



2020
Protecting, Connecting
& Restoring Wildlands



The Narrows of Pine Mountain

¹⁷ Kentucky Natural Lands Trust's innovative large landscape conservation work is guided by big ideas paired with on-the-ground actions. We are driven by science while being community-minded. Our conservation planning and implementation, commitment to protecting biodiverse and climate resilient landscapes, and perseverance have resulted in significant gains in wildlands protection.

This year marks KNL's 25th anniversary and a notable benchmark – we have protected more than 50,000 acres of wildlands! Through the power of partnership we have safeguarded wild places, from the mountains of Central Appalachia to the sloughs of the Mississippi



Black-throated Blue Warbler

River. These wildlands protect biodiversity, enhance regional resilience to climate change and are vital to the economic, cultural and public health of local communities. &



Warbler Ridge Preserve

Thinking Like a Planet

Warbler Ridge Preserve, Pine Mountain

Thanks to the generous support of foundations, individual donors and partners, **KNLT protected 1,368 acres of wildlands** on Pine Mountain establishing the **Warbler Ridge Preserve**. The preserve combines this new tract with land we protected in 2017, creating our largest preserve totaling 2,594 acres. This is one of the most unique conservation projects in our history. The

new preserve protects headwater streams and key forested habitat, safeguarding rare aquatic and terrestrial species.

Warbler Ridge Preserve is adjacent to existing state conservation lands, adding to the overall connectivity of the Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor and securing an important link in the Great Eastern Trail. The land was acquired from the Southeast Education Foundation whose mission is to support the Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College network. The proceeds from KNLT's purchase of the land will be deployed by the foundation for student scholarships and campus investments in Whitesburg, Cumberland, Harlan, Pineville and Middlesboro. 🌿



Blackburnian Warbler

More than 50 years ago Aldo Leopold defined a land ethic with a call to “think like a mountain,” a holistic view of our place in the ecosystem. More recently J. Baird Callicott expanded Leopold’s concept by defining an Earth ethic with a call to “think like a planet,” a broader view of our place and responsibility based on global interconnectedness.

As a founder, former director and staff member of KNLT, **Hugh Archer has fostered a conservation movement** rooted in these ethics. Hugh is one of the most innovative conservation practitioners of our times; through creativity, patience and persistence he has helped advance large landscape conservation across Kentucky.

At the end of 2020, Hugh is retiring, having forever changed Kentucky. We hope you will

consider honoring his legacy by dedicating your year-end gift to Hugh. Your support will help KNLT build on the critical conservation work to which Hugh has committed his career and life. **Cheers to Hugh!** 🌿



Hugh Archer



Great Eastern Trail - Pine Mountain Section

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust by the numbers:

15,500+ acres
directly purchased
& protected

34,500+ acres
purchased & protected
with our help

Our conservation successes are made possible by our broad support base of individuals, board members, advisors, longtime major supporters and key partners. Visit [KNLT.org](https://www.knlt.org) to make your gift today.

*“Together we can help protect
the lands that we love!”*

Maiden Radio

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

[KNLT.org](https://www.knlt.org) | (859) 986-0744 | info@knlt.org

photo credits:

front: The Narrows ~ Greg Abernathy, KNLT * Black-throated blue warbler ~ Dennis Church, CC
inside: Warbler Ridge Preserve ~ Bill Lancaster * Blackburnian warbler ~ Laura Gooch, CC
Hugh Archer ~ Guy Mendes
back: Great Eastern Trail ~ Greg Abernathy, KNLT