



Visit Preserved Land & 1841 Barn



Shari Edelson and Scott Dennison will host a guided trail walk of their 27-acre preserved woodlot and 1841 barn in Aaronsburg on Saturday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m. - 11:30.

Guided Trail Walk Sept. 11, 10 a.m., Aaronsburg

Each patch of land holds a story.

Nancy Parks and Will van den Berg wanted to protect land from an encroaching quarry near their home in the village of Aaronsburg. At a 2000 auction, they bought 16 acres of walnut trees and native wildflowers, and later two adjacent parcels of 11 acres.

Deer, hawks, songbirds, rabbits, barn owls, turkey are abundant. An inter-

mittent stream flows into Elk Creek.

“I see intrinsic value in all plants and animals,” said Parks. “As human beings, we are stewards of this.”

In 2011, the couple preserved the land by donating a conservation easement through the Centre County Farmland Trust.

These 27 acres were wilderness in 1779, when Aaron Levy purchased

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CCFT Welcomes New Trustees



Catherine Smith



Dr. Mary Kennett



Nancy VanLandingham

The Centre County Farmland Trust welcomed three new members to its Board of Trustees who are accomplished community members and passionate about farmland preservation.

Dr. Mary Kennett

Dr. Mary Kennett is a Penn State professor emerita of veterinary and biomedical sciences who grew up on a farm

protected from development in Washington State.

“I’ve always been interested in farmland preservation,” she said.

“I learned to love the land, so I am very happy to now have a small farm near Bellefonte.”

Nancy VanLandingham

Nancy VanLandingham holds a M.S. in geography

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Thank you!

Thank you to all who have supported farmland preservation in the first half of 2021.

Thank you for:

- donating to Centre Gives in May.
- supporting our local farmers by visiting any of the 48 Farm Routes stops.
- donating to the Centre County Farmland Trust, becoming members of the Trust. Welcome to our new members!

You are helping to preserve farmland in Centre County and we appreciate your support.



New Farm Route from Bellefonte to Aaronsburg

Ridges & Valleys Route features several preserved farms and 18 local food & drink stops

Thanks to the generosity of members, supporters and partners, the Trust’s “Farm Routes” outreach project published a new guide to 18 local food and drink stops along a 33-mile route from Bellefonte to Aaronsburg.

Like the first two Farm Routes published in 2020, the third guide promotes locally grown food, locally produced drinks, farmers markets, preserved farms and restaurants sourcing ingredients from local farmers.

The “Ridges & Valleys” map-guide marks and describes each location along the stretch, connecting parts of Routes 550, 26, 64, 445 and 45. It joins the “Round Barn Route” — with 16 stops from Centre Hall to Pine Grove Mills along the Rt. 45 corridor — and the “Town & Country Route” of 14 stops around State College to Port Matilda, along Rts. 550 and 26.

Centre County residents and visitors are invited to use the maps for self-guided driving tours exploring this and nearby country corridors. All 48 route stops are open to the public, so people can visit as much as they would like during each stop’s open hours. The guides make local farm products, farmers markets, preserved land and agricultural heritage sites easy to find.

“Our farms and farmers are a vital and wonderful part of Centre County,” said Dan Guss, President of the Farmland Trust. “They provide us with fresh, nourishing local food, beautiful land and a rich heritage. We want to celebrate our rural life, and help connect our community to people who work the land by encouraging people to use our map-guides to get out and explore our scenic country roads.”

People can drive all or any part of any of the three routes, as often as they like. The Trust offers prizes until October 31 for sharing experiences at any Farm Route stop on social media or checking in at stops using the “tassl” mobile app.

Some route stops offer promotions. IngleBean Coffee House, for example, is offering a free mug of coffee or cookie to visitors with maps.

Access the free digital maps through the Centre County Farmland Trust website (centrecountyfarmlandtrust.org), or through the free tassl mobile app. Download tassl from the app store, then join Centre County Farmland Trust to check-in at stops.

Free paper maps can be found at route stops and at the new Happy Valley Visitors Center on Fraser Street

Share your adventure!



centrecountyfarmlandtrust
#centrecountyfarmlove

CELEBRATES OUR
LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM,
PRESERVATION.

<<< Maps for the Ridges & Valleys Farm Route are online, on the tassl app & at the Happy Valley Visitors Center.

>>> Top: Blueberries from Bee Tree Berry Farm, stop 6.

>>> Middle: Bee Tree's Mark & Laura.

>>> Bottom: Elk Creek Cafe + Aleworks, stop 12.



in downtown State College and the Train Station in downtown Bellefonte.

The Trust launched Farm Routes maps and self-guided driving tours in 2020 as a COVID-safe rework of the annual Centre County Farm Tour, which was canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

Both urge the public to “Get to Know the Hands and Lands that Feed Us.”

The new Ridges & Valleys route includes:

- the Bellefonte Farmer's Market (Sat., 8-12)
- Good Intent Cider
- Big Spring Spirits
- Four Ways Pub & Eatery
- Axemann Brewery
- Bee Tree Berry Farm (U-pick berries)
- Old Farmhouse Eatery & Brewery
- Hublersburg Inn
- Goot Essa (handmade Amish cheese)
- Mark's Custom Meats (butcher)
- Spring Bank Acres (farm store)
- Elk Creek Café + Aleworks
- IngleBean Coffee House
- IngleBean Ice Cream
- Pisano Winery
- Triangle Organics (farm store)
- Patchwork Farm and Greenhouse
- Millheim Farmers' Market (Sat., 10-1)
- Burkholder's Market



New Trustees (cont.)

from Penn State, worked in private consulting for counties and municipalities in economic development and has had a 23-year career in the real estate business.

“I served on the Halfmoon Township Planning Commission for six years and am very interested in the development pressures that rural communities face,” said VanLandingham.

“Two of the best things about Centre County are the vibrancy of a college town and the authenticity and beauty of the surrounding rural landscape. I believe in doing what we can to preserve and enhance both.”

Catherine Smith

Catherine F. Smith lives near Spring Mills on property surveyed by William Maclay for the Penn family in 1766, settled in 1775, and farmed for more than two centuries.

She and John Smith manage their 68-acre farm, called ChicoryLane (chicorylane.com) for

ecology, diversity, habitat protection, waterway protection, and aesthetic appreciation as guided by goals set in a conservation easement held by ClearWater Conservancy. Smith is interested in the interactions among land, land use, architecture, and history.

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“I am looking forward to adding the experiences and passions of these three talented women,” said former Trust president and treasurer Jennifer Shuey.

“Each will enrich the organization and help us to conserve, steward, and share the stories about our local farmland and why it is so important to protect.”

~ Jen Shuey

Learn more about our Trustees on the CCFT website: <https://centrecountyfarmlandtrust.org/who-we-are>



The Farmland Preservation Artists of Central PA will have a show at Elk Creek Cafe + Aleworks Aug. 31- Oct. 12. Stop by for a refreshing drink, meal of ingredients from local farms & ART! Above: Artist Cinda Kostyak’s “Flower Cart.”

Preservation Talk (cont.)

334 acres and laid out the village. Over centuries, people cleared trees, built a barn, farmed crops and planted walnut trees.

By 2019, Parks and van den Berg had divorced, and Parks decided to sell. She asked neighbor Scott Dennison at Dennison Press, to print an advertising flyer. Instead, Dennison and his wife, Shari Edelson, bought the property.

“We’re looking at it as wildlife habitat and an opportunity for a long-term ecological restoration project,” said Edelson.

She and Dennison will host a guided trail walk of the preserved land on Sat., Sept. 11, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Look for the CCFT sign affixed to the 1841 German Bank barn at the corner of Apple Tree Alley and Pine Street. Watch [@centrecountyfarmlandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/centrecountyfarmlandtrust) on Instagram and Facebook for details.



Keep in Touch!

Follow [@CentreCountyFarmlandTrust](https://www.instagram.com/centrecountyfarmlandtrust) on Instagram & Facebook.

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