THE
EDWARD L. ROSE CONSERVANC

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Reminder of Why We Exist

The mission statement of the Edward L. Rose Con
preserve natural resources through land acquisitio

conservation, wildlife sanctuary and refuge, and pr
beauty."

To that end we have worked diligently to protect la
donations of conservation easements on private la
outright donations of land. Through the easements
we own, we have permanently protected hundreds
northeast Pennsylvania and are now working to pr
Southern Tier of New York, as well.

We currently hold seven conservation easements,
than 434 acres of land in Susquehanna County. We accepted our first easement in 2004 and our most

The Conservancy acquired its first conservation easement in Broome County in the last year, and is pre
acquire three more. All of these easements represent the care and concern of individual landowners ar
determination to see their land protected. These lands remain in private ownership but are forever pres
of the environment on which we all depend.

The Conservancy currently owns three properties outright, totaling 471 acres. They are:

1. High Point Preserve, a 291-acre wooded preserve that borders Silver Lake in Silver Lake To
Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. The property has multiple hiking trails for members to enjo

1. Greenwood Sanctuary is a 128-acre parcel near Dimock, Pennsylvania, and consists of divers
wetlands, open fields, and woodland. Hiking trails wind through a beautiful hemlock grove, throu
around the pond.

1. Our third property surrounds Longford Lake in Silver Lake Township, Pennsylvania. This 52-ac
as a wooded buffer surrounding the developed residential portion around the lake. The property
lake developers to ensure that there would be permanent open space for the enjoyment of the la

We continue to work to fulfill the Conservancy mission through the acquisition of conservation easemen
protected land and welcome inquiries from prospective donors.
-
--- Keith Oberg

Shopping at Amazon Smile Helps the E.L. Rose Conservancy

Black Friday is Coming!! November 27.

This is a great opportunity to help the Edward L Rose Conservancy.

You can make an impact while you shop for Black Friday deals.

If you shop online at Amazon, simply access the site HERE and AmazonSmile will donate to Edward L Inc, at no cost to you.

Click on the AmazonSmile tab found on the horizontal banner near the top of the webpage to make sur Conservancy is the active charity assigned to your purchases.

And Thank You!!

Update on Our Eagle's Nest Project

For those who were wondering what has become of the platform we installed for an eagle (or other raptor) family to discover, here is an update.

We are at Year Three in the Raptor Nest project. We anticipated having to be patient and wait possibly five years or more for a raptor to adopt the nest platform as a breeding site.

This fall of 2020, we were pleasantly surprised to get pictures and video of a mature bald eagle pair repeatedly visiting the nest. Initially, the pair explored the architecture, landing, and branches of the nest.

In the last couple visits, the eagle pair were seen bringing their own sticks. It appeared they had decide Then…the visits stopped. We are not sure whether the eagles were scared off, or if they just moved on

This is the time of year when eagles do their nest selection and maintenance in anticipation of mating b laying eggs in February. We will keep a watch for more activity and will be patient.

When an eagle pair does stake a nest claim, they often will return to that same nest for many years. Th hope for this Conservancy project.

If an eagle, or other raptor, pair choose to breed at the nest, we will set up a live video webcam that will observation of the nest activity by members of the Conservancy.

--- Tim Mathews

Important New Legislation

In case you missed it...

In a rare bi-partisan effort, Congress passed the Great American Outdoors Act this past July (310 to 107 in the House; 73 to 25 in the Senate), which included fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Offshore fossil fuel drilling operations will capitalize this fund to protect natural habitats on public lands, but institutions like the E.L. Rose Conservancy remain critical players in preserving open spaces that are privately owned.

Conservation easements are key tools that we use to ensure such preservation, but there is an economic disincentive that property owners wrestle with when considering such a move. In general, easements may reduce the value of the property because it limits the development options future owne

Congress addressed tax incentives for private land conservation for the first time with the Tax Reform A Subsequent legislation (most recently in 2015) over the years has encouraged more Americans to cons easements by reducing the economic burden such a decision causes. As a result, more than 50 million subject to conservation easements nationwide.

If you are considering an easement on your property you should ask a qualified appraiser to assess the donation. The IRS will scrutinize these assessments so they must be produced by professionals who ar out of line with what is usual and customary in your neighborhood.

One notorious example in the news recently involves an easement on 150 acres of Donald Trump's wo Westchester. He claimed a tax credit of $21.1 million based upon an appraisal more than twice what thr thought reasonable. That tax credit is now under IRS review.

A useful primer on the tax incentive landscape for easement grants can be found here

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

Fisher

As furbearers, fishers have long been a highly valu trappers for their pelts. Because they are easily tra susceptible to overharvest, which has had a lasting geographic range. Fishers were extirpated from Pe result of deforestation and habitat loss during color Pennsylvania's fisher population today is the result expansion from adjacent states and from reintrodu here. Most notably, in the mid-1990s biologists reir sites in Pennsylvania. Since then, fishers have con their populations and have become well establishe southwestern, central and northern regions of the s also extirpated from large portions of New York, ex Adirondacks in the northern part of the state. This a core of the species' New York range until the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation began a in the mid-1970's. Since then, fishers have continued to expand their populations across central and we additional help from the reintroduced fisher population in northern Pennsylvania.

> The fisher (Pekania [Martes] Pennanti) is a medium-sized mammal with short legs, small ears, a about 1/3 of its body length. Their fur color can range from dark brown to almost black, and t irregularly shaped 'blazes' on their belly. Fishers range from 30-47 inches in length and can weig live exclusively in North America with a fairly wide coast-to-coast range in Canada and can be fou of the US as far south as Virginia.

Fishers use deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests, and prefer dense canopy cover and large-di though they are tolerant of landscapes with an open-habitat component, a minimum threshold of fo 40%) is needed to sustain a fisher population, and predominantly forested landscapes host popula stable. Fishers' habitat selection appears to be largely driven by prey availability, uninterrupted overhe the availability of suitable denning sites. These include natural cavities in old trees, hollow logs, cavitie brush piles, and underground burrows. Dens used for birthing young are usually found high above t sections of trees.

Fishers are dietary generalists – they eat a wide variety of small to medium sized mammals and birds, i rabbits, squirrels, mice, and shrews. They are also one of the few animals that eat porcupines and have unique technique – they flip the porcupine on its back to avoid its quills. They will also eat carrion of larg white-tailed deer and rely heavily on both that and hares in the winter. They have to compete for prey w carnivores, such as martens, bobcat, coyote, foxes, and some raptors. Luckily, as omnivores, fishers ca food from a variety of sources of hard and soft mast such as beechnuts, apples, and berries.

With large, wide, five-toed feet and semi-retractable claws, fishers are well adapted for walking on snow and grasping and killing prey. They can rotate their hind feet nearly 180 degrees, which allows them to from trees. They also have large anal scent glands which are used to mark their territories and attract p Fishers operate in a 'home range' territory – female fishers have an average range of 8 mi^2, while male mi^2. Males' territories seldom overlap. Variations in fishers' home range size may result from a variety o including population density, prey availability, habitat quality, and landscape composition. All fishers are during brief periods of their breeding season and are active at any time during the day or night.

Fishers display sexual dimorphism, or difference in appearance between the sexes. Female and juvenil more uniform color, while males can have a blonde or grizzled appearance due to sporting multi-colored around their neck, upper back, and shoulders. Males also weigh more than females (7-13 lbs compared tend to be bigger as well (35-47 in. compared to 30-37 in.). Fishers reach sexual maturity in the first yea most females do not breed until age 2. In fact, implantation of the fertilized egg is delayed until the follo most females actually give birth at age 3. Reproduction peaks in early March, although breeding can oc Fishers usually have litters of 2-3 young, which are born helpless – partially furred with closed eyes and weeks the kits are weaned, and the young fishers strike out on their own by their fifth month after birth. begins, any fishers still in family groups begin to display interfamilial aggression until they move on to so

As forest-dependent carnivores with a high trophic position, fishers can reflect the health of forested eco trophic levels, or prey populations. Because they have a relatively low reproductive capacity in compari common furbearers, fishers occur at naturally low densities.

Although fishers have few natural threats, habitat and community-level changes that may result from cli alter fisher distributions by changing forest composition and structure, prey abundance, fire frequency, c stress, insect and disease occurrence, snowpack, and competitive interactions with other carnivores. De protected lands are an important resource for fisher habitat. Leaving brush piles and standing dead woo also increase the number of available denning sites for fishers. Your stewardship helps these amazing t continue to enjoy being wild things in your woodlands!

--- Maggie Lin

Maggie Lin is a Program Assistant for the New York State Master Naturalist Program, directed by Kristi University's Department of Natural Resources. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, and th Naturalist Volunteer Program, can be found at https://blogs.cornell.edu/nymasternaturalist/

Portions of this article were adapted from NYDEC's "New York State Fisher Management Plan"(2015) Emily Brouwer