



North Branch  
Land Trust

Lillian's Pond



THE NORTH BRANCH LAND TRUST • VOLUME 19 • NO. 1

## Faces of the North Branch Land Trust

### Cindy Beaumariage & Rick Mooney



#### Conservation Easement Donors

Our love for land with trees and streams began back in childhood adventures during family camping trips and playing in the woods. We own 25 acres

in Fairview Township, Luzerne County. In 2007, while holding one acre in reserve to possibly build a home for Cindy's mother Barbara, we placed a conservation easement on the property. We named our conserved property *Liberty BARICIN Preserve* honoring Cindy's mother, BARBARA, RICK and CINDY -- BAR- RIC-CIN. All three of us agree that this land has a wonderful collection of flora and fauna. We are happy to know that North Branch Land Trust will monitor the land after we are gone, insuring it is maintained as a natural habitat. We enjoy an occasional hike on the property with Kibou, our Australian Shepherd, who brings home many seeds and other bits of nature imbedded in her fur!



#### Tina Fiorani Volunteer

A few years ago I became involved with the North Branch Land Trust after attending a few slideshow presentations given by staff members.

Shortly thereafter, I became a member, attended a couple walks and the winter outing at the George and Lillian Picton Wildlife Sanctuary. Wanting more involvement, I asked staff member Barb Romanansky how I could help. She thought I would be a good fit for the Land Committee. Then "The Friends of Picton" was formed for which I readily volunteered and I haven't looked back! I've always loved the outdoors so being a volunteer with NBLT allows me to help preserve what I hold dear.



### NBLT Receives Award

North Branch Land Trust is pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology 2013 Conservation Award. We were granted this award for "working with landowners and the community over the last 20 years to conserve or acquire over 12,200 acres of key land assets in northeastern Pennsylvania, including some of the most biologically diverse and critically important natural lands in the region for flora and fauna habitat."

### Friends of Picton

By David Estep

A n NBLT Winter Outing was held at the 412-acre Sanctuary in White Haven this past January and those who attended voiced a desire to see the property improved to provide a rewarding wildlife experience for the community. Many expressed their willingness to get involved as volunteers and the group "Friends of Picton" was born! This group of dedicated, hard working volunteers have offered their varied talents, skills and labor to create just what George and Lillian had in mind. In less than two months, Lillian's Pond Loop Trail and phase one of the Split Rock Trail have been created and are being maintained for visitors' enjoyment! Trees have been trimmed, brush removed, debris cleared! Picnic tables have been built, new Wood Duck Nesting Boxes constructed, placed and inhabited! A Visitors Sign-In box was installed at the gate, the "Activity Center" cleaned out, and an



Hepatica

informational kiosk planned! All of these accomplishments, and more, have been completed solely by volunteers!

All of us are grateful for George and Lillian Picton's conservation vision and we applaud the many volunteers who are upholding their vision. **Volunteers are needed.**

Please become a "Friend of Picton" contact the NBLT office at 570-696-5545, email romanansky@nblt.org or visit the website at [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org).

The Picton Sanctuary is located in Foster Township and is a stop on this year's YMCA Keystone Active Zone passport program. Please see [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org) for directions.



Trail Building



Completed Trail

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

**CHAIR** Matthew Sordoni  
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The mission of the North Branch Land Trust is to work in partnership with landowners and their communities to conserve the scenic, natural and working landscapes 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 Barb Romanansky, Membership and Outreach Coordinator, (570) 696-5545 or email romanansky@nblt.org.

### North Branch Land Trust

11 Carverton Road • Trucksville, PA 18708  
 (570) 696-5545 • www.nblt.org

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### PHOTO CREDITS:

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## We Celebrate and Land Conservation Efforts Benefit



Left to right: Eb Faber, Bob Lawrence, Paul Lumia, Jim Merryman, Ann Lewis and Bob Smith

"A fabulous evening", "Fantastic auction items", "Great vibe", "What a special event"... Some of the comments from the dinner guests following our 20th Anniversary Dinner Celebration at the Westmoreland Club on May 8th. A special thank you goes out to all our dinner sponsors and donors, to our intrepid dinner committee, to our stellar dinner chairs Cornelia Romanowski, Will Conyngham and Frank Conyngham, to the residents of Bear Creek Village and of course, to all the attendees that helped make the event such a great success. We raised over \$70,000 for land conservation initiatives in our communities! We are grateful for all your support.

## Conservation Corner...What's in the Works?

We are happy to report that your conservation dollars are hard at work on some really exciting conservation projects! Here is what we are working on.

**Bald Mountain Acquisition Project** – 384 acres located in Bear Creek Township off Bald Mountain Road and containing headwater tributaries to Mill Creek. Protecting this property will help protect the Wyoming Valley fresh water supply.



Brook Trout

### Penny Supply Conservation Easement Project

– Two sites, a 100-acre site located in Dorrance Twp. protecting the Exceptional Value Brook Trout stream, Balliet Run, and a 300-acre site located in Newport Twp. protecting known habitat for the endangered Indiana Bat.



Indiana Bat



View from Mocanaqua Tract

### Earth Conservancy Mocanaqua Acquisition Project

– 3,058 acres located in Conyngham and Newport Townships. If acquired, NBLT will look to transfer this exceptional property to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry helping to link many thousands of acres of protected land along Penobscot Ridge.



Cardinal

### The Forest Echo Bird Sanctuary Acquisition Project

– 17 acres in Dallas Borough providing direct watershed protection to Huntsville Reservoir and upholding the wishes of the original donor to establish a sanctuary for birds in the Back Mountain area.

## Volunteers Needed!

If you have an hour or a day to spare and you'd like to contribute your time to land conservation, contact NBLT at [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org), email [romanansky@nblt.org](mailto:romanansky@nblt.org) or call the office at 570-696-5545. We need your help in several ways!

### LAND MONITORS

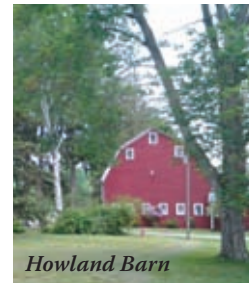


Monitoring

If you like walking in the country, exploring beautiful property and breathing fresh air, this job is for you! Learn mapping, compass and GPS skills and get to see exceptional

properties. Monitors check and mark boundary lines, hike interior trails and watch for possible problems such as erosion, dumping, unauthorized logging or other issues.

### FRIENDS OF HOWLAND

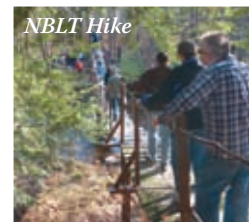


Howland Barn

Volunteers are needed to guide the future of the Preserve, build trails, help with the maintenance of the barn, buildings, and general Preserve upkeep. We also need volunteers to

help plan special events and fundraising. The Howland Preserve consists of 669 acres with 2 miles of river front. Bald eagles consider it their playground!

### EVENTS COMMITTEE

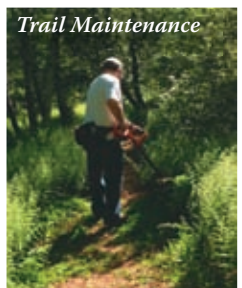


NBLT Hike

People love to be connected to the land and many folks have enjoyed our special events including guided walks, winter outings, local

history adventures, and river trips. And people want more...lots more! You've asked and we listened! This committee is being formed in response to that request. Volunteers on this committee will brainstorm ideas and plan a calendar of events for a broad spectrum of interests.

### FRIENDS OF PICTON



Trail Maintenance

Volunteers are close to the land at the George & Lillian Picton Wildlife Sanctuary. This is a new preserve that is open for passive recreation. Trail building and maintenance are two

important jobs requiring volunteers. Join the Friends of Picton and enjoy time with dedicated folks who love this land.

## SATURDAY, JULY 13<sup>TH</sup> Howland Bee Project

*Come see what the "buzz" is all about!*

Kevin Baker, professional beekeeper, will present an Introduction to Bees workshop at the Howland Preserve on Saturday, July 13th at 1:00pm. There will be a discussion with photos, an equipment display, and then a walk to the apiary to see the bees at work. With favorable conditions we may be able to harvest some honey!



Having been around bees his whole life, Kevin now works full time with bees and has over 30 hives in 3 northeastern Pennsylvania counties. Besides bee keeping, Kevin also specializes in removing bees from buildings. To register for this workshop please go to [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org), email [Romanansky@nblt.org](mailto:Romanansky@nblt.org) or call the office at 570-696-5545.



## SUNDAY, JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> Valmont Bog Orchid Walk

*Orchids, in an Industrial Park? Come learn more!*

The Land Trust is offering its members and their guests the opportunity to see and learn about globally rare orchids on its Valmont Bog Sanctuary. Located in the heart of the Valmont Industrial Park,



*Platantheras Orchid*

this unique property boasts a variety of exceptional and rare orchids. Representatives of the International Native Orchid Conference have visited the Valmont Bog many times and have affirmed that it is "a truly unique phenomenon" with regard to orchid flora. We will hold two guided "Talk & Walk" sessions on Sunday, July 21, 2013 at 9:00am and 1:30pm. The presenter and guided walk leader is Bob Sprague from the International Native Orchid Conference.

The event is free to NBLT members and \$15 for guests. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED and directions will be given upon registration. Please register online at [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org), email [info@nblt.org](mailto:info@nblt.org) or call the office at 570-696-5545.

## SATURDAY, JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> NBLT's Annual River Trip

*Get ready to paddle!*

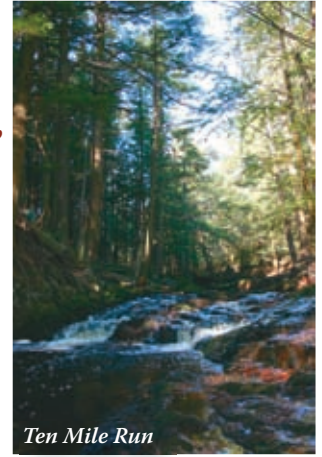
This year's annual river trip starts in Meshoppen at 10:00 and ends at NBLT's Howland Preserve where you can walk the trails, explore the old canal, or just kick back and relax. This is a 9-mile paddle suitable for all levels of experience. Be sure to bring your lunch, water and binoculars as eagles are very active on this beautiful stretch of the river. Endless Mountain Outfitters (EMO) is our guide for the day. Please register directly with EMO at [www.emo444.com](http://www.emo444.com). Kayaks are available for rent.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>

### NBLT's Annual Picnic

*It's Grillin' & Chillin' time!*

From 12:00 to 5:00pm join in the fun with conservation minded friends at the Bear Creek Village Picnic Grove. Enjoy swimming, kayaking, volleyball, great food and just relaxing at this beautiful spot right in the middle of thousands of acres of conserved land. There are miles of trails to explore. The picnic will be catered and the cost is \$15 for members of NBLT and \$20 for guests. Watch for your invitation!



*Ten Mile Run*

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

### Taste the Local Harvest

*... at Huntsville Golf Club*

Everyone loved this event so much last year that we will again celebrate the fall harvest with NBLT's 2nd annual Taste the Local Harvest! Please join us on Saturday, October 5th from 5:00-9:00pm at Huntsville Golf Club for this very casual, relaxed, fun event.



## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> Holiday Gathering

Always an NBLT favorite! This year's Annual Holiday Gathering will be on Wednesday, December 11th at the Appletree Terrace in Dallas. Who will be the Land Trust volunteer of 2013? Mark your calendars now to attend the Holiday Gathering to find out!

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				





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*“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul.” — JOHN MUIR*

**NORTH BRANCH LAND TRUST**  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
**DRIVE UNDERWAY**  
 Your membership support helps protect the nature of our region.  
**join today!**  
*Membership*

**Supporting Levels**

- Student ..... \$25
- Sponsor ..... \$35 - \$49
- Advocate ..... \$50 - \$99
- Patron ..... \$100 - \$249
- Business ..... \$250

**Leadership Levels**

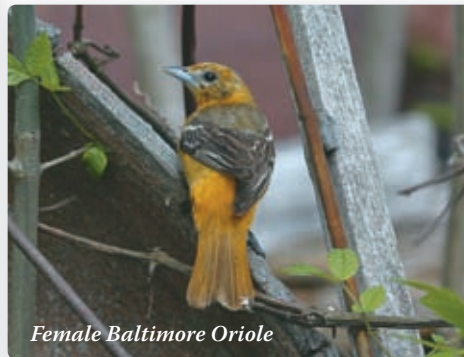
- Leader ..... \$250 - \$499
- Benefactor ..... \$500 - \$999
- Stewardship Society ..... \$1000 - \$2499
- Conservation Society ..... \$2500 - \$4999
- North Branch Guardian ..... \$5000 +

*Membership runs from July 1 to June 30.*

**Join online now!**

**Visit [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org)**  
**or make check payable to:**  
**North Branch Land Trust**  
**11 Carverton Rd, Trucksville, PA 18708**

North Branch Land Trust is a nonprofit 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. Call (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



*Female Baltimore Oriole*

*Renew your  
 NBLT Membership  
 or become a  
 New Member*

**THE 2013-2014  
 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN  
 IS UNDERWAY!**

With your generous and loyal support, you have made it possible for over 13,000 acres of land to be conserved in northeastern Pennsylvania. Let's continue the good work together and conserve thousands more!

You will soon receive our membership mailing and we ask that you renew your membership or become a new member of North Branch Land Trust. You can also give a gift of conservation by purchasing a gift membership for friends, colleagues or family members. Membership is the lifeblood of NBLT; only with your support can NBLT continue to conserve the scenic, natural and working landscapes that sustain us.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\*EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*\*With your email address we can save money and trees.  
 We never share you personal information with anyone.*

