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**MEMO**  
**October 30, 2003**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

The Penn Manor Girl Scouts again welcome the opportunity to show their support for the acquisition of the Atglen-Susquehanna Low Grade rail line. In 1994 we noted that the acquisition of natural and open space lands in Lancaster County was of importance to future generations of young girls and their families for health and recreational benefits as well as Girl Scout programs.

The Penn Manor Girl Scouts have worked in the past on natural and open space clean-up crews that helped create and promote the Turkey Hill ridge trail that overlooks the rail line that is abandoned along the Susquehanna River. We believe that other Lancaster County Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts, will lend their public service and programs strength to the preservation and acquisition of the rail line and assist the trail sponsoring entity with its development and management plans.

You are being sent an advance photocopy of the Penn Manor Girl Scout Neighborhood letter of 1994 and a newspaper article that will be available to the public at the November 19, 2003 meeting sponsored by the U. S. Surface Transportation Board at the Hoffman Building, Solanco Fairground, Quarryville, PA.

I, Christine Brubaker, will represent the Penn Manor Girl Scouts, and read this letter into the formal hearing proceedings during the 6-8 P.M. session.

Thank you,



Christine Brubaker  
Adult Girl Scout  
Penn Manor Service Team--Special Events and Outdoor Education

# Penn Laurel Girl Scout Council

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Phone: (717) 757-35

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GIRL SCOUTS

August 8, 1994

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##### YORK, PA

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Dear Board of Directors of the Friends of the Atglen-Susquehanna Trail:

At the June 1994 Service Team meeting of the Penn Manor Neighborhood of Girl Scouts, they agreed to support the concept of acquired open space in Lancaster County and thus support the idea of the Atglen/Susquehanna Trail. We understand that the acquisition of the abandoned Conrail railroad that begins at Atglen and ends at the Martic Forge bridge is the section that would be acquired and managed by you as a non-profit organization.

We also understand that in the future the trail may be extended from the Martic Forge Bridge to and along the Susquehanna River. If this takes place, then we recognize that this greenway would become 26 miles long and might then connect to other planned greenways along the Susquehanna River.

We realize that the trail has numerous possibilities to enhance our program. If a trail existed, we could use the trail for training and badge programs which include backpacking, hiking, biking, nature studies, cross-country skiing, etc. (We are enclosing a draft of a planned bicycle trip to the Gunpowder Fall Trail for Fall of 1994 so that our membership can get a preview of how trail activities can benefit the neighborhood).

Our Penn Manor Neighborhood is composed of the Penn Manor School District and we are a unit of the Penn Laurel Girl Scout Council, a seven county non-profit organization of Girl Scouts. Currently our membership within the Penn Manor Neighborhood is 629 Girl Scouts from ages 5 to 17, plus 230 adults.

We hope you will add the Penn Manor Neighborhood Girl Scouts to your list of supporters who would be ready and willing to utilize and help with this trail as and when it is developed.

Please feel free to contact me at 211 Skyline Drive, Willow Street, PA 17584 or phone me at 464-5734 in the evening if you have any additional information you would like to share with us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Davis

Penn Manor Neighborhood Chair

Serving the counties of Adams, Franklin, Frederick, Fulton  
Lancaster, Lebanon, York

Affirmative Action Organization



A United Way Agency

# Group makes FAST trip down Gun Powder Falls

## Penn Manor Scouts cover 14 scenic miles

Roxanne Todd  
Intelligencer Journal Correspondent

People can't always make good decisions unless they have accurate information. Seeing for one's self is the best way to gain that knowledge.

That's what 30 Penn Manor Neighborhood Girl Scouts and family members learned Nov. 5 when they visited the North Central Railroad Trail, which is also commonly referred to as the Gun Powder Falls trail in Maryland.

Christine Brubaker, a Millersville resident and an adult Girl Scout, who coordinates a lot of special events, knows that seeing is believing. She arranged the special trip so that Girl Scouts in the Penn Manor School District, which is a unit of the Penn Laurel Girl Scout Council, could see what a railroad bed converted to a trail is really all about. They liked it.

Because the Girl Scout Council agreed at a service team meeting held in June to support the concept of open spaces in Lancaster County, Brubaker sees the Girl Scouts as a helpful resource to the Friends of the Atglen-Susquehanna Trail (FAST), a group which is trying to turn 23 miles of abandoned railroad into a linear trail.

"If the trail existed, we'd use it for training and badge programs," said Brubaker.

Standing at the Freeland entrance to the Gun Powder Falls trail, which is part of the Maryland State Park system, Brubaker said, "This is just show and tell.



Intelligencer Journal photo by R. Todd

Leading the charge down Gunpowder Falls is Martin Parmarter.

Coming here is a good way to show parents and children what a multi-use trail is."

"This ride should show the group that both young and old can enjoy a trail like this," said Brubaker. "They'll see how environmentally productive it is and that it makes a good buffer for the Gun

Powder Falls stream. There's no trash and there aren't safety issues."

After riding their bicycles an average of 14 miles in three hours past a variety of wildlife, a beaver dam and scenic waterfalls, the visitors learned about converted trails and returned home with a vision of what the FAST proposal could mean for them.

"It's beautiful," said Jenna Gilloghy, who accompanied her mother and assistant leader of Junior Troop 138 from Millersville.

Millersville resident and parent Donna Falk added, "I think it's wonderful to be able to take your family someplace like this for recreation."

FAST president Tom Yatsko and wife, Jan, joined the Girl Scouts for the scenic ride. "If people would come down to this trail, they'd see it does not attract an undesirable element of people. There are babies and there are grandmas. Anyone can participate, no matter what their capacity," Yatsko explained.

At the start of the ride, the youngsters wore smiles as Brubaker handed out fluorescent pink buttons and yellow survey tape to mark the Penn Manor Neighborhood group.

She was right. The children's smiles turned into faces red with exhaustion as they pedaled their way back to the Freeland Road parking lot. They may have left tired, but they were inspired.

"Think about it. There are 48 Girl Scout Troops in our area. If each troop in the neighborhood took care of one mile of trail, that would be 48 miles. And that's not even counting Boy Scout Troops," Brubaker said.