

Conservancy buys bog in Susquehanna County

THOMPSON — One of the few balsam fir bogs left in Pennsylvania has been purchased by The Nature Conservancy, which has raised more than \$24,000 of the \$41,000 needed to acquire and manage an area known as Krall's Bog, in Susquehanna County.

The Conservancy is currently attempting to raise the balance of \$17,000.

The Bog was purchased as a 72-acre addition to The Nature Conservancy's newest sanctuary in Pennsylvania, the Thompson Wetlands Preserve.

Initial funding was provided by members of The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter plus an \$8000 grant from the McLean Contributionship of Philadelphia.

According to Bud Cook, the Chapter's Executive Director, "The McLean Contributionship's

gift was the key factor in making the project move from an idea to a reality. The end result will be the permanent protection of a pristine wetland system of a type that has practically vanished from Pennsylvania's landscape.

"Krall's Bog is a vital addition to Thompson Wetlands Preserve, which is a 160-acre pond/bog complex donated to The Nature Conservancy by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Shelly, of Thompson."

Cook added that the preserve will be used for scientific research and public education after the adoption of a master plan for the protection and use of the land.

The bog's importance was first reported some 15 years ago in *Bartonia*, a publication of the Philadelphia Botany Club.

Since forgotten, the area was recently identified as a top priority in Pennsylvania by the Con-

servancy's Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter after it was "re-discovered" by naturalist Patricia Christian and her husband John Christian, a science professor at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Located about halfway between Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Binghamton, New York, Thompson Wetlands provides habitat for great blue herons, great horned owls, otters, and bears.

Krall's Bog contains balsam fir, black spruce, tamarack, hemlock, and other tree species plus a variety of more than 360 species of vascular plants.

Unusual plants found at Krall's Bog include purple-fringed orchids and other orchids plus insectivorous plants such as sundews, bladderworts, and pitcher plants.

The Nature Conservancy is a

national, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of ecologically significant land. Founded in 1951 the 100,000-member group has protected 17 million acres of valuable natural land through approximately 2400 separate projects.

The Conservancy retains and manages over half the natural areas it acquires, which constitute the largest privately-owned network of nature sanctuaries in the United States.

To date, the Conservancy has already worked to preserve more than 5,000 acres of Pennsylvania's finest wildlife habitat in over a dozen projects. In addition to Thompson Wetlands, three other projects in Eastern Pennsylvania are now Nature Conservancy sanctuaries, administered by local volunteers: Lacawac Sanctuary and Tannersville Cranberry Bog, both located in the Poconos, the

Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary, near the town of Montrose in Susquehanna County.

The Conservancy has assisted state and federal agencies in the acquisition of parts of Salt Springs State Park, the Loyalsock Trail, the Tincum National Environmental Center, and Valley Forge National Park.

In addition to these projects, the Conservancy has worked on land protection projects with East Stroudsburg State College, the French and Pickering Creek Trust in Chester County, and local government agencies in Abington Township, Lackawanna County, and Luzerne County.

In Eastern Pennsylvania, the Conservancy operates through local volunteer chapter headed by Chairman Thomas Dolan IV Philadelphia. The Chapter Vice Chairman is Fred Studer of Lackawanna County.

To hold agronomy day

WYSOX — This year's Bradford County Agronomy Day will feature corn production with Penn State Extension Agronomy Specialists Joe McGahen and Ray Shupp conducting the program.

The meeting will be held Friday, March 20, 10.30 to 3 p.m. at Wysox Presbyterian Church.

With costs of producing corn climbing forever upward, producers must get the most profitable production to compete in a cost conscious cropping program.

Topics for discussion that have been found to be very significant in

producing a profitable crop such as corn population, weed control, planting dates, row spacing, and barren stalks will be given special priority.

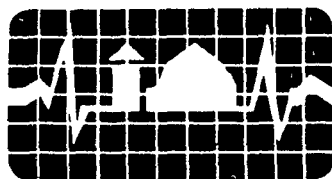
Other topics will be hybrid selection, planting, disease problems as well as nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium levels and correlations between production and soil fertility levels.

Subjects that also relate to corn production is another look at the use of manure on crop land, the new soil test recommendations for nitrogen on corn, and a review of the new lime test.



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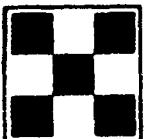
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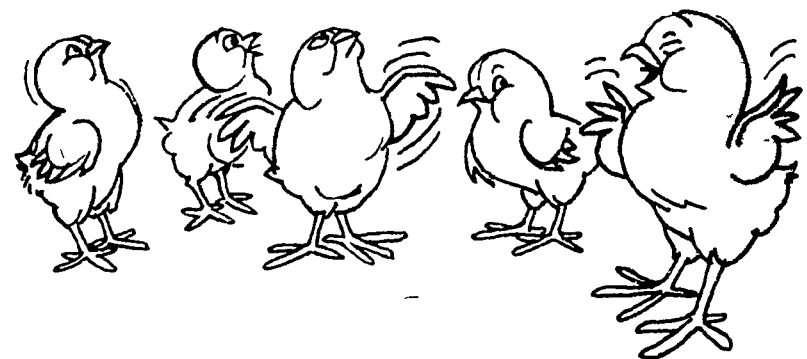
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