

2015



*Opening of the **Landenberg Junction Trail**; Joan Hendrickson Hannah, Steve Allaband, BOS Chair, Don Peters, OSRB & Friends of NG Trails.*

- The Grand opening and dedication of the Landenberg Junction Trail on June 27th, 2015.
- During 2015 members of the OSRB had active contact with 9 property owners. This includes two properties where purchases of conservation easements are pending finalization. Combined these properties would add approximately 315 acres of preserved open space. Additionally, a potential agricultural easement would add approximately 140 acres. Together these properties would increase the Township's protected lands by approximately 40%. Two other substantial properties are under intermittent discussion concerning conservation easement between the OSRB and the current owners. Discussions with four property owners are progressing and nearing completion concerning trail easements.
- Also in February, Don Peters reported on the progress of the New Garden Park Riparian Buffer Project (\$53, 000 project funded by PA Department of Environmental Protection through the WCCWA). The contractor reviewed an overall master plan for the project with the Project Executive Committee of which Don is the OSRB member. The plan included NO MOW areas adjacent to Lamborn Run, buffer plantings, enhanced pocket wetlands and interpretive signs.
- In the Fall, the wetland enhancement took place. Eighteen volunteers from the University of Delaware planted 25 flats (or 1800 small native perennials) in the two adjacent wetlands to Lamborn Run. Installing plants native to our region improves the biodiversity of an area by providing food and shelter for a larger variety of native wildlife. Species planted included Blue Flag Iris, Swamp Milkweed (host plant to the Monarch Butterfly), lavender Beebalm, New York Aster, Ironweed and Soft Rush. These plants were selected for their potential to compete with existing aggressive grasses while also providing wildlife benefits and improved aesthetics for visitors.
- A tree and shrub planting took place in early November which helps to mark the NO MOW flood zone. This will be followed by a live stake planting next spring. Live stakes are single stems of dormant shrubs that can quickly take root to help hold together eroding stream banks. Later, they mature into large shrubs which help regulate stream temperatures by providing shade to Lamborn Run.
- Members of the OSRB volunteered 404 hours of their time to their duties as Board members during 2015. Several OSRB members are also active with the Friends of the

New Garden Trails, with the New Garden Lyceum renovation, and with the White Clay Creek Watershed Association.

Read more about the 2014's activities regarding preserving land and building trails in the [2015 Annual Report](#).

2014

- New Garden Township has an estimated 1180 acres of protected lands. During the year Board members have contacted and had confidential discussions with 10 different property owners whose properties are of potential interest for purchase, preservation or trail easements.
- In the last 4 years the OSRB members had discussions with 31 property owners concerning the purchase or preservation through conservation easement of their property; in excess of 1450 acres. Conversations have proceeded, with BOS approval, to make offers of purchase of land or building rights in 5 cases. 1 property was purchased, 2 conservation easements are progressing. The others are on hold. Two trail easements were completed.
- The OSRB submitted and was successful with two grant proposals and participated in the preparation of a third proposal in conjunction with the White Clay Creek Watershed Association that was also funded. Additionally, Natural Lands Trust has continued work to close out the 2013 Chester County grant the Township received for a portion of the costs of the purchase of the Hendrickson property.
- The Board of Supervisors at their September 15th endorsed the OSRB proposed delineation of the structure of responsibilities between and among the Friends of New Garden Trails, the Open Space Review Board, and the Board of Supervisors.

Read more about the 2014's activities regarding preserving land and building trails in the [2014 Annual Report](#).

2013

- New Garden Township now has an estimated 1180 acres of protected lands. During the year Board members have contacted and had confidential discussions with 8 different property owners whose properties are of potential interest for purchase, preservation or trail easements.
- In the last 3 years the OSRB members had discussions with 31 property owners concerning the purchase or conservation easement of their property; in excess of 1450 acres. Conversations have proceeded, with BOS approval, to offers of purchase of land or building rights in 5 cases. 1 property was purchased, 1 conservation easement

is progressing. 3 offers were refused, though contact is continuing with two owners.

- OSRB Board members have also made significant progress towards trail easement agreements with two property owners finalizing one agreement in December, 2012 and the other in 2013. The attached map provides an overview of the sub-watersheds, protected lands and trails (active and proposed) within the Township.
- The OSRB submitted two proposals for grant funding and participated in the preparation of two others in conjunction with the White Clay Creek Watershed Association. Two other proposals were submitted by the Natural Lands Trust on behalf of the Township to Chester County and the state to recoup a portion of the costs of the purchase of the Hendrickson property

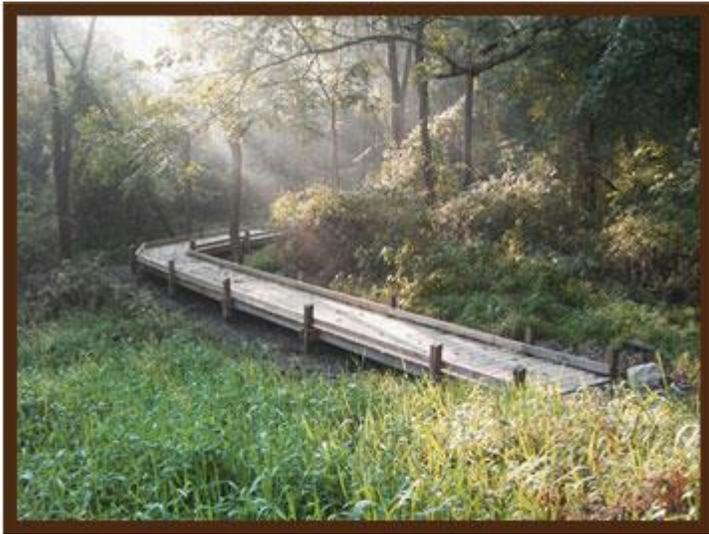
Read more about the 2013's activities regarding preserving land and building trails in the [2013 Annual Report](#).

2012

- New Garden Township now has an estimated 1,115 acres of protected lands. Board since its inception has contacted and had confidential discussions with 48 different property owners whose properties are of potential interest for purchase, preservation or trail easements.
- In the last 3 years the OSRB members had discussions with 31 property owners (19 in 2012) concerning the purchase or conservation easement of their properties; totaling in excess of 1,450 acres. Conversations have proceeded, with BOS approval, to make offers to purchase of land or building rights in 5 cases: 1 property was purchased, 1 conservation easement was completed, and 3 offers were refused, though contact is continuing.
- OSRB members have also completed trail easement agreements with two property owners finalizing both agreements in December. Discussions of trail easements continue with 15 other property owners.
- The OSRB met several times with PREIT representatives early in the year to lay out alternatives for walkways and trails if and when the development goes forward.

Read more about the 2011's activities regarding preserving land and building trails in the [2012 Annual Report](#).

2011



*One and a quarter mile in length the **Mill Race Trail** meanders mostly along a flat path along the banks of the White Clay Creek. **Trail grand opening** in autumn, 2011.*

- New Garden Township now has an estimated 1044.9 acres of protected lands
- The OSRB, with BOS approval, is currently actively pursuing or has made proposals for eight of its

highest priority properties for conservation easement or purchase totaling approximately 129.7 acres.

- Board members have also made significant progress towards trail easement agreements with three property owners.
- In total, Board members have contacted and had confidential discussions with 43 different property owners whose properties are of potential interest for purchase, preservation or trail easements
- The OSRB has put together a standardized guide for discussion of Conservation and Trail Easements. It includes FAQ's useful web sites and sample agreements.
- The OSRB welcomed Erin Lee as the new consultant from Natural Lands Trust.

Read more about the 2011's activities regarding preserving land and building trails in the [2011 Annual Report](#).

2010

The Open Space Review Board (OSRB) remained very active during 2010. Among the notable activities and accomplishments are the following areas.



*Volunteers from the OSRB and the Township standing next to the Poomie Doodle Rail Road sign on the **Laurel Woods Trail**. Installation completed in the autumn, 2010.*

- New Garden Township now has an estimated 1,001 acres of protected lands.
- New Garden Township Greenways Plan and Phelps Property Plan were approved and formally adopted as an addendum to the New Garden Township Comprehensive Plan.
- Board members have contacted and had

confidential discussions with 20 different property owners whose properties are of potential interest for purchase, preservation or for trail easements.

- Board members also have identified a total of 32 properties for potential consideration for easements or purchase should the opportunity arise.
- OSRB, with BOS approval, is actively pursuing 6 properties for easement or purchase totaling 114 acres.
- Many of the OSRB members were also active with the Friends of New Garden Trails, established by the OSRB.

Read more about the 2010's activities regarding preserving land and building trails in the [2010 Annual Report](#).

2009

- Board members have contacted and had confidential discussions with 12 different property owners whose properties are of potential interest for purchase or preservation for open space planning.
- The amending of the NG Township Comprehensive Plan to include the Greenways Plan and Phelps Property Plan is pending.
- Planning for the Inter-Municipality Loop Trail involving New Garden, London Grove, and Franklin Townships continued throughout the year.
- The Board of Supervisors approved participation in the New Garden Township Plant Survey by the White Clay Wild and Scenic Management Committee.
- On September 26th, an event celebrating the Grand Opening of the [Laurel Woods Trail](#) was held. 90 people attended and walked the trail.

With grants from from the Community Conservation Partnership Program under the administration of the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, and from the E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation the township-wide [Greenways & Phelps Property Plan](#) is completed. Among other objectives, the plan proposes over 15 miles of a variety of trails, some of which connect to (future) adjacent township trails. 2009 saw the completion of the Laurel Woods Trail. A second trail will be under construction in 2010. For information about and to volunteer for the building and maintenance of these greenways/trail please visit [The Friends of the New Garden Trails](#), a growing group of 75 local people who are dedicated in preserving, protecting and sharing the current and future open space in New Garden Township.



On December 17, 2009 New Garden Township received with appreciation a donated conservation easement permanently protecting approximately seven acres of land from further development. Landowners Mary and John Koepp, working with Natural Lands Trust and New Garden Township's Open Space Review Board completed legal requirements to preserve forever their parcel as open

land with its native plants and wildlife. Natural Lands Trust will administer the easement, with New Garden Township named as beneficiary. For more information about conservation easements, please contact a member of the New Garden Township Open Space Review Board. *Pictured are Mary and John Koeppe, with Steven Kuter, Natural Lands Trust, Bernie McKay and Carmen Raddi, New Garden Township.*

Some accomplishments of the Open Space Review Board in 2009 are listed below. The 2009 Annual OSRB Report can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

2008

The OSRB is happy to report that over 50 acres on the White Clay Creek was deeded in 2008 over to the township by Wilkinson Builders as a donation related to one of their developments. Along with the previously acquired Phelps tract, the township now has over 80 acres preserved along the White Clay Creek.

In 2008 with adoption of a .012% earned income tax to fund open space protection, the OSRB now has the financial capability to begin pursuing additional opportunities within the township. The Open Space Review Board would appreciate being contacted if you have property that you believe would be a candidate for preservation. Please call anyone of the board members below or drop by one of our monthly meetings held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at the New Garden Township administration building.