

Edward L Rose Conservancy



Conservancy Currents

Winter/spring Edition



Cope Pond boathouse-Woodbourne Forest Preserve

The Edward L. Rose Conservancy Acquires the Woodbourne Preserve

In January of this year, the Edward L. Rose Conservancy acquired the Woodbourne Forest Preserve, a 630 acre property located on Rt 29 in Dimock, about a mile north of the village center. The Preserve is open to the public with a well-marked parking area and includes old growth forest, transitional fields, a large pond and a beautiful wetland with a viewing platform for birders. With its diverse environment and over six miles of maintained trails, it is a hiker's and naturalist's delight. We will be managing the property with help from a committed volunteer stewardship committee, headed by naturalist Joyce Stone, that has been involved in the operations of the Preserve since its inception. This committee of local citizens will assist in maintaining the Preserve and its trails, and implementing environmental education programs for local schools, scout troops, surrounding community groups and other visitors.

The Nature Conservancy became the owner of the Woodbourne Preserve in 1956 when it was donated to the Conservancy by the Cope family with the stipulation that it be maintained as a preserve in perpetuity. It was the first property acquired by The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania. The Nature Conservancy is now focusing its efforts on larger contiguous plots of land and was interested in handing over ownership to a qualified local Conservancy with a proven track record of successful land preservation. With this acquisition the E. L. Rose Conservancy now owns four properties in Pennsylvania totaling over 1,100 acres and holds 13 conservation easements in NY and Pennsylvania totaling another 1,050 acres.

If you are not already familiar with the Woodbourne Forest Preserve, it's a great place to immerse yourself in nature and do a bit of exploring. A trail map can be found at our website, elrose.org.

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Welcome Bill Fischer to the board



Bill (Bunker) Fischer is the newest member of the E.L. Rose Conservancy board. He is a Binghamton native who spent childhood summers at Silver Lake, devoting those endless days to catching newts and crayfish, playing in the haylofts of the old Everitt barn and exploring the woods that are now High Point Preserve. Bill and his wife Debbie raised four children in Vestal, then moved back to Silver Lake, where they were successful in petitioning the PADEP to elevate the twenty-six square miles of the Silver Creek Watershed to Exceptional

Value status, thus discouraging further gas development within that zone. Drawing on a nearly fifty-year career in civil and criminal investigations, Bill also acted as an intervenor before the PADEP in opposing Laser pipeline's intent to place a compression station within the Silver Creek watershed.

Passing of Conservancy Founder Patty Bloomer



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Patty Bloomer, Vice-President of the Edward L. Rose Conservancy. Patty was a principal founder and an active and passionate supporter of the Conservancy. Patty provided her strong will and determination for the benefit of Conservancy and our local environment.

The Conservancy was founded in 1987 by Patty and others in an effort to save the 375 acre undeveloped remnants of the original 100,000 acre land patent given to Dr. Robert Rose in the early 1800's. The land, bordering Silver Lake, was being sold by the descendent

Edward L. Rose, with major residential and commercial development a likely outcome. The successful fundraising and resulting purchase of that land, now the Highpoint Preserve, became the impetus for the present mission of the Conservancy. Under Patty's guidance the Conservancy has become a strong and successful advocate for the preservation of the natural environment in the southern tier of New York and northeast Pennsylvania.

In addition to the Conservancy, her passions included Trinity Church, where she was a Eucharistic minister, lectern and the first female Senior Warden, and Binghamton University, where she was a BU Foundation board member. She was also a former member of The Decker School of Nursing board, former President of the BU Athletics Committee (now BBAA), cofounder of the Women's Athletics Luncheon annual

fundraiser, and proud advocate of women's rights, equity and education. There were numerous other board posts, philanthropic endeavors and committees that she undertook over some 70+ years.

Patty will be greatly missed by the leadership of the Edward L. Rose Conservancy and the Silver Lake community, but her legacy will endure.

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The Conservancy's New Administrator



With this issue we welcome Debra Adleman, our new office administrator. Our previous part-time administrator, Marilyn Morgan, retired last year due to advancing age and poor health. She ably handled the office chores, including taking calls, making database entries, sending out our mailings, document filing and much more for over a decade. We wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

Debra comes to us with a strong background in administration, handling the full-time office duties for the Friends of Salt Springs Park, of which she was a founding member. Working for the Conservancy will represent a partial retirement for Debra. Her new position may be part-time, but the job is essential to the

success of the Conservancy.

Debra moved to Susquehanna County in the mid-1980s, and her respect and appreciation for the region has only deepened. She has spent the intervening 40 years exploring and learning about Northeastern Pennsylvania's rich history, both natural and human. She has volunteered and worked for organizations dedicated to these subjects, including the Susquehanna County Historical Society, where she also researched, wrote, and published *Waiting for the Lord: Nineteenth Century Black Communities in Susquehanna County*.

Debra is pleased to make the transition to a similar relationship with another nonprofit dedicated to respecting, appreciating, and protecting the land, the Edward L. Rose Conservancy. She can think of no better last chapter for her working life than to support its vital mission.

Debra, her husband Bill Chance, and their little dog Millie spend their time outdoors as much as possible gardening, planning gardens, and tending gardens.

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From the Editor:

Hello fellow Conservancy friends and members. I am delighted to have been asked to serve on the board of an organization whose mission is “to protect natural resources through land and water conservation, provide sanctuary for wildlife, and preserve scenic beauty”. As an all volunteer board, members get additional assignments. Mine is to become the new editor of the Conservancy newsletter.

So, let’s jump in. Several relevant topics have come to my attention that are worth sharing.

Global warming? Early spring certainly. On the 9th of March during a bicycle ride along the Erie Canal, I saw clusters of turtles sunning themselves on the logs in 68-degree weather. Further on, peepers were croaking in the shallow surface ponds of winter meltwater.

On March 5th, a webinar with Dan Egan. He is a journalist in residence at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s School of Freshwater Sciences and author of *The Devil’s Element*. The book is a great read. It chronicles our human use and misuse of phosphorus, an element and nutrient essential to all living creatures. With an easy prose style that is interesting and non-technical he explains the connection between using soaps and fertilizer and toxic algal blooms in freshwater lakes. The story is a fascinating history of the British crushing bones scavenged from battlefields to provide nutrients for depleted English farm fields, Alexander von Humbolt’s discovering mountains of seabird guano on Peruvian desert islands for fertilizer, and Proctor & Gamble selling so much phosphorus containing Tide to whiten shirts that it turned Lake Erie green!

Also notable is a new study by Stephen Jane, a post-doctoral fellow at Cornell’s Atkinson Center for Sustainability of how “lake browning” affects Adirondak brook trout populations. The study predicts that 95% of Adirondack lakes will become oxygen depleted by acid rain creating a weak tea by dissolving organic matter on forest floors. [Lakes in the Adirondacks are getting browner. Here’s why that’s bad. - newyorkupstate.com](http://newyorkupstate.com)

Lastly, the “frackers” in New York are at it again more than ten years after their last defeat. This time there is a proposal for using CO₂ instead of water to get around current regulations. We’ll be keeping an eye on that one.

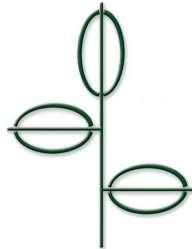
So, let's start with a conversation, a two-way communication. That means I'd like to hear back from you on what you would like to see in the newsletter at bunker-fischer@outlook.com.

Bill Fischer

Upcoming Events

Conservancy Annual Meeting-July 27 Williams Pavilion at Salt Springs Park

More at ELROSE.ORG



The Edward L. Rose Conservancy
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