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Dear Friend,

As I write this letter, the world is going through many changes, and I'd be remiss to not acknowledge that. We are all reacting in our own way, but for me, I feel compelled to stop and quite literally spend some time among the trees. Trees have always been a comforting presence for me. In their slow growth and quiet sentinel-like presence, they bring calm and peace. If you spend some time with them, stepping away from your phones and computers, somehow they help you to slow down and feel grateful for something as simple as an evergreen bough or their elegant silhouette against the Winter sky.

Study after study has shown the calming effects of nature. We are so fortunate to have an abundance of beautiful natural areas and landscapes in Northeastern Pennsylvania in which to immerse ourselves. A walk or scenic drive through the mountains and valleys of our home is usually just a short distance away, no matter where you live.

After this spectacular Autumn, we will all soon be surrounded by a magnificent Northeast Winter. Traditionally, this time of year we pause and offer thanks for so much in our lives. This year, as in the past, North Branch Land Trust would like to thank you for all you've done to make this region an amazing place to live.

For you, our members and supporters, thank you for being part of this conservation movement that is the North Branch Land Trust, started about 30 years ago! Thank you for finding a place in your hearts to conserve the trees, the waters, the mountains, valleys and fields of our shared home, this special place to so many of us.

It is because of you that we have been able to continue the conservation mission to conserve *precious lands...forever* throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

*With your support:*

- We are in the final stages of completing a conservation easement with PA American Water on 220 gorgeous, forested acres of land surrounding the iconic Huntsville Reservoir, a vital drinking water source for 30,000 people and habitat for the precious species that thrive on these lands. As part of this project, we will also be completing a public access area to enjoy the views and enjoy natural paths through the woods.

*Preserving Precious Land...Forever*



- We helped and are helping private landowners to conserve 186 *NEW* acres of land that are quite simply precious to them, so special that they've taken this extra step with North Branch Land Trust to protect their land...*in perpetuity*.
- We completed 2.8 miles of the D&L National Heritage Corridor Trail near the PA DCNR Pinchot State Forest's Seven Tubs Nature Area. One more mile to go! Once completed, this section will be a vital link along the 165-mile D&L hiking/biking trail from Easton to Wilkes-Barre.
- We've increased our care and stewardship of our Preserves, land we own and hold dear, through active management to control invasives and planting more trees.
- We've increased our outreach with more events, social posts, educational offerings, and general outpouring of information on the natural world that supports us via social media, regional publications, local news outlets, partnerships with Discover NEPA and WeConservePA, and so much more.
- We haven't met all of you – *yet!* – so we continue to increase the number of events at our Preserves, plus, of course, our Annual Dinner and Barn Banquet. *We even held a "Tea Party" among the trees at Forest Echo in October – it was delightful!*
- We launched The North Branch Land Trust Mary Louise and Eberhard Faber Conservation Scholarship Fund, to support the next generation of conservationists.
- We are launching an Outdoor Educator "Boot Camp" with the goal of empowering participants with the tools to provide meaningful walks and talks through our beautiful public lands – and learn a little, *or lot*, about the natural world that lives within.

We hope you will consider supporting the mission of North Branch Land Trust, *your land trust*, during our Annual Appeal. A gift of any size will help to conserve new lands, conserve and manage our Preserves for nature education and appreciation, and continue to spread the message of stewardship further as we plan for the coming year.

By making your gift to North Branch Land Trust, you will help protect the character of our region: The mountain vistas, working farms, and vital waters that make Northeastern Pennsylvania and our communities so special.

Your gift will help protect the trees, and we hope you take the time to walk among them....and enjoy.

Thank you to our longstanding friends and welcome to our new friends for your support this season.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Ellen Ferretti".

Ellen Ferretti  
Executive Director

*"Stewardship: The careful, responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."*  
—Merriam-Webster