

**In this issue:**

[March is Maple Month - Free Syrup](#)

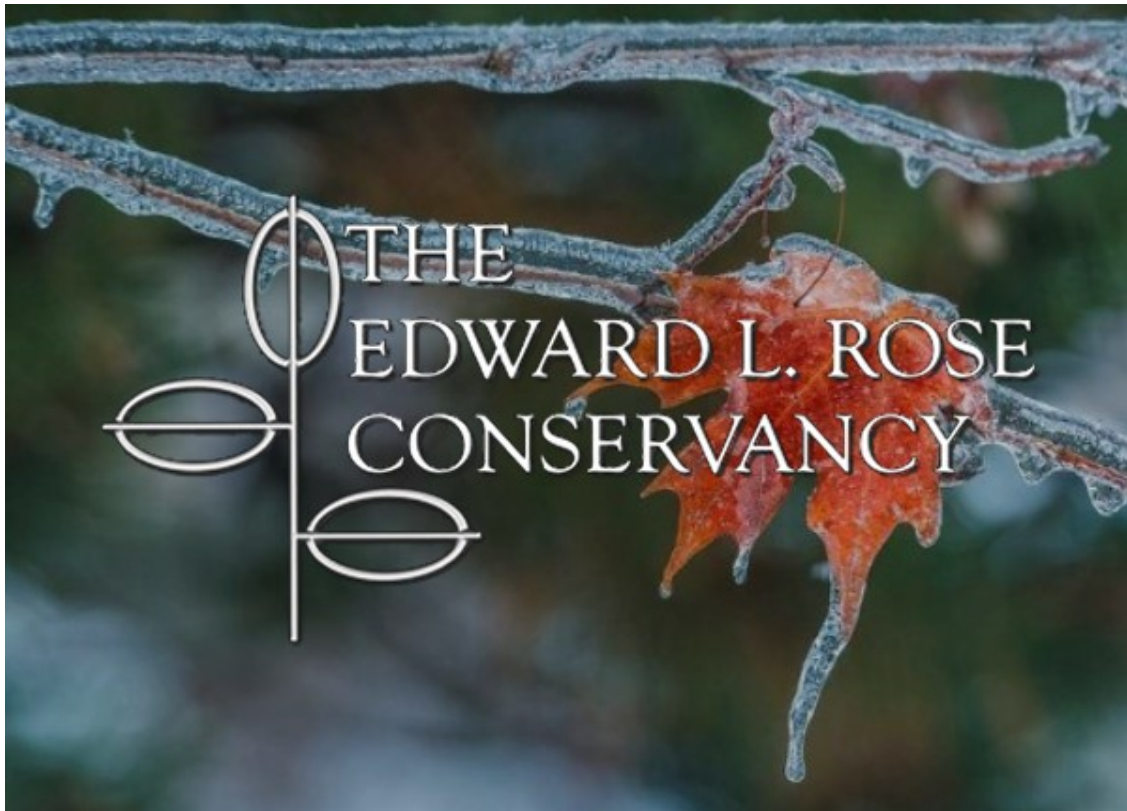
[Protect Your Land - We Can Help](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Wild Things in Your Woodlands](#)

[You Can Make a Difference!](#)

## Conservancy Currents Winter 2017



**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](mailto:board@elrose.org)

---



## CONTACT US - WE'LL HELP YOU PROTECT THE LAND YOU LOVE

Would you like to protect the land you love? Do you have a friend, neighbor or family member looking to protect her/his forests, wetlands, streams and open habitats for their children and grandchildren to enjoy? We are working in **northeast Pennsylvania and the southern tier of New York** to help landowners like you safeguard the land you love from future development.

A conservation easement is one popular tool land trusts use to help farmers, woodland owners and others voluntarily protect their lands. An easement protects a property from future development but can allow other activities, like farming and sustainable forestry, to continue. In addition to the satisfaction you feel knowing your land is protected, donating an easement also has potential income, property and estate tax advantages.

If you are interested in exploring whether a conservation easement is a good option for you, we would be glad to meet with you sometime at your convenience. Just email us at [board@elrose.org](mailto:board@elrose.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS



## High Point Preserve Hike and Trail Clean-Up

**Saturday, April 22 at 9 a.m.**

*High Point Preserve, Silver Lake, Brackney, Pa*

**Contact:** Keith Oberg for more information at

*keith@professionalhome.com*

**Fee:** Free

Head outdoors for a chance to walk the trails at High Point Preserve and enjoy time with other members. Meet at the butterfly garden/field and help clear the trails for the upcoming hiking season. Bring work gloves.



## Earth Fest at SUNY Broome - Earth Day!

**Sunday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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

**Fee:** \$1.00/person

Join us at Broome County Community College's Earth Fest where we will be showcasing live amphibians and highlighting the Conservancy's role in helping landowners conserve the land they 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.



## **Cultivating Mushrooms in Your Woods**

***Saturday, June 3 from 1 to 3 p.m.***

*Greenwood Sanctuary, Dimock, Pa*

***Instructors:*** *Dr. Ken Mudge and Dr. Steve Morreale, Cornell University in partnership with the E. L. Rose Conservancy*

**Fee:** \$5.00 plus \$15.00 for materials

Would you like to learn more about growing your own mushrooms? Join us for an afternoon presentation on successful cultivation of shiitake and oyster mushrooms for home or small-farm scale production. Learn the proper tree species and techniques for cultivation. Students will get to inoculate their own log to take home.

**Register:** Montrose Adult

School [www.montroseadultschool.org](http://www.montroseadultschool.org)



## **Amphibian and Reptile Survey and Walk**

***Saturday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.***

*Salt Springs State Park, Pa*

***Instructor:*** *Tim Matthews, Conservancy member, Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey volunteer*

*The E. L. Rose Conservancy in partnership with Salt Springs State Park*

**Fee:** \$5.00/person

Learn about amphibians and reptiles and how to find them in their natural habitats. After lunch you'll hit the trails to conduct a field survey. Bring lunch, water, notebook, and camera. Meet at the Wheaton House.

## **WILD THINGS IN YOUR WOODLANDS**

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*)



“Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all?” This is the familiar call of the barred owl defending its territory or attracting a mate. If you live in or near a heavily wooded area with mature forest, particularly if there is also a stream or other body of water nearby, this sound is probably familiar. Barred owls are the most vocal of our owls, and most often call early at night and at dawn. They call year-round, but courtship activities begin in February and breeding takes place primarily in March and April. Nesting in cavities or abandoned hawk, squirrel, or crow nests, the female sits on a nest of 1-5 eggs for 28 to 33 days. During this time, the male brings food to his mate. Once the eggs have hatched, both parents care for the fledglings for at least 4 months. Barred owls mate for life, reuse their nest site for many years, and maintain territories from 200 – 400 acres in size.

Barred owls are strongly territorial and remain in their territories for most, if not all, of the year. However, in times when food is scarce, these birds wander in search of prey. Barred owls are opportunistic predators, eating small mammals and rabbits, birds up to the size of grouse, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates, including crayfish. They sit and wait on an elevated perch, scanning the area for prey, then swoop down silently and grasp their prey in their talons. An owl’s stomach absorbs the nutritious parts of its prey and regurgitates the indigestible matter (hair, feathers, bones, claws, insect chitin) as round pellets about seven hours later. These owl “pellets” can be found on the ground under roosts, and dissecting these pellets is a fun way to learn about an owl’s diet.

Barred owls prefer large, unfragmented blocks of forest. They are most often associated with mature and old growth forests of mixed hardwoods and conifers due to a greater availability of potential nest sites. In addition, mature forests have a lower density of branches in the lower levels of the forest, which may make hunting easier. A closed tree

canopy also provides protection from the elements and from mobbing by other birds.

If you are a landowner hoping to encourage or maintain barred owls on your property, characteristics to pay close attention to are the size (number of acres) of forest, the age or maturity of the forest, and the number of large diameter snags or cavity trees available for nesting. Barred owls are seldom present in areas with tens of acres of forest, but are common in forests that are hundreds or thousands of acres in size. Therefore, if you live in a region with small patches of forest, it is unlikely that you will be able to attract barred owls to your land. However, in heavily forested regions, you can encourage barred owls by maintaining mature forest stands with two or more trees per acre 20 inches in diameter or larger to allow for the development of cavity trees or snags (dead trees) suitable for nesting. You may also help create a snag or two by girdling a couple of large, live trees. Leaving dead wood on the ground can also enhance habitat by providing cover for amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals that in turn provide food for barred owls. By focusing on just a few habitat elements, you can continue to enjoy the characteristic sounds of the big woods. To hear the call of the barred owl, visit

[http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Barred\\_Owl.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Barred_Owl.html)

*by Kristi L. Sullivan, Wildlife Biologist, Cornell Dept. 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](mailto:board@elrose.org)

Don't want to learn about exciting upcoming events and opportunities with the Conservancy?

[Unsubscribe from this list here](#)

---

This email was sent to [kls20@cornell.edu](mailto:kls20@cornell.edu)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Edward L Rose Conservancy · P. O. Box 8 · Montrose, PA 18801 · USA

The MailChimp logo, featuring the word "MailChimp" in a white, cursive script font, set against a dark grey rounded rectangular background.