

**Buck & Doe Trust
Celebrates
30th Anniversary!!!!**



Supporting Land and Water Resource Conservation..

**George "Frolic" Weymouth (1936-2016)
Thank You For A Remarkable Vision That Shaped The Buck And Doe Valley**

In 1967, Frolic, a longtime fixture in fox-hunting, polo, steeplechase and carriage-driving circles, learned that the pristine meadowlands near his home in Chadds Ford, Pa., were going to be developed. With F.I. du Pont and William Prickett, two friends from the Cheshire Foxhounds, Frolic bought two parcels totaling 47 acres and created the Tri-County Conservancy, which became the Brandywine Conservancy. It is now one of the largest land trusts in the United States, overseeing more than 62,000 acres in Chester and Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania and New Castle County in Delaware.



*Frolic Weymouth,
Photo courtesy of
Jim Graham*

Just months after he bought the parcels near his house, a former gristmill along the Brandywine River came up for sale, and Frolic financed its purchase at auction. After restoration work, the conservancy opened the mill in 1971 as the Brandywine River Museum to preserve and display the work of Andrew Wyeth, a close friend of Frolic's, as well as other members of the Wyeth family and local artists. He served as chairman of the conservancy's board from its founding until his death.

In the early 1980s, Frolic worked with the conservancy and a group of local investors to acquire most of the former King Ranch in Chester County, Pa. An outpost of the King Ranch in Texas, it was once known as "the finest finishing school for cattle in the East."

"We heard that Disney was coming to buy the lands west of Unionville, then that a nuclear power plant was under consideration," Frolic, told The Hunt magazine in 2011. "There was also talk about building a new town of 10,000 people, similar to Columbia, Md. The land developers were thinking of damming up the Buck Run and building lakeside lots. It was unbelievable"

After a long period of tricky negotiations, during which Frolic put his home up as collateral, more than 5,000 acres of the ranch were acquired in the form of easements for \$11.5 million, with a prime section of about 800 acres, known as the Laurels, going to the conservancy outright.

George Alexis Weymouth was born on June 2, 1936, in Wilmington, Del., and grew up in nearby Greenville. His father, George Tyler Weymouth, was an investment banker. His mother was the former Dulcinea Ophelia Payne du Pont, known as Deo. He acquired the nickname Frolic after a family dog that died soon after he was born.

Continued on insert



President's Letter

It has been an impactful year on so many levels as BDT marks its 30th Anniversary. BDT was conceived in 1986 during the first large conservation effort known to many as the King Ranch project. In the early days, conservation easements in our area clearly started as a vision of a few who likely couldn't have imagined the long range impact of their efforts. As you may know, there were less than 900 conserved acres before 1984 and over 27,000 contiguous acres in our local region today. This accomplishment has been the result of the efforts of numerous individuals and families over many years.

This being said, there is one person who unquestionably stands out as the major force in the conservation effort. It is our beloved Frolic Weymouth who sadly passed earlier this year. We owe Frolic and his memory an immense sense of gratitude for his incredible forethought to help preserve this beautiful countryside for generations.

I have mentioned over time that one of BDT's charges is to continue to tell the incredible story of conservation in our neighborhood. Given it is

our anniversary and a milestone year, I thought it would be fitting to hear these stories directly from the eased landowners. We have included in this letter stories from an original general partner of the King Ranch project, a founding member of King Ranch parcels, a family who more recently placed an easement, and a family who recently acquired the "family farm" whose grandparents eased years before. Each have a wonderful perspective and special story. The love of the land is a common thread through all these stories. We hope you pass along these stories and furthermore we encourage all to tell your own story!

We hope you enjoy this special edition of our newsletter. Furthermore, we hope to see you at our October 8th event celebrating our 30th overlooking a very special view of our magnificent countryside! As Frolic would say, "Let's have fun"!

Amy McKenna

President

AmyMcKenna123@aol.com

Community News

We strive to include everyone in the community in this section.

Please let us know if we have missed anything.

Births:

- Mary Griffin and Chad Repsher had their first child, Miles
- Kate & Jamie Hicks welcomed their third son, Jameson
- Daphne (Nielson) & Peter Jonas welcomed their second daughter, Nell
- Vanessa and Kevin Thompson had a baby girl, Abigail

Marriages:

- Mamie Duff and Scott Richard
- Connie (Francis) and Tim McLaughlin
- Julia (Jenkins) and George Strawbridge
- Sarah (Webster) and Peyton Wylie

New landowners:

- Katherine (Stroud) & Michael Bucklin

Passings:

- Frolic Weymouth
founder of Brandywine Conservancy
- Linny Scott
long time neighbor and quality horsewoman
- Phil Fanning
long time neighbor and avid horseman
- Sandra Fargher
animal lover and friend
- Robert Forney
long time neighbor, original BDT landowner
- Carolyn Guerrina
friend and supporter



**Personal Stories from our eased landowners
spanning many years and experiences.**

Claire Reid

Original Partner in King Ranch project

Growing up as a young kid in Old Brookville, Long Island NY in the 1960's, we knew all our neighbors. We had a lot of open space, generally farms, golf courses and estates left from the LI Gold Cost era. As time went by, land got more and more developed, until today five acres is a large parcel. The golf courses are still there, but the farms and estates are gone.

When I heard of the King Ranch Partnership in 1982, the concept of 40 owners on 5,000 acres, the concept of eased open spaces and donating 1,000 acres to create the Laurels Preserve, I was IN!

I had just been hired by a firm in Malvern, PA and lived full time on LI. I had one week to make up my mind and find what was at the time a lot of available cash to become one of the 20 partners. To make matters worse, when I went to show the property, I could not find it. You all know how the roads in Unionville head north, south, east and west on the same lane. Well I eventually did find it, joined the Partnership and made one of the best decisions of my life!

As I look back now, the King Ranch looks almost the way it did in 1982. There are about 30 new landowners on that 5,000 acres. Of the original 20 partners, about 10 already lived on adjacent land and another 20 purchased the remaining 2,500 acres. I know of no other area in this country that can say it has remained relatively the same for the last 30 years.

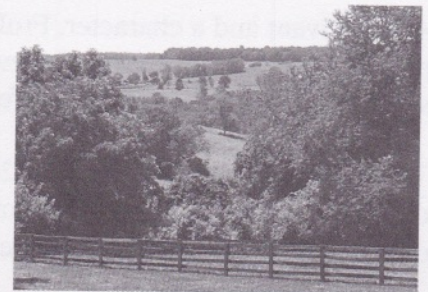
The King Ranch Partnership provided the basis for the Brandywine Conservancy to spearhead the critical conservation effort that its founder Frolic Weymouth felt so passionate about. This effort

now has over 65,000 acres under the guidance of the Brandywine Museum and Conservancy. It also started an effort in PA to preserve farm land and it is the model for accomplishing land conservation in the US. It is the reason I joined the Board of the Brandywine Museum and Conservancy, even though I have not lived in Pa for the last 15 years. It is GREAT to be part of something bigger than oneself and to help protect the precious land.

When we started the Buck and Doe Trust, it was to get together with our new neighbors on the King Ranch and to help make sure that as a group the conservation movement was fostered by us and remained a priority for us.

I think it is very timely after 30 years to renew the spirit of the founding members - having fun and keeping the land open. But this requires effort on our part. Effort to remain understanding of the needs and requirements of others, effort to contribute our time and some financial resources, but most important, effort to communicate among all parties to keep the founding spirit in place. Conservation of our rare and beautiful countryside is what I hope drives the Buck and Doe Trust into the future.

**Claire
Reid**



Stories continued on page 5

*Frolic, Continued from page 1*

He began riding horses as a boy and went on to train and ride show horses, hunters, steeplechase and polo ponies. After graduating from St. Mark's School in Southborough, Mass., he entered Yale, where he led the polo team to a national championship in 1957. He was not, by his own admission, much of a student. "I couldn't read and write or spell," he told *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in 2007. "I still can't. I don't know anything but painting pictures and being on a horse." Nevertheless, he graduated in 1958 with a degree in American studies.

That year he played for an intercollegiate polo team in a series of invitational matches and tournaments in England. A last-second goal led to a heartbreaking defeat against a team sent out by the Maharajah of Cooch Behar, but the Americans rallied to beat Cambridge University and eventually win the Gloucestershire Cup.

While playing at Windsor, Frolic struck up what became a lifelong friendship with Prince Philip, whose portrait he later painted, and who over the years allowed him and his carriage the free run of the royal park in Windsor.

After buying an 18th-century stone farmhouse on 225 acres in Chadds Ford in 1961 and renaming the property Big Bend, Frolic began collecting antique carriages, which he drove daily. A back injury made riding impossible — he walked with the aid of crutches dating from the Civil War — but he learned to handle four-horse teams expertly.

Frolic was fond of long-distance carriage expeditions, clocking thousands of miles in the United States, England and France. On one occasion, he took a weeklong trip from the Knickerbocker Club in Manhattan to Saratoga Springs, N.Y., startling residents in Harlem as he passed through and stopping for the first evening at the Tarrytown estate of the banker David Rockefeller, one of his closest friends. For nearly 40 years he played host every May to a carriage parade from his house to the annual steeplechase races in Winterthur, the former du Pont estate in Delaware, followed by a celebration and pig roast at Chadds Ford.

In his teens he became friends with Andrew Wyeth, later his neighbor in Chadds Ford, who taught him the technique of egg tempera painting. Frolic became an accomplished painter of portraits and landscapes, and a co-conspirator when Andy Wyeth, in 1971, began painting and drawing his neighbor Helga Testorf, often in the nude, a project he kept secret from his wife.

Frolic stored the 240 works, later known as the Helga pictures, at his house for 15 years. The secret became public when Andy Wyeth hinted at the existence of the pictures in an interview with *Art and Auction* in 1985 and sold them to a collector a year later.

A bon vivant and a character, Frolic was a toff of the old school, with a global network of friends in high places. He rarely turned on a television, in part because he never mastered a remote control, or light switches, for that matter. He preferred candlelight. Computers he regarded as an abomination.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer*, in its 2007 profile, cautioned readers that Frolic was "more than an amiable dilettante, amusing swell and flamboyant eccentric" before cataloging his conservation efforts. But Frolic did not seem to mind the characterization.

"Yes, I love good living," he said. "Why have a bad time? It's such a beautiful world, and every day is my oyster. No one has had more fun out of life than I have."



Marty and Hank Detering's Yankee Hill Farm Brandywine Conservancy Easement, 2006, Londonderry Township

"We moved to Chester County in 1985 when Hank retired from the Marine Corps. Five years prior we had purchased a small farm on the Big Elk Creek at the juncture of Londonderry, Penn, and Upper Oxford Townships. It was nothing fancy. When most people looked at it they saw a small house, a smaller barn, lots of weeds, and fence lines full of multi-flora rose. We saw possibility – and we had a dream!

We cleaned up the rose bushes, fenced off pastures, and built a run-in shed. Then we had Andrew Jackson (really, that's his name!) do some excavating, and over the next two years, we raised a timber-frame barn, built a riding ring, and put up a second run-in shed. While Hank was working on the "farm," Marty was busy creating "gardens." She studied at Longwood, earning her Ornamental Plant and Design Certificate, and applied what she learned around the house and barns.

Eventing, breeding, training, and fox hunting introduced us to wonderful people and a unique community that was tied to, and dependent on, the open space that surrounded us. It was only natural that we should become advocates for land preservation, so we contacted the Brandywine Conservancy. The only option for us was a "donation." There would be a tax advantage to forfeiting the building rights to about 20 houses, but there was also a "cost" to do so: administrative fees and an endowment. -- Ouch!

"We moved to Chester County in 1985 when Hank retired from the Marine Corps. Five years prior we had purchased a small farm on the Big Elk Creek at the juncture of Londonderry, Penn, and Upper Oxford Townships. It was nothing fancy. When most people looked at it they saw a small house, a smaller barn, lots of weeds, and fence lines full of multi-flora rose. We saw possibility – and we had a dream!

We cleaned up the rose bushes, fenced off pastures, and built a run-in shed. Then we had Andrew Jackson (really, that's his name!) do some excavating, and over the next two years, we raised a timber-frame barn, built a riding ring, and put up a second run-in shed. While Hank was working on the "farm," Marty was busy

creating "gardens." She studied at Longwood, earning her Ornamental Plant and Design Certificate, and applied what she learned around the house and barns.

Eventing, breeding, training, and fox hunting introduced us to wonderful people and a unique community that was tied to, and dependent on, the open space that surrounded us. It was only natural that we should become advocates for land preservation, so we contacted the Brandywine Conservancy. The only option for us was a "donation." There would be a tax advantage to forfeiting the building rights to about 20 houses, but there was also a "cost" to do so: administrative fees and an endowment. -- Ouch! It took several years for us to make the commitment. Once our two children were out of college the "costs" seemed more manageable, and we truly wanted to preserve what we had created on the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. The real value in our farm is the "dream" that we preserve for generations to come by protecting our land, our water, and our way of life."

The Deterings involvement did not stop there. Marty was elected Chairman of the Londonderry Township Supervisors and championed the East Elk Nature Preserve, and Hank became Chairman of the township's Open Space Committee and crafted a "Roots-in-the-Ground" easement program. In 2009, they were recognized by the PA House of Representatives for their efforts. (At the present time, 62% of the land in Londonderry Township is permanently protected from development.)

Along with their conservation efforts, Marty events at the Advanced Level and is currently competing in Dressage at 4th Level. Hank is a retired Marine Corps Officer who taught at Unionville High School and was Principal of Octorara Area High School.

**Marty and Hank
Detering**



Stories continued on page 6



Lizzie and Burl Vannote's Hermitage Farm A family farm since 1947, eased in the 1990's

As a young, energetic couple, Babs and Burley Cocks purchased an old, derelict dairy farm in 1947 which they named Hermitage Farm. They built a home for their children Susan, Wink, Barbie and Jessie and established a renowned steeplechase training facility experiencing almost fifty years of racing success.

Babs and Burley decided in the late nineties to place a conservation easement on Hermitage Farm through the Chester County Open Space Preservation and Pennsylvania Act 319 "Clean and Green" Program. While it was not clear whether the farm would remain in the family, it was clear that neither Burley nor Babs could stomach the thought of Hermitage Farm becoming a housing development.

Shortly after we married, we began to imagine our lives on a farm. Both of us had spent our childhoods in rural places and were drawn to this area in the hopes that we could return to that lifestyle once again. Burl had spent most of his formative years at Hermitage Farm and Lizzie, though an outsider, had dreamed of having a horse farm of her own since she began riding at age four.

When Babs – or Granny, as she was better known to us – got wind of those aspirations, she suggested that we buy Hermitage Farm. The opportunity to live on such a bucolic farm in the community that we both loved had great appeal, we delicately explained that there was little to no chance that we – two young professionals in our early thirties – could purchase or support a farm of over 100 acres.

We had already begun to look at other properties before our talk with Granny, but what we could not replicate anywhere else was the feeling that our acquisition was part of something larger than us. When we ran the numbers, we were surprised to discover that, with a well-developed plan and some fiscal discipline, acquiring the farm might

be possible. The two factors that tipped the scales in favor of the purchase included the reduction in the farm's real estate tax burden due to the conservation easement on the property and the fact that the conservation program in which the farm participates explicitly promotes agribusiness – horses included. Without the income from the equestrian facilities and the commercial crops grown on the farm, there would not have been any way for us to purchase or sustain the farm.

After nine long months research on operating costs, entity and tax planning, loan applications, family discussions and deep soul searching, we found ourselves at the closing table on October day in 2014. Quite simply, we never would have reached closing had it not been for Granny's support, enthusiasm, and perhaps even insistence. She was half way through her ninety-fifth year and was, by all accounts, happier than she has been in decades. To witness the passing of the farm from her hands to the hands of her youngest grandchild was an experience that she did not believe she would see in her lifetime.

Granny passed away about a year later on Thanksgiving Day. While the first many months of farm ownership were fraught with challenges, the victories and rewards have been many.

As Granny's remarkable gardens bloom in the spring, as we watch family members walking their dogs around the crop fields in the evening light, and when we eat dinner on the front porch after a long day at work with a Technicolor landscape fading into fireflies, we know the challenge was worth taking.

**Lizzie and Burl
Vannote**



2016 Paid Dues List

Rick and Dixie Abbott
Bo and Melody Alexander
David F. and Phillis J. Allen
Mary Armstrong
Colleen McLaughlin and Gwilym Attwell
John and Liz Bailey
Billie and Michael Bailkin
Claudia Schultze and Bruce Balick
Steve and Sue Berkowitz
Nancy and Fred Bissinger
James and Joan Stroud Blaine
Amy Borun
Patricia Branum
Terry and Laurie Brewer
Clayton and Starr Bright
Dale Melton and Joan Bristol
Sally Brittle
Susan Garber and Ed Brown
Jerry Brown
Pam and Tom Brumfield/Lodese
Nikki Brungard
Richard and Cindy Buchanan
Amber and Pierce Buller
Kent and Susan Cadwalader
Annie Carlino
Kate and Jake Chalfin
Joe and Ruth Clancy
George and Kathy Conway
Ms Anna Coyne
Valerie Peeples and Joe Criville
Sharon and John D'Amico
Grant and Karen DeCosta
Kathleen and Harold DeHaven
Jennifer Nilsen and Arthur DeLeo
Ed Weisbrod and Dr. Betsy DeMarino
Lorraine and Richard DesJardien
Hank and Marty Detering
Meg and Dev Devereux
Drs. Barbara Stewart and Dick Brown
Joan and Rocky Dillow
Jeff Itell and Dr. Wendy Dixon
Phoebe Driscoll
Vince and Janice Dugan
Margaret and Bob Duprey
Evie and Phillip Dutton
Ann and Brad Dyer
Helen and Bill Elkins
Tanya Emslie
Jack Evans
Bob and Linda Feathers
Rob and Marcy Fenza
Rush and Phoebe Fisher
John and Dolly Fisher
Charlie and Blair Fleischmann
Margaret Flood
Marilyn and Bob Forney
Joan Galloway
Tim and Nina Gardner
Jim and Sue Geiger
David George
Ann and Joe Giacchino
Lisa and Rick Giacco
Denis and Bambi Glaccum
John Amory and Whitney Glaccum
Jay Goldenberg
John and Celia Goodall
Alexander and Kristine Gordon-Watson
Doug and Kirstie Grabosky
Wayne, Marjorie and Melissa Grafton
Gary and Angela Greenberg
Linda and Stephen Gross
Carolyn Guerrina
David and Jennifer Hall
Anne and David Hambleton
Colin and Anne Hanna
Jock and Anne Hannum
George and Annie Harris
Michael Powers and Becky Harris
Steve and Betsy Harris
Kathy and Jim Healy
Steve Devine and Amy Herr
Phil and Susan Hoffman
Jerry Hoover
Cindy and Doug Howe
Gordon and Barbara Hughes
John Huginar

Continued on other side