

In this issue:

[Conservancy Annual Meeting](#)

[Estate Planning - Leaving the Gift of a Legacy](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Wild Things in Your Woodlands](#)

[You Can Make a Difference!](#)

Conservancy Currents

Summer 2018



CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 28th, 9:00 am to Noon

Join us at Old O'Connor Hall at Binghamton University for a brief update on Conservancy activities and issues of importance to you, plus live raptors from the Cornell Raptor Program, and a guided hike of the Binghamton University Nature Preserve.

See a red-tailed hawk, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, snowy owl, and a golden eagle!!!!



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





Scales & Tails - Nature Day Camp at Greenwood Sanctuary

Children and teens have the opportunity to make lasting memories and amazing discoveries outdoors. Join us for a fun-filled week of discovering the wonders of nature through games, role-playing, stories, art and craft projects, journal writing, meet live education animals, hands-on activities, picnics, and hikes through forests and along streams.

Instructor: Endless Mountains Nature Center Staff

When: August 13-17

Location: *Greenwood Sanctuary, Dimock, PA*

Discover which wild animals have scales and the many types of tails found in nature. Edward L. Rose Conservancy's Greenwood Sanctuary is home to many creatures with tails. How do scales and tails help animals? Campers will make their own tail. Listen to the story about rabbit's tail. A local fisherman and his wife will be teaching fishing basics at the pond.

Register: <http://endlessnature.org/nature-day-camp/>

Fee: Only \$40 for the whole week

WILD THINGS IN YOUR WOODLANDS

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)



The scarlet tanager is a medium-sized songbird, about 7 inches in size. Strikingly beautiful, the male tanager is a brilliant scarlet red with solid black wings and tail. In contrast, the female tanager is olive green on the back, with a yellow underside and dark brown or black wings

As warmer weather arrives and the trees begin to leaf out, many songbirds make their annual trek to the northeast to nest and raise their young. Having spent the winter in montane evergreen forests from Panama to northwestern South America, the tanager seeks out mature deciduous and mixed forests upon its return. The male tanager arrives first to set up territory.

This beautiful bird occurs throughout Pennsylvania and New York State, especially in large forested areas. However, because tanagers spend most of their time high in the forest canopy, they can be difficult to pick out, despite the male's vividly colored plumage. A tell-tale sign of the tanager's presence is its hoarse, robin-like song and a characteristic call of "chip-bang", emanating from high in the treetops.

Tanagers usually nest in deciduous trees, building a shallow cup of twigs, grass, bark, and rootlets about 20 to 30 feet above ground. They construct the nest on a horizontal limb, about halfway out from the trunk of the tree, and usually at the junction of two or more smaller branches. The tanager lays 1-6 eggs (usually 4) that are greenish blue in color with fine reddish specks. Eggs are incubated for 13-14 days prior to hatching. After hatching, the male helps to feed the young. To find enough food and successfully raise a brood of young, a pair of tanagers needs at least four wooded acres, with eight being optimum. The tanager forages mostly by gleaning or hawking flying insects. When a bird is gleaning, it catches insects and other [invertebrates](#) by plucking them from within foliage, or sometimes from the ground. In contrast, a bird that is hawking will watch for prey from a suitable perch. When it spies potential prey, the bird will chase it and catch it in its [beak](#), then return to the perch. In addition to invertebrates, the tanager also eats buds and fruits.

Hawks and owls prey upon adult tanagers. Squirrels, crows, and blue jays will raid tanager nests, feeding on the eggs and young. Brown-headed cowbirds parasitize more than half of all tanager nests in some areas, particularly where development has broken large forests into many smaller pieces. Cowbirds are brood parasites that lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. When parasitism occurs, the adult host birds often raise the larger, more demanding cowbird young at the expense of their own.

The best way to provide habitat for the scarlet tanager is to maintain large, contiguous areas of forest habitat, and encourage wooded connections between smaller patches of forest. Encourage a healthy forest canopy with small gaps, allowing the sun to reach the forest floor, and promoting understory growth. This will create a forest with many layers of vegetation at different heights, which in turn provides feeding and nesting sites and abundant food. Retain a variety of tree species and encourage individual tree health to help create a healthy, resilient forest and benefit the scarlet tanager as well as other wildlife.

To hear the call of the scarlet tanager, visit

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/scarlet_tanager/id

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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](#)

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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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