

# Conservancy Currents



## Summer 2015

#### Please Join us for the Annual Meeting!

**When:** Saturday, July 25th. Coffee and donuts at 9:00 am; Meeting begins at 9:30

Where: Silver Lake Township Building, John McNamara Drive

Visit with other Conservancy members, get updates on Conservancy activities and important issues in the region and learn about "Bears and Butterflies". Some animal populations are decreasing quickly while others are increasing successfully. This year's program focuses on one of each - the black bear, which is becoming increasingly common and the monarch butterfly, which has become a species of concern. Learn what you can do to provide habitat for the monarch. Find out fun facts about the black bear.

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## Love the land? Conserve it.



The Edward L. Rose Conservancy is dedicated to keeping the green parts of Susquehanna County green for future generations. Landowners who grant conservation easements help us further this goal. Visit our website to read more about easements and how you can be part of our mission, and let us know when you're ready to learn more.



www.elrose.org

(570) 278-9500

## Wild Things in.....The Water!

A Floating Nest Platform Turns into Unexpected Wildlife Oasis

When Conservancy member Tim Matthews built and installed a floating nesting platform in Silver Lake he hoped that ducks or other waterbirds might nest there. Little did he know the elaborate platform, decked out with living shrubs and other plants, would become a mini wildlife refuge! We wanted to share some of the remarkable pictures (captured with a motion-triggered camera attached to the platform) with you. At least six different animals are using the platform and they don't seem to mind sharing!



The floating platform with motion-triggered camera attached





At night, a beaver feeds on lily pads it brought onto the platform; A mallard duck and her ducklings share space with some painted turtles.



A green frog rests in the moist straw; A large northern water snake also regularly visits - look out green frog! Amphibians are a preferred food for the water snake.



A mink visits the platform; Freshwater mussel shells, most likely brought by the mink, are leftover signs of a good dinner. Mink also feed on small fish, amphibians, birds and small mammals like mice, voles and shrews.





A second floated platform was installed this summer; Conservancy board member Anthony Palombaro installs his motion-triggered camera to help with the monitoring effort.

Do you have a wildlife success story you would like to share? Email us at board@elrose.org