

Annual Report 2022



North Branch
Land Trust

From Ellen Ferretti, Executive Director

If you are reading the North Branch Land Trust's Annual Report, you are, at a minimum, curious about our wealth of natural resources in Northeastern Pennsylvania, the beauty of the mountains, the green forests, the cool mountain streams, the natural areas to visit and enjoy.

Northeastern Pennsylvania might be home now. Maybe it was home to you or family in the past. Maybe you visited and had a great time!

If you are reading this, you may want to know more about this Land Trust that serves Northeastern Pennsylvania by working with communities and landowners to conserve land and water, to promote a shared appreciation of the natural world that quite literally sustains us, to provide more outdoor places to visit and enjoy.

If you are reading this you may be a member that supports the conservation mission of the Land Trust, or you may be thinking about it?

Whatever your reason for opening this Annual Report, please read on. Please get to know the North Branch Land Trust or reacquaint yourself with the conservation work that we are committed to and what we've accomplished this past year – *in this area we call home*.

Last year was a year of continued change and rebounding as well as a year of great accomplishments in conserving land, creating more opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and engaging nature enthusiasts in our Preserves, as you will read in these pages.

But sometimes when life gets hectic, as it frequently seems to be, we need to step back and ask ourselves why we choose to work in and support conservation. Reasons are usually personal, but typically it's about the love of the land and the waters and the life it supports – the plants, the animals, the birds, the fish – “all creatures great and small”, including us.

We hope you continue to support North Branch Land Trust – *your land trust* – as we enter into this new year with new conservation adventures, always keeping a mindful eye to find new ways to engage our youth, to bring a new generation into this passion – this work. This will be their world someday – your children, your grandchildren.

Let's work together in this part of the world to make it matter.



*Christina Taylor, Chair &
Ellen Ferretti attending
Vosburg Neck State Park
dedication*

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New Faces at NBLT



Melissa Lopez

Land Protection and
Stewardship Coordinator



John W. Lloyd

NBLT Board of Directors



Jill Robinson

NBLT Board of Directors



Howland Preserve is now Vosburg State Park, The first State Park in Wyoming County!

In the heart of the Endless Mountain Heritage Region, Howland Preserve was a haven of meadows, forested trails, and Susquehanna shoreline allowing for hiking, biking, kayaking, and more. Now, as Vosburg State Park, the 600+ acre preserve is ready to welcome new generations of conservationists with the help of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Christina Taylor, Board Chair, said, “The North Branch Land Trust is tremendously excited that the Howland Preserve will join Pennsylvania’s awarding winning State Park system. We have been honored to protect this uniquely beautiful property for almost twenty years. Now, we are proud to be a part of this historic moment.”

North Branch Land Trust is incredibly grateful for all the hard work of the PA DCNR, Senator Lisa Baker, The Friends of Howland Preserve, and the individuals who worked so diligently over the years to realize this vision

Executive Director Ellen Ferretti. “I simply cannot wait for a time in the near future when I visit this new PA DCNR State Park and see children of all ages looking with awe on the mighty Susquehanna River and the magnificent forested hills that enshrine it at this iconic location; to see the paddlers enjoying the easy access to the water and all that lies beyond; to know that this land will be protected and enjoyed as part of the PADCNR State Park system....forever. What a beautiful future awaits!”



Huntsville Reservoir

Luzerne County Conservation Easement in Progress

The Huntsville Reservoir is an iconic vista that has defined the entrance to the Back Mountain since its construction in the 1800s. Now, that landscape is conserved in perpetuity thanks to The Pennsylvania American Water Company and North Branch Land Trust.

With the help of a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 200+ acres of riparian forest shoreline along the Huntsville Drinking Water Reservoir will be placed under a conservation easement. Not only can we look forward to clean waters and beautiful vistas, but a portion of the forest will also be open to the public for passive recreating like hiking, walking and birdwatching!

Cover: Huntsville Reservoir by Fred Valentine

This page top to bottom:
Reservoir Sunset by NBLT Staff
Blazing a Trail with the Lloyds by NBLT staff
Reservoir Dam, Huntsville, Pa.. From NBLT archives



Reservoir Dam, Huntsville, Pa.

NEW Easement: Fork Over Farm

Luzerne County, PA

40 acres

Protecting a forest, fields, farm, marsh and waterway

Congrats to the Conyngham Family!

We Couldn't Do it Without Our Committees

Land

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Steve Maakestad
Ellen Parmenteri
Michael Thomas
Sarah Carr
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Liz Lloyd

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Christina Dilks Taylor
John Zembruski
Elizabeth Eckman Lloyd
James Shoemaker



Picton Picnic



Forest Echo Leaf Peeping



NEPA Barn Banquet



Thank you for helping to make our 2022 events so much fun!



Guardian Society



Great Outdoors FOX56



Halloween Bio-Blitz



Our Year in Numbers

1,107,541

Metric Tonnes Carbon
Sequestered*

*US Forest Service (2019) estimates that privately owned forestland stores 77.1 metric tonnes of carbon per acre.

22,100

Total conserved acres

1

New State Park!

60

Conservation
Easements



40

New Easement Acres



446

Species identified in
bioblitzes



368

NBLT Members



3

Rare, threatened or
endangered species
identified



9

Events including hikes,
dinners, lectures and more



Tributes

Doug Ayers
Bear
Joseph S.
Bogdon

Dotty Brett
Gary Carpenter
Edgar Engelman
Jason Lepa
Paul Lumia

Rick Mooney
Vince Scarpetta
James
Shoemaker
Robert Smith

Larry Taren
Deloras Taren
Carl R.
Urbanski, OD

Woodland Guardians

Linda Casey & Rick Williams
Doris Chechotka McQuade & John
McQuade
DiscoverNEPA

Theresa Karambelas
Thomas E. & Karen Sox
Fred Valentine

River Guardians

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Earth Conservancy
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Judy & Millard Mertz

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Stephen J. Taren
Visit Luzerne County
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Photography by Michael Gondell

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Lesa & Peter Butera
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Stephen Chronowski
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Joseph & Nan DeMarco
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Dr. Gretta Gross
Judith & Thomas Hall
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Faye & Richard Bishop
Anthony T.P. Brooks & Matthew
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Kim Carpenter
Alene & Mike Case
Eric Cavage
Rosemary Chromey & Dick
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Lefkowitz
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Amy Levengood & Bob Sprague
Edward Lipski
John & Peggy Makos
Sandy McGovern
Kris Medic & Bruce Thomason
Clarence J. & Morag E. Michael
Chris Miller
Palmira Gregory Miller
Jack & Valerie Monick
James & Mary Ann Murphy
Nahas & Donahue Orthodontics
Mary Lou & Verlon Nichols
Paul O'Connell
Thomas M. Ogorzalek

John & Michaelene S. Ostrum
Edward & Judy Palka
Joseph & Rose Marie Panzitta
Charlie & Marion Boyle Petrillo
Michele Phillips
Jacqueline & Michael Pramick
Gloria & Ron Rawls
Barb & Bob Romanansky
Anne & Marshall Rumbaugh
Mr. David Shinaly
Bonnie Smith
Patrick Smith
Stanley Spencer
Marilyn Stark
Theresa Palischak Stewart
Joan & Steven Taylor
Josh Turel
Jane & Jim Turner
Bob & Catherine Veleker
Dr. Brian E. Whitman
Theodore S. Wiaterowski



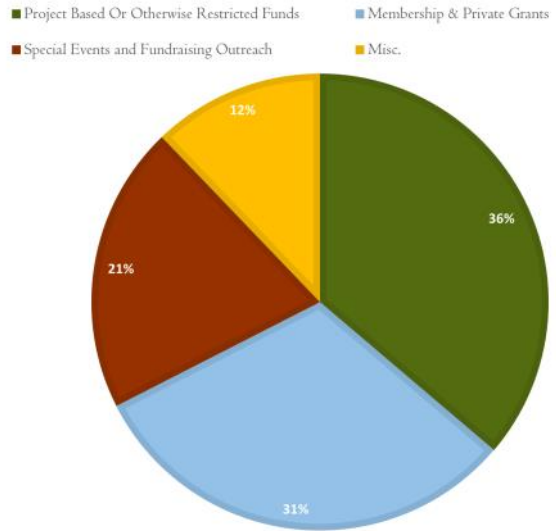
A huge thank you to all our sponsors, grantors, donors and those who contributed their time and expertise to North Branch Land Trust!

North Branch Land Trust Membership Levels

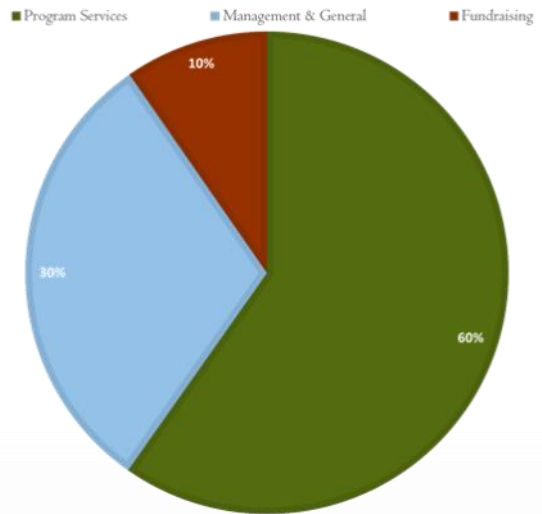
Highlands Guardian ...\$5,000+
 Woodlands Guardian....\$2,500
 River Guardian.....\$1,000

Protector..... \$500
 Conservator... \$250
 Sustainer.....\$100
 Steward.....\$ 50

INCOME



EXPENSE



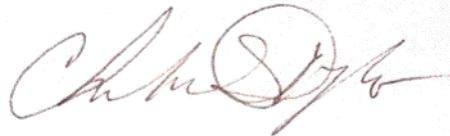
Letter from the Board Chair

2022 was a momentous year for the North Branch Land Trust! We celebrate many of these accomplishments in this report and I know you will enjoy reading about them. We are honored to have a talented team of staff, volunteers, and board directors who work tirelessly to advance our shared conservation objectives for Northeastern Pennsylvania.

We began 2022 by partnering with PA American Water to permanently protect the lands surrounding the Huntsville Reservoir. We worked with Senator Lisa Baker and Pennsylvania's DCNR to transform the Howland Preserve into Wyoming County's first state park. We closed on two easements to permanently protect more than 650 additional acres. We hosted gatherings of long-time friends and welcomed newcomers into our conservation community with unusual educational events. We moved into new office space which provides operational cost savings and offers our staff an efficient, comfortable work environment. We welcomed two new members to the board of directors, John Lloyd and Jill Robinson, who bring wonderful experience, energy and perspective.

The numerous benefits of land conservation are well documented: filtered water, cleaner air, smarter development, protection of native flora and fauna. But, like you, we also know the positive impact that time outdoors can have on the soul. There are many studies that have proved that claim, but we don't need statistical evidence to confirm this fact. We feel it in our bones. We feel transformed by a walk in the brisk winter air, brightened by the song of the birds, refreshed by the gurgle of the stream, and inspired by the sun rising over the mountains.

As I look back on 2022, I am immensely proud of all that we achieved. Thank you for choosing to make a difference here in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We are humbled by your support and grateful for your partnership in conserving the forests, fields, streams, lakes, mountain vistas and working farms that make this region so special.

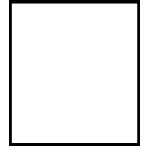


Christina Dilks Taylor





105 Lt Michael Cleary Drive
Dallas, PA 18612



Help Protect Our Natural Heritage!

Committed individuals, businesses and like-minded organizations fuel the land conservation work of North Branch Land Trust.

Please consider a gift this year by visiting [www.nblt.org /donate](http://www.nblt.org/donate)

