

Major Acquisitions on Pine Mountain




Line Fork Preserve

¹⁷KNLT had several major acquisitions within the Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor in 2017. Nearly 2,300 acres of forests in three counties have been protected through our work and the support of many donors, foundations and partners.

In May, 354 acres were added to The Narrows Preserve near Pineville in Bell County protecting the endemic Ice Box Cave beetle. In October, nearly 2,000 acres were protected in Harlan and Letcher counties creating three new preserves: Line Fork Preserve, Hurricane Gap Preserve and Kingdom Come Preserve. The preserves are located primarily along the north face of the mountain and protect important terrestrial and



Eastern newt - red eft stage

subterranean habitats for many species including Indiana and northern long-eared bats. These newly protected lands are critical links in the Great Eastern Trail, the 1,800-mile hiking trail planned from New York to Alabama. 

Large Landscape Conservation




Wildlands of Pine Mountain

KNLT has been spearheading large landscape conservation since our earliest days. After successfully protecting Blanton Forest, the largest tract of old-growth in the state, KNLT expanded our efforts statewide. Our major focus for over 20 years has been the Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor, a 125-mile forested ridgeline

running from Tennessee through Kentucky to Virginia. The mountain is within a region that is nationally recognized for its biodiversity and ecological resiliency. Large landscape protection helps ensure resiliency, the ability of ecosystems to persist and adapt in the face of change. This is essential to maintaining ecological function and sustaining the biodiversity that supports life on the planet.



Black-throated blue warbler


Our work is gaining regional and national recognition. We are working with the Land Trust Alliance on developing guidelines to assist land trusts with integrating and implementing large landscape conservation science. Additionally, we are partnering with groups like the Wildlands Network and the Southern Conservation Partners on efforts to protect vast areas of the Central Appalachians. 

A Decade of Bat Conservation



Gray bat

The Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (IBCF) has been funding the protection of important bat and forest habitat throughout Kentucky for a decade. The fund was established in 2008 through a partnership between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office and KNL. Since inception IBCF has protected more than 25,000 acres and funded many critical research projects.

This year has been notable for IBCF protection projects with nearly 4,000 acres protected in seven different counties throughout the state. Highlights include protection of nearly 2,300 acres along Pine Mountain, a 490-acre conservation easement near Mammoth Cave National Park, a 940-acre addition to Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest and a 60-acre addition to Floracliff Nature Sanctuary. 



View of The Narrows Preserve on Pine Mountain



Pine Mountain ridgeline/Great Eastern Trail

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust by the numbers:

23 years
of saving
wildlands

13,000+ acres
directly purchased
& protected

34,000+ 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, Beckham Bird Club, The Forecastle Foundation and Patagonia.

"Wildness reminds us what it means to be human, what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from."

Terry Tempest Williams

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

KNLT.org | (859) 986-0744 | info@KNLT.org

photo credits:

front: Line Fork Preserve ~ Preston Lacy, KNLT * Eastern newt ~ Daniel Martin Moore
inside (l): Wildlands of Pine Mountain ~ James Shambhu * Black-throated blue warbler ~ Mark Peck (CC)
inside (r): Gray bat ~ Price Sewell, Copperhead Consulting * The Narrows Preserve ~ Greg Abernathy, KNLT
back: Pine Mountain ridgeline/Great Eastern Trail ~ Greg Abernathy, KNLT