



North Branch  
Land Trust



THE NORTH BRANCH LAND TRUST • HORIZON NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 23 • NO. 2

# Faces

## of the North Branch Land Trust

**KATHLEEN OSBERG-LECLERC**  
Land Owner



The Trailing Pine Conservation Easement is small but it is having an impact. A neighbor told me, "You have the nicest part of the whole (Reyburn) creek." I mentioned letting trees grow on both

sides of the creek. Another neighbor, who considers herself "a deer whisperer," said, "The deer thank you, they really do (for the conservation easement)."

I believe that the best way to influence others is to set an example and to educate. Rarely is one given a say in "how things go" beyond our ownership or past our lifetime. Thank you, Rylan and the staff at NBLT, for your support, encouragement, and for administering conservation easements on so many precious lands, now and into the future.

**CHERYL & JOE SHAPIRO**  
New NBLT members



*Why are you supporting the NBLT?*

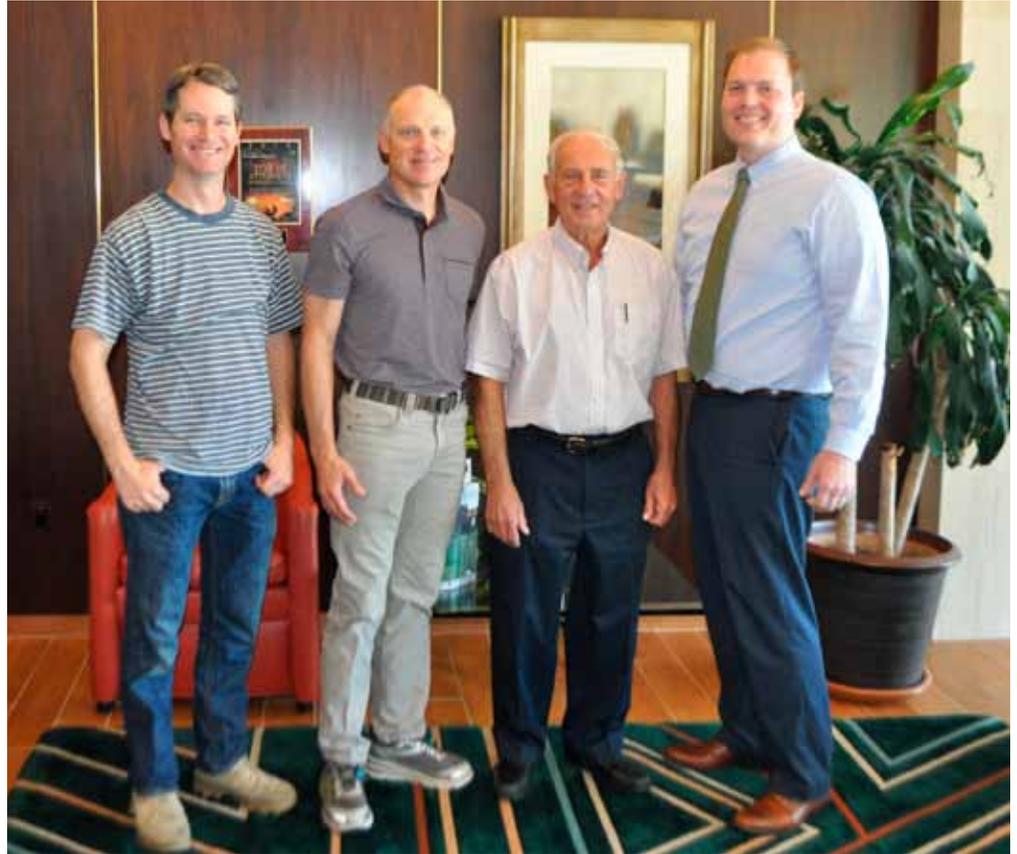
We appreciate NBLT's efforts to preserve our beautiful natural surroundings in

northeastern PA, to educate the public about our natural surroundings, and to promote getting out on the land (especially the younger "gaming" generation!).

We moved from the very congested area of Long Island New York to Wilkes-Barre and our quality of life has instantly improved! We enjoy the cultural and social aspects of living in a small city along with the option of easily being out in the woods enjoying nature's wonders at any time of year.

We feel it is important to respect our natural surroundings and help make other people realize the importance.

## Earth Conservancy Donates the Final Leg of the D&L Trail to NBLT



*At the closing: Rylan Coker, NBLT Land & Stewardship Coordinator, Paul Lumia, NBLT Executive Director, Mike Dziak, Executive Director Earth Conservancy, Brian Stahl, Hourigan, Kluger, & Quinn, PC.*

Earth Conservancy is a nonprofit which formed to address the impacts of past coal mining operations in Luzerne County. Their work centers on the former holdings of the Blue Coal Corporation. Over the years NBLT has worked closely with the Earth Conservancy to permanently protect many thousands of acres in our communities. NBLT, in conjunction with the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, is working to complete the 164-mile D&L Trail into the Wyoming Valley. Once complete, the hiking and biking trail will run from Bristol, PA to Wilkes-Barre. The

last three donated miles of the trail will run on the old Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad rail bed from the Seven Tubs Nature Area to its terminus at Northampton Street. NBLT hopes to start construction on this section of trail next spring. When completed it will be deeded over to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry which will manage the trail from Northampton Street to White Haven. A big thank you goes out to the Staff and Board of Directors of the Earth Conservancy for their donation and to NBLT members and supporters who have helped make this project possible.

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The North Branch Land Trust works in partnership with landowners and their communities to conserve the natural, working, and scenic landscapes in Northeastern Pennsylvania that sustain us.

The Horizon is published by the land trust for its members, supporters and collaborating partners. If you would like to receive this publication electronically please contact NBLT at (570) 310-1781 or email [info@nblt.org](mailto:info@nblt.org).

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# Forest Echo Loop Trail Completed

NBLT is happy to announce that the Rachel and Dr. Sarah Wyckoff Forest Echo Bird Sanctuary now has a loop trail for humans. Located off West Center Hill Road in Dallas Borough, the seventeen acre sanctuary

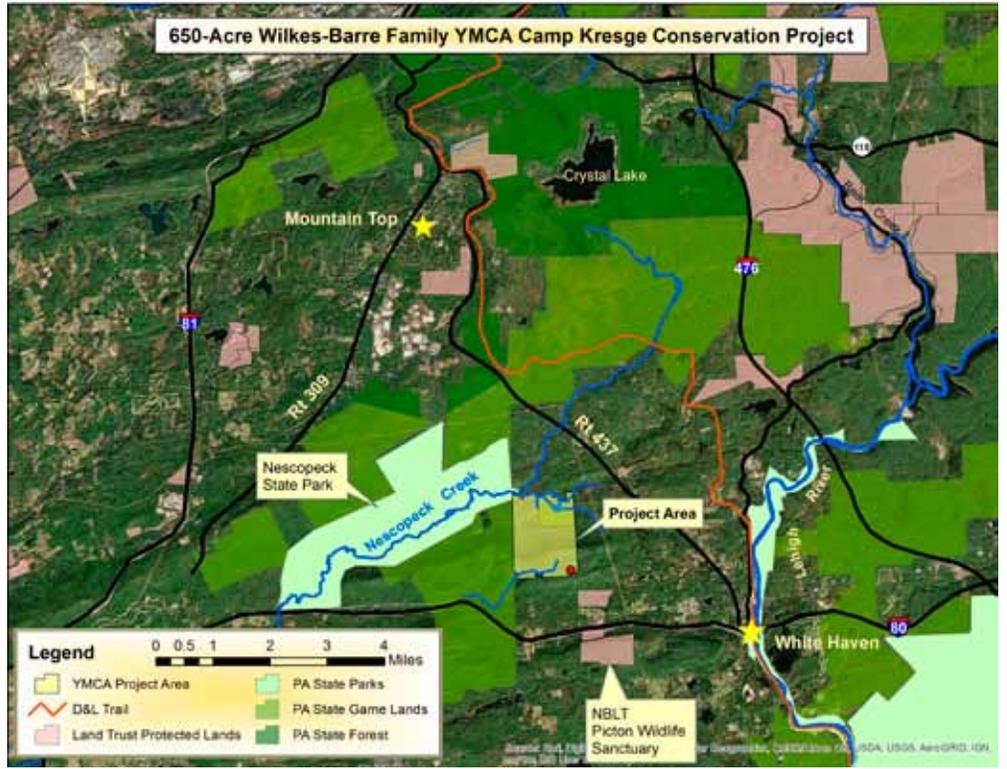
provides habitat for a variety of bird species as well as providing watershed protection for the Huntsville Reservoir. The trail is about one mile start to finish and covers a variety of hilly terrain. Come check it out!





# Camp Kresge

NBLT would like to thank the Staff, Board and Trustees of the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA for their foresight in helping to protect our region's natural heritage. Over the course of the last few years NBLT worked closely with the YMCA and DCNR to develop a conservation plan for the Y's Camp Kresge property located in White Haven. The results are significant with 650 acres being conserved. It includes habitat for a number of rare plant species along with wetlands that feed Nescopeck Creek.



## ***New Board Members*** **North Branch Land Trust** **Welcomes New Board Members** ***Why I care ... my involvement with*** ***NBLT and land conservation***

**BARRY DYLLER:**



*“Without our land, without our natural wonders and beauty, all the other things I care about are diminished.”*

**RAMAH HACKETT:**



*“My favorite place to be is right here among the rolling hills of Northeastern Pennsylvania, so it is my privilege to work towards preserving the natural beauty and integrity of our gorgeous landscape.”*

**RYAN FLOOD:**



*“The passion of the folks I have met that were involved with NBLT, and their commitment to NEPA, made it an easy choice to join.”*

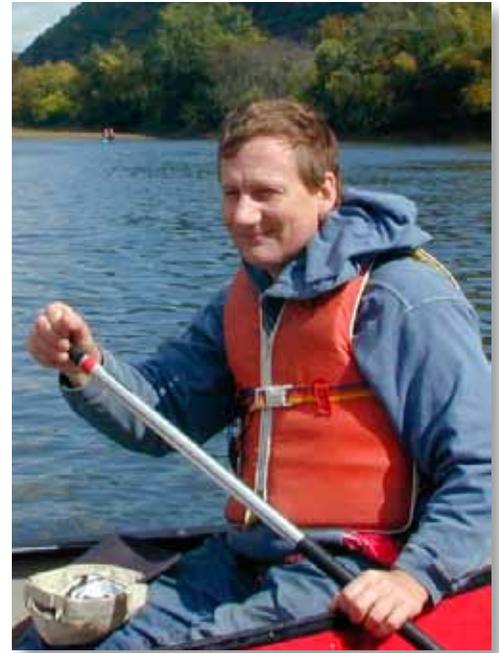
**JOHN PEKAROVSKY III:**



*“We have so many beautiful and scenic properties in and around Luzerne County. I was very thankful to be given an opportunity to become involved with an organization focused on conserving these properties so that we and future generations can continue to enjoy them.”*

## ***NBLT mourns the passing of Douglas J. Ayers, V.M.D.***

Sadly we report that founding North Branch Land Trust board member Dr. Doug Ayers has passed away due to a long battle with leukemia. Doug and a few others had the foresight back in 1993 to organize a non-profit land conservation organization that would work to conserve



important natural land assets in Northeastern Pennsylvania. That organization was The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust now named North Branch Land Trust. Doug played a major role in forming and guiding the organization up until his retirement from the board of directors in 2010. He was also one of NBLT's first easement donors conserving his beloved farm in Noxen which will be forever protected from development.

After his work at NBLT, Doug put his heart and soul into founding and developing The Lands at Hillside Farms, a non-profit, historic, educational farm that teaches sensible and sustainable life choices. Doug was a pioneer, self-starter and champion of NEPA! He will be deeply missed!

## ***Why conserve land . . . The land gives us life.***



We get our food from the land . . . and our water, which flows clean when we take care of the land. We need the land for good health — places to play and explore, to exercise and let go of stress. We need the land for vibrant communities — gardens, parks, and trails that draw people, where neighbors get together. We need the stories rooted in the land, so we can explore who we are. We need the beauty of the land to inspire us.

~ National Land Trust Alliance

## NORTH BRANCH LAND TRUST UPCOMING EVENTS:



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017

### History of Hillside Farms

1:00-3:00pm  
The Lands at Hillside Farms  
65 Hillside Road  
Shavertown, PA  
NBLT members: free  
Non-members: \$10.00



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

### Annual Winter Picnic

1:00-4:00pm  
Bear Creek Camp  
3601 Bear Creek Blvd.  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702  
Catered by The AppleTree Terrace  
\$5.00 per member/donor  
\$10.00 for non-member

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

### Natural Creations

1:00-3:00pm  
Natural Lands' Bear  
Creek Preserve Center  
47 Rabbit Run Lane  
Bear Creek Township, PA  
NBLT members: \$2.00  
NL members: \$2.00 • Non-members: \$10.00  
This event is held in partnership with the Natural  
Lands. *Get ready for the Holiday Season!*



Get-Together!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

### NBLT Volunteer Appreciation Get Together

6:00-8:00pm  
Sabatini's Bottleshop and Bar  
1925 Wyoming Avenue • Exeter, PA  
Honoring Volunteers of the Year:  
*Ted & Patty Horn.* Nathaniel Whitmore,  
founder of the Delaware Highlands  
Mushroom Society will present a  
program on wild, edible, and  
medicinal mushrooms.



JUNE 6-16, 2018

### Ultimate Botswana Safari

10 Nights • 11 Days

Visit 3 African Countries:  
*South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe*  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME,  
CALL BARB ROMANANSKY AT 570-310-1781 TODAY!**



Registration required for  
all events: [www.nblt.org/events](http://www.nblt.org/events),  
email [smith@nblt.org](mailto:smith@nblt.org), or call the  
office at 570-310-1781.

## North Branch Land Trust's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gathering

Thursday, December 7, 2017  
The Appletree Terrace  
4 Newberry Estates, N. Pioneer Ave.  
Dallas, PA 18612

5:30-8:00pm Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar  
Buffet Dinner & Door Prizes

\$40 per member/donor, \$45 for non-member

*Reservations are required*



RSVP: [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org), 570-310-1781, or [romanansky@nblt.org](mailto:romanansky@nblt.org)

by Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>



**North Branch Land Trust**  
251 Huntsville-Idetown Road  
Dallas, PA 18612

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*“Conservation has to become an absolute priority, because if we lose nature that’s the end of us. We can’t live without it.”*

— JANE GOODALL

**YES**, I want to be part of conserving our precious land and habitat in Northeastern Pennsylvania with my End-of-Year Annual Appeal Gift

- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1,000
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRIBUTE ONLINE AT:**  
[www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org)

**OR MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:**  
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North Branch Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling (800) 732-0999.

Registration does not imply endorsement

*Together, let’s make conservation “an absolute priority”  
Let’s save thousands more acres of natural habitat!*

**PLEASE SUPPORT  
NBLT’S END-OF-YEAR  
ANNUAL APPEAL!**

As human beings our lives are enriched by Mother Nature’s beauty and open space. Conserving our land and the natural habitat of our animals of Northeastern Pennsylvania is imperative for our well-being. As Jane Goodall states, *“We can’t live without it!”* You, NBLT’s dedicated supporters, make it possible for the Land Trust to carry out this land conservation mission. On behalf of this little red fox please accept our sincere gratitude for your ongoing support. NBLT depends on generous supporters like you to fund ongoing operations through this end-of-year Annual Appeal.



With your donations, you let us know that you value NBLT’s conservation and responsible development mission. Your gift reaffirms your passion for the importance of our woodlands, waterways, scenic views, agricultural lands, animal habitat, and our quality of life. (and that of our friend above!)

NBLT works locally, so you can be sure that your donation dollars are put toward conservation efforts that directly impact the natural and scenic landscapes right here in our own communities.

To protect our precious land and animal habitat please send your tax deductible, end-of-year gift before December 31, 2017.

**YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*With your email we can save money and trees and we never share your personal information with anyone*

