



Remembering Lynn Miller

Farmland Trust Co-founder known for vision

Centre County lost a champion of farmland preservation, visionary and co-founder of the Centre County Farmland Trust when Lynn Miller, 87, died March 3.

Miller was Emeritus Professor of Landscape Architecture at Penn State, where he taught for 35 years.

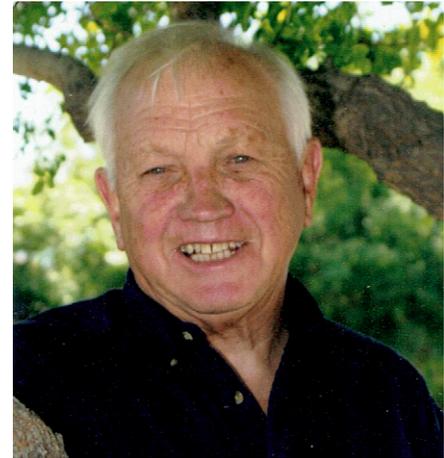
He was well known for his charismatic personality and enthusiasm for preservation.

“His enthusiasm was endearing,” said Norm Lathbury, Chairman of the Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and a neighbor of Miller’s. “He was very, very sincere about what he thought was important. He was an architect and saw the value of preserving old buildings. He saw also the value of preserving farms. He understood that’s where our food comes from. It’s still a huge mission.”

From 1989 to 1994, when the Trust formed, Miller

served on Centre County’s Ag Land Preservation Board, set up to administer the Commonwealth’s agriculture preservation program, created by 1988 legislation.

“Lynn was a very active member at that point and he saw that there was a lot of need in the county for preserving farmland,” said Dan Pennick, who was the county’s chief planner from 1970 to 1998. “His contribution to that was enormous,” said Pennick. “He wouldn’t just sit there like a bump on a



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Market Reds, watercolor by Cinda B. Kostyak

Kostyak, a member of the Farmland Preservation Artists, captures the ways our farms and farmers deliciously feed us. #centrecountyfarmlove

FARM ROUTES 2020

This summer, see working farms, preserved farmland, and ag heritage landmarks. Enjoy local foods, farmers markets and local foods eateries — all at your own pace, with CCFT Farm Routes.

The Trust is creating “Farm Routes” guides to exploring country roads in Centre County.

This summer, Farm Routes replaces the annual Farm Tour. Learn more about our local farms and food system — while social distancing.

Watch for Farm Routes cards at area farmers’ markets and follow @centrecountyfarmlandtrust on Instagram and Facebook.



Enjoying Preserved Farmland During the Pandemic



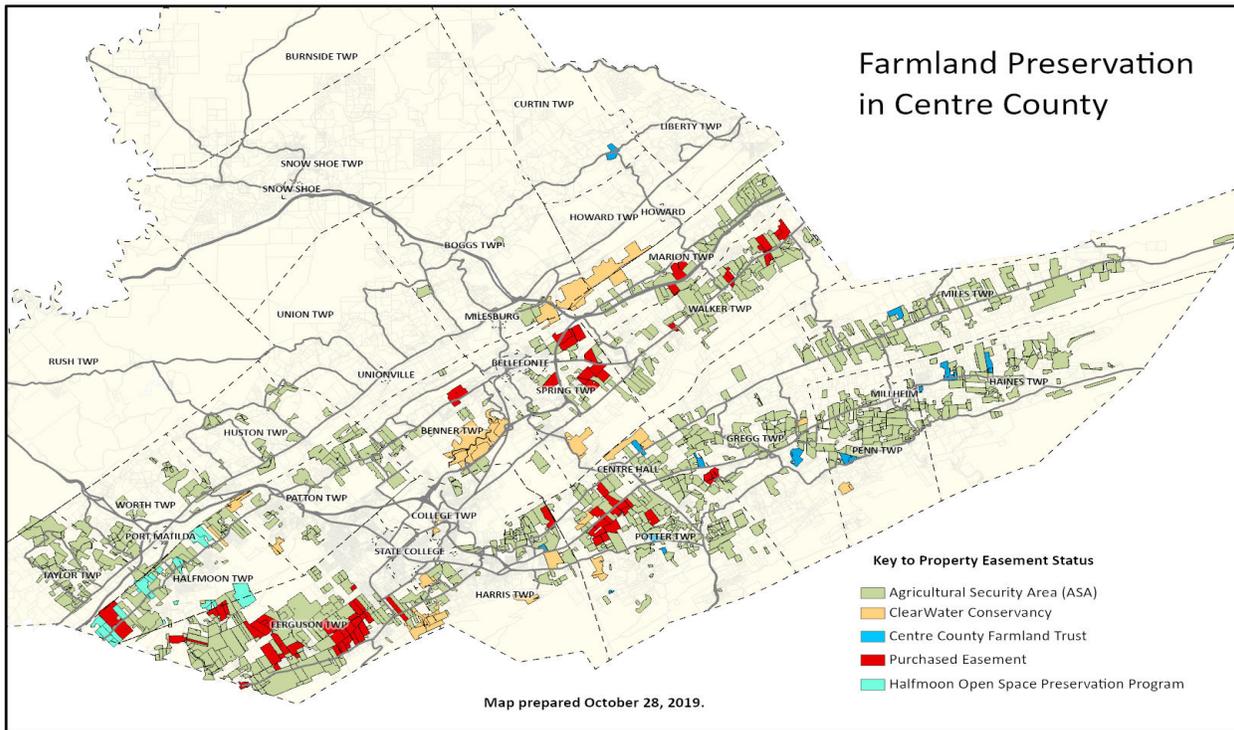
**“It’s such a lovely and picturesque trail. Thank you for making it and showing it to us,”
~ Valeriya Minakova,
visitor to the new trail at Rhoneymeade**



“Living in the country means a little bit more now when you look at the world situation. The wildlife has been tremendous this spring. We had a family of geese, a grey fox, fawns running through the yard, a nest of bluebirds off the back porch. It’s a real, relaxing pleasure to get out and witness it.”

~ Pete and Carol Schempf live on a 42-acre, preserved farm near Linden Hall.





Remembering Lynn Miller *(continued)*

log. He was going to contribute to the discussion. He was going to raise questions. There was a good amount of discussion about the properties and principles of the program.”

Spotting a Need

Miller identified a need for another way outside of that program to secure conservation easements for farmland preservation. His vision evolved to create the Farmland Trust in 1994. There are more interested landowners and farmland worthy of preservation than the public program can accommodate.

The preservation mechanism is also different. The county program purchases an easement and pays the landowner the difference between the value of the land used for agriculture and land that has been developed. Through the Centre County Farmland Trust, the landowner donates a conservation easement and can receive tax benefits for the value of the development rights that they have given up.

“What Lynn saw as a board member and what was happening is that interest started to mount up, and there were not enough funds. You needed another mechanism to protect land. The Trust was another one of the tools and it’s working,” said Pennick.

Rural Roots

Miller grew up in West Virginia, with a love of rural

communities and rural roots, said his stepson Derek Canova, who was about 7 when he met Miller for the first time. Miller earned a B.S. in agriculture from West Virginia University in 1953 and served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, retiring as Lieutenant Commander.

Canova, a State College realtor, serves as a trustee for CCFT. Miller owned a 40-acre “farmette” in Penns Valley near the Egg Hill Church.

“That’s where I grew up. We had cows, goats and all sorts of things,” said Canova.

“That showed his level of preservation of all things, especially natural things,” said Canova.

Preservation Focus

When the Egg Hill Church, built in the 1800s, was slated to be torn down, Miller organized people to restore it. Miller was the lead landscape architect in the design and development of Toftrees.

“He had an overall view of things,” said Canova. “Every move we make here in Centre County, whether we develop a place to live, or secure farmland for protection — what are the ramifications for us 50 years ahead?” Without Miller, noted Lathbury, the Trust might not exist. Many other counties do not have a similar organization.





Photographer R. Thomas Berner's inspirational image of a barn and vista.

Berner loves to photograph barns. He is a member of the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation and Farmland Preservation Artists.

rthomas-berner.pixels.com

Pennsylvania lost 244,000 acres of farmland to low-density residential development between 2001 and 2016, according to the American Farmland Trust.

[#centrecountyfarmlove](https://twitter.com/centrecountyfarmlove)

Thank You For Giving!

Thank you to all who donate their time, funds, and talent to the Centre County Farmland Trust's mission to preserve farmland.

During the Centre Gives online 36-hour giving campaign, May 12-13, 86 givers donated \$7,985 to the Farmland Trust. You and your generosity surpassed our 2020 goal.

Plus, 30 more people donated this year compared to 2019.

The Centre Foundation's stretch funding pool during Centre Gives means adding more dollars to your investment in farmland preservation.

Our partner organization, The Farmland Preservation Artists of Central Pennsylvania, helps the Trust throughout the year. FPA members' beautiful, seasonal images of barns, farmland and the bounty of food from the land can be found throughout this issue of our newsletter, and frequently on social media.

Thank YOU! Your generosity makes our work to preserve farmland possible. We do that by encouraging people to get to know and patronize Centre County farmers, local foods, farmers markets and eateries serving local foods.

The Trust works with landowners to preserve their farmland in perpetuity through conservation easements.

Farmers and farmland deliciously feed us all — in so many ways! [#centrecountyfarmlove](https://twitter.com/centrecountyfarmlove)



Spring Lea April, watercolor by Martha Grout Taylor. Martha is a member of the Farmland Preservation Artists of Central Pennsylvania and of the board of the Centre County Farmland Trust.

Keep in Touch!

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

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