



THE BOTTOM LINE

a publication of

Bottomlands Conservancy

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Photo by Lenny Lichvar

About the Bottomlands Conservancy

The Bottomlands Conservancy is a 501 C (3) nonprofit land trust operating out of Somerset County. The Conservancy was formed to provide additional public natural resource opportunities by InnoH2O Solutions LLC, based in Friedens. InnoH2O Solutions is a company that creates and implements a variety of innovative water quality improvement technologies in a broad range of categories including abandoned mine drainage (AMD) abatement design, oversight and on the ground projects.

The Bottomlands Conservancy initial action was to acquire seven AMD treatment systems and adjacent land from the Somerset County Conservancy which determined that they no longer wanted ownership of

these systems. The ability and willingness of Bottomlands to accept the ownership of these crucial AMD abatement systems in the Stonycreek and Casselman River watersheds, totally over 200 acres, ensured that the treatment systems would be locally controlled and managed. The Conservancy works in partnership with the Somerset Conservation District to maintain and operate these systems. The ability of Bottomlands to take ownership of these properties assures that the historic and significant water quality improvements that have occurred in the Stonycreek and Casselman River watersheds will continue to provide recreational, economic and quality of life positive impacts in Somerset County and beyond now and into the future.

Editor: Lenny Lichvar

Conservancy properties accessible to hunters

The Bottomlands Conservancy has enrolled all of its properties in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunter Access Program. This program certifies and promotes accessible hunting opportunities on private lands to the hunting public. Deer, turkey, grouse, woodcock, squirrels, and rabbits are all found on Bottomlands properties. In addition, the Jenner Rod and Gun Club stocks pheasants on one of the properties as well. Bottomlands has also partnered with Somerset County Pheasants Forever and the Somerset Conservation District to improve wildlife habitat on its properties. The willingness of Bottomlands to allow public access benefits wildlife watchers, hikers, anglers and hunters. Along with the ongoing water quality improvements these properties also provide, the cumulative impact of all of it creates important benefits to the public.

Our Mission

Bottomlands Conservancy' is a non-profit organization based in Somerset County PA. Our mission is to further the protection, enhancement, conservation and preservation of environmental resources. We strive to fulfill this purpose by: owning and conserving land for public benefit and use; enhancing wildlife habitat based on BMP's set forth by governing agencies and other scientific based wildlife organizations; implementing, owning, operating and maintaining AMD facilities to clean and protect our waterways; providing education and consultation to interested parties on the enhancement, conservation, and preservation of our environmental resources.



Photo by Lenny Lichvar

Allen Berkey constructs a bench at Mallards Rest.

Benches give trail users opportunity to walk, rest and enjoy the trail

The interpretive walking trail at the Mallards Rest treatment system was funded and constructed by the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited. It is used extensively by local residents for exercise, bird watching, fishing and other outdoor enjoyment. The trail also has signage that informs visitors about the water quality history of the Quemehoning Creek watershed.

Long time outdoorsman and conservationist Allen Berkey of Jennerstown, who grew up along the banks of Quemahoning Creek, has constructed a number of benches adjacent to the trail providing an opportunity for trail users to rest and enjoy the natural resources at the site, including the many species of waterfowl that inhabit the wetland all year long.

Berkey donated the materials and labor to construct the benches. He plans to construct several picnic tables later in 2026 to provide further enhancements for the visitors to the wetland.

Board of Directors

Chairman – Logan Lichvar
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Photo by Lenny Lichvar

Bottomlands Conservancy Vice Chairman Lenny Lichvar and Somerset Conservation District Watershed Specialist Greg Shustrick (first from left) led a tour of AMD treatment systems located in the Stonycreek River watershed for students enrolled in the Wildlife and Fisheries program at Garrett College of Maryland on April 29, 2026. The tour included the Mallards Rest and Oven Run Site B AMD treatment systems, both owned by the Bottomlands Conservancy. The tour is organized every year by Garrett College adjunct professor Eric Null (second from left), who also serves as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited.

Treatment systems improve water quality of Quemahoning Creek and Reservoir

The Boswell AMD Passive Treatment System, also known as Mallards Rest, in the Quemahoning Creek watershed is owned by the Bottomlands Conservancy. This system, along with the Jenners AMD Passive Treatment System located a mile upstream, has significantly restored the water quality of Quemahoning Creek from its decades long pollution from AMD. The Quemahoning Creek is now stocked with trout by way of local funds and efforts. The systems have also greatly improved the water quality of the Quemahoning Reservoir located downstream enabling its public recreational opportunities prosper.

The wetland system enables the iron contamination from the AMD mine opening on the site to drop out in the constructed wetland cells before entering Quemahoning Creek that also holds a population of

bass, panfish and carp. Carp is a non-native species that often is not respected by anglers or fisheries managers. It is true they can have detrimental impacts on waterways. However, they are here to stay.

Carp are also a challenging, usually large and powerful gamefish to those anglers who pursue them. Bottomlands assures that the population of carp are protected and will provide angling opportunities into the future with a catch and release program (CARP) mandated in the wetland. This protects the carp from potential over harvesting by bow fishing. Mallards Rest is one two bodies of water in the state and one of the few in the country with catch and release regulations mandated by the property owner for carp.



Photo by Lenny Lichvar

Sycamore tree seedlings were planted at both the Mallards Rest property along Quemahoning Creek and at the Hawk View property along the Stonycreek River. Sycamores have large root systems and provide shade, all of which aid in streambank stabilization and coldwater conservation. The trees were donated by Ed Will of New Baltimore. Pictured above: a new Sycamore seedling and a protective tree tube to protect the seedling.

Join now

You can now join the Bottomlands Conservancy and help continue the natural resource conservation efforts of the Conservancy. To do so go to the Conservancy's web site:

Bottomlandsconservancy.org

and click on the more button that will take you to the membership page.

Individual memberships are \$20, nonprofit membership is \$200 and business membership is \$500. All members will receive the Conservancy's annual newsletter, a Conservancy logo sticker and a membership card.



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