

Glenroy Preserve: A legacy project

By Betsy Brewer Brantner
Contributing Writer

It is one of our biggest endeavors thus far, but one that all of us at the Oxford Area Foundation (OAF) will be proud of for years to come,” Nancy Ware Sapp, president of OAF, explained.

Ware Sapp was talking about the Foundation’s newest project – the Glenroy Preserve.

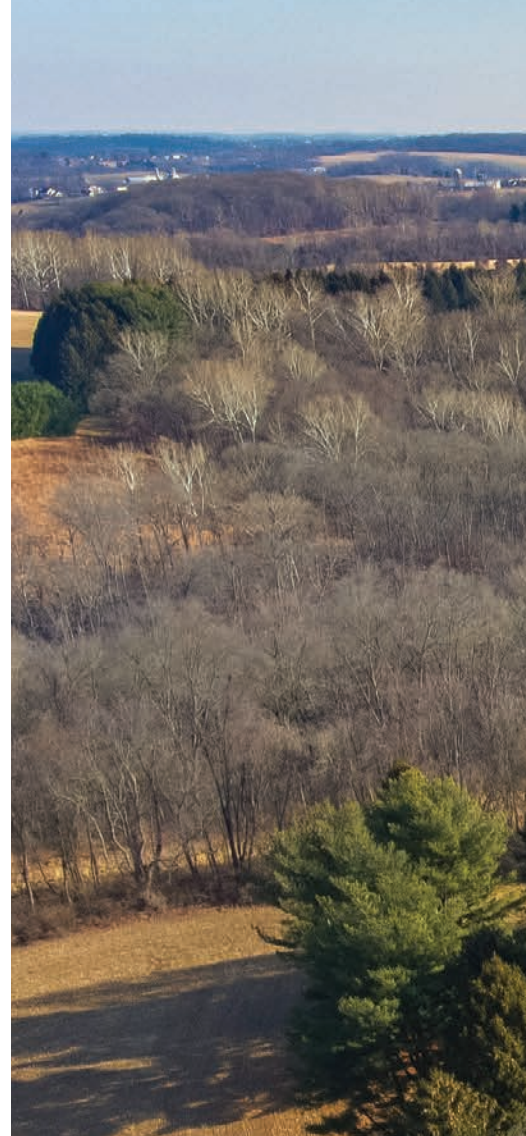
“This is a legacy project,” she said. “One that will have a lasting meaning for everyone.”

The Oxford Foundation was founded in 1947 by Marian S. and John H. Ware, III. In 2004, The Oxford Foundation was divided into four separate Ware Family Foundations. It was then that John H. Ware, IV created the Oxford Area Foundation or “OAF”. John Ware, IV was a very active member in the small community of Oxford, having served as President of the Borough Council and on numerous local boards. He loved the

town and saw its potential. Mr. Ware was President of the Foundation until 2012. At that time, John’s daughter, Nancy Ware Sapp, was elected President and has embraced her father’s dream of improving this small community of Oxford.

To listen to her talk, you can tell it is a real labor of love, as is every project. This project has another attachment to it—her mother spent part of her childhood in the property’s Globe Tavern, a 19th-century inn that served travelers on Route 272.

The 577-acre property known as the Glenroy Farm will become a publicly accessible nature preserve under a \$6.6 million conservation easement. The land is located off PA Route 272 North in West Nottingham Township, Chester County, PA along the beautiful Octoraro Creek. To the locals in that area, that portion of the creek is home to some of the best fishing





Glenroy Preserve


Continued from Page 52

holes around.

"We're beyond excited. I'm ready to share it with everyone else," Ware Sapp said. "PennDOT has approved our permit and remaining work should be completed soon for our soft opening. The Grand opening will be in May."

When the Thouron family patriarch, Sir John Rupert Hunt Thouron, a horticulturist, died in 2007, absentee family members wanted to see the land preserved and approached the Brandywine Conservancy. Sir John was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1976 in recognition of the Anglo-American educational exchange program he and his wife, Esther duPont Thouron, launched in 1960. As a horticulturist, it is likely Sir John is very pleased with what his family has done.





Oxford Center for Dance

presents

Superheroes

JULY
25-29
AGES 3-7


SUMMER CAMP 2022

**DANCING, GAMES
CRAFTS & MORE!!!**





Oxford Center for Dance
2371 Baltimore Pike Oxford, PA 19363
610-932-3267 | Kofke89@gmail.com

**Goal Setting Environment • One-on-One Daily Learning
Advanced Curriculum • STEM Activities Daily
1+ Acres of outdoor play area**



**Daycare
Preschool • Pre-K
Before & After Care
Summer Camp
Open 6am - 6:30pm
Full Time
Part Time**

Barnsley Academy



**550 Solanco Rd, Quarryville, PA | 717-786-8788
225 Barnsley Rd, Oxford, PA | 610-932-5900
www.barnsleyacademy.com**



For the last 50 years, the Thouron family lovingly managed a 1,000-acre piece of private property in both Lancaster and Chester counties. Ware Sapp was quick to point out that Maurice Fitzgerald was a big part of that management. He has done the grounds maintenance for the last 50 years.

The Glenroy Preserve is just one of three preservation efforts on the Glenroy Farm property being brokered by the Brandywine Conservancy. The Conservancy has an impressive resume in preserving farmland and protecting open space and water quality in the region.

The conservancy was able to secure a grant for public recreation from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on the 577 acres, funding from the Oxford Area Foundation and Chester County Preservation Partnership Program, as well as its own funding. An additional \$1.2 million has been approved by

Continued on Page 56

- Logo Design
- Branding
- Carved Wood Signs
- Farm Signs
- Development Signs
- Digital Signs
- Vehicle Graphics
- Fleet Graphics
- Printed Apparel
- CNC Routing
- And More...

YO SIGN GUY

eric@yosignguy.co

914 PENN GREEN ROAD
AVONDALE PA

Glenroy Preserve

Continued from Page 55

DCNR and hopefully we will find the matching funds to purchase another 159 acres of Lancaster County farmland and woods bordering the Octoraro. The Lancaster Conservancy is involved in developing that effort.

It didn't take much for the Conservancy to convince the Oxford Area Foundation to spread its wings and become owner and caretaker of a local natural treasure. As Ware Sapp explains it, "It was during another meeting at the Sawmill Grill. We were meeting with John Goodall from the Brandywine Conservancy for another reason. He told me he had money for this tract of land but couldn't find anyone who wanted to manage it. He didn't want to turn it over to a developer. It took us six months to discuss the project and ask ourselves if it fit into our mission. In the end we changed our mission statement

a little, but didn't change our community support in any way. I didn't do anything. I was simply in the right place at the right time. I'm happy to be in a position to help a dream that started with the Thouron family. His children had the ability to do something with the land and they went to the Brandywine Conservancy."

"This enables us to protect the water quality of the Octoraro," she said.

"I am so excited this important area can return to its beautiful natural state," she said.

She is equally excited about the wildlife, trees, flowers, indeed the entire ecosystem that this will preserve.

"We have deer, coyote, turkeys, bald eagles, herons, foxes, and an amazing wild-bird population," she pointed out. "This all could have been lost to development."

Instead the public will have access to winding trails through forests, huge rock boulders, ponds, an intricate connection of



streams and wetlands, home to beautiful species of birds and wildlife. And, some of the fields can be turned into homes for pollinator plants.

"John Goodall from the Conservancy told us that we have an empty canvas



*Kevin D. Collins, Supervisor
Julie N. Collins, Funeral Director*

**Celebrating lives and comforting loved ones
through three generations of service.**

Edward L. Collins, Jr.

FUNERAL HOME, INC.
86 Pine Street • Oxford, PA
610-932-9584

You shouldn't have to wait for care close to HOME.

While families in our community travel far just to wait for care, our hospice team can meet, assess, and begin caring for you or your loved one, if eligible, wherever you call home *within 24 hours*.

To get help, or learn more about the services we provide Chester County, call us today at 610.998.1700.



Brandywine River Valley
**HOME HEALTH
& HOSPICE**

Phone: 610.998.1700

here. I am already dreaming of what will go on that canvas,” she said.

Miles of trails will be accessible to the public for hiking. The Preserve will promote, educate and encourage environmental awareness in Southern Chester County and Lancaster County and increase natural sustainability.

Ware Sapp is already picturing the melding of projects as the mission statement explains.

The mission of the Oxford Area Foundation is to protect and restore critical natural areas and waterways for public benefit, and to educate the community to create a legacy of a healthy, sustainable environment for future generations.

In addition, the Oxford Area Foundation provides funding to non-profit organizations that offer services and programs in the Oxford area.

So moving forward non-profit organizations OAF has supported in the past will reap the benefits of this nature preserve as well.

“I can see plein air artists from the Oxford Arts Alliance finding a wealth of inspiration here,” she said. “Children from the Lighthouse Youth Center can hike, volunteer, and attend educational

Continued on Page 58



Nancy Ware Sapp, President of Oxford Area Foundation



Glenroy Preserve

Continued from Page 57

programs. The SILO (Serving and Inspiring Others) group can picnic here or hold one of their monthly meals here. And the Oxford Library will have two ponds on this property to host their annual fundraiser, the fishing tournament,” she said.

Her concern also continues for the community where her businesses, Lola’s and It’s So Lola’s are located.

“Building out our downtown district helps conserve farm areas,” Ware Sapp explained. “We are still contemplating what we will do with the Adams property. Maybe an inn and restaurant would be nice.”

She continued, “A large percentage of our community sits below poverty level. I’m sure many have never seen a fresh tilled field or haven’t enjoyed the experience of hiking. We are glad to be able to provide that possibility just five miles down the road.”

She explained that her family has been doing this for years. Her aunts were very concerned with farm preservation.

“I believe land preservation and promoting a thriving downtown can have a symbiotic relationship,” she said. “OAF invests in those that know how to do things. Arts Alliance, SILO, NSC, OMI, these are things our community can’t do without. One is not more important than the other.”

One thing she is sure of is that they could not do anything without all those that help and support them. People like John Goodall, Kim Gordon (from Brandywine Conservancy), her family and so many more.



“My grandparents started out supporting their community,” she explained. “The family grew and the foundations grew. This is really for my family. It connects all of us. It ties our family together. It is hard for me to say no and sometimes the biggest question is how can we help the most? We

will continue to support as much as we can, wherever we can.”

For those interested in learning more about OAF or the Glenroy Preserve or how to volunteer there visit: www.oxfordareafoundation.org.

JODI FARROW
NMLS# 640657

GEORGETOWN FINANCIAL CENTER

UNIVEST
BANKING | INSURANCE | INVESTMENTS

UNIVEST BANK AND TRUST CO. • GEORGETOWN FINANCIAL CENTER

1135 GEORGETOWN ROAD • CHRISTIANA, PA 17509

P 717.806.8984 • F 717.806.8939

TOLL FREE 877.723.5571

FARROWJ@UNIVEST.NET

Equal Housing and Opportunity Lender

Member FDIC

www.univest.net

22bbq FOOD TRUCK AND CATERING



Art & Darlene Ianni

www.22-bbq.com • 484-883-0990
22bbqtruck@gmail.com