



Paul F-Brandwein Institute

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Brandwein Institute Plans Groundbreaking Ceremony for Brandwein Nature Learning Preserve

Port Jervis, NY, October 20, 2010 – The Paul F-Brandwein Institute has announced the official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Brandwein Nature Learning Preserve to be held on October 30, 2010 at 11am. The Brandwein Institute Board of Directors, officials from the Port Jervis School District, and award-winning science teachers will attend. John Xanthis, Port Jervis Superintendent of Schools, will speak at the ceremony, and Jerry Schierloh, formerly with New Jersey School of Conservation and architect of the master plan for the Preserve, will receive the 2010 Brandwein Medal.

The Preserve is located on a 30-acre parcel of the 72-acre Rutgers Creek Wildlife Conservancy, formerly owned by Paul and Mary Brandwein and currently managed by the Brandwein-Morholt Trust, in Greenville, NY. When completed, it will consist of a series of seven interpretative trails as part of an outdoor learning laboratory for local students, teachers, and members of service organizations, as well as virtual learners who can visit via the Brandwein website. Teacher lesson plans and student activities to be performed at the Preserve have been posted on the website (brandwein.org/preserve). Three of the trails have been constructed while the remainder, in addition to bridges, decking, parking lot, and pavilions, will be completed by the start of the 2011 school year. According to Jack Padalino, former director of the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) and President Emeritus of the Brandwein Institute, “These will be the finest trails in Orange County when completed!”

The Brandwein Institute initiated development of the Preserve in response to warnings that much of our nation’s youth are suffering from what has been coined by author Richard Louv as “nature deficit disorder.” Research shows that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy development—physical, emotional, and spiritual—for all children. Yet, due to budget constraints, many outdoor education programs have been cut from school schedules, and children are increasingly kept indoors to explore media and electronics. A lack of appreciation for nature has led to an uninformed citizenry in the area of environmental concerns and to a significant decrease in the number of young people entering conservation-related careers. The Institute is working with the National Park Service, local school district administrators and teachers, 4H Clubs, scout groups, and others to insure the Brandwein Nature Learning Preserve is a safe and effective learning environment for all.

About the Paul F-Brandwein Institute

Guided by Paul and Mary Brandwein’s work in science and conservation education, the Institute, incorporated in 1995, has supported teacher field science in partnership with Toyota, endowed the Brandwein Lecture at the National Science Teachers Annual Meetings, and convened a gathering of leading conservationists to focus national attention on the decline of the conservation workforce and conservation education. It has also developed a cadre of “Brandwein Fellows,” from the nation’s best science educators, for the purpose of spreading good practices in field-based science. The Institute is headquartered in the Town of Greenville, Orange County, NY with an administrative office in Milford, PA in the historic National Park Service Callahan House. The Brandwein Nature Learning Preserve is located at 390 Minisink Turnpike, Town of Greenville, Orange County, NY.