

BUCK & DOE



TRUST



SPRING 2020

Once In a Lifetime Opportunity!

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND THE LAURELS PRESERVE

In late 2020, the Conservancy was presented with the **once in a lifetime opportunity to Expand the Laurels Preserve** for the first time since its founding in the 1980s. A \$2.6M fundraising effort is currently underway to purchase 82 acres which was a part of **Ralph and Suzanne Roberts'** original farm. The campaign was fueled by an initial \$1M challenge from Brandywine Trustee **Herb Kohler** and has sustained momentum thanks to the generous support of many on the **Brandywine Board of Trustees**, the **Buck & Doe Trust** and the **Cheshire Hunt**. *[continued p. 3) ...*



SUPPORTING
LAND AND WATER
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION



PRESIDENTS LETTER

Each of you knows **The Laurels Preserve** based on your individual, personal reasons. These reasons vary from walking, riding, carrying, hunting with **Cheshire**, being a neighboring property owner, attending a BC nature walk or even just enjoying our Spring Fling breakfast in May.

One can imagine the earlier “landscape” which consisted of working mills with dams, homes and “public roads”. The remnants of this earlier

infrastructure can still be seen if you look closely enough.

The Laurels, that we know and love today, was created through the incredible dedication and effort of those involved in the **King Ranch** project in the 1980’s. It was a unique set of circumstances coming together which produced the 771 acre preserve. Now in 2021, we are fortunate to be presented with yet another “once in a lifetime opportunity” of acquiring an additional 82 acres.

Whatever your reason for enjoying The Laurels, I ask you to support the **Laurels Expansion Campaign**. Please be a part of the history in supporting this community effort!!!!.

We need your help to get over the finish line!

Amy

Amy McKenna – President
AmyMcKenna123@aol.com



SPRING FLING

Again this Spring, We will not be having our Pancake Breakfast due to covid —

We are hoping to regroup when things get closer to normal.

BDT IS PROUD TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST INTERN, MAGGIE BUCHANAN.

Maggie Buchanan is a current senior at **Unionville High School** and plans on studying Biology in college. Outside of school, she rides horses daily and enjoys eventing, where she has competed to the Training level. Alongside her family, Maggie also Fox Hunts with **Cheshire** on the weekends.

We also want to thank **Tucker Hunter** for his generous time and efforts serving as our first **BDT** intern.

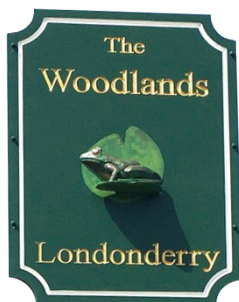
Please join us in welcoming **Maggie!**

SMALL PROJECTS CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT!

The Woodlands.

In early 2017 **Londonderry Township** acquired the open space from the **Londonderry Meadows Development** on Route 796.

It was a heavily invaded woodland and wetland (*approximately 9 acres*) which included headwaters for the Doe Run branch of the Brandywine. Since that time, with both dedicated Township funds and grant monies from both the Dockstader Foundation and the **PECO Green Region Grant Program** (2018 round which was completed in Spring 2020), the area has been slowly cleared of invasive species and replanted with native species. A row of cedar trees has been planted along Route 41 to eventually provide a noise and visual screen for walkers. Phragmites and Japanese knotweed have been mowed and sprayed, and a jungle of honeysuckle



bushes and Russian olives have been cut down and chipped, and replaced with native trees and shrubs. An entry to the Woodlands has been designated on route 796. There is an additional entry/exit designated at the far end of the 9 acres of woodland.

A grouping of native shrubs has been planted between the development and the entry path to provide a native plant screen from the houses, and a split rail fence has been placed between this path and route 796. The fence will provide safety for the walkers from the road, as well as delineate the entry. The walking trail being developed will eventually connect to the Daleville Park across the street.

Londonderry Township wishes to once again thank the **Dockstader Foundation** and **PECO Green Region Grant Program** for their support. We encourage you to check with your township to explore other potential projects!



MAGGIE BUCHANAN
(OUR NEWEST INTERN)

SUPPORTING LAND & WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION



[continued from p 1) ..

All three groups have rallied around this critical effort resulting in less than \$250,000 left to raise by the June 1 deadline to complete the transaction and formally incorporate this critically important and stunningly beautiful landscape into the broader **Laurels Preserve**, eliminating the threat of further sub-division or new development in critical view sheds and ensuring access to trails that have long been enjoyed by the neighbors and Brandywine members. If successful, the acquisition would also add an additional 10% of protected land to the Laurels.

This acquisition is emblematic of the Conservancy's mission – to protect and conserve the land, water, natural, and cultural resources of the Brandywine-Christina watershed. Rarely does an opportunity arise to acquire a property that contains all matter of resources, let alone one that is adjacent to one of the Conservancy's most beloved Preserves.

Community support for the Laurels is not a new phenomenon, in fact its very existence is owed to a group of conservation minded community members who formed **Buck and Doe Associates, L.P** in the early 1980s to complete the largest transaction of privately owned, contiguous land in **Chester County**, totaling 5,367 acres. The land, owned by **Buck & Doe Run**

Valley Farms, a subsidiary of the **King Ranch Inc.**, a land and cattle company of Texas, was at risk of being developed and was vitally important to the region's environment. In addition to thousands of acres of open space, an estimated six million gallons of water flow daily from springs and streams that begin within the Laurels area and ultimately flow into the **Brandywine River**, which provides fresh drinking water for the City of Wilmington.

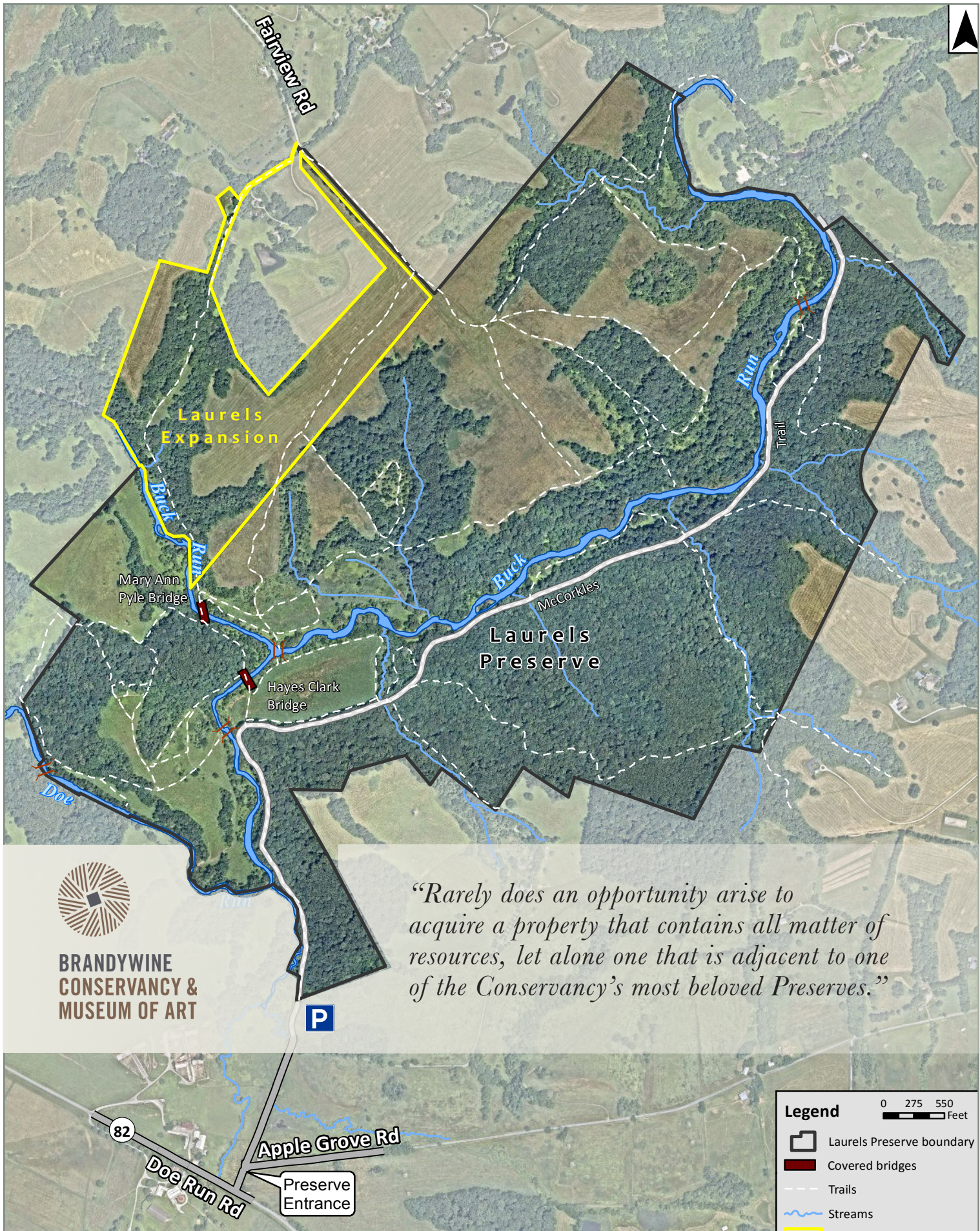
The Brandywine Conservancy, in partnership with Buck and Doe Associates, recognized the threats posed by the sale of the property and quickly stepped in to spearhead a massive preservation effort. After three long years of intense land use planning, legal research, and investor solicitation, the Conservancy's efforts resulted in the purchase of the King Ranch property, which was then preserved with conservation easements.

The Laurels, a 771-acre parcel in the center of the property which is owned and managed by the **Brandywine Conservancy**, was a critical impetus to protect the overall region. Recognized as a rare and unique landscape, it ultimately was divided off from the original land purchase and donated to the Brandywine Conservancy as its first Preserve in 1985. Today, the Laurels Preserve is a vitally significant resource

available to Brandywine Conservancy members. The Preserve is home to a number of important ecological and historic resources and is located within one of the Brandywine Valley's most critical watersheds. The Preserve includes 500 acres of diverse hardwood forest mainly comprised of native species including oak, beech, ash, and hickory. It is populated by diverse mammals and herpetofauna as well as over 160 species of birds—which has earned the Laurels an **Audubon Important Bird Area** designation.

As founding members of Buck and Doe Associates, the Roberts were ideal neighbors who understood their property's unique value as part of the overall experience of visiting the Laurels. As such, they limited the amount of buildings onsite, elected not to fence in wide swaths of meadow, and permitted access to two trails which traverse their property as visitors head uphill after crossing through the second, more northerly, covered bridge, known as the **Mary Ann Pyle Bridge**. These two trails meet at Fairview Road, allowing access from that point. The Conservancy and its supporters are now tasked with making such access permanent so that the visitor experience to the Laurels Preserve will remain unchanged for future generations.

[continued p 5)



SUPPORTING LAND & WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION



OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION – the sweeping vistas, open meadows and fields, and forested areas of the property will remain open and without residences, farm structures, or fencing.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT – the Laurels' expanse of forest is home to the lower reaches of Buck Run and Doe Run, high quality tributaries to the west branch of the Brandywine Creek. The proposed expansion property features a number of spring seeps that create a forested first order stream almost a half mile long, which adds high quality spring water to the Buck Run. Additionally, over a third of a mile of the southern border of the land to be acquired is along the Buck Run riparian corridor.

ECOLOGICAL AND HABITAT

CONSERVATION – there are no fencing, gates, dams, or other man-made impediments between the proposed expansion property and the Laurels. This acquisition will allow the property to remain in its natural state with its existing wildlife habitats, current water quality, and prime breeding areas for important meadow bird species such as the Bobolink and Meadow Larks.

MEMBER ACCESS AND THE VISITOR

EXPERIENCE: The acquisition ensures the two current trails, known as the Hay Trail and Bridge Trail, which are currently utilized by a wide swath of the community including equestrians, carriers, walkers, hikers, and bikers, will be permanently available to Brandywine Conservancy members.



PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

To walk in the Laurels Preserve and take in its views offers the rare opportunity to be completely immersed in nature. Once an area with multiple mills in its early days, it is now a pristine property where meadows, forests, creeks, and vistas are protected, and visitors can relax and enjoy the quiet sounds, iconic views, and hidden paths for wandering. We hope you will join us as a partner in preservation in this critical expansion effort. If you would like more information about this project or are interested in donating, please contact:

Ellen Ferretti, Director, Brandywine Conservancy,
610.388.8393 eferretti@brandywine.org

Kim Reynolds, Director of Development:
610.388.8349 kreynolds@brandywine.org

LAURELS EXPANSION CAMPAIGN FORM



**BRANDYWINE
RIVER MUSEUM
OF ART**

Thank you for your generous support of
the **Laurels Expansion Campaign!**

Your gift is an important part of the Conservancy's effort to meet this once in a lifetime moment and expand the Laurels Preserve for the first time since its founding in the 1980s. Your gift is also critical to our success in meeting the \$1M challenge by June 1!

3 WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

1 CREDIT CARD ONLINE brandywine.org/conservancy/get-involved/laurels-expansion-campaign

2 MAIL IN CHECK Enclosed is the full payment of \$ _____

3 FIVE YEAR PLEDGE You may make payments over five years

Enclosed is the first payment of \$ _____

December 15, 2022 \$ _____ **December 15, 2024** \$ _____

December 15, 2023 \$ _____ **December 15, 2025** \$ _____

Exactly as you would like it to appear on donor acknowledgment

Print Name(s)

Signature

Contact for any Questions

Kim Reynolds

Director of Development

Brandywine Conservancy P.O. Box 141, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

email: kreynolds@brandywine.org

484-905-2560

All checks payable to: The Brandywine Conservancy

The Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art is registered as a charitable organization. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania **1-800-732-0999**. Registration does not imply endorsement.



DAN MUMMERT, PGC BARN OWL



MALE KESTRAL

JOIN THE EFFORT TO SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT BIRD POPULATION!

PA Game Commission

Barn Owl and Kestrel Study

Barn owls and Kestrels are two of Pennsylvania's grassland birds that are declining and on the States list of species considered species of greatest conservation need in the state. The **Buck and Doe Trust** area has significant and exceptional grassland habitat for both of these species, but a limiting factor for these birds is likely suitable nest sites. The PA Game Commission has shown that nestboxes installed in suitable locations can greatly

The **PGC** relies on volunteers to build and donate nestboxes. **If you think your property may be suitable for a nestbox, Please call: Susan Quigley at 910-508-2162**

Conservation Initiative:
<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeActionPlan/Documents/SWAP-CHAPTER-1-apx14a-birds.pdf>

COMMUNITY NEWS:

BIRTHS:

Dana & Don Allaband

baby boy – **Cyrus**

Kate and Jake Chalfin

baby girl – **Maisie**

Jessie and Matt Provinski

baby girl – **Emma**

Becky (Dang) and Bruce Roberts

baby girl – **Roslyn Lisa**

Paige and Will Singer

baby boy – **Ezra**

MARRIAGES:

Dallas Thayer and Sam Cagenello

NEW LANDOWNERS:

Sara & CJ Martin

Roberta Richard & Michael Silverman

Paula Oliver & Scott Worthen

Xena & Domenic Colasante

Tim Colman & Elliot Liam

Lee & Laura Lamparski

Janet & Tom Kenny

PASSINGS:

Clay Baldwin

Claire Birney

Peter Coggins

Jackie Givens

Harry Haskell, Jr.

Ann Hill

Suzanne Roberts

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

WILLIAM PENN NAMED KENNETT SQUARE, "KENNETT" FOR A TOWN IN ENGLAND AND "SQUARE" BECAUSE THERE WAS TO BE A SQUARE MILE OF OPEN SPACE. PENN HAD LIVED THROUGH THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON AND RESOLVED THAT TOWNS IN PENNSYLVANIA HAVE A SPACE WITH RUNNING WATER TO SEEK SHELTER IN CASE OF A DEVASTATING FIRE.

BUCK & DOE TRUST
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Unionville, PA 19375

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HISTORY

THE BUCK & DOE TRUST WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE TIME OF THE KING RANCH PROJECT TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM. THE TRUST SEEKS TO WELCOME NEWCOMERS AND OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS, NEW AND OLD, TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER. THE BOARD MEMBERS HOST THE

SPRING FLING IN THE LAURELS

(A CHUCKWAGON BREAKFAST), AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH FOCUS ON "COMMUNITY CONSERVATION".

**2021 ANNUAL DUES
\$40 PER FAMILY**

Payable to: **BUCK & DOE TRUST**
MAIL TO OUR ADDRESS
OR USE OUR WEBSITE

www.buckanddoetrust.org

MISSION:

THE BUCK AND DOE TRUST IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHOSE STATED MISSION IS SUPPORT OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION WITHIN THE BUCK AND DOE RUN WATERSHEDS. THESE WATERSHEDS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE TOWNSHIPS OF EAST FALLOWFIELD, WEST MARLBOROUGH, EAST MARLBOROUGH, HIGHLAND, LONDONDERRY, AND NEWLIN.

THE TRUST INITIATIVES TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION ARE:

PROMOTE, THROUGH MEMBER INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION, THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL HIGH QUALITY CONSERVATION EASEMENTS WITHIN THE BUCK AND DOE WATERSHEDS.

MONITOR AND SUPPORT ACTIVE ENFORCEMENT BY EASEMENT GRANTEEES OF ALL EXISTING CONSERVATION EASEMENT REQUIREMENTS.

PARTICIPATE, INFLUENCE, AND MONITOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAURELS RESERVE BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CENTER OF THE BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY.

INITIATE AND ENCOURAGE ACTIVE AND TIMELY COMMUNICATION ON LAND AND WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION ISSUES WITHIN THE BUCK AND DOE WATERSHEDS.

BOARD MEMBERS

Amy McKenna – President
Richard Buchanan – V. President
Nina Seder-Burnaford – Secretary
John Goodall – Treasurer

Terry Corkran
Phoebe Driscoll
Keith Kanara
Jamie O'Rourke
Maria Pfeffer
Janet Sidewater
Susannah Small
Barbara Stewart
Lizzie Vannote
Maggie Buchanan – Intern

