conservancy, described niche roles in our community's ecosystem. "While Heritage Conservancy works hard to assure that there will be open space for our farmland, it doesn't end there. It's a partnership. If you stopped by the Doylestown Food Co-op this month, you would see beautiful strawberries from Manoff Market Gardens. The Manoffs grow their magnificent fruit on preserved land owned by Heritage Conservancy. These are partnerships that enrich our community."



Just as William and Martha Mercer, the original owners of Aldie Mansion, held outdoor recitals on the lawn over 85 years ago, Heritage Conservancy is keeping that tradition alive by hosting Concerts in the Garden. While the heritage of the mansion serves as a backdrop, musical performances showcase the local talent that we have right here in our community.

Most members of the community only get to admire the front of the mansion; Concerts in the Garden gives concertgoers the opportunity to appreciate Aldie Mansion from a new perspective while scattered about the backyard on lawn chairs and blankets. Over the summer, we welcomed more than 300 people to Concerts in the Garden, and because of its inaugural success, we're increasing the number of concerts we'll have in 2015 from three to five. Thanks to donor support, we are able to offer this event free to the public. We hope that you'll join us on Aldie's rolling lawns to enjoy local talent while soaking up the history of the mansion. For more information about this summer's concerts, visit HeritageConservancy.org.



For a lifetime dedicated to preserving our beautiful open spaces, Bruce McNaught received the Lifetime Achievement in Conservation Award. In 1980, Bruce became Executive Director of Bucks County Audubon Society and Honey Hollow Watershed Association, which also operated the Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center. In 1989, he negotiated the merger of the two

organizations into a single entity. Bruce also successfully helped negotiate a real estate transaction with PECO Energy to purchase 70 acres and place conservation easements on an additional 100 acres in the Honey Hollow Watershed National Historic Landmark to raise the total protected acreage to approximately 725 acres. He also coordinated the \$1 million renovation of the circa 1936 R.

Brognard Okie barn into an education and visitor center that attracts thousands of school children each year to genuinely experience the natural world. Bruce also had a leadership role in Heritage Conservancy's Significant Natural Area Protection Program (SNAPP). To this day, Bruce continues to leave a legacy through his work with conservation and environmental nonprofit organizations.



### **Environmental Stewards:**



Located in Buckingham Township
near Forest Grove Road, our 10-acre
Jackson Pond Preserve consists
of forest, farmland, and a natural
pond. With its abundant plant and
animal life, it continues to serve as
a great site for field trips for local
schools. Through educational land
fun!) games such as pond bingo,
predator vs. prey, and hikes around
the property that include recording
observations of plant and animal life,
Heritage Conservancy staff members
help students explore the diverse
habitat and ecosystem of the pond.

Most people don't just become nature lovers overnight; those who have an appreciation for nature likely had that respect instilled beginning at a young age.

Children who are raised to love nature eventually grow up to be the proactive adults who work to steward and protect our vital natural resources.

Our environment needs stewards and advocates in order to thrive.

In May, we hosted an "Introduction to Fishing" course that was held on a preserved property and geared toward teaching the younger

generation the art of fishing. The kids really enjoyed this opportunity to connect with nature on a beautiful day. We think they liked it so much that they're now "hooked!"



In honor of National Public Lands Day, we held a cleanup at our Bristol Marsh Preserve with help from local Boy Scouts. National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands, and we used this opportunity to maintain the Bristol Marsh Preserve while educating the group about the importance of shared stewardship of our natural resources. The scouts enthusiastically collected more than 100 pounds of trash and recorded their findings. Because the marsh is located along the Delaware River, which empties into the Atlantic Ocean, this cleanup tied in with a grander-scale cleanup known as the International Coastal Cleanup presented by Ocean

Conservancy. The sco findings were compiled with information from other cleanups along the coast for analysis as part of a larger plan to help reduce our impact on the environment.



The Next Generation

In this modern day of technology and playing indoors in front of a screen, Heritage Conservancy aims to get kids outside by providing a front row seat to the wonders of nature. Throughout 2014, our organization offered numerous opportunities to connect with the great outdoors. These pages show just a handful of the reasons why we're optimistic about the next generation of environmental stewards.



In May, we engaged over one hundred 7th grade students from Bristol Junior High School in a BioBlitz at the Bristol Marsh.

Over the course of 24 hours, the students discovered and documented as many species of plants and animals living in the

important freshwater tidal marsh as they could find. The students were so enthused about this educational event that they sent us dozens of thank you cards. One of our favorites: "We and the Bristol Marsh grow every day thanks to you."

## It was a graveyard smash!



Princesses, superheroes, and scary goblins alike filled Aldie Mansion at our "Be Kind to Bats and Other Nocturnal Creatures" Halloween party. Since Heritage Conservancy protects land that provides habitat for wildlife, we used the night before Halloween as an opportunity to teach the younger generation about nocturnal animals. Our friends at Aark Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center gave an exciting presentation that began with the plight of bats and their struggle with White Nose Syndrome and concluded with the introduction of some real live creatures of the night. Kids and adults alike were very engaged.

#### **Surveying is for the birds!**

During our nesting bird survey of the Quakertown Swamp, students from Delaware Valley College and local high schools shadowed volunteer bird experts.

They took multiple visits a day to observe and record species of birds that were exhibiting nesting behaviors in the area to assist in completing a comprehensive study of the breeding bird population in the Quakertown Swamp. This study showed the students the importance of monitoring and understanding our natural resources. The results of the study will be used to enhance best management practices in stewarding the unique habitat in the Quakertown Swamp.



## Dulce Domum: Sweetly at Home

When Janet French and her late husband Richard purchased their dilapidated early-19th century stucco-covered farmhouse in 1973, they knew very well that they were getting involved in a major undertaking to restore the structure to its original glory; what they didn't account for was the voyage of discovery and adventure that they were about to embark on.

After moving from their home in Johnsville, a quaint village community in Warminster that has since disappeared in a flood of development, they began work on their new home in Buckingham Township, PA.

The rehabilitation of their home was an almost ten-year long project that became more intrinsically satisfying each step of the way. While explaining the issues involved in restoring each room, Janet refers to herself and Richard as what she calls "the royal we," but she notes that it was Richard's superb skills and dedication that brought each project to its satisfying conclusion. Past 60 years old at the start of the restoration, Richard retired midway through the restoration so that he could work at it full-time. Janet says, "When I'd come home from work each evening, we'd stand there together and admire what he had accomplished that day. It was always a happy time."

As the restoration unfolded, Richard uncovered hidden historical gems throughout their house. When he removed the fireplace mantel in the living room to repair it, he discovered signs of a "practice run" that was done nearly 200 years previous by the original craftsman. Behind an upstairs closet, Richard found

evidence of an early "winder" staircase that is so reminiscent of old Bucks County farmhouses; the silhouette of a few steps on the wall still clearly mark its former presence there. They also realized that many of the ceilings are different heights from room to room, which is common for older homes that were added upon through the years. What is now the home's dining room did not exist before the 1840s. The dining room and an upstairs bedroom were additions added to the original stone house using framing from a barn that once stood on the property.

For any details of the home that were missing or could not be restored, Janet and Richard scoured antique shops and auctions to find vintage hardware, doors and other items appropriate to the age and style of the house. They painstakingly rehabilitated their beautiful home with love and hard work, and after close to ten years, when they had completed the final puzzle piece, they wanted to know more about the house that they had poured so much sweat into. And that's when they contacted Heritage Conservancy! In 1981, Janet and Richard reached out to our organization to complete a house history to learn even more about their old house and the memories it holds.

Richard passed away in 2006, but in recent years, Janet began thinking that the home that she and Richard had lovingly restored together was vulnerable. As a former Buckingham Township Supervisor, and thanks to her service on the Township Zoning Hearing Board, Janet was keenly aware that future property owners could forever alter or destroy the structures that she and her husband had maintained together for nearly a half-century. For that reason, she reached out to Heritage Conservancy once again to help protect her house and its cherished history.

In December 2014, with the help of our organization, Janet French put a façade easement on her home and its springhouse along with a conservation easement on the surrounding 2 acres. The façade easement will protect the home's architectural integrity in perpetuity. Through the easements, Heritage Conservancy now has the right to approve any proposed changes to the historic house and springhouse as well as specimen trees and the overall property in general.

"Without this type of protection, the quintessential Bucks County stone farmhouse is in danger of eventual extinction, which would be a loss to all Bucks County residents and visitors," says Jeffrey Marshall, Heritage Conservancy's President.

"It is a great sense of relief to have these easements in place. As a concept, it's so important to save what we can of our history," muses Janet French. "On a personal level, I see all of the work that Richard put into our home and the memories we built together, and that makes it even more special. We're all so lucky to have found this part of the world."



This fireplace showed signs of a "practice run" from nearly 200 years previous.

The rehabilitated fireplace.

## Preserving our farms

"Open fields and grazing livestock will forever provide a sense of identity for our community. Nowhere is this more truly represented than in smaller farms like the Casey Farm," said Sandy Yerger, Associate Director of Development for Heritage Conservancy.



The Casey property, an 18-acre working farm located in the Bucks County Highlands and the Upper Tohickon Creek Watershed, will now be protected in perpetuity thanks to the combined efforts of Heritage Conservancy and Richland Township and funding from 1772 Foundation and the Bucks County Municipal Open Space Program.

Working as a strategic partner, it was important for Heritage Conservancy to assist Richland Township in securing a conservation

easement on the Casey property due to its soils of state-wide importance, its close proximity to other preserved farms, and its location within the Upper Tohickon Creek Watershed. Also, the Casey Farm's active agricultural fields, pastures, and hedgerows with wooded backdrop make it an important part of both Bucks County's and Richland Township's scenic rural viewscape.

"Working with Sandy Yerger at Heritage Conservancy has allowed us to access the 1772 Foundation grant, which enables Richland Township to extend its matching funds," said Kathleen Fedorocsko, Chair of Richland Township Open Space Committee. "The Casey Farm completed the Richland Township Land Preservation Board's goal of preserving all the working farms – a total of seven – in this portion of the township. Its preservation adds almost 20 more acres to the 300-acre greenway we have been able to establish in this area."

#### 25 Acres preserved in Springfield Township

In December 2014, our organization went to settlement on the 25-acre Segl Farm in Springfield Township. Heritage Conservancy will co-hold a conservation easement on this property that Springfield Township and the Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation Program successfully worked to preserve.

Preservation of the Segl Farm contributes significantly to agricultural, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection because the property contains active agricultural lands with prime agricultural soils, woodlands, and a tributary of Cooks Creek. Its preservation will ensure that these important natural resources are protected for the benefit of the community.

Heritage Conservancy is committed to working with its partners, and it's committed to keeping the promise that it will perform the necessary ongoing annual monitoring

of the Segl Farm.

Miryam's Farm A Legacy Preserved.

In 1951, Miryam Ralph purchased a 23-acre farm in Pipersville, Bucks County, where she tended property; she milked cows, fed chickens, gathered eggs and nurtured several geese and multiple cats and dogs.

Miryam lived there until her death in 2003.

A devoted environmentalist, Miryam's wish was for her farm, the place she put so much life into, to be preserved upon her death. On April 10th, Heritage Conservancy helped fulfill that wish by recording a conservation easement on the property.

For decades, Miryam's Farm served as a retreat where people could come to rest and rejuvenate among activities of live music, art exhibits, yoga, and tai chi. It became so much an institution that Miryam's Farm was highlighted in a 1981 feature of "Bucks County Country Inns" in *The Christian Science Monitor*.

In addition to the community and social aspects of Miryam's Farm,

the property is rich with natural resources. It contains agricultural soils of statewide significance and is crossed by a stretch of Irish Run, a tributary of Tohickon Creek. Woodlands comprised of black cherry, eastern red cedar, white ash, red oak and America beech are spread along the Farm.

As holder of the conservation easement on Miryam's Farm, Heritage Conservancy will ensure that the terms and conditions of the easement are honored in perpetuity. As our President, Jeff Marshall, has said, Heritage Conservancy is in the business of making wishes come true. We are pleased that we could help to fulfill Myriam Ralph's wishes by protecting her farm that provided such refuge to so many.

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Berlinger, Jr. Mary Ann Bernardino Heather Bernhardt Michael and Laura Biersmith Anne Biggs Abby Birk William and Anne Bishop Lila Bittenbender Nancy Blanchard John and Denise Blasdale Ivan Bondra Frank Boni Jeffrey Bower II Harry and Elizabeth Branson Joseph S. Brosnan and Carla

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To preserve and protect our natural and historic heritage

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1772 Foundation Adventure Aquarium Aldie Counseling Center A.P. Kirby, Jr. Foundation Arts Quest Center at Steel Stacks Bayshore/Highlands Open Space Institute The Breen Family Foundation Bucks County
Audubon Society **Bucks County** Childrens Museum
Bucks County Foodshed Alliance
Bucks County Symphony Byers Foundation Care-A-Lot Preschool Chalfont Lions Club Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce The Community Religious School

of Yardley
County Theater
Davis Charitable Trust
Delaware and Lehigh
National Heritage Corridor
Delaware & Lehigh Trail Alliance
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
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Dow Gives
Doylestown Food Co-Op

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Family of Companies
The Lawrence Saunders Fund
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and Event Venues
Mennonite Foundation, Inc.
Minerals Technologies, Inc.
Montgomery County Theater
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Foundation

The Nature Conservancy Pennsylvania Land Trust Association Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

Conservancy Pfundt Foundation

Questers Peaceable Kingdom Rattlesnake & Mine Hill Wildlife Preservation Trust Rebecca Hart Swartzlander Trust Saint-Gobain Corporation Foundation Schuylkill Action Network Sierra Club, Allegheny Group Silver Lake Nature Center Springfield Township Historical Society Tinicum CSA Tonamora Foundation Town & Country Players Travelers Community Connections Tree Vitalize Program Truist Comprehensive Distribution Tyco Matching Gift Program VIII Brothers Family Charitable

Quakertown Alive!

#### **Public Partners**

Foundation

Visit Bucks County

Partnership Zoellner Arts Center

William Penn Foundation

The Young Family Limited

Wrightstown Monthly Meeting

Bensalem Township Borough of Doylestown Bristol Borough Bristol Borough School District Bristol Township School District Bucks County Agricultural Preservation Program Bucks County Conservation District **Bucks County Natural Areas** Program
Bucks County Planning Commission Bushkill Township Doylestown Township Durham Township East Rockhill Township Lower Makefield Township Lower Saucon Township Montgomery County Planning Commission
National Park Service Newtown Borough Nockamixon Township Open Space Committee Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Plumstead Township Richland Township Riegelsville Borough Solebury Township Springfield Township Upper Makefield Township Warrington Township Historical Commission

#### 2014 Financial Overview

Heritage Conservancy's fiscal management practices ensure that funds raised in the current year are effectively used to advance our conservation and education mission. We thank the many funding partners listed on these pages for their continuing support.

Amy Ruesch

Ronald Rufo

Blair and Tammy Rush

#### 2014 Land Preservation Accomplishments

#### **Funding Partners**

Bucks County Agricultural Preservation Program Bucks County Natural Areas Program Springfield Township Richland Township East Rockhill Township Upper Makefield Township

Property Nam	ie Method	Municipality	Acreage
Ralph	Easement	Plumstead	17
Zimmerman	facilitation	Upper Makefield	33.48
Segl	Easement	Springfield	25.61
French	Easement	Buckingham	2.57
Devery, D.	facilitation	Richland	49
Devery, J.	facilitation	Richland	11
Diehl	facilitation	Springfield	48
Gruver	facilitation	Richland	37
Keller	facilitation	Richland	57
Casey	Land Trust Beneficiary	Richland	20
Chadwick	Land Trust Beneficiary	East Rockhill	12
Total acreage			312.66

#### **2014 Expenses**

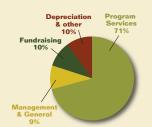
 
 Program Services
 \$1,447,379

 Management & General
 176,871

 Fundraising
 194,451

 Depreciation & Other Total
 204,274

 \$2,022,975



#### 2014 Income

 Historical & Land Planning

 Services
 \$413,212

 Grants
 942,202

 Investment Income
 438,639

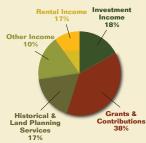
 Rental Income
 406,450

 Other Income
 245,311

 Total
 \$2,445,814

Williams Township

Wrightstown Township





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To preserve and protect our natural and historic heritage

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#### Photo Credits

Front: Herb Grana of Grana Studios captured this photo at our Farm to Table fundraising dinner at our Lindsay Farm Preserve.

Back: Heritage Conservancy member Alyce Stick captured this shot of a flock of snow geese in a Heritage Conservancy preserved field in Riegelsville, PA.