



North Branch  
Land Trust

2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



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2024  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

**Stephen Maakestad**  
*Chair*

**Fred Valentine**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ryan Flood**  
*Treasurer*

**John Zembruski, Esq.**  
*Secretary*

**Sarah Block**  
**Kelly A. Bray, Esq.** *Chair*  
*Development Committee*

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**Susan Magnotta**  
**Cathy O'Donnell, Esq.**  
**Jill Robinson, Co-Chair Preserve**  
*Committee*

**Barry H. Dyller, Esq.**  
**Paul Grella, Co-Chair Preserve**  
*Committee*

**Guy F. Rothery**  
**Vincent A. Scarpetta**  
**Brian P. Stahl, Esq.**  
**Kay Strickland, Chair Land**  
*Committee*

**Christopher Grover**  
**Richard J. Hazzouri**  
**Mary Kolessar, Chair Governance**  
*Committee*

In 2024, North Branch Land Trust welcomed **Leah Malarkey, Environmental Education Coordinator**, and **Caroline Chronowski, Office Administrator**. **Emma Thompson** was promoted to **Senior Director of Conservation and Operations**. **Ellen Ferretti, Executive Director**, and **Karley Stasko, Director of Marketing & Development** celebrated their third year with the Land Trust. In 2025, we welcomed **Joe Butkiewicz** as **Director of Community Engagement**.

**THE STAFF**  
of North Branch Land Trust



**Caroline Chronowski &  
Leah Malarkey**



**Ellen Ferretti**



**Karley Stasko & Emma  
Thompson**



**Joe Butkiewicz**



## About NORTH BRANCH LAND TRUST

**Mission:** North Branch Land Trust partners with landowners, communities, and stakeholders to conserve and care for Northeastern Pennsylvania's lands and waters.

**Vision:** We envision a future where abundant conserved lands help maintain clean air and water, diverse forests and wildlife habitats, vibrant working farms, and inspiring natural beauty. We envision a future in which North Branch Land Trust is a highly respected leader in conservation and a vital institution that enhances the quality of life for all.

Letter from Executive Director

### ELLEN FERRETTI

*I found a note left at one of my previous positions titled "Who cares". It was a prompt to inspire others by our actions. In other words, who cares that you are doing this? I'd add to this: "Why care".*

*In North Branch Land Trust's 2024 Annual Report, you'll read several examples of people who cared. Our supporters cared and donated funds so we could care for and steward our preserves, create an education program, hold fun events, create a campaign to prevent littering, and help landowners care for their land. Landowners cared and conserved their beloved family lands.*

*Why care? Because clean air and water and land to grow crops are necessary to our very lives. Because the beauty of the forest, the sights, sounds and scents of a stream are necessary for our very souls.*

*Because you cared, we can continue the conservation mission entrusted to us and to likewise inspire others through our actions.*

*Please continue to care and donate to North Branch Land Trust, your land trust, as we care on a grand scale for the land, waters and natural beauty of our home in Northeastern Pennsylvania.*



Letter from Board Chair

### STEPHEN MAAKESTAD

*2024 was a very active year for North Branch Land Trust and I am proud to say we have conserved or acquired over 23,000 acres in total. We collaborated with several private landowners to protect more land through new conservation easements. We saw an increase in nature-based educational and fun family events held at our Preserves. We increased informative posts to stay in touch with all of you who are interested in conservation and to share what we know and have learned about the natural world around us in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We increased messaging, worked at managing invasive plant species, and started plans for better natural trail access at our Preserves.*

*As Spring arrives, I will take time to appreciate the natural beauty of our region, whether I am fly fishing in a stream or going for a hike with my family. I feel so fortunate to be in this area, and I am greatly appreciative of the continued support that we have received from our members, sponsors, and donors. I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual dinner on April 30<sup>th</sup>, honoring the Tambur Family Foundation for their support of the land trust over many years.*




**Stephen Maakestad at NEPA  
Racing's NYE 5k**



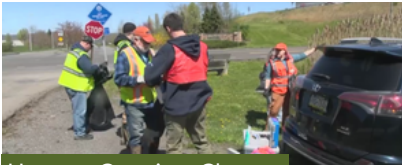
## 2024 EVENTS

Thank you so much to all who joined North Branch Land Trust in 2024! From our Annual Dinner, to hikes and lectures, to volunteering on our land or just getting outdoors, YOU are the future of NEPA conservation and stewardship.

Leah Malarkey leads Native Wreath Workshop



Pennsylvania American Water receives NBLT Community Stewardship Award



Hanover Crossings Cleanup



Bear Creek Seed Mixer



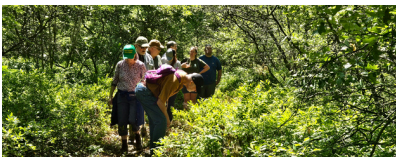
A Walk in Penn's Woods Hike & Sip



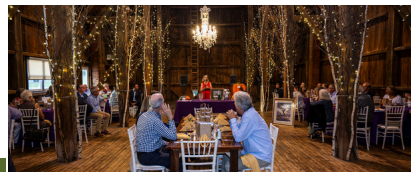
Back Mountain Triathlon



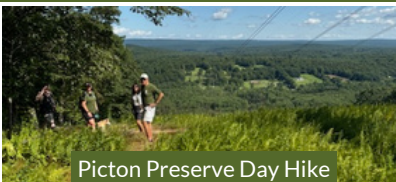
Native Wreath Workshop



Butler Preserve Nature Photography Hike



NBLT's NEPA Barn Banquet



Picton Preserve Day Hike



## EVENTS IN 2025

**March 29**  
Amphibian  
Migration  
Watch

**April 12**  
Bird Walk &  
Birdhouse  
Craft

**April 30**  
Annual  
Dinner &  
Auction

**May 10**  
Plants for  
Pollinators

**June 21**  
Paddle &  
Pour

**July 19**  
Monitoring  
Moths

**August 10**  
Yoga in the  
Forest



# LANDOWNER SUCCESS

Cindy Beaumariage & Rick Mooney

In 2004, Cindy and Rick purchased 25 acres of undeveloped land near their home in Mountain Top. Their original intention was to build a single-family home for Cindy's mother on one acre of the parcel and to leave the rest undeveloped. In 2007, Cindy and Rick donated a Conservation Easement to NBLT. Their Baricin easement will ensure that the land is stewarded by future landowners guided by NBLT in perpetuity. Like much of Mountain Top, this parcel was timbered in the late 1700's.

Currently, the property hosts mature Eastern Hemlocks that provide shade and filtration of water along the numerous spring seeps and small creeks which eventually flow into the Big Wapwallopen Creek, a cold-water fishery. Eastern Hemlocks across the region are being hit hard by pests including Elongated scale and hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA), stressing this species to a critical point.

Cindy and Rick have been working with a consulting firm assisting private landowners and organizations that hold land to control HWA on their properties since 2021. The idea of releasing a beetle that exclusively feeds upon HWA to live appealed to them and sparked this implementation.

Cindy and Rick explained:

[Micronutrient treatments] started small in May 2021, with the purchase of one colony of *Sasajiscymnus* Tsugae (*s.tsugae*) beetles. Each colony has more than 100 beetles. We decided to place the colony on a hemlock situated within a little thicket of hemlocks in our land.

In March of 2022, we ordered one colony of *s.tsugae* beetles. To allow the beetles the best conditions for survival when they leave their nest of packaging, they should be released when the wind is calm, and there is no rain in the immediate forecast.

In January 2023, we ordered 8 colonies. On April 20th, four beetle colonies went to the eased lands and four went near our home. In 2024, we ordered another 8 colonies and spring/fall micronutrient injections. Four colonies of *s.tsugae* beetles were again released on hemlock trees in each location. Treatments are ground injected near the base of the hemlocks in the spring and in the fall.



Beetle colony in Beaumariage & Mooney's hemlock grove



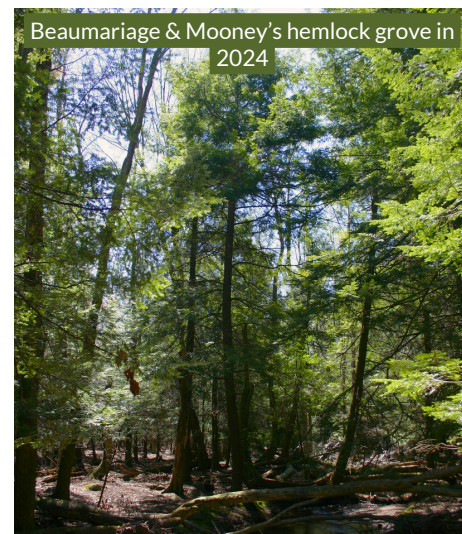
HWA infestation from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

We favor using biological methods to control the HWA rather than pesticides because we and all of our neighbors get our water from wells. We do not feel that chemical pesticides are good for us or the other living things that reside on our properties.

The Baricin easement is on the edge of suburban Mountain Top. Keeping undeveloped land in a natural state helps to maintain the rural feel that drew many people to Mountain Top to live. As development continues to expand, resident wildlife has fewer places to live and roam, water run-off from increasingly intense storms has fewer places for storage to allow it to filter back into the aquifer, and humans have fewer natural places to gaze upon and appreciate. Hopefully, the preservation of this small piece of land will help.

Why work with North Branch Land Trust?

One of the founders of NBLT was Dr. Doug Ayers. Throughout his life he advocated for respecting the land and animals within the lands. We met him when he was the veterinarian for our first dog. His enthusiasm for NBLT captured our attention and helped us preserve forever our values rather than just make financial contributions to various charities.



North Branch Land Trust's Senior Director of Conservation and Operations, Emma Thompson works with many private landowners to find the best conservation methods for their lands.

"It is incredibly important for individual landowners to make as much of a contribution as they can, especially when it comes to stewarding their property, and Cindy and Rick's efforts are an incredible example," Thompson said. "Pennsylvania is very parcelized, so small landowners taking steps to maintain the health of their land is how the state can facilitate continued conservation."



# Our 2024 IN NUMBERS

**2**

Conservation  
Interns

*learn more on pg. 13*



**10**

Acres of invasive species  
treated

*learn more on pg. 6*



**15**

NBLT Events

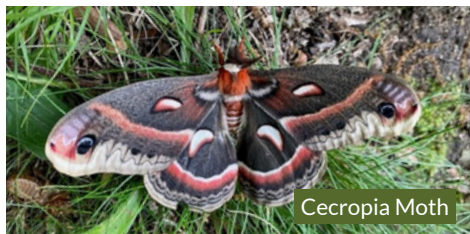


**20**

NBLT Trained & NAI  
Certified Outdoor Educators

**94**

Newly Conserved Acres



**293**

NBLT Members

**1,181**

Acres Actively Engaged with  
Landowners



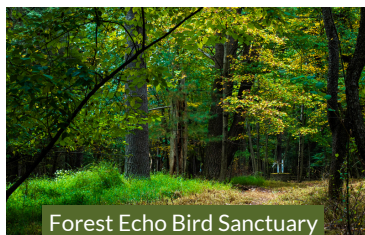
**2.6k**

NBLT Followers



**23,834**

Total Conserved  
Acres



**4.5 million**

Native Seeds shared across  
NEPA



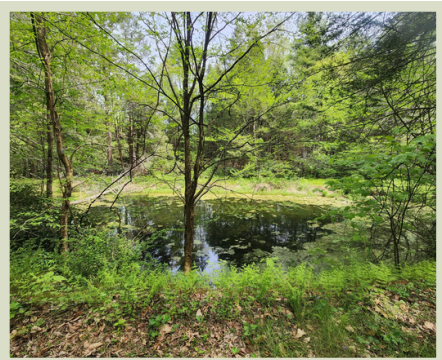
2024

# CONSERVATION UPDATES

## The Estate of Robert Carson

When Professor Robert L. "Bob" Carson of Bloomsburg, passed away in 2022, his estate partnered with North Branch Land Trust to carry out the conservation wishes of his will. The property totals 94 acres of open space in Columbia County. Conserving these lands will protect the quality of Mt. Pleasant Township's water resources and improve habitat for Pennsylvania native species.

Marissa B. Marshall Esq., CELA, Carson Estate Representative: "NBLT made it possible to meet Mr. Carson's goals of preserving and protecting land that had been in his family for generations."



## George and Suzanne Croll

George and Suzanne Croll began working with North Branch Land Trust in 2022 to conserve 105 acres of forest, farmland, orchards, and wetlands in Schuylkill County. In February 2024, North Branch Land Trust finalized their conservation easement.

Suzanne & George: "Our land is so peaceful, it is such a pleasant place to be. About 15 years ago, we started to finally see crayfish in the water and catch some of the native trout after the destruction the mine run-off brought. Now, people are interested in the farm. We really just want to spread awareness by setting a good example – living off the land, self-harvesting, using no pesticides or herbicides, and things of that nature."

## Hanover Crossings Marsh Sanctuary

In early Summer 2024, North Branch Land Trust received an American Water Charitable: Keep Communities Flowing Grant and a Pennsylvania Environmental Council Pocono Forests and Waters Conservation Mini Grant for improvements at Hanover Crossings Marsh Sanctuary. Throughout the summer, contracted professionals treated more than 10 acres of wetland suffering from the invasive *Phragmites australis*. This grant also provided us the opportunity to purchase an information kiosk for the Hanover Crossings Marsh Sanctuary and create a new preserve map. Be on the lookout for the installation of these improvements and more stewardship in 2025!





## Sponsor Spotlight

# EARTH CONSERVANCY

"Our legacy is in an absence of things."

*Earth Conservancy (EC) is a non-profit organization specializing in the reclamation of abandoned mine lands throughout the Wyoming Valley. In his responses, President & CEO Terence Ostrowski expressed the need for a balanced approach to conservation and economic development to produce progressive change for generations of the future. North Branch Land Trust recognizes these efforts and greatly values the work that Earth Conservancy, and our many local sponsors, do.*

### NBLT: Tell us more about Earth Conservancy's primary work with reclamation and watershed restoration.

TO: Our efforts since the acquisition of Blue Coal Company's land in 1994 follow the mission of reclaiming lands for environmental, economic, recreation, and conservation purposes. All of the land that we reclaim and develop goes into three different sectors—commercial, residential and recreational development.

EC has achieved success across many fronts, especially its work to stimulate economic growth. For EC's next endeavor, 15,000 linear feet of stream channel of the Nanticoke Creek will be re-established. This was modeled after a pilot on Espy Run, where 5,000 linear feet were re-established, reconnecting headwaters to lower portions of the Creek, which then flows into the Susquehanna River.



Earth Conservancy, 2023  
NEPA Environmental Partners



Ostrowski assesses  
progress at Espy Run

### NBLT: What is something the public should know about your commitment to the conservation of the Wyoming Valley?

TO: EC's work is sometimes misunderstood, particularly regarding its efforts to reclaim mine-scarred land for economic development. From the beginning, we took a holistic approach to revitalizing and benefiting the community. When all the mining companies in the area closed, there was a gaping hole in the economy. Our work at EC has generated a rebound, both in terms of repairing the physically blighted land and reusing it to create industry and jobs.

What should be emphasized is that while these mine-scarred properties are being developed, EC has simultaneously followed through on its commitment to conserve 10,000 of its original 16,000 acres in the Wyoming Valley by working with partners of land conservation.

### Why support North Branch Land Trust and the Faber Fund?

TO: One of the biggest appeals of NBLT is that our missions align so well on the forefront of conservation. The first project with NBLT was for a 308-acre conservation easement on Penobscot Mountain in 2013 which eventually became part of lands that EC transferred to DCNR in 2018. Our partnership is now over 10 years old. We're looking forward to our next project together, where we'll pursue conserving another 300 acres, which will put EC over the 10,000-acre goal.

Another part of our mission is focusing on environmental education programs. Most recently, our Director of Communications, Dr. Elizabeth Hughes, has been working with the SHINE Program in Luzerne County, teaching students about local ecology, mining history, the role of reclamation, and hope they can help shape the region's future.

We want people of all ages to understand they can participate in environmental stewardship. The Faber Fund parallels this, generates a way to expand knowledge about the environmental field while giving students and young adults the chance to work in a position they may not have thought of working in. From EC's past experience, we know one of the best parts about a job like this is that it is truly training that can get you a job where the environment stokes a passion into people to want to do more.

### NBLT: How does Earth Conservancy fit into the big picture of NEPA conservation?

TO: I think one of the biggest contributions is the fact that our mission is not only trying to correct past failures of mined lands that were left abandoned but also looking towards the future and trying to preserve natural areas. Retaining the special views of our green mountaintops is an integral part of our mindset. EC has been approached in the past to develop these properties. Our staff and board have always been committed to preserving the great viewsheds of Northeastern Pennsylvania. And we wouldn't have been able to do this without working with an amazing network of local organizations, schools, municipalities, and state and federal agencies, who all want to see the region thrive.

[www.earthconservancy.org](http://www.earthconservancy.org) | [@earthconservancy](mailto:@earthconservancy) | 570.823.3445

2024

# BUSINESS & CORPORATE SPONSORS



*Thistle and bees*

3 Sisters  
5 Cow Farms  
Altitude Foundation  
The Bevevino Family  
Fund  
Borton Lawson  
Engineering, Inc., A  
Verdantas Company  
buka  
Century 21 Smith  
Hourigan Group  
Community Bank  
Community Foundation of  
the Endless Mountains  
Corcoran Printing: A  
Division of PDQ Print  
Daugherty Family  
Charitable Fund  
DiscoverNEPA powered  
by Mericle  
Dundee Gardens  
Earth Conservancy  
Edith Reynolds Trust  
Environmental Service  
Corp of PA  
The Epicurean Delight  
Ellen Ferretti  
Five Mountain Outfitters  
Friedman Hospitality  
Geisinger  
Golden Business  
Machines  
Hanover Nursery  
Herbert, Rowland &  
Grubic, Inc.

Hanover Nursery  
Herbert, Rowland &  
Grubic, Inc.  
Highway Equipment &  
Supply Co.  
The Lands at Hillside  
Farms  
Hoegen & Associates, PC  
Stephen and Maria  
Hudacek Family  
Foundation Fund of the  
Scranton Area  
Foundation  
Humford Equities, Inc.  
James & Florence DePolo  
Foundation  
Janney  
Kenneth & Caroline  
Taylor Family Foundation  
Lewith & Freeman Real  
Estate, Inc.  
Luzerne Bank  
Luzerne County Bar  
Association Charitable  
Foundation  
The Luzerne Foundation

M&T Bank  
Maslow Family  
Foundation  
McCarthy Tire Service  
Mericle Commercial Real  
Estate Services  
Merrill Lynch  
Metz Family Foundation  
Metz Culinary  
Management  
MotorWorld  
Nesbitt Family Charity  
Foundation  
North End Electric  
NorthPoint Development  
LLC  
O'Donnell Law Office  
PA American Water  
Pasco L. Schiavo  
Memorial Fund  
The Plant Parlor  
PNC Bank  
Power Engineering

Pride Mobility Products  
Corp.  
Riggs Asset Management  
Company  
Schechter Family  
Foundation  
Simon & Co. Jewelers  
The Ski Shack  
Lissa Bryan-Smith and  
Richard M. Smith  
Sordoni Family  
Foundation  
Stasko Insurance  
Stephen and Maria  
Hudacek Family  
Foundation Fund  
Sundance Vacations  
Tambur Family  
Foundation  
Valentine's Jewelry  
Verve Vertu Art Studio  
Visit Luzerne County  
William Penn Foundation  
Special Gifts Program



*Winterberry*



## 2024 TRIBUTES

*North Branch Land Trust is  
grateful to share your honors,  
memorials and celebrations*

Edgar Engelman  
Eberhard Faber  
John Foster  
Kathleen Jones  
Robert Lewis  
Richard Mooney  
Eugene Pelletier

Bill and Mary Pukatch  
Marshall Rumbaugh  
James Shoemaker  
Larry & Deloras Taren  
Carl R. Urbanski, OD  
David Williams

## 2024 GUARDIAN SOCIETY

**Highland Guardians:**  
Earth Conservancy  
NEPA Racing



*Lillian's Pond, George and Lillian Picton Wildlife Sanctuary*

**Woodland Guardians:**  
Daugherty Family  
Robert Grajewski and  
Susan Garing  
Stephen and Tiffany  
Maakestad  
Doris Chechotka  
McQuade and John  
McQuade  
Thomas E. and Karen Sox  
Fred Valentine

### **River Guardians:**

Sarah Block  
Sarah P. Carr  
John Cremer  
Barry Dyller, Esq. and Honorable Lesa Gelb  
Ryan and Katie Flood  
Richard J. and Kimberly Hazzouri  
Theresa Karambelas  
Thomas R. Kneidinger  
David and Mary Kolessar  
Kathleen Leclerc

John W. and Elizabeth Lloyd  
Marc and Susan Magnotta  
Guy and Christine Rothery  
Brian and Lauren Stahl  
Kay Strickland and Thomas Delehanty  
Christina and Trey Taylor  
Jim and Meg Thompson  
Alan R. Viani  
Mike and Caitlin Weaver

# MEMBERS

## Protectors

Julianne Chrisman Daly  
Joseph and Nan  
DeMarco  
Dr. Seth and Carolyn  
Fisher

Greater Wyoming Valley  
Chamber of Commerce  
Paul Grella  
Kohanski & Company, PC

Millard and Judy Mertz  
Jill Robinson  
Bonnie Silveti  
Christopher and Gail  
Stasko

Stephen Taren  
Emma Thompson  
David L. Wagner and  
Elizabeth Cecil

## Conservators

Mark and Traci Cross  
Margaret Bakker  
The Bevevino Family  
Eileen and Chris Blazic  
Paul and Donna Bookstein  
Anthony T.P. Brooks  
Candice Cilvik  
Margaret Cramton  
Jim and Laura Dickson  
Mike and Rachael Dziak  
Dr. Gretta Gross  
Colleen Hodakowski

Wendell Jones  
Allen Kropiewnicki  
Guthrie Mitchell  
Chet and Noelle Mozloom  
John Nackley  
Thomas M. Ogorzalek  
Tony and Elaine Palischak  
John and Katie Parsons  
Ellen and Dale Parmenteri  
Shep Pawling  
John J. Pekarovsky III  
Pennsylvania Environmental  
Council

Thomas and Christine Pugh  
Sandy Rhodes and Julie A.  
Dostal  
Phillip Roth  
Megan and Timothy  
Rutkoski  
Susan A. and James  
Shoemaker  
Jon and Melissa Sordoni  
Michael and Theresa Ann  
Tomalis  
Marleen Troy



*George and Lillian Picton  
Wildlife Sanctuary*

## Sustainers



*Forest Echo Bird Sanctuary*

Nancy Alonzo  
Kermit and Sally Ayres  
Edward Banaszek, Jr  
Cindy Beaumariage and  
Rick Mooney  
Michael Bertram  
Barbara Bradley  
Carole and Bill Burak  
Peter and Lesa Butera  
Dr. Alfred and Mary Casale

Lawrence Cohen  
Will and Chris Conyngham  
Diane Davies and Sara  
Thompson  
Allan and Debra Dick  
Dr. Herbert Fellerman  
Thomas and Patricia Finan  
Castellano  
John C. and Joan S. Foster  
The Freedmans

Clarence Givens, Jr.  
Thomas and Judith Hall  
Sid Halsor and Cydney  
Faul-Halsor  
Anne and Frouke Holmes-  
de Quillettes  
Dr. Elizabeth Hughes  
Terry and Wendy Jones  
Bill, Kim and Kaelee Kane  
Marcella Kelly



## Sustainers (continued)

Glynis Koehler  
 Dr. Paul and Alice Rae  
 Kutish  
 Lake Wesauking  
 Conservancy, Inc  
 Ann R. Lewis  
 Carol Lizell  
 Frank Lombardo  
 Dr. Michael A. and Tina  
 MacDowell  
 Richard McNulty  
 Kris Medic and Bruce  
 Thomason  
 Bob Mercando  
 T. Bryant Mesick  
 Dr. Renee Monahan

Dave and Denise Moore  
 Dr. Phil A. and Rev. Barbara  
 C. Muntzel  
 Mary and Scot Murphy  
 Diane L. Nagle and Joseph  
 G. Schneiderite  
 Russell G. Newell  
 Claudia Niezgoda  
 Marilyn and Joseph B  
 O'Boyle  
 Paul O'Connell  
 Debra Pavlico  
 David M. and Darlene  
 Payne, Jr.  
 Robert A. Piccone

Barbara Reel  
 Michael and Mary Rosto  
 Robert Rowlands  
 Pam and Theron I. Russell  
 Winifred Shortz  
 Barbara Smith



*Blackberries at Hanover  
 Crossings Marsh Sanctuary*

Alan Snelson  
 Mark J. Sobeck  
 Gerald and Sandra  
 Stankiewicz  
 Lenny Trolio  
 Carl J. Urbanski and Martha  
 Shipe  
 Ruth Whalen  
 Patrick and Carol Wills  
 Tara Mugford Wilson  
 Gary and Denise Williams  
 Raymond Youngblood  
 Janet and Richard  
 Zimmerman  
 Ed and Amber Zygmunt

## Stewards

Dr. Joseph and Maureen  
 Anistranski  
 Stacia Arnaud  
 Back Mountain Bloomers  
 Sandra and John Bensinger  
 Ellie Harding and David  
 Birchler  
 Richard and Faye Bishop  
 Joseph Butkiewicz and  
 Carole Poggi  
 Mike and Alene Case

Andy and Marsha Costello  
 Kate and James Crowley  
 Jay and Valerie Delaney  
 Jean Demko  
 Brooks Eldredge-Martin  
 Thomas J. and Barbara H.  
 Field  
 Trudy D. Gerlach  
 Joe and Steve Germick  
 Lynda Goldstein  
 Rich and Bonnie Gower  
 John Hanish Jr  
 William E. Hine, Jr.  
 Jack and Karen Hoover  
 Patty and Ted Horn  
 James and Eileen Hoyson  
 Robin and David Johns  
 Stephen B. and Estella  
 Killian  
 Frank and Susan Libertoski  
 Janice Lohmann  
 Lisa, Lyndsey, and Robert  
 Malarkey

Debbie Maseychik  
 Robert Matiska  
 Sandy McGovern  
 Walter and Connie Mitchell  
 James and Mary Ann  
 Murphy  
 Verlon and Mary Lou  
 Nichols  
 Charlie and Marion Boyle  
 Petrillo  
 Michele Phillips  
 Andrew Pohl  
 Michael and Jacqueline  
 Pramick  
 Ron and Gloria Rawls  
 Joanne and Bill Runner  
 Jane Rutledge and Albert  
 Them  
 Daniel Schreffler  
 Susanne Schmitthenner  
 Tony Sciandra  
 Deirdre M. Smith and Doug  
 Carroll

Jason and Brooke Snavely  
 Marilyn Stark  
 Karley Stasko and Patrick  
 Dockeraay  
 Joan and Steven Taylor  
 Josh Turel  
 Jane and Jim Turner  
 Thomas Ward  
 Dr. Brian E. Whitman  
 Theodore S. Wiaterowski  
 Regina Williams  
 John and Karen Zapotok



*Blue Damselfly*



*October Hike & Sip*

# ON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

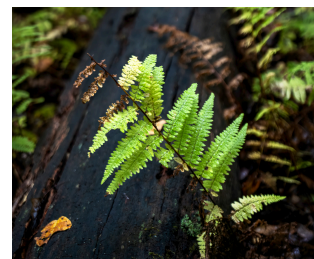
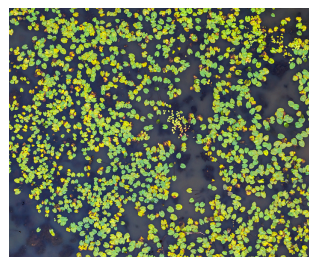
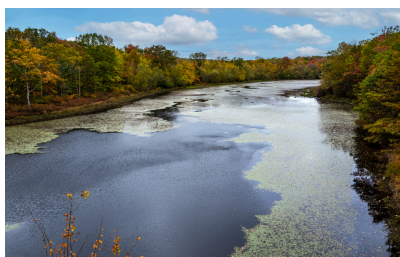
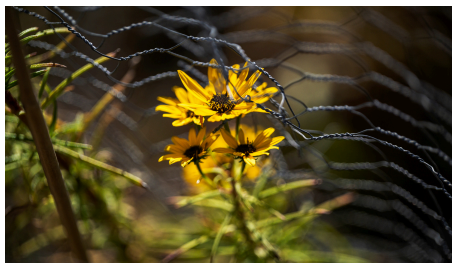
by Mo Devlin

*In 2024, photographer Mo Devlin visited NBLT preserves to capture the essence of Forest Echo Bird Sanctuary, Hanover Crossing Marsh Sanctuary, Butler Preserve, and George and Lillian Picton Wildlife Sanctuary. His experience is reflected below.*

Photographing nature is special because it captures the beauty, diversity, and fleeting moments of the natural world. I've said often that 80% of creating a noteworthy image is being there when it happens. My visit to the four preserves did not disappoint. Nature photography often invokes feelings of peace, wonder, and appreciation for the environment. It connects the photographer and viewers to the world in a profound way, fostering mindfulness.

The tranquility and solitude of nature not only offer a serene escape but also serve as a lens through which creativity flourishes. The preserve's surroundings provide peace, it allowed me to truly immerse myself in the moment, noticing the subtle details and raw beauty that can be easily overlooked in passing.

In many ways, the calm of nature becomes an invisible yet powerful part of the story the photos tell. It is as if every image carries a piece of that stillness, inviting viewers to step into this world and experience the serenity I felt in that moment. It is a deep connection to nature—one that transforms photography into both an art form and a personal meditation.





To further North Branch Land Trust's Mission, Vision, and Core Values, the Mary Louise and Eberhard Faber Scholarship Fund was established at the Luzerne Foundation to celebrate the conservation legacy of Mary Louise and Eberhard Faber.

Mary Louise and Eberhard Faber were so much to so many people in Northeastern Pennsylvania. While many may have known them through enterprise and philanthropy, North Branch Land Trust has always known the Fabers as ardent conservationists. We are thrilled to see their passion live on.

This scholarship benefits individuals passionate about land conservation by funding a hands-on educational opportunity through a paid internship program at the North Branch Land Trust.

In 2024, two students, Nicholas Splain and Gene Daisey, completed their internships at North Branch Land Trust. We look forward to seeing their contributions to conservation and stewardship grow!

North Branch Land Trust's  
**MARY LOUISE &  
EBERHARD FABER  
CONSERVATION  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
at the Luzerne Foundation



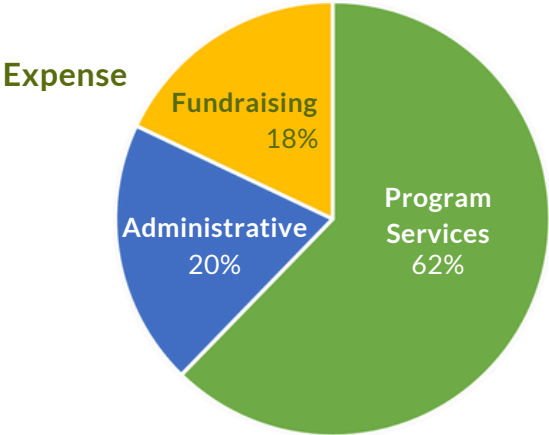
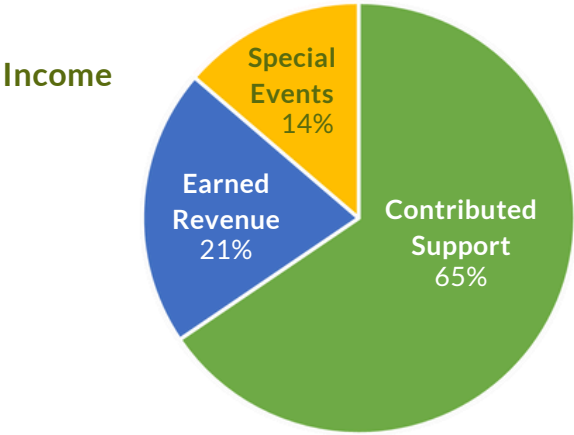
Nicholas Splain



Gene Daisey

**Financial  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

These charts show our income by source and expense by type. For more information including our public documents, visit [nb.lt.org/financials](http://nb.lt.org/financials)





Hanover Crossings Marsh Sanctuary

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# THANK YOU North Branch Land Trust **MEMBERS**

Conservationists have joined us from both down the street and across the country to conserve the precious NEPA landscapes that support us.

Members like you help to make North Branch Land Trust's conservation mission a reality!

Renew or begin your membership with North Branch Land Trust today!

Receive early and discounted access to NBLT events with the knowledge that your membership directly supports conservation in your backyard.

Please use the enclosed envelope or visit [nblt.org/member](https://nblt.org/member)







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