

UPOS NEWSLETTER

May 2021

The Board of UPOS hopes everyone is doing well and looking forward to a better summer. After the past year, UPOS is glad to see that things are improving and we can start to do more. After needing to cancel last year's Scott Park Day, we are happy to inform you that it will happen on Saturday, June 5.

Over the past few months many local townships have received grants for improvements and you will find information regarding these in this newsletter. There was good news about the purchase of a Brandywine Battlefield property in Chadds Ford by North American Land Trust to protect the land. Hopefully more open spaces within the area will be protected from development as once the land is gone it is gone.

The spotted Lantern Fly eggs have begun hatching, so keep an eye out for the nymphs. We need to do all we can to try and control this destructive pest.

Jane Ferry, President

SCOTT PARK DAY

On Saturday, June 5th, UPOS will have our annual Scott Park Day. This year we will need volunteers to work on maintaining the trails by cutting back vines and overgrowth.

If you have any type of weedwackers, loopers or clippers, please bring them. With all the rain we had this Spring, it will be good to clear back the trails for people to walk and enjoy. Hope that you can help and we get to see each other.

Meet at 9:00 am at the Boy Scout Parking Lot (large lot across from 1071 N Ridley Creek Rd). Lunch will be provided at 11:00 to everyone who helps to maintain the park.

We will be practicing social distancing, but since we'll be outside, if you've been vaccinated you won't need a mask per CDC's guidelines.

GRANTS AWARDED

Nether Providence was awarded more than \$300,000 in state grants by the Commonwealth Financing Authority for several projects, including:

- \$250,000 in Multimodal Transportation funds for Walkable Wallingford - Providence Road Sidewalk, Phase II. The Township plans to install 1.5 miles of new ADA-accessible sidewalks along Providence Road
- \$42,000 in Greenways, Trails and Recreation funding to go toward Furness Park trail development.

Aldan received a \$75,000 grant for a Watershed Restoration Protection Program to help alleviate and control the significant flooding after heavy rain.

Lansdowne Borough was awarded two grants to support the development of a pedestrian trail as an extension of the Hoffman Park Trail. The two awards total \$600,000, one from the Department of Conservation Partnership Program in the amount of \$300,000 and another from the Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund for the same amount.

Newtown will receive \$650,000 for a pedestrian connection between the Newtown Municipal Building and Route 3. Paths and trails will be installed at the site along with new sidewalks.

Middletown received a combined \$67,000 for three different projects - 76-acre Smedley Park, the rehabilitation of a flood control basin in the Sunnybrae subdivision and the installation of a vegetated swale and other stormwater control measures.

SPOTTED LANTERN FLY

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive, destructive insect that first arrived in Berks County in 2014. It has now spread into Montgomery, Chester, Bucks, and Lehigh Counties, and, while there have not been a huge number of sightings in Delaware County over the past year, we expect that it will be invading the County over the next year. The potential for economic damage and residential property destruction is enormous.

The eggs of this pest have started to hatch and the picture above is what they look like now. you can find a link on our website about the Spotted Lanternfly at:

www.upperprovidenceforopenspace.memberlodge.org

BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD

North American Land Trust acquired a historic Brandywine Battlefield property in Chadds Ford to protect the land forever under conservation easement before ultimately opening its 72 acres to the public as Brinton Run Preserve.

Originally considered for development, the property's diverse array of plant and wildlife species and its historic significance will be preserved with plans to create opportunities for passive public recreation and education for the community.

North American Land Trust was able to raise \$3.85 million to purchase the property. Financial support was given from American Battlefield Trust, Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County's Open Space and Recreation Grant Program, Mt Cuba Center, the National Park Service and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

In addition to removing a modern home, NALT plans to reintroduce native plant species, undertake riparian maintenance, implement a trail system and create opportunities for community programs.

