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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kentucky Natural Lands Trust Establishes the Arnow Woodland Preserve

KNLT's newest preserve ensures the former homestead of celebrated Kentucky author Harriette Arnow will be forever wild.

Berea, KY Feb. 14, 2026 — Kentucky Natural Lands Trust (KNLT) is proud to announce the establishment of the Arnow Woodland Preserve. The 139 acres are in Pulaski County on the Cumberland Plateau along the South Fork of the Cumberland River. The land is the former homestead of Kentucky author Harriette Arnow and her husband Harold. Their niece, Pat Arnow, donated the old farm to KNLT over the winter to be forever wild. The donated land was one of several projects in late 2025 that brought KNLT to the mountainous milestone of having safeguarded more than 64,000 acres (100 square miles) of wildlands since 1995.

"I promised my family I would find a way to preserve the land as a wilderness. Over the years I've been seeing the work KNLT does right in this area of Kentucky. They earned my respect and trust," said Pat Arnow. **"Our beautiful hilly old farm has been reclaimed by nature. It feels just right to have KNLT keep it that way."**

Harriette is the author of celebrated Appalachian novels including *The Dollmaker* (1954) and histories of the region including *Seedtime on the Cumberland* (1960). The Arnow Woodland Preserve is the setting of Harriette's novel *Hunter's Horn* (1949) which is an American masterpiece. Harriette was inducted into the [Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame](#) in 2013. She grew up in Burnside, Kentucky, in Pulaski County. Harriette and her husband Harold were writers who met working on the Works Progress Administration Writers' Project in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1939, Harriette and Harold purchased the land in Pulaski County that is now the preserve. They intended to be subsistence farmers and write in their spare time. They found farming arduous and precarious. In the run up to World War II they moved to where the jobs were in Detroit. After moving to Michigan, the farm remained uninhabited and over time has grown back into forest. They cherished the land so much they were both buried in the family cemetery that the new preserve surrounds.

Harriette's niece Pat Arnow and her husband Steve Giles have cared for the land since it was passed to Pat from Harold and Harriette's daughter Marcella. KNLT has partnered with Pat since 2011 when now board member Bethany Baxter connected her with us for advice on protecting their family land. Former KNLT Director Hugh Archer and KNLT Operations and Finance Director Donna Alexander assisted Pat in the lengthy process of gaining a National Resource Conservation Service Healthy Forest Reserve easement on the property. This past December Pat donated the land surrounding the family cemetery to KNLT to ensure it will be forever wild.

"We're grateful for Pat and Steve for their partnership and commitment to conservation," said Kentucky Natural Lands Trust Executive Director Greg Abernathy.

About Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

KNLT is a nationally accredited nonprofit working to protect biodiverse and climate resilient landscapes in ways that benefit communities. Through partnerships with individuals, nonprofits, government agencies and businesses, KNLT has safeguarded more than 64,000 acres of wildlands throughout Kentucky and Central Appalachia. For more information on how you can help KNLT protect wildlands, visit KNLT.org.