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# MOUNT NITTANY NEWS

December 2011

Vol. 3 Number 1

**MOUNT**  
*Nittany*  
**CONSERVANCY**

[www.mtnittany.org](http://www.mtnittany.org)

## CONSERVANCY BOARD MEMBERS

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### Vice President

Robert Andronici

### Secretary

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Tom Smyth

Kim Steiner

J. Alan Stewart

Vincent Verbeke

Douglas Wion

## Contact Us

Our address for donations, address updates and correspondence is:  
Mount Nittany Conservancy  
P.O. Box 296, State College, PA  
16804-0296

You may also reach us via email at [Info@MtNittany.org](mailto:Info@MtNittany.org).

## Lynch Erosion

MNC is deeply concerned about the current state of the iconic Mike Lynch Overlook on Mt Nittany. Due to increasing numbers of hikers, along with our wet weather this year, the soil at the Overlook is becoming increasingly eroded.

You can help support our efforts to stabilize the Overlook by becoming a Friend of the Mountain.

Evidence of the erosion can be seen in the photos posted at [www.mtnittany.org](http://www.mtnittany.org). While the Conservancy and volunteer groups have worked to place water bars (logs that cut across the overlook to re-direct water), more actions are needed. In order to make this happen, we do need your support!

The Conservancy owes special thanks to Treasurer Blake Gall for providing extra equipment and manpower to move materials to the site.



### UPDATE

Over the past two months a great deal of work has been completed.

Crews built more than a dozen erosion deflectors at Lynch, and made great strides in getting the new step system put in down the left side of Lynch. They also put in a series of small bars across the planned new trail.

## Circle K Installs Tom Smyth Rock

By Jeff Deitrich

Circle K members once again volunteered on the Mountain this year. They arrived early (9 a.m.) and were treated to Sweet Art Bakery cinnamon rolls (thanks Laurie!).

The group helped out with two goals for the day.

First, they were tasked to cover all 8 1/2 miles of trails to clean up from the early season snow of the previous weekend. Three groups walked around both the White and Blue trails to make this happen.

Second, one group traveled all the way to the Tom Smyth Overlook (Station 9).

Here, they installed a memorial rock to our 2011 Friend of the Mountain awardee and longtime volunteer Tom Smyth. The board has recognized Tom by renaming the Nittany Mall overlook in his honor. Smyth has led numerous efforts to preserve and conserve many of Mt. Nittany's attributes, most recently helping the Conservancy fend off the 2008-2009 gypsy moth outbreak.



Members of Circle K on the Mountain.

The plaque reads:

The Tom Smyth Overlook

This Mountain is more lush and its trails more inviting thanks to the patient work and quiet leadership of its friend Tom Smyth.

## Lion Ambassadors on the Mountain

Led by Lauren Johnson, Philanthropy Chair of the Penn State Lion Ambassadors, we split this group into two work parties and worked on installing a new stepping system at the Lynch Overlook as well as clearing back trails on the Mountain.

*From left to right: Gary McMillen, Kyle Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Sunita Ruparelia, Kelly Glavin, Matt Mahalik and Kerry O'Donnell.*



## Supporting the Future of our Mountain

We're all very fortunate that concerned alumni and community members have worked to acquire and protect Mt. Nittany over the past 60+ years.

We are pleased to recognize the individuals and groups that have recently supported the Mountain and the Mount Nittany

Conservancy by donating to the Conservancy and renewing their commitment as a "Friend of Mount Nittany" annually, or those who have purchased one or more Life Estate Deeds.

The Conservancy extends a special thanks to the Lion's Paw Alumni Association for their annual support to the Conservancy.

*This listing represents donors who made gifts between July 1, 2011 and November 8, 2011.*

**new!** Janet Blankenhorn, State College, PA

**new!** Martha Lynch, East Hampton, CT

**new!** Daniel Mallinson, State College, PA  
(Life Time Deed)

**new!** Christopher Reilly, Pittsburgh, PA  
(Life Time Deed)

*<your name here>*

Warren and Nickie Askov,  
State College, PA

Donna Becker, Mendham, NJ (Life Time  
Deed)

Alice R. Deihl, Mill Hall, PA

Mark Focht, Philadelphia, PA

John and Carol Houseknecht,  
Montoursville, PA

Cathy Kennedy, State College, PA

Edward H. Klevans, State College, PA

Samuel Malizia, State College, PA

Erich and Holly May, State College, PA

Dr. and Mrs. Allen E. Meyer,  
Lansdowne, PA

Nittany Bank, State College, PA

Dorothy Rish, Harrisburg, PA

Cliff Rupert, Boalsburg, PA

Douglas A. Wion, State College, PA

## Show Your Support!

There are two wonderful ways to show your support for the Mount Nittany Conservancy; by becoming a member of Friends of the Conservancy or by purchasing a Deed. Either way, you are helping to preserve a legacy of Happy Valley. Unfortunately, we can't do it without your help!

### Deeds:

Every square inch counts when it comes to saving Mount Nittany! And you can help us do just that by purchasing a genuine life-estate deed to one square inch of Mount Nittany

Conservancy land. The location of these deeds can be seen by clicking on Trail Map. This deed makes a truly elegant gift and is a terrific way to show your love of the Mountain.

The 16 X 20 inch deed is a work of art and is available framed, ready to hang on your wall, for only \$150.00, shipping included. Unframed deeds are also available; same great deed, but at half the price.

### Friend of Mt. Nittany:

When you support the Conservancy by becoming a member of Friends of the Conservancy, you will receive our newsletter and the satisfaction of knowing that the Mountain remains preserved today, thanks to your efforts. You can become a Friend by making a tax-deductible donation by completing the enclosed form.

*Please note that you can call Toll Free (1-800-975-6699) to make a donation or purchase a Deed between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mon – Fri., or visit [www.mtnittany.org](http://www.mtnittany.org).*

## Mt. Nittany Night Grows in Second Year

More than 50 people gathered to celebrate the second annual Mount Nittany Night on Friday, September 30 at the Mount Nittany Vineyard & Winery.

The event raised nearly \$3,000 to support new erosion suppression efforts at the Mike Lynch Overlook.

Guests sampled delicious wines and appetizers, and, during its 30th anniversary, the board honored the significant contributions of long-time Mountain steward Tom Smyth with its second Friend of the Mountain award. The award honors a person or group based on contributions of talent, time and resources on behalf of the Mountain. Earlier, the board had recognized Smyth by renaming the Nittany Mall overlook in his honor. Smyth has led numerous efforts to preserve and conserve many of Mt.

Nittany's attributes, most recently helping the Conservancy fend off the 2008-2009 gypsy moth outbreak.

**Donations to Mount Nittany Night increased by more than 50 percent over last year.** The funds will go to provide significant erosion prevention measures that are sorely needed to protect the Lynch Overlook, the most frequented destination on the Mountain. New water bars using wood harvested from the Mountain and a redirected trail will be put in place during the coming year.

For more information, visit [www.mtnittany.org](http://www.mtnittany.org) or send an email to [info@MtNittany.org](mailto:info@MtNittany.org).

Find many more pictures from the event on our web site.

*MNC thanks these event sponsors:*

- Mount Nittany Vineyard & Winery
- The Nittany Lion Inn
- Nittany Bank
- Nittany Beverage
- Nittany Catering
- Benjamin's Catering
- ImagineNittany.com



*Dan Jones, John Fritz and Kathleen Jones.*



*Judy and Bob Andronici with Ron Woodhead.*



*Tom Smyth (left) and Chip Kogelmann.*



*Jeff Deitrich and Teri Jordan.*



*Doug Wion and Erich May.*

## IN MEMORY

### In Memory of Willy Kogelmann

It is with much sadness that we note the passing of the Inaugural recipient of the “Friend of the Mountain” award – Wilhelm “Willy” Kogelmann – who passed away at his home October 24, 2011. As many of you know, Willy’s contributions to the Conservancy were and continue to be integral to our existence.



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### Ben Novak on the Founding of the Mount Nittany Conservancy

To mark the Mount Nittany Conservancy’s 30th anniversary, Tom Shakely interviewed our first President, Ben Novak. They discussed “the origins of Mount Nittany as a sacred symbol, the first era of preservation in 1945, the founding of the Conservancy in the 1980s, and his thoughts on its future and the attitude of newcomers toward Mount Nittany.”

To read more about the video, please go to: <http://tomshakely.com/2011/10/the-legend-of-mount-nittany/>

## MNC IN THE NEWS

### Around the County with John Hook

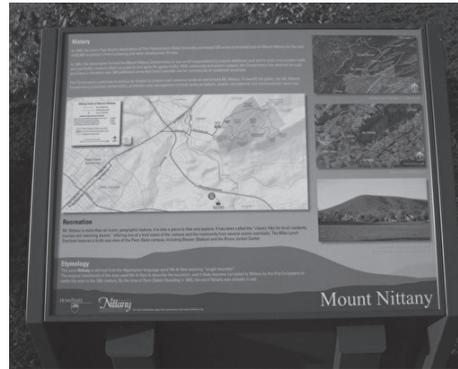
John Hook, MNC President, was interviewed by the Centre County’s Government & Educational Access Network (C-NET) as part of their “Around the County” series.

John discusses the history of the Conservancy and updates everyone on current MNC projects.

Find a link to watch the interview at [www.mtnittany.org](http://www.mtnittany.org).

## Mt. Nittany Viewing Station at the Mt. Nittany Elementary School

If you live and work in Happy Valley, you can gaze out upon Mt. Nittany every day. As described on our Facebook page, Mt. Nittany is our Plymouth Rock, our Old Faithful, our Gibraltar. The moment we see her, we know we are home.



But Mt. Nittany is more than an iconic geographic feature, it is also a place to hike and explore. In order to tell that story, the Mount Nittany Conservancy (MNC) is reaching out to the community with a planned series of interpretive stations throughout the valley.

The “front yard” of the Mt. Nittany Middle School received the first of these

viewing stations this summer. The stations are designed to be attractive, educational and informational. Each viewing station will include:

- brief history of the Lion’s Paw Alumni Association (the group who first worked to protect the Mountain from lumbering and other development threats) and the formation of the MNC
- how Mt. Nittany is used for recreation purposes
- the etymology behind the word Nittany
- pictures and a trail map of Mt. Nittany from the current location of the viewer

We hope that everyone can take the time to visit the site and see the final product. Your support of the Conservancy is what makes this new outreach effort possible. Thank you! And a special tip of the hat to Ameron Construction for installing the viewing station.

This project would not have been possible without the ongoing efforts of director Alan Stewart, who has waded through excessive emails and paperwork to see that the signs were completed and installed.

## Mountain Clean Up

Volunteers from South Hills School of Business and Technology spent five hours on the Mountain this summer picking up trash and removing fire rings. Our THANKS go out to:

Rachel Breon  
Donny Houtz  
Brian Cox  
Ryan Gallaher  
Jonathan Inhoof

