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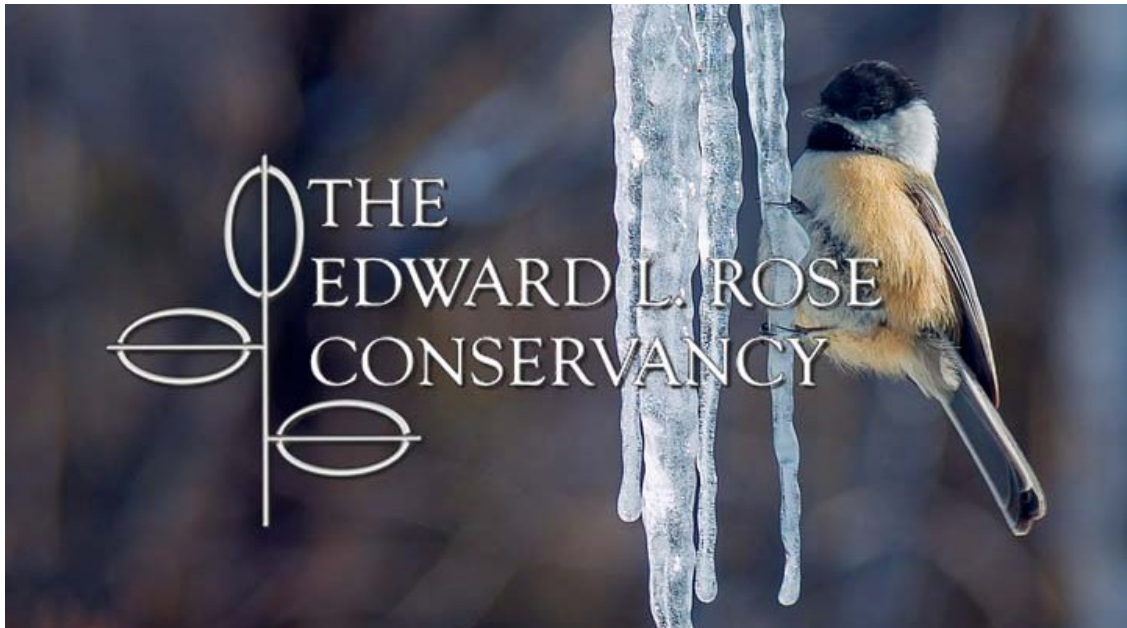
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Conservancy Currents Winter 2018



March is Maple Month! Invite a friend or family member to join the Conservancy this month and **YOU** and the new member will each receive a **FREE QUART of CORNELL MAPLE SYRUP** when they join!

Click [here](#) to join online or email us at board@elrose.org



ESTATE PLANNING - LEAVING THE GIFT OF A LEGACY

If you share our vision of conserving the land, water, wildlife and scenic beauty that make this region such a special place, consider a planned gift to the Edward L. Rose Conservancy. In doing so, you will make the conservation of beautiful places part of your own legacy. There are many ways to make a difference, while realizing potential income, capital gains, and estate tax benefits.

Conservation Easement

Transfer of large properties within the family can be difficult for a variety of reasons. One reason is that **land is not liquid**. Farm and forest landowners are often land rich, but money poor. A large parcel of land may put your estate in a high tax bracket, but without liquid assets your heirs may have problems paying estate and transfer taxes when receiving ownership of your land after you pass. In many cases your heirs may have to sell off part of all of the land in order to pay these taxes. This invites the risk that it will be sold to developers and subdivided. Donating a conservation easement may assist you and your family by reducing income or property taxes today, reducing estate taxes later, and ensuring that your land and water will be protected into the future.

Bequests

A bequest is a gift designating a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate after disbursements to family or friends.

Life Insurance

You can name the Conservancy as the primary beneficiary of a life insurance policy you no longer need, or as contingent beneficiary, should your other beneficiary not survive you. To establish this type of gift, you simply request a "Change in Beneficiary Designation" form from your insurance agent.

Retirement Plan Assets

Naming the Conservancy as one of the beneficiaries or the sole beneficiary of your retirement plan is another easy way to support land conservation.

Real Estate

This is a simple donation if you own property that has appreciated in value and you no longer need or use it. You can deduct fair market value of your gift, avoid all capital gains taxes, and remove the asset from your taxable estate. You can even transfer the deed of your personal residence or farm now, keep the right to use the property for your lifetime, and receive a current charitable donation.

Gifts made through wills and living trusts are easy to arrange and can be changed at any time you choose, giving you maximum flexibility in your planning. Your decisions can have a positive, long-lasting effect on the land, natural resources, and economic viability of the region you love.

Contact us today at board@elrose.org or (570) 278-9500 if you would like more information about any of these options.

UPCOMING EVENTS



High Point Preserve Hike and Trail Clean-Up

Head outdoors for a chance to walk the trails at High Point Preserve and enjoy time with other members. Bring some friends along! Meet at the butterfly garden/field and help clear



Earth Fest at SUNY Broome - Earth Day!

Join us at Broome County Community College's Earth Fest where we will be showcasing live amphibians and highlighting the Conservancy's role in conserving the

the trails for the upcoming hiking season. Bring work gloves.

Saturday, April 21 at 9 a.m.

High Point Preserve, Silver Lake, Brackney, Pa

Contact: Keith Oberg for more information at

keith@professionalhome.com

Fee: Free

land you love. The mission of Earth Fest is to increase public knowledge and awareness of environmental concerns, programs and products. Earth Fest draws over 3,000 visitors each year.

Sunday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SUNY Broome Student Center; 907 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY

Fee: \$2

Learn more at

earthdaysoutherntier.org



Feathered Friends Camp for 4th and 5th Graders

Learn about birds through games, crafts and walks. A small snack will be provided. Campers must bring a packed lunch!

Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: 4-H Education Center at Finch Hollow, 1394 Oakdale Rd.,

Johnson City, New York 13790

Contact: Victoria Londner, 4-H
Education Center Coordinator
VL232@cornell.edu 607-729-4231

Fee: \$30.00



Susquehanna Conservation District 2018 Seedling Sale

Native wildflowers, shrubs, trees, fruit trees and more!

Saturday, April 14, 2018 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Pick-Up Location: Bridgewater Township Building

Orders MUST be picked up on April 14, 2018

No refunds on unclaimed orders.

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS MARCH 16

Visit <https://www.suscondistrict.org/seedlingsale.html> to
order.

To Register for the following three classes: **Make your own Bat House, Make A Mason Bee House and Learn Your Frog Calls**, please visit: Montrose Adult School www.montroseadultschool.org



Make a Mason Bee House

Mason Bees are solitaire bees and great pollinators. More dependable and productive than honey bees in early spring! Build them a Mason Bee Lodge! Learn how to attract these native bees plus other pollinators and beneficial insects.

The cost of materials for each lodge is \$15.00. On your registration form, please indicate the number of lodges you wish to make and add the cost to your registration fee. Please bring your own cordless drill if possible; we have limited supply of drills. Deadline to order materials is April 20th. Or, you may just simply listen to the discussion and observe the building of the lodges.

Saturday, April 28th at 10 a.m. - noon

Salt Springs State Park, the Carriage Barn by Wheaton House & Historic



Make Your Own Bat House

Once again this popular class will be offered by Master Gardener, Amy Boot. Come join her and learn about the mysterious night life of bats!

Bats can consume an enormous amount of mosquitoes and other crop damaging insects such as cutworms and moths. Bats are the only mammal that can truly fly! More than half of the bat species in the United States are in severe decline or listed as endangered. In addition to loss of habitat, one of the biggest threats comes from white nose syndrome, a disease that has decimated bats in the U.S. and Canada. Learn how to make your landscape more bat friendly plus more interesting facts. Then build a house for up to 100 bats! Each house costs \$35.00. They make nice gifts also. On your registration form, please indicate the number of

Kitchen Garden

Instructors: *Master Gardeners Jim*

Kasten and Lori Wallace

Fee: \$5.00 plus \$15.00 for each
lodge

houses you wish to buy and add the cost to your registration fee. Please bring your own cordless drill if possible. We only have a limited supply of drills. Deadline to order materials: April 21st. Or, you may just simply listen to the discussion and observe the building of the houses. Class limit: 15

Saturday, May 5, 2018 10 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

Montrose

Instructor: *Amy Boot, Master*

Gardener

Fee: \$35.00 each house

Learn Your Frog Calls



Instructor: Kristi Sullivan,
Edward L. Rose Conservancy

When: *Sunday, June 3rd, 7:30 - 9 p.m.*

Location: Greenwood Sanctuary, Dimock, PA

There are seven kinds of frogs in our area and they all have very distinctive calls (hint: none of them says "ribbit" or "croak"). Join us for a brief indoor presentation where you will learn about the different frog species and how to identify them by their calls. Then we will go for a hike outdoors and see, then hear, some of those frogs.

The class takes place at the Edward L. Rose Conservancy's beautiful Greenwood Sanctuary near Dimock. You will also learn how you can help scientists document the presence of frogs in the area.

To register for this class visit: Montrose Adult School www.montroseadultschool.org

WILD THINGS IN YOUR WOODLANDS

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)



The northern saw-whet owl is the smallest owl in the eastern US. Saw-whets tip the scales around only 3 ounces (ranging from 2.3-5.3 ounces), and typically reach about 8 inches in length. They are mottled brown and have a white breast with cinnamon and reddish brown streaks. Their striking yellow eyes peer out from a whitish facial disk, and dainty white streaks radiate around the face. Unlike eastern screech owls, saw-whets have big rounded heads with no ear tufts. Their faces have a cat-like quality, and the V-shaped white patch above the eyes gives them a glowering look. Juveniles are dark brown with a creamy, yellowish breast and belly. Males and females have similar plumages, but females are about 25% larger than males.

Despite being one of the most common owls of northern US forests, the northern saw-whet owl is seldom seen. They are highly nocturnal, hunting from dawn to dusk and then roosting in the thick cover of conifers during the day, avoiding predators and birders alike. You may be more familiar with their piercing "too-too-too" calls that ring through the forest January through May as eager males try to attract mates and mark their breeding territories. These calls are repeated many times, sometimes for hours. It's one of their calls that gave rise to their name, because settlers likened the sound to a whetting stone sharpening a saw. If you're really keen on spotting a saw-whet, look for them under the dense cover of small conifers. They're usually roosting relatively low to the ground, just above eye level (around 3 to 8 feet). Take note of the behavior of small songbirds as well. If they find a roosting saw-whet, songbirds will start mobbing the owl, calling and flying and making a ruckus, and exposing the location of the now irritated owl.

These three ounce balls of fury and feathers prefer mature forests with an open understory for hunting. They are often found in conifer forests, but can inhabit a variety of habitats, from swamps and riverside forests, to coastal scrub and the open shrub habitat of the west. People occasionally find them in urban areas and city parks, especially during migration. They have a fairly large range, living in forests all across the northern US, and in forests of southern Canada, western US and even central Mexico.

Their migration habits are still not well understood, and historically, people thought that saw-whets did not migrate. However, we now know that many saw-whet populations do in fact migrate and will winter in the forests of central and southern US, even crossing Great Lakes and other bodies of water. In the fall of 1999, a fisherman was very surprised to have a Saw-whet land on his fishing vessel, 70 miles from shore in the Atlantic Ocean near Montauk, New York. About once every four years, saw-whets will also move southward in large numbers. That being said, not all saw-whets migrate, and both upstate New York and northern Pennsylvania are home to some permanent resident saw-whets.

Males ring in the breeding season with their “*too-too-too*” calls beginning late January. An interested female will respond with a “*tss!*” call or whistle. The male then flies around her about twenty times before landing before her and presenting her with a token of his affection: a dead mouse. Saw-whet owls are cavity nesters, meaning they nest in previously made holes, often made by northern flickers or pileated woodpeckers in dead snags. They’re usually monogamous during a breeding season, but will find a new mate each year. While the female incubates and broods her four to seven eggs, the male will do all of the hunting. However, when the nestlings are about 18 days old, the female decides she’s had enough and leaves the nest. She may roost elsewhere and continue to hunt for the chicks, or may leave entirely, sometimes starting a new clutch elsewhere. After that it’s up to dad to bring food to the chicks until they are about four to five weeks old.

Don’t be deceived by their adorable appearance; these owls are mighty predators. They mainly prey on mice, particularly deer mice, but will eat other small mammals like shrews, voles, bats, chipmunks, insects, and occasionally birds and other owl species. They hunt by lying in wait on low branches for an unsuspecting mouse, and then swoop down on their prey. Because of their small size, they often have to eat their prey in pieces and store leftovers on a nearby branch. If their remaining food freezes, they can defrost their leftovers by incubating it like an egg! As a small owl, they are preyed upon by larger raptors including great horned owls, long-eared owls, and hawks.

Saw-whets are generally common and widespread, but they are hard to study because they are nocturnal and secretive. There is much we still don’t fully know about their populations, distributions, movements and biology. Most populations are likely declining due to habitat loss of mature forests. These forests are very desirable for logging, but are also important saw-whet roosting habitat. If you own woodlands in their breeding range, you can help by allowing

dead trees to remain and serve as nest cavities. They use nest boxes, so you might consider putting one up to attract a breeding pair (more info and specific nest box instructions can be found at <https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/>). Climate change may also cause habitat shifts affecting the southern range limit of saw-whet owls.

So keep your ears tuned for the sounds of saw-whets at night, and with a combination of luck, persistence and good observation skills, you might be rewarded a glimpse of these special owls.

By Karen Ceballos
New York Master Naturalist Program Assistant
Cornell Department of Natural Resources

YOU CAN HELP!



Do you love wild places, clean water, and a healthy environment? We do too. Help us conserve our local natural resources by making a donation. [Donate here](#)



Planning to Shop on Amazon?

When you shop at Amazon Smile and choose the Edward L. Rose Conservancy as your organization, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of everything you buy to the Conservancy. It may not seem like much, but it can make a big difference! Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2517879> and support us every time you shop!



Our mailing address is:

board@elrose.org

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