

# Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

2016  
Protecting, Connecting  
& Restoring Wildlands

## Big Gains on Pine Mountain



View from The Narrows Preserve

KNLT's conservation successes have continued through 2016 with major additions to the Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor, the 125-mile mountain running from Tennessee through eastern Kentucky to Virginia. Over the last 18 months nearly 4,000 acres of forests in Bell and Harlan counties have been added to the wildlands corridor through the work of KNLT and the support of many donors and partners.

In March we protected 2,050 acres creating The Narrows Preserve near Pineville in Bell County. The new preserve protects important habitat and is a key link in the Great Eastern Trail (GET), the 1,800-mile hiking trail from New York to Alabama. GET will turn south on this preserve



Blackburnian warbler

toward Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Another 651 acres were protected in August between Pineville and Harlan. This land contains a series of unique rock outcrops, mature forest, rare plants and is an important link in the GET. &

## National & Regional Recognition



Foggy Pine Mountain forest



In the spring of 2016, KNLT became an accredited land trust – a mark of honor in land conservation. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded accreditation, signifying its confidence that KNLT lands will be protected forever. This fall KNLT was recognized for its public-private partnership when presented the

2016 Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary's Award. The award was a recognition of KNLT's land conservation efforts and our innovative partnerships. Through partnerships with government agencies, nonprofits, corporations and private individuals KNLT has helped protect tens of thousands of acres of wildlands throughout Kentucky.



2016 also marked the recognition of KNLT's efforts at Blanton Forest, our first conservation project. In May, Blanton became the first forest in Kentucky to be added to the Old-Growth Forest Network, a growing alliance dedicated to the preservation of unique and beautiful native forests across the U.S. The forest is an important part of the emerging recreation economy of the region. &




## Notable Year for Bat Conservation



Pine Mountain conservation land

The Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (IBCF) continues to protect significant amounts of important bat and forest habitat throughout Kentucky. IBCF was established in 2009 through a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Since its inception, the IBCF has generated more than \$22 million protecting 21,000+ acres and funding critical research projects.

2016 was a notable year for IBCF protection projects with nearly 6,000 acres being protected in 12 different counties throughout the state. Highlights include protection of 651 acres along the south face of Pine Mountain in Bell County, a 390 acre tract adjacent to Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and nearly 2,000 acres between Fort Campbell and Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. 




Indiana bats





Taking in the view from Pine Mountain

 We dedicate our year-end report to KNLT co-founder Don Harker, who died in March. Don was a visionary and lifelong champion for a better planet. In 1995 Don and several close friends formed KNLT. He served on our initial board and was one of the voices that encouraged broadening KNLT's efforts from the protection of Blanton Forest to conservation efforts along the entire 125-mile Pine Mountain ridgeline and beyond. Don had a major impact on KNLT and helped us become what we are today. 

### Kentucky Natural Lands Trust by the numbers:

**22** years  
of saving  
wildlands

**11,000+** acres  
directly purchased  
& protected

**32,000+** acres  
purchased & protected  
with our help

 Our conservation successes are made possible by our broad support base of individuals, board members, longtime major supporters, Christina Lee Brown and Tom Dupree, Sr., and key partners such as the Snowy Owl Foundation and The Forecastle Foundation.

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photo credits:

front: View from The Narrows Preserve ~ Preston Lacy, KNLT \* Blackburnian warbler ~ Laura Gooch (CC)

inside (l): Foggy Pine Mountain forest ~ Thomas G. Barnes

inside (r): Pine Mountain conservation land ~ Marc Evans \* Indiana bats ~ Andrew King, USFWS

back: Taking in the view from Pine Mountain ~ Ben Begley