

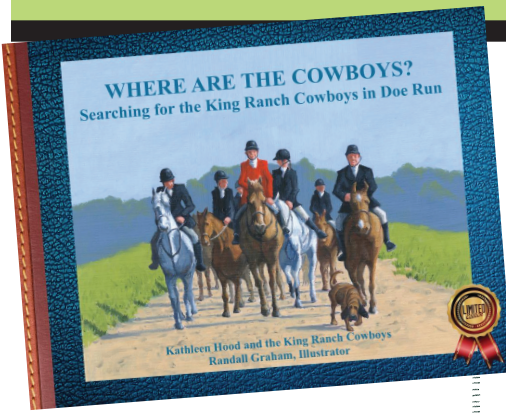
# BUCK & DOE



## TRUST



# SPRING 2023

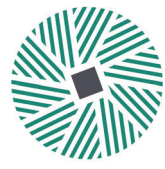


*A Big Thank You to Kathleen Hood!*

### KING RANCH COWBOYS

The local history of the **King Ranch** comes alive with an exciting new publication *Where are the Cowboys? Searching for the King Ranch Cowboys in Doe Run*. Author **Kathleen Hood** teamed up with the former King Ranch Cowboys and local artist **Randall Graham** to create a book that captures the essence of life on the ranch from the cowboys' perspective. *Where are the Cowboys?* provides information on the ranch operation, historic photos and videos, and is sure to be enjoyed by the entire family. All proceeds from the sale of this publication are donated to the **Brandywine Conservancy** thanks to the generosity of many local donors. Order your limited edition copy at the Conservancy's website: [brandywine.org/conservancy](http://brandywine.org/conservancy)

SUPPORTING  
LAND AND WATER  
RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION



### BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY

### BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY CELEBRATES OVER 500 EASEMENTS AND 70,000 EASED ACRES!

The **Brandywine Conservancy** recently celebrated milestone achievements in land conservation with more than 500 total conservation easements held by the organization, while also exceeding 70,000 acres of land that have been permanently preserved through both direct and facilitated easements. That's nearly 110 square miles of land protected from development and other uses that could otherwise degrade natural, water, cultural and scenic resources. Back in 1969, the Brandywine's co-founder **George A. "Frolic" Weymouth** and his wife, **Anna B. McCoy**, donated a conservation easement on their property—the organization's first— (continued p5)

## Natural Lands



### LOCH NAIRN GOLF COURSE TO BECOME PUBLIC PARK

Natural Lands announced the preservation of approximately 106 acres, formerly the site of the **Loch Nairn Golf Club**. It was purchased by the **New Garden Township** for use as a passive-recreation park, which is slated to open to the public in 2024. Conversion of the land from a golf course to a park will help improve water quality, absorb floodwaters, and offer additional environmental benefits.

Former owner **H.C. Smedley** built the golf course in 1979. His son, **Christopher Smedley**, will retain ownership of **The Farmhouse**, an acclaimed restaurant on the grounds.

"It's the family's sincere hope that the community will be able to continue to enjoy the property's beauty and tranquility in its new form as a community park," said Chris Smedley. "Loch Nairn was a huge part of our lives. (continued p5)

**LOCH NAIRN PRESERVATION**  
PHOTOS BY KAREN AND LINDA CLARK



## PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

The conservation community has not slowed down! **Brandywine Conservancy** and **Natural Lands** each have reached exceptional milestones that impact our daily lives and quality of life. Imagine that each of the organizations (and others) didn't exist. What would have happened to those 70,000+ acres without BC's involvement or NL's local achievement of transitioning **Loch Nairn Golf Course** into a public park rather than 90+ houses???

It has been mentioned before:  
*"Preservation of an area is not one event, by one person, completed in one year but rather a culmination of many events, by the efforts of many people over many years."*

To capture a vitally important time in our local history, **Kathleen Hood** has done a magnificent job writing **"Where are the Cowboys?"** This is a multi-generational book about the **King Ranch** with fascinating links and access to interviews of the original King Ranch cowboys. Kathleen (and her books) will be at our **Spring Fling** along with other events. I encourage everyone to get a copy!

On behalf of the entire **Buck & Doe Trust Board**, we thank everyone who has done, and continues to do, their part in supporting the conservation effort!!!

**Amy McKenna** – President  
AmyMcKenna123@aol.com

## COMMUNITY NEWS:

### MARRIAGES:

**Emily Nielson & Taylor Swarter**

### BIRTHS:

**Abigail Thurston & Stephen Gross**  
daughter - **Olive**

### PASSINGS:

**John Mohr**  
**Diana Hoopes**  
**Ron Juvonen**  
**Jacklyn Rush**  
**March Walsh**

### NEW LANDOWNERS:

**Rebecca & Mark Collins**  
East Marlborough Twp

**Daniele Alura & Curt Clemens**  
London Grove Twp

**Elizabeth Huxster & David Gordon**  
Newlin Twp

## SPRING FLING IN THE LAURELS

*Sunday May 21st 10am-Noon*

### CHUCKWAGON BREAKFAST:

The Fling is going to be held at the **Hayes Clark Bridge** in the **Laurels Preserve**. The **Spring Fling Chuckwagon Breakfast** started 37 years ago to introduce the community to the 30 plus new landowners who had purchased parcels of the 5,400 acres of the King Ranch. It was called a **"Chuckwagon Breakfast"** as it was held in a cow field and attended by many of the King Ranch Cowboys.

The much-loved tradition continues – a pancake breakfast with locally sourced strawberries and sausages cooked by the **Buck and Doe Board**. Many come in farm clothes between chores, kids play in the stream, and everyone catches up. Time stops and we truly enjoy the outdoors!

Meet Author—**Kathleen Hood**, who will be attending our Spring Fling this year for sales and book signing: "Where are the Cowboys?..."

*Family and friends are encouraged to join us.*



SPRING FLING BREAKFAST



## RE-THINK MOWING YOUR FIELDS UNTIL AFTER JULY 4TH!

**Support threatened grassland birds!** Pretty soon, the hayfields will start to sing, and they will be adorned with lively birds hanging on the grasses like jewels. And, if you watch long enough, you'll see some pretty spectacular acrobatics as the birds make impressive displays in the hope of attracting a mate. The birds you will see are grassland birds—Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, and the cryptic Grasshopper Sparrow—birds that depend on the local fields for breeding. Though we are fortunate to have these grassland birds dot our landscape, they are in trouble—they are the fastest declining group of birds in the US.

These birds build their nests directly on the ground. They lay their precious eggs in little cups of grass buried deep beneath the dense, thatched hay. These nests are well-hidden and far from the field's edges to protect them from predators. It is a wise nesting strategy, but it can also make it difficult to protect the nests and their young from field-wide disturbances, like mowing.

Fortunately, most of the hayfields where these birds are nesting produce mulch for mushroom farms where quantity matters more than quality. Letting the hay stand through June allows the seed heads to mature, which helps maintain denser grass cover over time. The drier hay is also more beneficial for mushroom growing. So while the grass cures in the fields, it provides a safe haven for the developing babies hidden within its protective layers.

IDEALLY, IN FIELDS WHERE THESE BIRDS ARE NESTING, THERE WOULD BE A "NO-MOW" PERIOD UNTIL AROUND JULY 4.

IT TAKES ABOUT A MONTH FOR YOUNG BIRDS TO BECOME STRONG ENOUGH FLIERS TO GET OUT OF THE WAY WHEN THE TRACTORS COME THROUGH.

SHIFTING MOWING DATES GIVES YOUNG BIRDS TIME TO DEVELOP AND GET READY TO MOVE FIELDS

**Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT)** has studied grassland birds in Chester County for about ten years and has built a good understanding of what the birds need to succeed. We have also come to realize most of the grasslands in the Doe Run area are working lands, and any conservation effort must recognize the financial, operating, and aesthetic needs and wants of landowners and farmers. With this in mind, **The Grassland Bird Collaboration of Chester County**—a group that includes **WCT, Natural Lands, Brandywine Conservancy, and Stroud Water Research**—was recently organized to partner with landowners and farmers to find ways to help the birds while minimizing the disruption to hay production.

Making changes for the birds will mean making some changes to Doe Run's summer landscape. But these changes will mean more Doe Run birds will successfully emerge from their nests, and year after year, bird populations will grow in this area. These changes signify an opportunity to make **Buck and Doe Region** a recognized hotspot for grassland bird conservation.

**For more information, please visit:**  
[wctrust.org/the-grassland-bird-collaboration/](http://wctrust.org/the-grassland-bird-collaboration/)



**BOBOLINK:** A GRASSLAND BIRD (AN OLD NAME FOR THIS SPECIES WAS "RICE BIRD", FROM ITS TENDENCY TO FEED ON CULTIVATED GRAINS DURING WINTER AND MIGRATION.)



YOUNG GRASSLAND BIRDS NESTING ON THE GROUND.



**MEADOWLARK:** A GRASSLAND, SONGBIRD WITH SHORT TAILS AND LONG, SPEAR-SHAPED BILLS.



# SUPPORTING LAND & WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION



**FOUR-IN-HANDS LEAVING BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY'S ARMISTEAD: COOKIE & JERRY BROWN CENTER, HILLTOP VIEW ROAD**



**HAYES-CLARK COVERED BRIDGE**



**A WELL-APPOINTED CARRIAGE DRIVE**

## THE 1ST LAURELS PLEASURE DRIVE A SUCCESS!

**John Gregory** and **Jamie O'Rourke**, co-founded, **The Laurels Pleasure Drive** to celebrate **Herb Kohler, George "Frolic" Weymouth, Cookie & Jerry Brown Center** at Armitage Farm and now almost 900 acres of the Laurels Preserve. The fall drive was organized by the **Four-in-Hand Club**, and the **Brandywine Valley Driving Club** was invited to join them.

Seventeen well-appointed carriages departed **Armitage Farm** at the top of Hilltop View Road. The 9-mile drive then headed west, turned on Applegrove Road heading to the Laurels entrance to "**Kohlers Trail**" (named for Herb Kohler, whom was a great supporter to the preserve) to the first covered bridge over the Brandywine (West Branch), the **Mary Ann Pyle Bridge**, and then through the **Hayes Clark Covered Bridge**. The carriages, and seventy-five guests, were hosted at "**Starry Night Farm**" for a beautiful reception under the tent.

The ominous forecast for the afternoon proved to be true thus the return drive was very damp though still beautiful with all of the fall foliage. The Four-in-Hand Club hosted all, including landowners and staff of the Brandywine Conservancy to a delightful repast at the former home of Jerry and Cookie Brown at Armitage Farm.

Many of the participants have been long time members and supporters of the **Brandywine Conservancy** and **The Laurels Preserve**. They were very appreciative for the day with special recognition and thanks going to **John Goodall** and his staff, **Caleb Meredith** and **Clint Mautz**, for their exceptional care of the Laurels.





## BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY CELEBRATES OVER 500 EASEMENTS AND 70,000 EASED ACRES!

(continued from cover)—totaling 50 acres along the “**Big Bend**” of the **Brandywine Creek**. Frolic and other Brandywine founders began a tradition of conservation innovation and leadership that continues to this day as the organization addresses modern conservation challenges.

“For more than 55 years, the Brandywine Conservancy has been a leader in land conservation throughout our region,” said **Stephanie Armpriester**, Brandywine’s Director of Conservation & Stewardship. “These new milestones further cement our achievements in conservation. It is a collective effort from our conservation-minded community, individual landowners who have personally committed to permanent protection of their family lands, and private and public partners who have supported conservation policies and funding at the local, county, state and federal levels.”

In addition to achievements in conservation, staff working in the Brandywine’s community services department also celebrated notable wins in 2022. “Brandywine Conservancy staff partnered with 26 municipalities in Pennsylvania and Delaware on natural resource planning and land restoration

efforts—which included updating municipal comprehensive plans, reducing pollution from stormwater runoff to improve water quality, and utilizing new climate resiliency tools to help local governments with adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change,” added **Grant DeCosta**, Brandywine’s Director of Community Services. “These efforts strengthen the preservation accomplishments of our easements and contribute to a standout year for the Brandywine that we look forward to building on in the new year.”

Noting the achievements of the Brandywine Conservancy, Chester County Commissioners **Marian Moskowitz**, **Josh Maxwell** and **Michelle Kichline** said, “When it comes to the importance of land preservation, Chester County ‘gets it’. Our residents appreciate it, municipalities and landowners support it, and we have respected, professional organizations like **Brandywine Conservancy** whose focus and funding contributes greatly to Chester County’s preservation efforts. We congratulate, commend, and thank the leaders, staff and volunteers of Brandywine Conservancy on their milestone achievements.”



**LOCH NAIRN PRESEVED!**

PHOTOS BY KAREN AND LINDA CLARK

## LOCH NAIRN GOLF COURSE TO BECOME PUBLIC PARK (contued from cover)

We look forward to this new chapter and will have a continued presence at our restaurant.” Smedley added, “We are proud to add the Loch Nairn property to our family’s legacy of open space in the region.”

“Had this land not been purchased by New Garden Township, it’s very likely it would have become a 90-unit housing development,” said **Todd Sampsell**, vice president of conservation for Natural Lands. “As the climate crisis intensifies, with rising temperatures and stronger storms, protecting open space is essential to improving climate resilience and reducing flooding.” Added Sampsell, “We applaud the Smedley family for choosing conservation, and to the many partners that provided financial support for this project.”

The property, which is a short walk to Stroud Water Research Center’s (SWRC) headquarters, includes a tributary to **White Clay Creek**, which was federally designated a National Wild and Scenic River in 2000. **New Garden Township** has hired **SWRC** and **Natural Lands** to create a Master Plan for the newly designated park, which will focus on restoration work such as planting trees along the waterway to help absorb and slow water when the creek expands during storms.





## BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY DEBUTS NEW BOOK

### *Where are the Cowboys?*

#### BACKGROUND:

On Sunday, March 26, 2023, Brandywine Conservancy unveiled a new book that will directly support its conservation efforts. Entitled “**Where are the Cowboys?** *Searching for the Cowboys in Doe Run*”, the publication is the result of a community collaboration by the former King Ranch cowboys and their families, a nearby author, local illustrator, talented videographer, **Brandywine Conservancy**, and generous donors who provided funds needed to publish the project.

The concept began in 2009 at a dining room table in the Doe Run area. A local author conducted an interview with former cowboy **Kenny Young** who shared story after story about his time living and working on the King Ranch. After the interview, Kenny’s family expressed their shock at Ken’s willingness to speak about his experience: “He never talks about that.” Hearing this comment, author **Kathleen Hood** decided that she would make it her mission to help Ken and other cowboys like him share their incredible stories that were so unique to Pennsylvania.

Ken’s family had originally moved up from Virginia to answer a call from **Lammot duPont**, who was seeking help on his **Buck and Doe Run Farm**. When duPont sold his Doe Run assets to the King Ranch of Texas, Ken and his family rolled over to assist with the ranch operation. Like his brothers and cousins, Ken worked the newly-arrived cattle as a cowboy in **Doe Run**.

At the urging of Hood, Ken recruited other former ranch cowboys to participate in community presentations and bus tours that highlighted their stories. Attendees raved about these programs, including the **Doe Run Village: Tomahawks, Mills, Foxhounds, Cowboys and Kings** conducted for Chester County’s 2019 **Town Tours** and **Village Walks**.

In 2018, Hood contacted videographer **Curtis Wrigley** about capturing footage of the cowboys on location. Handling the assignment like seasoned television broadcasters, the cowboys produced footage that prompted Hood to propose incorporating the video into a book about the cowboys. After a decision was made to donate all revenue from the project to a local nonprofit, a draft was created and presented to the Conservancy

to assess interest. Meetings were scheduled; historic information and photos were collected; sponsors were solicited; and local illustrator **Randall Graham** was approached about signing on for the project.

As a limited family keepsake edition, “*Where are the Cowboys?*” is a fascinating journey into history containing factual information about the ranch operation, historic photos and QR code/link access to videos about the history of Doe Run’s King Ranch.

**The book is now available as an exclusive in the Brandywine Museum Shop with 100% of the proceeds donated to the Brandywine Conservancy.**

Order your copy today!

<https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy>



**AUTHOR—KATHLEEN HOOD** WILL BE ATTENDING OUR SPRING FLING THIS YEAR FOR SALES AND BOOK SIGNING: “*Where are the Cowboys? Searching for the King Ranch Cowboys in Doe Run*.”



# SUPPORTING LAND & WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION

## BDT SUPPORTS TARGETED REPAIRS IN THE LAURELS PRESERVE

The **Buck & Doe Trust** provided funds to the **Brandywine Conservancy** for targeted repairs and maintenance projects in **The Laurels Preserve**.

Here is a brief explanation of the items included in the project list:

- 1** WATER BARS WERE INSTALLED: WATER BARS ARE STRUCTURES BUILT ACROSS TRAILS TO DIVERT WATER AWAY FROM THE TRAIL, REDUCING EROSION AND PROTECTING THE TRAIL FROM DAMAGE. INSTALLING WATER BARS CAN HELP TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE TRAILS AND ENSURE THEIR LONGEVITY.
- 2** WASHED OUT AREAS REPAIRED: REPAIRING WASHED-OUT AREAS INVOLVES RESTORING DAMAGED TRAIL SECTIONS CAUSED BY HEAVY RAINFALL OR OTHER NATURAL FACTORS. THIS CAN HELP TO MAKE THE TRAILS SAFER AND MORE ENJOYABLE FOR VISITORS.
- 3** STABILIZED THE EMERGENCY ACCESS ON THE NORTH EASTERN SIDE OF THE PRESERVE: IMPROVING THE STABILITY OF THE EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD ON THE NORTH EASTERN SIDE OF THE PRESERVE CAN HELP TO ENSURE THAT EMERGENCY VEHICLES CAN ACCESS THE PRESERVE QUICKLY AND SAFELY IF NEEDED.
- 4** BOLSTERED THE LAYERS AT MCCORKLES ROCK: REINFORCING THE LAYERS OF ROCK AT MCCORKLES ROCK CAN HELP TO PREVENT EROSION AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF VISITORS.

By providing additional funds for targeted repairs and maintenance projects, Buck & Doe Trust members are helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of The Laurels Preserve, and the safety and enjoyment of its visitors.

Thank you to all of our members for your support! And thank you to the Laurels Preserve team who take such wonderful care of the Preserve!!!



## PASS THE BUCK

**Deborah Rush** was awarded the **Pass the Buck Award** at our fall party (given for eased landowners). **Stephanie Armpriester**, Brandywine's Director of Conservation & Stewardship, worked closely and diligently with Deborah to ease her almost 80 acres which neighbors **The Laurels Preserve**. The Pass the Buck Award is in honor of **Frolic Weymouth**, fellow supporters and eased landowners for their foresight and efforts into the land conservation movement. It is a perpetual award for a newly eased landowner or deserving recipient meant to be passed to the next recipient signifying the preservation of additional lands and our community for the generations.

*Thank you to Deborah, Stephanie and all of those who have eased properties!*



**PASS THE BUCK AWARD GOES TO DEBORAH RUSH WITH STEPHANIE ARMPRIESTER (LEFT) AND AMY MCKENNA (RIGHT)**



**BUCK & DOE TRUST**  
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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".

**2023 ANNUAL DUES  
\$40 PER FAMILY**

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

[www.buckanddoetrust.org](http://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

Pat Branum  
Terry Corkran  
Phoebe Driscoll  
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