

Fall 2017

LANDKEEPERS REPORT

FROM YOUR GENERATION TO THE NEXT

Give the kids in this wagon places they can love forever

INSIDE

How you help keep the bales coming

Scientists blitz Great Barrington

Eye to eye with an owl



LANDKEEPERS REPORT Fall 2017

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50 **BERKSHIRE**
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1967-2017 THE LANDKEEPERS



Tad Ames announces fishing derby winners.
Photo by David Edgecomb.

SEE YOU ON THE HIGH ROAD!

We've done so much together—and the best is still ahead

Thanks to all of you who've shared kind words as I prepare to leave BNRC. I am proud of the work I've done here, but I know better than anyone that every victory for the Berkshires rests on the combined gifts of a skilled board of directors, a bright and energetic staff, brilliant advisors, trusted partners, and, always, loyal supporters.

In one way or another—sometimes in two or three or four ways—you have blessed BNRC with each of these irreplaceable assets.

And the things you've accomplished! Here are some of the places we have conserved and opened together in the last 15 years: Alford Springs, Baldwin Hill, Basin

Pond, Bob's Way, The Boulders, the Clam River, Constitution Hill, Hollow Fields, Housatonic Flats, Long Mountain, the Old Mill Trail, Mahanna Cobble, Parsons Marsh, Perry's Peak, Steadman Pond, Thomas & Palmer Brook, Undermountain Farm.

These are your lands. These are your Berkshires. It has been my honor and privilege to help advance the landkeeping cause. Now thanks to you I pass a torch that burns brighter than ever, and I do so with confidence and optimism.

Keep up the good work, and I'll see you on the High Road!

— Tad Ames

Sunsets? Selfies? Share your Berkshire love with #landkeepers

We're on Instagram as [berkshirelandkeepers](#), and would love to see your favorite photos from BNRC properties. Use #landkeepers to tag them.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

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Bola Granola
Dave's Sporting Goods



Teach a kid to fish, and he'll love the woods and waters for a lifetime.
Photo by Gabrielle Murphy.


AT 50, BNRC TOASTS THE FRIENDS WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Want to get the next 50 years off to a great start? Make your mark as a landkeeping volunteer

You're one of the reasons that the Berkshires' forests, farms and trails were in such great shape when BNRC turned 50 in September. Every act and every gift makes an impact. Thank you!

On September 9, over 500 people celebrated BNRC's milestone by joining us for a fun-filled day at historic Holiday Farm in Dalton.

Huge bouquets to the volunteers who did everything from running the fishing derby and teaching archery, to sharing photos and guiding traffic. Participants made the day festive, and volunteers helped make it possible.

If you'd like to make your mark as a hands-on landkeeping volunteer, sign up at www.bnrc.org/volunteer/ or send Mariah an email at mauman@bnrc.org. There are many ways you can make an impact on the Berkshires, and we look forward to working with you! 



Windows to the soul? Tom Ricardi of the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Center in Conway gives you a chance to look nature in the eye with animals like this barred owl. Photo by Gabrielle Murphy.



Volunteer Shannon Madden introduces a young archer to the sport. Photo by Christina Lane.



Holiday Farm is a conservation success story made possible by the Crane family, Mass Wildlife, the Mass APR Program and you. Photo by Christina Lane.

HONORING THE HIGH ROAD FOUNDERS

Vision and generosity team up for the Berkshires' future

Negotiations to announce officially the first town-to-town leg of the High Road draw tantalizingly close to completion. In the meantime, we'd like to salute each of you who has helped turn vision to reality for the Berkshires. Collectively, generous donors pushed the High Road capital campaign past its \$5 million goal last spring. From its beginning in 2014 to its successful conclusion, 533 of you contributed to the campaign. The list of High Road Founders is on our website at www.bnrc.org/the-high-road. Thank you! 🌱



Special Offer:

THE 100% BERKSHIRE GIFT

Get a head start on your holiday shopping and spend Black Friday hiking instead of circling a parking lot.

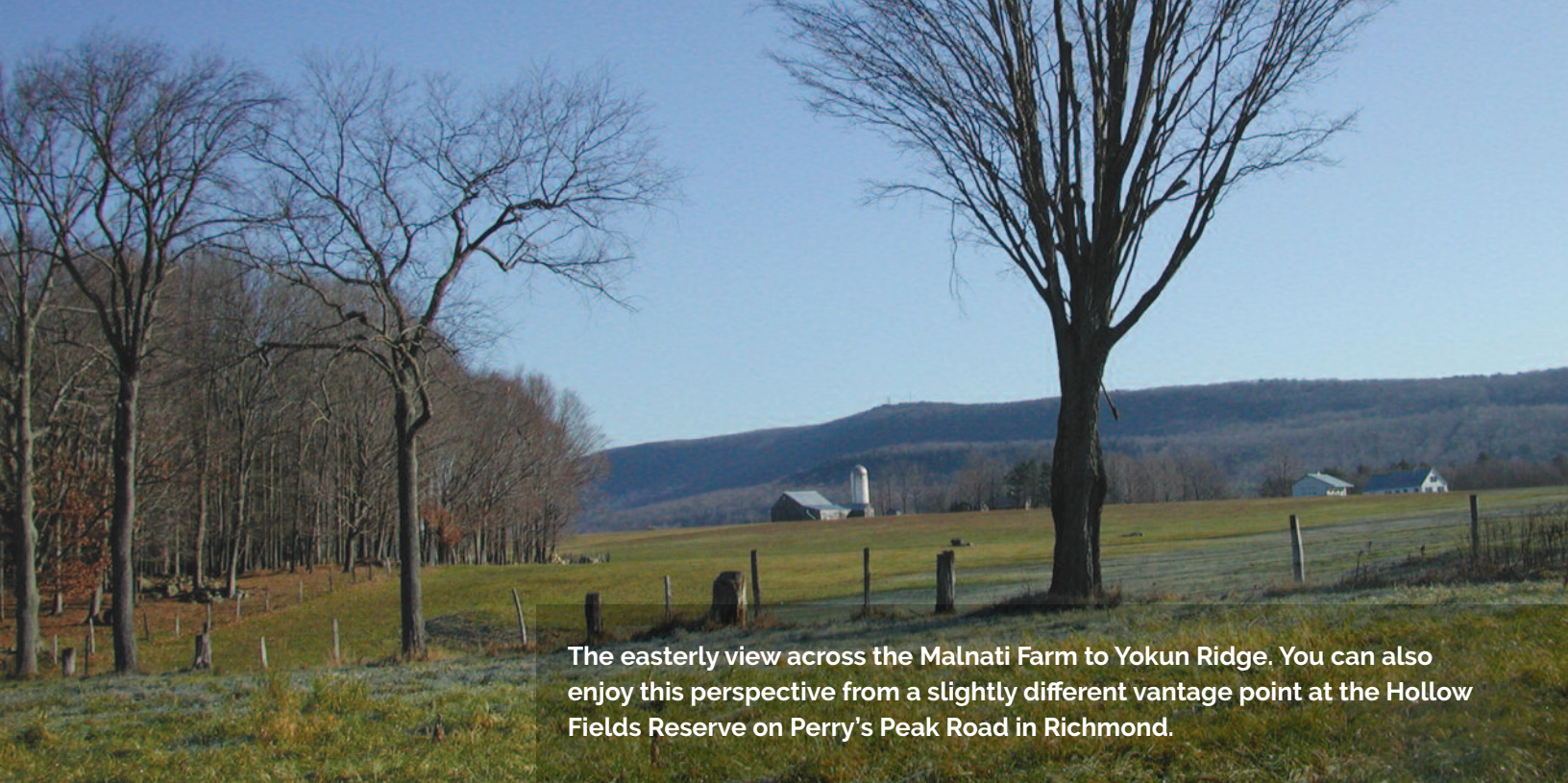
Donate \$100 or more by November 24, and we'll send you a hot-off-the-press copy of our big (32" x 51") beautiful 50th Anniversary Berkshire County Map.

For a donation of \$150 or more, we'll send you two!

This offer expires at midnight on Black Friday, November 24.

Don't wait. Support landkeeping, get your shopping done, and enjoy your hike!

Please write "map" in the Comments box when you make your donation at www.bnrc.org/donate/.



The easterly view across the Malnati Farm to Yokun Ridge. You can also enjoy this perspective from a slightly different vantage point at the Hollow Fields Reserve on Perry's Peak Road in Richmond.

MALNATI BROTHERS KEEP THE BALES COMING

Richmond farm gains permanent protection, thanks to state and BNRC donors

If you drive Swamp Road in Richmond with any regularity, you've probably seen them: A pair of brothers with red equipment, tending farm fields their father bought in 1947.

Fran and Martin Malnati Jr. just did something great for the Berkshires, and they couldn't have done it without you. On September 15, they placed their farm under permanent protection through the Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program.

When the state was \$75,000 short of the needed purchase price, BNRC and the Richmond Land Trust called for help. You answered. Thank you.

An old barn stands on the Malnati farm, and if you take a look at its stout chestnut beams and open hay-mow, you can picture a sepia past dissolving into a full-color future: one brother yanking bales off the elevator and flinging them to the other, the stack rising in a corner.

Barn swallows chattering through the chaff-filled columns of light, accompanying the men's shouts, "keep 'em coming."

They'll keep coming, thanks to the Malnatis, the APR Program, and you. 🐦



Martin and Fran Malnati



Delaying mowing of flowering plants like goldenrod and asters until October will help pollinators like this bee store up protein for the winter.

NATURALISTS BLITZ GB FOR ALL-IN SPECIES COUNT

Housatonic River trustees and BNRC donors score 'victory for life' at Thomas & Palmer Brook

Over an intensive 24 hours in September, science specialists from around the Berkshires, along with interested citizens, volunteered their time to scour BNRC's Thomas & Palmer Brook Reserve to document as many species of plants, animals, and fungi as possible. The "Berkshire Bioblitz," organized annually by the Berkshire Environmental Action Team and Dr. Augie's Science Education Programs, identifies, counts, and observes the diversity of species in one location.

BNRC hosted this year's Bioblitz at Thomas & Palmer Brook, close to downtown Great Barrington. BNRC donors and the Massachusetts Subcouncil of the Housatonic River Trustee Council helped protect this beautiful expanse of fields and wetlands (on Rt. 23, across from Koi restaurant) in 2015.

Habitat fragmentation and degradation threaten plants and animals here at home, and farther



afield. When we know more, we all do a better job caring for land. Bioblitz helps. This year, for instance, blitz surveyors found dwarf scouring-rush (*Equisetum scirpoides*), a Species of Special Concern in Massachusetts.

Whether it's the dwarf scouring-rush or something else, every time you help conserve and care for a new property like Thomas & Palmer Brook, you score a victory for life in the Berkshires. Thank you! 🐝

