Mission Statement:
To conserve the natural, working, and scenic landscapes in Northeastern Pennsylvania that enrich our lives.

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From the Chair

A few months ago I never could have imagined I would be writing my annual report letter during such turbulent times. I hope that you are staying positive, keeping busy, and finding reassurance in the arrival of summer. During these strange and isolating times, the power of nature to comfort, refresh, and inspire has never been more evident. This “great pause” in our routine lives has highlighted our undeniable human connection to the natural world and helped us appreciate how the trees, birds, and vistas outside enrich our lives in ways we maybe did not realize.

I would like to thank Jim Shoemaker for his leadership of the Board for the past four years. We are grateful for his hard work and dedication, and hope that he will continue to share his wit and wisdom with us.

As we navigate through this uncertain time, NBLT is well positioned to advance our conservation mission. Since 1994, the Land Trust has conserved over 22,250 acres throughout eight counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We were one of the first land trusts in the country to receive national accreditation, a testament to our sound conservation approach and integrity as a non-profit organization. In addition to our conservation work, we have broadened our scope to include education. We now produce a variety of programs to connect children and adults to our natural world. Today, we are supported by a dedicated staff, an engaged network of volunteers, and a loyal community of members, donors, and land owners.

This fall, NBLT’s board and staff will initiate a strategic plan review to assess NBLT’s resources and operations and identify priorities for both the short and long-term. We will reflect upon our many achievements and map out a plan for a sustainable future. We have already taken the first step and adopted a new conservation plan identifying the most threatened and distinctive lands throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. I welcome your thoughts, suggestions and collaboration as we work through this important process.

Conservation work is about land and people. I believe that the preservation of our region’s natural spaces directly impacts the health and vitality of Pennsylvania’s communities. I am grateful for your support and confident that together we can protect the natural landscapes that define Northeastern Pennsylvania and make this a wonderful place to live.

Warm regards,

Christina Dilks Taylor
Board Chair
Celebrated Twenty-Five Years

It takes a community! A heartfelt thank you to all our land owners, volunteers, members, donors, project partners, and past staff and board members for supporting North Branch Land Trust’s conservation mission for the past twenty-five years. Since 1994, we have protected 22,250 acres. We achieved this success with the support of many. We are grateful for your commitment.

The conservation of fields, farms, forests, and waterways improves our health and happiness, protects habitat, saves local farmland and fresh water supplies, increases economic vitality and leaves a lasting legacy for our children and future generations.

Looking back over twenty-five years we celebrate the successful protection of natural lands and waterways. More importantly, we celebrate all of you who have made it possible. Your support now and in the future will go directly toward protecting more precious land throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.
On August 1, 2019, NBLT received re-accreditation from the National Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission. This second accreditation renewal demonstrates that NBLT upheld the national standards of the Land Trust Alliance for more than a decade.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. The Land Trust Alliance based in Washington, DC, is a national land conservation organization that works to save the places people need and love by strengthening land trusts and land conservation efforts across America.
Brian Gettig: Volunteer of the Year

Meet Brian Gettig — Brian, who lives in Bear Creek Township, was recognized in November at the Land Trust’s Annual Volunteer Appreciation Get-Together. Brian was chosen for this award because of his impressive (and much appreciated!) ability to wear multiple volunteer “hats”. He volunteers as a land monitor; serves on two committees—the Events Committee and the Picton Wildlife Sanctuary Committee; leads group hikes and bike rides; cuts and maintains trails; and plants trees with NBLT for the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Program.

Thank you Brian for your dedication and unwavering assistance.

To All NBLT Volunteers

An extra special Thank You to all of NBLT’s dedicated volunteers! Volunteers are the life blood of the Land Trust and whether you are attending meetings, stuffing thousands of envelopes for mailings, monitoring conserved properties, restoring an old house and barn, building trails, clearing brush, leading hikes, planting trees, or hauling trash, you are most appreciated!
Awarded Grant Funding for Children’s Program

With generous support from the Luzerne Foundation’s Landscape and Historic Preservation Fund and an anonymous donor, North Branch Land Trust kicks off its “Discovery and Connection” Children’s Programming Series in 2020.

The Four Seasonal Programs will serve to connect children to the land and nature through hands-on learning and experience. Through these experiences children will learn the importance of saving land and become future land stewards.

Charlene Wildes, a professional environmental educator and naturalist, will lead this series in 2020.

The Four Seasonal Programs:

1. Animals that Live In and By the Water—Exploring Vernal Pools
2. Animals in Your Back Yard
3. Discovery Forest Walk
4. Winter Animal Survival

2019 Highlights

1. Animals that Live In and By the Water—Exploring Vernal Pools
2. Animals in Your Back Yard
3. Discovery Forest Walk
4. Winter Animal Survival
2019 Land Conservation Projects

83 Land Conservation Projects Completed to Date

1 – 3 Projects Completed in 2019

4 – 5 Projects in Process

SCAN AND CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR COMPLETED PROJECTS

Montrose
Tunkhannock
Scranton
Wilkes-Barre
Bloomsburg
Towanda
Laporte
Honesdale
North Branch of the Susquehanna River
History of the Baer Property

as told by Kathleen Osberg Leclerc

In the early 1800’s, the Baer family settled on this land. The house they built was two stories tall with an attic and had a one story kitchen wing in the back. There was a tall chimney in the main part of the house which still stands today. The Baer’s built stonewalls and used fieldstones for foundations, chimneys and wells. The Baer’s relied on the farm and the land for many of their needs. They planted vegetables and fruit trees and grew fodder for their animals. Deer, rabbits and other game were abundant and an important addition to their diet.

The Jarrards purchased the farm from the Baer Family in 1945. Mr. Jarrard was a returning WWII soldier from Berwick and wanted to have a Christmas tree farm. The land sloped, which made it easier to drag trees down-hill, and was mostly open fields that had been cleared for farming by the Baer family. The fruit trees still stood behind the old farm house and included varieties of pear, apple and peaches. There were horse chestnuts and black walnuts near the house as well. The tree farm had plots of Scotch pines, Austrian pine, Colorado blue spruce, White spruce and Norway spruce. These still exist although they are dying from old age.”

The owners of the property, Kathleen Osberg Leclere and her mother, Lois Jarrard, desired to preserve the natural habitat and historic characteristics of the property. Primarily forested now with several small streams and wetlands, the easement will protect old agricultural lands and provide watershed protection to the Susquehanna River.

Luzerne County

① Baer Road
Conservation Easement
85 Acres | Union Township
sign at the driveway to Dr. Daniel Cohen’s property in Wysox, Bradford County, reads “G&G Nature Preserve Sanctuary, Honoring the Journey.” On November 8, 2019, Dr. Cohen did just that by conserving his property with North Branch Land Trust. His 54-acres of land will be permanently protected, a dream he and his late wife had envisioned since acquiring the property.

“My wife and I saw our land in Pennsylvania as a sacred obligation to ‘give back.’ Initially purchased with another nature-loving couple, a tremendous amount of love & energy went into and continues to be invested in what we lovingly refer to as: The Land. I, as the last survivor, have now formalized a promise made early on & the steps to ensure that this promise is kept. My wife (before she passed) and I found the North Branch Land Trust to help in our effort.”

— Dr. Daniel Cohen
The 184-acre Alexanderian property in Bear Creek Township is exceptional in that it helps create a greenway/land bridge between thousands of acres of State Game Lands and other NBLT conserved lands. It has two spectacular mountain creeks flowing through it, Red Run and Ten Mile Run, which are headwater creeks to the Bear Creek and the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers and are also native brook trout streams. Once the property is surveyed it will be deeded over to the Game Commission and become part of Game Lands 91.

NBLT would like to thank the Alexanderian Estate for their conservation foresight and the commitment to protect this beautiful piece of Luzerne County.
In November 2019, North Branch Land Trust was awarded a grant in the amount of $850,000 from the Community Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to acquire 800 acres on Penobscot Mountain including the historic Hanover Reservoir. Funds for this project come from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key 93), the Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener) and federal funds.

After a survey and a thorough environmental review, NBLT will acquire the property and transfer it to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the Pinchot State Forest System. This beautiful tract will add to the over 4,000 acres on Penobscot Mountain previously conserved and transferred to the Pinchot State Forest System by NBLT.
The 165-Mile Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L) Trail, from Bristol in Bucks County to Wilkes-Barre, is well on its way to completion. North Branch Land Trust is preparing to start construction on one of the last legs of the Trail. This section will run from the base of Giants Despair at Northampton Street to Oliver Mills. It will provide trail users to access the Seven Tubs Nature Area.

Trails improve our lives! Dedicated trails for walking, jogging, riding bicycles and cross-county skiing are important assets to any community. Trails entice us to get outdoors and enjoy nature which reduces stress and improves health.
We thank the conservation-minded friends whose commitment and support make possible North Branch Land Trust’s efforts to conserve land and connect people to nature in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The donors, including in-kind donors, listed on the following pages provided vital support throughout the year. We are tremendously grateful.

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**Highlands Guardian**

$5,000 & Up

- Dr. Daniel Cohen
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**Woodlands Guardian**

$2,500-$4,999

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$1,000-$2,499  continued to page 15

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Please consider a gift this year by returning the enclosed envelope or donate at [www.nblt.org/donate](http://www.nblt.org/donate)
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Doreen Lescavage
Frank & Susan Libertoski
Janice Lohmann
Florence Longmore
Mary Ann Luton
Dave & Diane Madl
Lisa Makara
Philip & Kathy Marino
John & Doris McQuade

Brian & Diane Morrissey
Movies 14
Kathleen Nocchi & Nicholas Evancho
Paul O'Connell
Kevin & Adele Reilly
Donna Rizzo
Judie Roan
Donald Rood & Beverly Mason
Joan Schooley & Fred Willauer
David Searfoss
Maya Shikhman
Lisa Sicurella
Jean Smith
Michael M. Stair
James & Shirley Strohl
The Cafe
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Thompson
Sharon Trebendis
Kathleen Weisbaum
Elaine Whipple
Theodore S. Wiaterowski
Hal Williams
Jeff & Rebecca Wolfe
Woodside Trust
Sharon Wunner

NBLT makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of these listings. If you find an omission or a misspelling, please excuse our error and contact us at romanansky@nblt.org or call 570.310.1781 to update our records for future donor listings.

Guardian Society:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highlands Guardian</th>
<th>$5,000 &amp; Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woodlands Guardian</td>
<td>$2,500-$4,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Guardian</td>
<td>$1,000-$2,499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Membership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protector</th>
<th>$500-$999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservator</td>
<td>$250-$499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainer</td>
<td>$100-$249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steward</td>
<td>$50-$99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporter</td>
<td>Under $50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank You!
Financial Information

North Branch Land Trust financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with standards established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) for external financial reporting by non-profit organizations. The charts below provide a breakdown of where our operating funds come from and how they are spent. As a community based non-profit, the Trust relies heavily on contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations within its service area. The Trust staff spends the majority of its time and resources on land conservation projects and education and outreach activities. All funds raised stay local!

### Revenue by Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributed Support</td>
<td>38.40%</td>
<td>$190,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Revenues</td>
<td>30.61%</td>
<td>$152,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>30.99%</td>
<td>$154,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>50.96%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$497,157</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Total Revenue above reflects the revenue needed to operate North Branch Land Trust. It does not reflect the funds raised for the protection of land or other capital projects, a number which can vary widely from year to year.

### Expenses by Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>52.86%</td>
<td>$308,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>28.48%</td>
<td>$166,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>18.65%</td>
<td>$108,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>59.99%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$583,070</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The official registration and financial information of North Branch Land Trust may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.
PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS LAND
Committed individuals, businesses and like-minded organizations fuel the land conservation work of North Branch Land Trust.

Please Consider a Gift this Year by returning the enclosed envelope or donate at www.nblt.org/donate.