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Director's Letter

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturn and social justice movement on behalf of black lives taking place since last spring, one thing remains constant at The Nature Conservancy. We aim to create a world where people and nature thrive, and acts of racism and violence threaten this goal, harm our communities and put vulnerable lives at risk.

As an organization, TNC strives to create a more inclusive culture, and we are committed to looking at where we can and should take action in Pennsylvania and Delaware. With your support, we can do our part to push for the long-overdue change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Brennan", followed by a horizontal line.

Lori Brennan
Executive Director



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Places We Protect

Cove Mountain Preserve expansion needs your support

If you've ever kayaked on the Susquehanna upstream from Harrisburg, you probably paddled by the 25-foot-tall Statue of Liberty replica that rises from the middle of the river. From the eastern bank, looking past Lady Liberty, Cove Mountain rises from the river's edge.

In recent years, The Nature Conservancy acquired 353 acres that comprise the Cove Mountain Preserve, and secured a 1,600-acre conservation easement nearby, to ensure that these lands and spectacular view from the river below would be protected forever. Now TNC is working to protect an additional 1,276 acres—situated in proximity to the Appalachian Trail—that connect these parcels and nearby state game lands to establish 14 miles of unbroken forest habitat along the Kittatinny Ridge, which connects the northern and southern Appalachians and represents the most important wildlife corridor east of the Mississippi.

“In addition to benefiting a variety of wildlife, this acquisition would expand recreational opportunities for Pennsylvanians,” says Keith Fisher, TNC's director of conservation programs in Pennsylvania.

According to Fisher, TNC has identified the Kittatinny Ridge as the most important climate corridor in Pennsylvania, a designation assigned to natural areas that provide ample space for plants and animals to migrate as the climate warms and habitats change. The acquisition would also advance the goal of the Kittatinny Ridge Land Protection Partnership, a coalition of six local and regional land trusts, including TNC, working to protect 100,000 acres along the ridge by 2050.

Support Cove Mountain Preserve Expansion

Contact Donna Bowers (dbowers@tnc.org or 717-232-6001 x205) to learn about how you can help TNC reach its \$4.5 million goal to purchase these 1,276 acres by December 2020.



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Amazon Grant Benefits Forests in Pennsylvania

Online retailer Amazon announced that it will provide \$10 million in funding to expand sustainable forestry efforts first piloted by The Nature Conservancy's Working Woodlands program in Pennsylvania (see "Primed for Growth" on Page 19 of *Nature Conservancy* magazine). The grant will initially target private forest owners in Pennsylvania and Vermont who are willing to manage their lands in ways that will help reduce carbon in the atmosphere.

"Across the U.S., one in four rural Americans owns forest land," says Tom Martin, president and CEO of the American Forest Foundation. "Collectively, they own the largest portion of forests in our country—making them key to addressing our climate challenges. More than their size is their dedication to the land—these individuals want to help the environment."

Amazon intends to support additional efforts throughout the 2,000-mile span of the Appalachians and beyond, as the company moves toward its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2040.



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Pennsylvania forest owners interested in learning about eligibility should consult www.familyforestcarbon.org.

Natural Solutions

Support grow for nature's role in the climate crisis

Last spring, The Nature Conservancy's chief external affairs officer, Lynn Scarlett, joined leaders from International Paper Co. and Walmart Stores Inc. in an important conversation with the United States Senate's bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus about nature's role in capturing and storing carbon, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping communities become more resilient to the effects of climate change. A highlight of the meeting included checking in with Caucus co-founder U.S. Senator Chris Coons, a vocal advocate for conservation, especially in his own backyard

"The science shows that natural climate solutions implemented in forests, grasslands and wetlands can deliver up to a third of the emission reductions needed by 2030."

—Lynn Scarlett, TNC's chief external officer

of Delaware. In fact, a week prior, TNC's Pennsylvania and Delaware trustees awarded Senator Coons with the organization's highest honor, the Conservation Leadership Award.

Meeting with the Climate Solutions Caucus follows on

the heels of a TNC study—based on the evaluation of more than 10,000 coastal sites in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic—that identified the Delaware Bay as one of the most resilient coastal habitats in the region based on its ability to provide a natural buffer in the face of rising seas. The team noted the valuable role played by the Delaware Bay's tidal marshes, which shield local communities from storm surges while serving as nursing grounds for wildlife. The study also noted that the Bay's salt marshes may rival forests in storing carbon.

During the meeting, Caucus members and the nonprofit and corporate leaders focused on three areas where natural climate solutions can make a significant impact on capturing carbon from the atmosphere and adding resiliency to the landscape: forestry, agriculture, and ocean and coastal ecosystems. Meeting participants agreed to continue exploring practical, cost-effective methods for employing nature in standing up to the effects of a rapidly changing climate.