

LANGHORNE OPEN SPACE

- A LAND TRUST -



Langhorne Heritage Farm, Julius Lojeski Acres • 222 North Green Street, Langhorne, PA 19047
www.LanghorneOpenSpace.org

CATAWISSA DEDICATION

LOSI supporters and Borough officials gathered at Catawissa Nature Preserve on the afternoon of Saturday, October 9 to formally dedicate the park. The event featured several speakers, and was capped off by the unveiling of a new sign welcoming visitors to the Preserve and honoring major contributors to the acquisition effort in 2007.

Speakers included **Diane Marseglia** (Bucks County Commissioner) who spoke about the County Open Space Program whose funding helped make parks like Catawissa possible. **Barry Truchil** (past Borough Council President) talked about Langhorne Borough's role in the long effort to save Catawissa from development. **Larry Zetterberg** (Past President, LOSI) reflected on the early days of the Catawissa preservation effort. **Carol Deaver**



Larry & Carol Zetterberg address the attendees.

(LOSI Director) offered a musical interlude, performing a folksong written by her. **Carol Zetterberg** (LOSI Director of Funding & Development) talked about the spirit and commitment of LOSI members, and the critical role of hope and optimism in undertaking what may seem at the time to be an impossible task. **Pat Carr** (LOSI President) unveiled the new sign along the trail at the Maple Avenue



County Commissioner Diane Marseglia addresses the audience.

entrance to the park. He then recognized the many contributors to the successful acquisition effort – Langhorne Open Space, Langhorne Borough, Bucks County Open Space Program, and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Pat concluded with a message of gratitude to individual members of Langhorne Open Space who made major donations to the effort in 2007.



Carol Zetterberg played guitar.

Continued on page 3

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS BURIAL SITE GETS A FACELIFT

The Revolutionary Soldiers Burial Site located at the corner of S. Bellevue and Flowers Avenues was saved from development with the help of Langhorne Open Space back in 1998. Shortly thereafter, a plaque and informational sign were placed at the site, and a colonial-style fence typical of the period was installed.

In recent times, the site had become overgrown, and many parts of the fence had rotted. With volunteer effort provided by students at the Bucks Learning Cooperative, **Lou Procaccino** oversaw pruning of the trees and repainting of the wrought iron fence along the Bellevue Avenue entrance to the site.



Foreground: Newly painted wrought iron fence; Background: Restored colonial era fence.

Continued on page 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrick Carr, *President*
Deborah Tyl, *Vice President*
Phil Miele, *Treasurer*
Carol Zetterberg, *Director, Funding & Development*

Mary Blaydon	Bob Duaine
Betsy Carr	Louis Procaccino
Lenny Chai	Rachel Renshaw
Dawn Clabbers	James Tomlinson
Carol Deaver	Larry Zetterberg
Beth Delaney	

COMMITTEES



Community Gardens

Joan Feldman-Plumb langhornegardens@gmail.com

Greenhouse

Keith DeVore 267-572-0165

Newsletter

Pat & Betsy Carr 215-757-3630

Open Space

Carol Zetterberg 215-757-4721

Programs

Open for a volunteer

Grounds Maintenance Coordinator

Chuck Kascinski 215-375-2239

Caretaker/Farmhouse Rentals

Sarah Kyria 215-915-7101
sarahkyr@yahoo.com

Writers-at-the-Farm

Artists-at-the-Farm

Carol Zetterberg 215-757-4721

Membership

Patrick Carr 215-757-3630
Phil Miele 267-391-9380

Flea Market

Bob Duaine 215-752-4289

Barn Sale

Debbie Miele 267-391-9381

Borough Council Liaison

Kari Thomas

information@langhorneopenspace.org

FLEA MARKET RETURNS AFTER TWO-YEAR HIATUS



The Bovine Café was open for business. Volunteers (behind the table) L to R Carol Deaver, Helen Schwartz, Deb Tyl, Beth Delaney, Carine Roman



Barn Sale volunteers (in green T-shirts) L to R: Debbie Miele, Marge Minton, and ??



Hundred of shoppers returned to Heritage Farm for our first post-pandemic Flea Market.



Catawissa Dedication



Continued from page 1



*Childrens Art Table
(Artist Sharon Spraw in background).*



LOSI President Pat Carr unveils the new sign.

The Artists-at-the-Farm supported the event, with **Ying Chai** and **Wendy Birch** overseeing a children’s art table, and **Sharon Spraw** doing En Plein Aire painting for guests to enjoy.

Due to Covid concerns during the planning of the event, organizers limited the size of the gathering. “Our hope was to invite to the event all of the members of Langhorne Open Space, and those who frequent the Preserve”, said **Carol Zetterberg**. “While we focused this event on those individuals and organizations who contributed to

the acquisition in 2007, we hope there’s another opportunity in the future to recognize all those who helped with clean-up, trail building and more in the years since the acquisition”, added **Pat Carr** LOSI President.

Next time you’re at Catawissa, be sure to check out the new double-sided sign at the Maple Ave entrance to the Preserve. (Photos of Catawissa wildlife on the new sign were contributed by **Polly Lodge**, longtime LOSI member and supporter.)

Continued from page 1

Revolutionary Soldiers Burial Site Gets a Facelift

We offer special thanks to **Alexis Sellers** and the students in her Community Stewardship class for their volunteer efforts at the Burial Site: **Maddie Hammon, Salomé DeVilla, Gabe DeVilla, Aidan Zuniga, Zoe Targino, Briana Mooney, John D’Auria, Noori Bassil, and Sean Marks.**

A subsequent project funded by Langhorne Open Space restored the colonial fence on the perimeter of the site. In early November, a landscape firm was engaged to replace many of the rotted posts and rails. All of these improvements were completed in time for Veterans Day events at the site.



Lou Procaccino and BLC volunteers trim the trees at the site.



BLC Community Stewardship Program volunteers.

LANGHORNE OPEN SPACE WEBSITE GETS AN OVERHAUL

After many years of faithful service, the current Langhorne Open Space website will soon be receiving a complete overhaul. As technology has changed and cyber threats have increased over the past five years, our current website has reached the end of its useful life.

Website committee members Pat Carr, Phil Miele, Lenny Chai, and James Tomlinson are working with web consultant Joyce van den Berg on requirements and implementation for the new site.

Stay tuned - over the next 2-3 months we’ll be announcing the new and updated website.

WHAT'S THE STORY? *The Origins of Catawissa Nature Preserve*



House that formerly stood at the Maple Avenue entrance to Catawissa Nature Preserve.

Anyone walking along Maple Avenue in the early 1970's, would have noticed the conspicuous open space flanked by two large yews across from the intersection of Hill Ave. This gap was curious because all other houses along this historic block of Maple Avenue were built very close together. Well, that open piece of real estate and the land to its north (now known as Catawissa Nature Preserve) has a history dating back to the early 1800's as a home, a business, a cow pasture, a corn field, an amateur car track, a makeshift playground and now a cherished town park.

According to our friends at the Historic Langhorne Association, this twin-style home, referred to as the Absalom Michener House was built circa 1860, but the property's history goes deeper. The property was in the Amos Bailey family from approximately 1807 until John Bailey (Amos' son) sold the property to Absalom Michener in April of 1856. Records indicate that the house was built in 1860. Michener owned the property for about 20 years until his death in about 1878 when his heirs sold the property to Walter Johnson who, with his wife Mary owned the house for only five years before selling it to James Tinley in 1883. Tinley died sometime around 1900 when the property was sold to James Knotts who, as seen in the photo, operated a provisions business out of part of the house. The property stayed in the Knotts family until the death of Mr. Knotts (and/or his wife) in 1945 when it was inherited by their son, James T. Knotts.

The deep property also held adventures for young neighbors. Ninety-three year Langhorne resident and longtime LOSI member, **Harry Hibbs** remembers local boys in the 1930's and 40's driving their cars around a makeshift track on the parcel. Edward Vogenberger, who with his wife Marguerite, farmed the Heritage Farm property, also owned adjacent land where they raised corn and grazed their cows

near the creek. Generations of school children built forts, explored and played in the spring mud of what is now Catawissa. Life-long resident and LOSI Board member, **Carol Deaver** shared a story of when she and five year-old neighbor, **Diane Rothenback Johnson** were cutting through the property when Diane got stuck in the mud and Carol had to run for Diane's mother to help pull her out! Over the ensuing years, the property became an emergent forest.

Both Carol and Harry remember "Mr. Demont" who lived in the east side of the Michener House and would wave to children on their way home from school. During Harry's elementary school days, he walked by the house every day on his way from his home at the corner of Maple and Pine Streets to the "old Quaker school" near the Middletown Meetinghouse. **Judy Sloan**, another life-long Borough resident and longtime LOSI member remembers both Mr. Demont and Sally Knott (who lived in the west side of the Michener house). Judy's memories are very vivid, as her grandmother lived in the adjacent twin that still stands to the east of the Catawissa opening, which was then owned by the Mather family.

In 1948, the property was sold again, this time to John and Edna Simons of the Torresdale section of Philadelphia. For reasons that no one seems to recall, the Michener House was razed in the mid-60's. The property was listed as "a vacant lot" when it was sold by the widowed John Simons to Howard and Marion Simons in 1965. In 1968 the entire property was sold to Blaze Enterprises Inc." The property remained vacant and unused through the 1990's when it was again sold to developer Coleman Roach.

In about 2000, Coleman Roach came before Borough Council to present his plan to build some 30 town houses on this 6-acre parcel. It was then that LOSI's seven-year fight to preserve the property began. The original development plan called for a two-lane thoroughfare through the narrow Maple Avenue entrance where the Michener House had once stood. Citing a variety of issues including traffic, stormwater, stream set-backs, and wetlands LOSI steadfastly opposed the development plan. Appointed by Langhorne Borough as grant writer, **Carol Zetterberg** negotiated with the developer while securing grants from the Bucks County Open Space Program, Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, combined with more than \$100,000 in matching funds from Langhorne Open Space to purchase the property for over \$1 Million. LOSI's seven-year campaign to save the parcel culminated in 2007 when the property was purchased by Langhorne Borough to become the Catawissa Creek Nature Preserve.

The next time you walk through Catawissa listen closely for all the voices that called that land their home, pasture, and playspace. Many thanks to Harry Hibbs, Carol Deaver and Judy Sloan who shared some wonderful memories.

Researched and written by Betsy Carr with assistance from the Historic Langhorne Association.



WILDFLOWERS AT CATAWISSA

Article and photos contributed by Carol Deaver

It's been a very colorful summer at the Catawissa. The pollinator garden at the Maple Avenue entrance is overflowing with blooms doing their intended job - keeping the bees busy. The lavender Bergamot is a favorite of mine.

Before you cross the bridge to access the loop trail, you'll see flowers and plants that require a more swampy soil such as Swamp Milkweed. You might think that all the yellow daisy type flowers are the same. However, there are two different varieties found in Catawissa: Black Eyed Susan and Prairie Coneflower with its drooping petals.

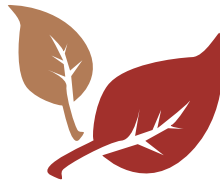
One of the most valuable plants at the Catawissa is Milk Weed: it is the only plant on which Monarch Butterflies will lay their eggs. There is a patch of Milk Weed at the Watson Avenue parking entrance.

For those interested, there is a Smart Phones app called "Plant Net" that will help you identify plants by their flower or leaf.

Starting next Spring, please visit Catawissa to enjoy all of its beautiful wildflowers. And remember, please do not pick the flowers. The seeds that they form grow next year's plants!



Black Eyed Susan



Loosestrife



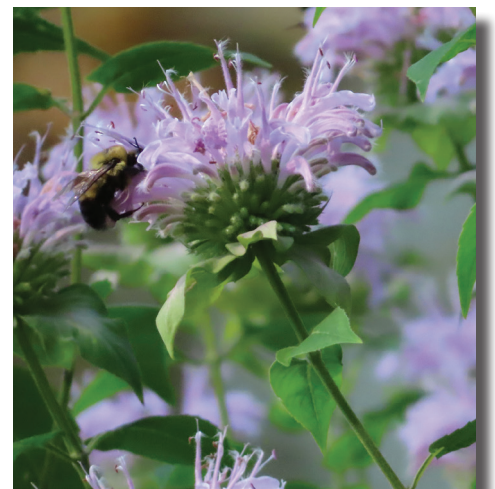
Monarch butterfly on Milkweed



Prairie Cone



Queen Anne's Lace



Wild Bergamot

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - BOB DUAIME: A MAN ON THE MOVE

Many of us would view 'retirement' as a time to kick back, sleep late and take life more slowly. Nothing could be further from the truth for LOSI Board member, Flea Market organizer and all-around volunteer, **Bob Duaine**.

The Northeast Philadelphia native who grew up one of nine children, became a Windy Bush resident in 1985. That was when Bob started hearing about a small activist group then called Save-the-Farm. He became aware that the then-working farm was in danger of being sold for development. Feeling strongly that "it was important to maintain even small pockets of open space in every community to improve everyone's quality of life", he became a financial supporter of the Save-the-Farm effort. Bob continued volunteering time, becoming a member of the LOSI Board of Directors in 2003.

After assisting organizer **Rachel Renshaw** for a couple of years, Bob took the helm of the Flea Market in 2013. Under Bob's guidance, LOSI's semi-annual Flea Market has grown to 104 vendor spaces. It is safe to say that the LOSI Flea Market has become one of the most popular events of its kind in the area and a major fundraiser for LOSI. Bob also helps with virtually all of LOSI's events, including Farm Spruce-up Day, Membership Drive, and can be seen guiding the parking at our concerts. But that is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of Bob's volunteer activities.

Even before his retirement from a 35-year career as a math teacher in the Council Rock School District, Bob was making a difference in the community at large. A Red Cross volunteer for nearly 40 years, he started out in blood transport, and is now a Donor Ambassador and a Health and Safety Instructor. He is currently a Visitor Aide at Churchville Nature Center, assists with the monthly Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in Trenton, volunteers with the Levittown-Bristol Kiwanis Club Food Pantry, and this admitted 'car guy' is a Driver Safety Instructor

for AARP. Bob is also a volunteer at both the Bristol Riverside Theater and the Music Mountain Theatre in Lambertville, NJ!

Bob has a special place in his heart for a very special program with which he became involved in 1990 - a small residential summer camp program. The program serves young children with significant

behavioral issues who would benefit from a one-on-one living and learning experience. In 1993, Bob became one of the founding members of Camp Discovery and continues to fulfill the mission by changing hundreds of lives of campers and volunteer counselors over the 22 years of the program.

When you ask Bob about the importance of volunteerism in his life, he had two simple tenets. "We all have a basic need to be involved with others and be part of building a community while seeking common ground and interests." and "Making change can't be haphazard; it needs to be well-reasoned and thoughtful to be effective and powerful." When it comes to LOSI, Bob is grateful to have found likeminded and thoughtful people who make a difference in the life of our community and "to save and protect what the Borough would not been able to do on its own."

We are grateful for the many wonderful supporters and volunteers that make LOSI a positive force in preserving precious open space. Thank you, Bob, for all you do for LOSI and the many lives you touch each and every day.



CONCERTS RETURN TO HERITAGE FARM!

We were thrilled to welcome the **Straight Ahead Big Band** back to Heritage Farm for two free concerts in October. Under the direction of **Dave Osenberg**, the 22-piece band, performed a number of swing band classics. Featured was vocalist **Shantel Hubert**.

Straight Ahead Big Band is a 22-piece ensemble which plays swing, Latin, rock & pop. The band was formed in 2004 by networking musicians from the area. According to Dave Osenberg, "The band enjoys playing at Heritage Farm because they enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, and we're allowed to play a wide variety of music styles.

The open-air concert took place in front of the Main Barn, with plenty of free on-site parking.



Straight Ahead Big Band performs at Heritage Farm.



LOSI Thanks Our Community Businesses for Their Support

Langhorne Open Space would like to thank the many local businesses who support our efforts. Each of these merchants has donated significantly discounted or free services, provided gifts for our annual membership drive or supported us financially. We ask our members to frequent these community businesses, thanking them for helping us each year.

B&B Remodeling
Bob Prizer & Bill Sosna
215-752-2422

Bella Tori Restaurant
Paul Manes
321 S. Bellevue Ave.
215-702-9600

Belmont's Garage
Andy Belmont
633 W. Maple Ave.
215-757-3813

Brother's Pizza
Pat & Sal
www.BrothersPizza.com
215-757-1057

Buddy's Barber Shop
215-757-9280
The Café at Langhorne
Stacie DiPiazza, Tricia Guerra
215-757-0929

First National Bank & Trust
Company of Newtown
Dave Carson
www.fnbn.com
215-757-1577

Hollingsworth Plumbing &
Heating
Jim Hollingsworth
215-757-3456

Judy's Corner Custom Framing
Judy Sloan
215-757-6158

K.E. Seifert Plumbing, Inc.
Kevin Seifert
www.KESeifert.com
215-752-9080

Langhorne Coffee House
Tim James
www.LanghorneCoffeeHouse.com
215-757-6070

Langhorne Hardware
Hank Carfagno
215-757-7699

Masselle's Auto Body
Steve Masselle
www.MasselleAutoBody.com
215-752-7658

Anthony Sinagoga Photography
Anthony Sinagoga
www.AnthonySinagoga.com
215-920-2681

The Times House Inn
Chris and Diane Prokop
Jim Thorpe, PA
267-934-9393

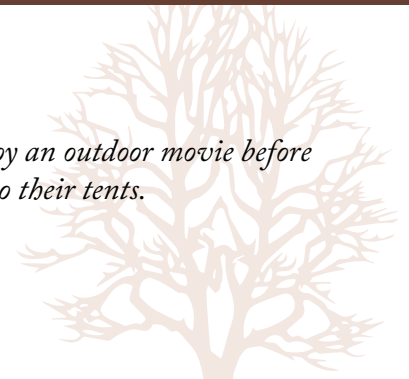
Transue Tree and Lawn Service
Kevin Transue
Langhorne
215-870-1388



HERITAGE FARM HOSTS CUB SCOUT CAMP-OUT



Cubs enjoy an outdoor movie before retiring to their tents.



A hike through Catawissa Nature Preserve was one of the activities during their Camp-out.



2022 Membership Drive Starts Soon - Become a Member!

Langhorne Open Space's annual Membership Drive will start next month. If you'd like to save us the cost of postage, you can renew your membership right now using the form on page 11. To renew online using your credit card, just go to our website www.langhorneopenspace.org and select "Donate/Join". We very much appreciate your continued support of our good work.

GUARDIAN

Donation of \$1,000 or more

A rustic birdhouse will be placed either at Catawissa Nature Preserve or Heritage Farm as a lasting tribute. Our birdhouses, which are made by Amish craftsmen, house multiple nests. If you wish, you may dedicate it in honor of an important event, or in memory of a loved one. In addition to having your name engraved on a plaque which is permanently displayed at Heritage Farm, you will receive one of the gifts described below.

PATRON

Donation of \$500 - \$999

You will receive a beautiful Gift Basket, together with one of the gifts described below. Also, your name will be engraved on a Plaque which is permanently displayed at Heritage Farm.

PROTECTOR

Donation of \$250 - \$499

You will receive a Protector Gift and a Commemorative Tile as described below.

LEGACY MEMBER

Donation of \$200 - \$249

You will receive a Limited Edition Legacy Tile as described below.

SUSTAINING MEMBER

Donation of \$100 - \$199

You will receive a Limited Edition Commemorative Tile as described below.

FRIEND

Donation of \$50 - \$99

You will receive a Matted Print of an original Catawissa Nature Preserve or Heritage Farm scene by Langhorne photographer Anthony Sinagoga.

MEMBER

Donation of \$25 - \$49

You will receive a free subscription to Langhorne Open Space's newsletter.

ABOUT OUR GIFTS

Commemorative Tile

Ceramic artist Mandy Baker has custom designed a hand-glazed tile for Langhorne Open Space. Each run (limited to just one hundred) depicts a pastoral or historic scene in Langhorne/ Bucks County.

Legacy Tile

A collection of limited edition tiles from the earlier days of Langhorne Open Space. Many of these collectors' item tiles commemorate LOSI's past preservation milestones.

Protector Gift

This year's gift is an umbrella imprinted with the Langhorne Open Space logo.

Your Tax Deductible Gift Can Help Preserve, Protect & Restore . . .

Please Check (✓) Your Desired Membership Level:

- Guardian (\$1000 or more)
 Protector (\$250-\$499)
 Sustaining Member (\$100-\$199)
 Member (\$25-\$49)
 Patron (\$500-\$999)
 Legacy (\$200-\$249)
 Friend (\$50-\$99)
 Please check here if you would prefer not to receive a gift this year.

Your Help is Needed. Please Check (✓) How You Would Like to Help:

- Annual Membership Drive
 Property Upkeep & Renovations
 Open Space Protection Initiatives
 Christmas Tree Sale
 Fundraisers
 Educational Programs
 Flea Market
 Newsletter
 Other _____

Comments? Suggestions? We are very interested in your input. Please write comments/suggestions on the reverse side of this form.

Mail Completed Form To: Phil Miele, Treasurer, LOSI • 940 Langhorne-Yardley Road • Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047-8243

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "LANGHORNE OPEN SPACE, INC."

Name _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Street Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date _____

Email Address (needed for our e-newsletter!) _____

Langhorne Open Space, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. In addition, your donations may be eligible for your employer's Matching Gift Program. Please check with your employer.



CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE

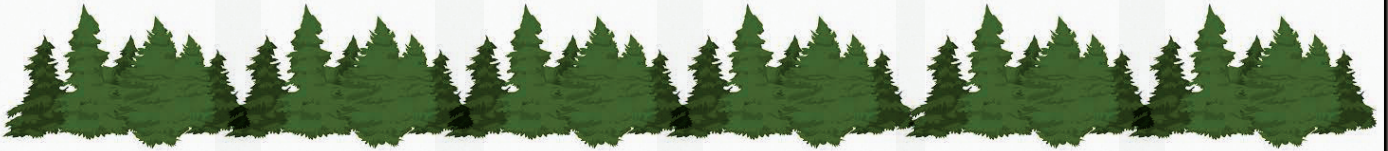


One of our major fundraisers, the annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale will take place from 9AM – 3PM on Sunday (11/28), Saturday & Sunday (12/4-5), and Saturday (12/11) at Heritage Farm. Freshly cut Fraser, Douglas Fir, and Balsam trees of various sizes will be available. Natural Balsam wreaths, hand-decorated by Wreath-Makers-at-the-Farm will also be available for sale.

The Barn Sale will be open at the same time. Barn sale coordinator **Debbie Miele** reports, “We have a wonderful selection of new and like-new Holiday decorations this year.”

“If last year was any indication, we suggest that buyers come early for the best selection”, say event coordinators **Beth Delaney** and **Deb Tyl**. In 2020, all of the trees and wreaths were sold out by the end of the first sale date!

Volunteers are needed to assist in unloading the trees when they are delivered to the Farm on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. The unloading takes place at 7 AM on Saturday, November 27. If you’re able to assist with unloading, or with tree sales, please contact Pat Carr (215-757-3630; information@langhorneopenspace.org).



*Here's Your Copy of
Our Fall 2021 Newsletter!*

- a Land Trust -

Langhorne Open Space

222 North Green Street
Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047

