

# 2015 J. Roy Houston Conservation Partnership Award

## Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation



Katherine Mabis McKenna was an accomplished woman. As a young woman, she studied painting at the renowned Cape Cod School of Art, studied abroad for a year, and then graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1918.

Her passion for the natural world led her to study horticulture in the Netherlands, Ikebana style of flower arranging during several trips to Japan, and landscape design at the then-Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women.

At her home and at the Greensburg Garden and Civic Center, she created “educational landscapes,” where visitors could not only enjoy the aesthetic qualities of the plantings but also learn about their characteristics and care.

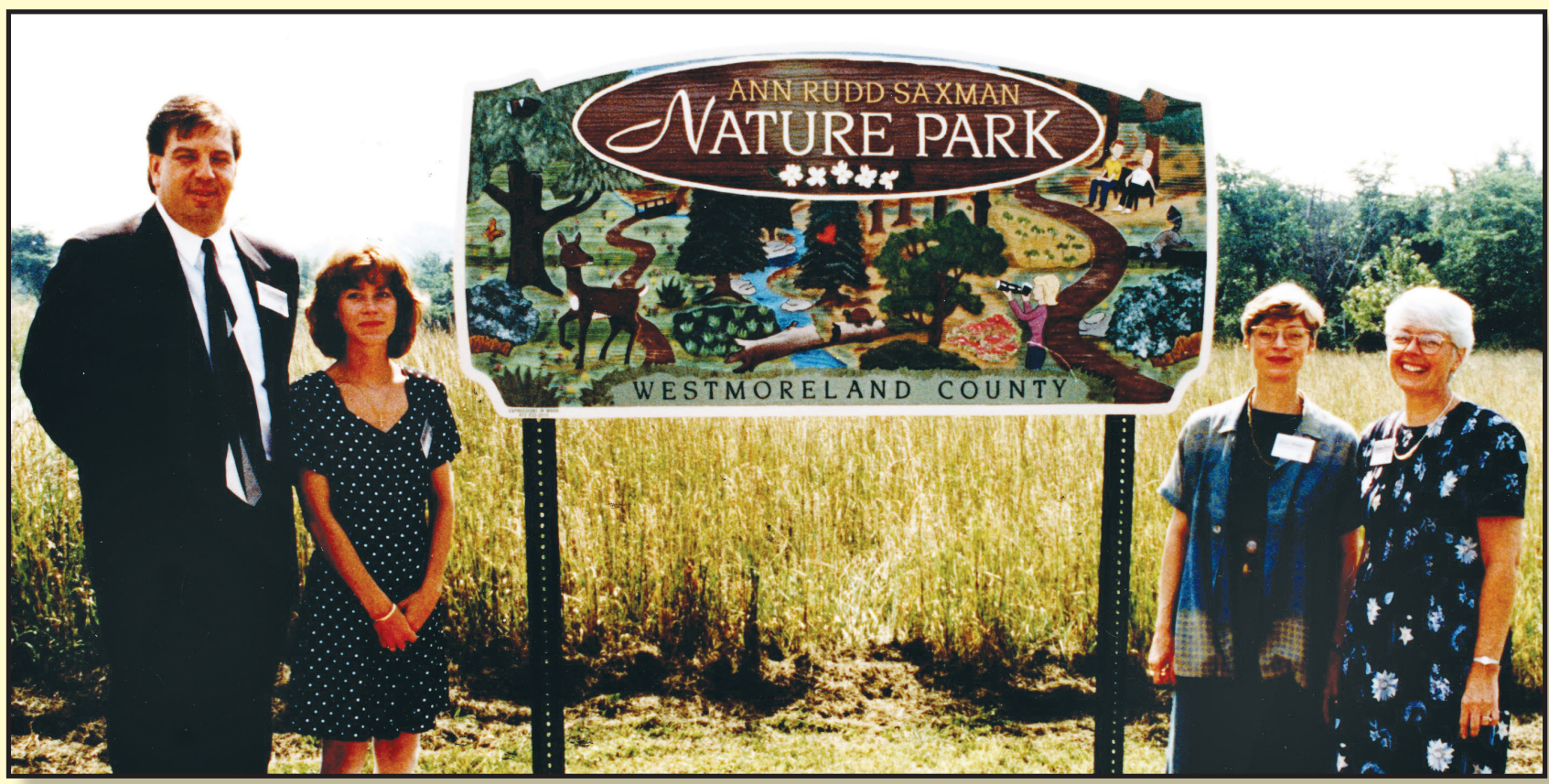
In her later years, she did much to enhance the quality of life in our region, and created a foundation in memory of her son, Mennel, to continue that work.



The Westmoreland Conservation District has been fortunate to be the recipient of support from her legacy, the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, for more than 20 years.

The foundation has always encouraged collaboration, and been a lead supporter in co-locating like-minded conservation agencies first in Donohoe Center (in 1994) and then, as they grew, on the expanded conservation campus (1998, 2007, and 2014).

In 1995, the foundation helped the District expand and revitalize Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park in Hempfield Township.



The following year, the foundation helped to create the Monastery Run Improvement Project, bringing together a coalition of agencies to pioneer the use of passive wetlands to treat a stream degraded with

pollution from abandoned coal mines.

And for many years, the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation as helped to support regional trail development and created one of the longest - and best - trails in the United States, the Great Allegheny Passage.

The Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation is led by Chairman Linda McKenna Boxx, Vice Chairman Zan McKenna Rich and Treasurer Nathan McKenna Boxx.



# Westmoreland Conservation District