Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

2018
Protecting, Connecting & Restoring Wildlands

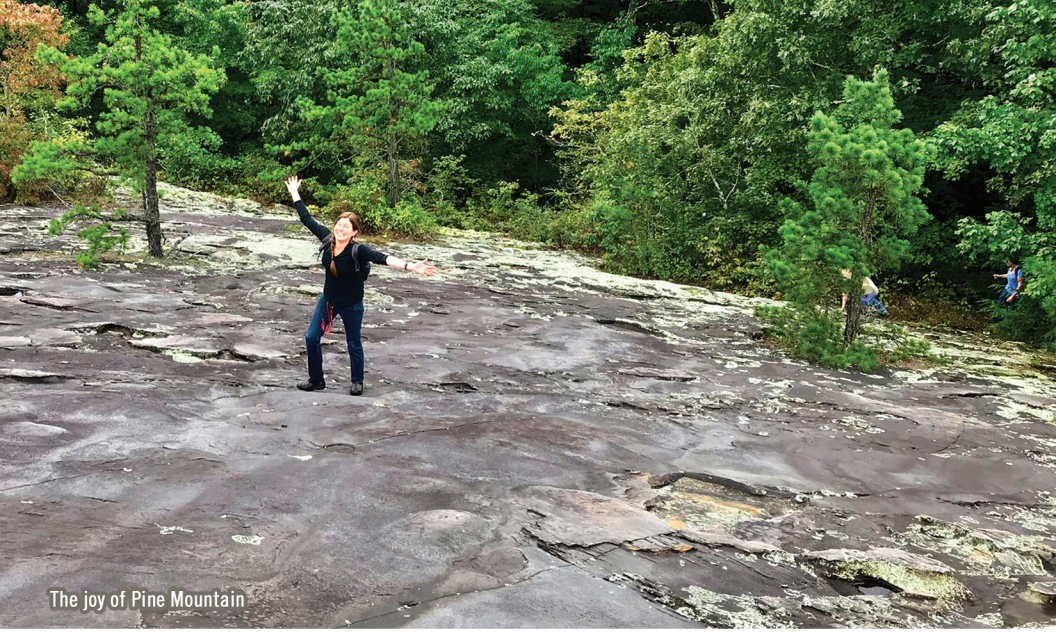
Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor

Pine Mountain - Laden Trail area

KNLT is forging ahead with our Pine Mountain Wildlands project, building on decades of successful conservation. In 2018, we protected several hundred acres of forestland on the north face of the mountain in Harlan County. This is the first of a suite of conservation projects that further connects Pine Mountain Settlement School and Kentenia State Forest, preserving thousands of acres of contiguous forests.

The land protects key forested habitat for endangered Indiana and Northern long-eared bats as well as headwater streams of the Kentucky River Watershed. Additionally, these protected forests are along the proposed route of the Great Eastern Trail, a long-distance hiking trail, and the Laden Trail, one of the most scenic routes over Pine Mountain. Wildlands are an important part of the transitional economy of the region. They offer tourism opportunities and add to the livability of local communities.

Green salamander



The joy of Pine Mountain

We dedicate our year-end report to KNLT co-founder Tom Dupree Sr., who passed away in April. Tom grew up in Harlan County exploring Pine Mountain. He had a deep appreciation for the region and supported our conservation efforts for decades. Few people have contributed so much to conservation in Kentucky as Tom. We are grateful for his belief in, and commitment to, our work. KNLT hopes to honor Tom by carrying on with the efforts to protect wildlands that he helped launch many years ago.

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust by the numbers:

23 years of protecting wildlands

13,500+ acres directly purchased & protected

29,000+ acres purchased & protected with our help

Our conservation successes are made possible by our broad support base of individuals, board members and advisors, longtime major supporters and key partners such as the Snowy Owl Foundation, Beckham Bird Club, The Forecastle Foundation and Patagonia.

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

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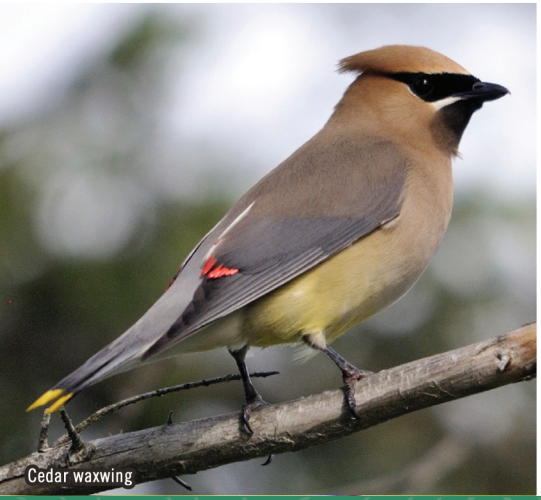
photo credits:
front: Pine Mountain - Laden Trail area ~ Daniel Evans * Green Salamander ~ Price Sewell
inside (l): Great Eastern Trail - Pine Mountain section ~ Scott Hotaling * Cedar waxwing ~ Bill Thompson/USFWS
inside (r): Pine Mountain, Whitley County ~ Marc Evans * Foggy morning ~ Thomas G. Barnes
back: The joy of Pine Mountain ~ Roy Crawford

Natural Climate Solutions

Great Eastern Trail - Pine Mountain section

The latest report by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the international body assessing climate science, documents an even more urgent need for action. The projected rise of global average temperatures will have devastating impacts worldwide. Natural climate solutions that protect intact ecosystems, restore native ecosystems and improved ecosystem management are considered to be some of the most impactful strategies for addressing climate change.



Cedar waxwing

KNLT's work is a national model both for natural climate solutions and large landscape conservation. Our primary focus is to protect, connect and restore the 125-mile forested wildlands corridor along Pine Mountain in southeastern Kentucky. The mountain is a relatively intact large landscape within a geography of globally significant biodiversity. The Central Appalachians are the second most biologically diverse region of the temperate zone, and scientists consider this landscape to be highly-resilient to climate change. The natural systems that support life on the planet depend upon intact resilient landscapes like Pine Mountain.

Conservation Vision

Pine Mountain, Whitley County

KNLT's work is rooted in conservation biology and has been focused on large landscape conservation for decades. Our foundation in science is coupled with a defined geographic focus area (Pine Mountain) and a strong network of conservation partners and supporters. **KNLT has protected over 40,000 acres of wildlands!** Through the power of partnership our vision is becoming a reality!

This fall KNLT was honored with the opportunity to hold a retreat at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund's Pocantico Center in New York. The gathering of KNLT leadership, partners and consultants offered a unique opportunity to review our strategic positioning. KNLT is well positioned for continued success as we forge ahead with protecting biologically diverse and resilient landscapes.

Foggy morning forest on Pine Mountain