



THE EDWARD L. ROSE CONSERVANCY



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Wild Things in Your Woodlands

If you happened to catch the March 17, 2023 issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention), your reaction might have been:

*Just when I thought it might be safe to go outside, here comes **babesia** (a malaria-like protozoan), yet another emerging threat that is being stimulated by global warming.*

The threat goes by the name *babesiosis* (B. microti) and is transmitted by our old friend, the deer tick, already notorious as a Lyme disease carrier. It is still early days for this threat, fewer than 3,000 cases have been reported in the entire U.S. to date, but babesia is growing in unpopularity, yet another parasite that seeks to piggyback on mice and other rodents. When the deer tick feeds on those hosts, the parasite can be acquired. Then it can be passed to us via a tick bite.

Babesiosis first reared its ugly head on Nantucket more than 50 years ago and has slowly spread to many northern states. As our climate has gotten warmer and wetter, the parasite has migrated further north and is now deemed to be endemic in New York (Pennsylvania does not yet enjoy that dubious designation, having only a few reported cases to date).

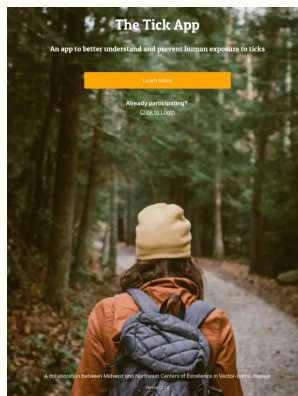


Blacklegged (deer) ticks spread babesiosis in the U.S.

Check out this free Tick App
<https://tickapp.us/>

From an Ithaca user:

"I learned a lot about identifying ticks [I also learned about] the removal process, and the protecting [of] the yard. That was a new thing for me. Realizing that you can actually protect yourself, environmentally, and in a lot of ways we hadn't even thought about before."



After receiving babesiosis, some folks can remain asymptomatic, but others may experience fever, muscle and joint pain, headache, or, if you are immunocompromised or just plain unlucky, thrombocytopenia, renal failure, and acute respiratory distress syndrome. Treatment is generally a course of antimicrobial medications, such as azithromycin and atovaquone.

As is the case with Lyme, the CDC recommends that if you spend time outdoors in places where babesiosis is prevalent, you should wear long pants, avoid underbrush and long grass, and use tick repellents.

As Sergeant Phil Esterhaus used to caution his patrolmen at the end of his daily guidance to the officers on the TV series *Hill Street Blues*, “Be careful out there.”

New Gordon Easement



The Conservancy recently reached a milestone! With the completion of the Gordon easement on a beautiful 28.5-acre property in Harford Township, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, we are now protecting over 800 acres of land through conservation easements! This new easement protects mature, northern hardwood forest, a seasonal woodland pool, and a beautiful wetland complex. The wetland includes open water, ephemeral, scrub/shrub, and forested components.

Protection of this property secures habitat for wildlife and provides water quality benefits to the local watershed as well as the greater Upper Susquehanna River Basin.

In addition to the land we protect through easements, the Conservancy owns and protects an additional 460 acres, bringing the total acres protected to over 1,200! If you, or someone you know, would like to protect your land for future generations, we would love to help you.

Please contact Kristi Sullivan, Conservation Specialist at elrosepublic@gmail.com for more information.

Greenwood Sanctuary Outhouse is Revealed



Thanks to the efforts of Board members Keith Oberg, Scott Heckman, and Tom Stoll, the lost-but-not-forgotten privy on our Greenwood property was brought back to life.

Previously blocked by fallen trees, including one on top of the structure, Keith organized a cleanup event that opened up access to the outhouse, cut weeds around the barn, cleared a trail, located a couple of other overgrown trails, and checked out the generator at the barn. It was a productive day.

Meet Our New Treasurer



Tom Stoll has been elected Treasurer of the E. L. Rose Conservancy for the new fiscal year. He joined the Board of Directors in February and has been busy getting up to speed on fiscal matters and learning about the various Conservancy properties. Over the years, Tom has been Treasurer of several non-profit organizations and is looking forward to putting that experience to work here.

Tom and his wife Jayne moved from New Jersey to Choconut Township, Susquehanna County, thirteen years ago to be closer to their daughter and her family in Clinton, NY. After Tom retired from a career in information technology in the insurance industry, he looked around for volunteer opportunities and found a home with the Friends of Salt Springs Park. He served on their Board of Directors for six years, filling the office of President for five of those. He enjoyed many challenges there, especially helping the park recover from a devastating flood in 2018.

While with the Friends, Tom met Keith Oberg who introduced him to the E. L. Rose Conservancy. Tom was impressed with the group's mission and found it to be a good fit with his interests and experience. The Board suggested he apply for membership and he was subsequently invited to join.

When not busy mowing trails at Salt Springs Park or clearing downed trees on Conservancy properties, Tom enjoys working around the house, reading, and visiting national parks across the country. He is looking forward to meeting members of the Conservancy and helping it to continue to be a strong force in land preservation.