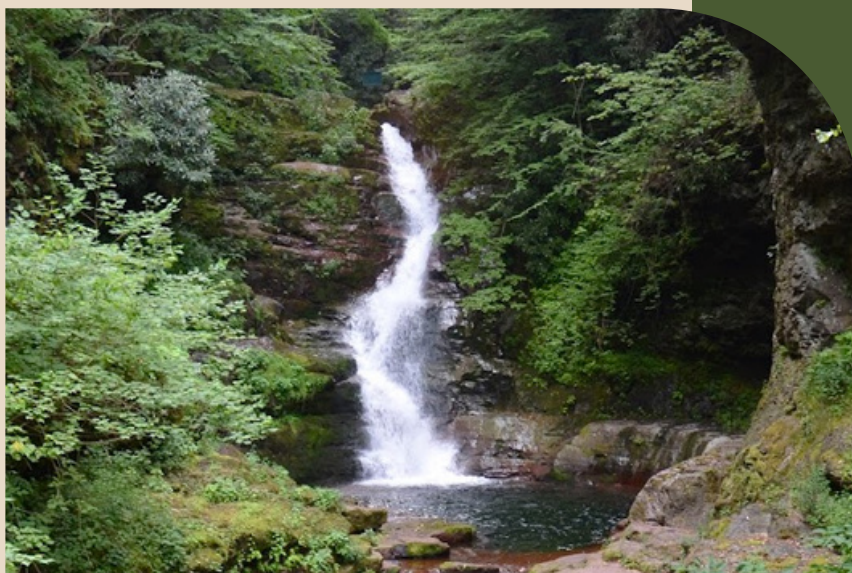


THE BUCK HILL
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

PO BOX 350
BUCK HILL FALLS, PA
18323

WWW.BUCKHILLCONSERVATION.ORG



2024





THE BUCK HILL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

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Mission and Vision of the Foundation

Our Mission: To preserve and protect land in and around Buck Hill Falls, to promote the health of the local forest and watershed, and to foster appreciation of the area's natural beauty.

As a nationally accredited IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust organization based in Buck Hill Falls, PA, we are dedicated to preserving and protecting natural resources and wildlife habitats. Our mission is to achieve conservation goals through land and easement acquisition, habitat restoration, and environmental education programs. With a strong commitment to sustainability and community engagement, we play a vital role in preserving the natural beauty and ecological balance of Northeastern Pennsylvania.





Above, you can see board members and staff in attendance at the 2024 Annual Concert Fundraiser.

Board of Trustees

Myron Manternach
President

Ed Post
Vice President

Rob Jeffries
Treasurer

Bob Bohner
Secretary

Christine Brogan

Mike Henry

Ethel Huff

Ale McNeil

Rick Mittereder

Emily Poler

Nadya
Shmavonian

Peter Shriver

Jackie Speicher

Peter Temple

Matthew
Walinchus

Tom Widing

Employees

Joe Lear
Ranger

Hoshaiah Long
Director of Advancement



STEWARDSHIP

Year Overview

In 2024, our conservation efforts prioritized the treatment of Eastern Hemlocks, a vital species for stream health and wildlife. With nearly half of the hemlocks along Buck Hill Creek severely affected by the invasive Woolly Adelgid, we expanded our Hemlock Conservation Project to include 1,650 trees in our database and treated over 600 with insecticide. Encouraging results have already emerged, reinforcing our long-term commitment to hemlock recovery.

Our forest restoration and wildlife management efforts also advanced significantly. We expanded our restoration work to 70 acres on Chestnut Mountain, planted 150 native saplings, and cleared over 150 acres of invasive plants. We addressed severe deer overpopulation in partnership with USDA Wildlife Services and installed deer fencing to protect a sensitive forest area.

The Foundation also recently marked a major milestone with the acquisition of a 688-acre conservation easement, expanding our protected land to 1,712 acres and linking a 6,600-acre watershed corridor.

The Foundation remained financially strong during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. We ended the year with total cash and short-term investments that covered 1.4 times total cash expenditures for the year. Most of the Foundation's expenditures funded stewardship activities, Inn Site swap transaction costs, and community engagement, including the community garden maintenance, educational hikes and our successful inaugural music concert.



Current Projects



Hemlock Conservation

Hemlocks are crucial for riparian habitats, affecting stream quality and conditions while supporting diverse flora and fauna. Sadly, about half of the hemlocks along Buck Hill Creek are in critical condition due to an attack by the invasive Woolly Adelgid insect, and many have already died. To help save the remaining trees, we have expanded our Hemlock Conservation Project from Jenkins Woods into the Metzgars easement, adding 580 hemlocks for a total of 1,650 trees in our database. We have already treated over 600 large trees with an insecticide recommended by the PA Bureau of Forestry. Although treating all the trees will take over 4 years due to acreage limits, we are already seeing positive results from those treated in 2024.

Dynamic Forest Restoration

Our Dynamic Forest Restoration initiative aims to improve forest tree age diversity and health, thereby increasing its value as a wildlife habitat. In 2023, we undertook low shade removal of beech brush on a 60-acre parcel at Shaffer's Knob. This was followed in 2024 by similar efforts on a 70-acre block at Chestnut Mountain. Our method includes creating slash piles around valuable trees to protect their seeds and saplings from deer, aiding reforestation. This project has received funding through grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



Invasive Remediation

Many areas disturbed by past timber harvests now contain a matrix of invasive plants that crowd out the forest floor, adversely affecting regeneration. The Foundation successfully eradicated invasive plants on over 150 acres on Chestnut Mountain in 2024, and we're now focusing on the area surrounding Metzgar's Farm, which is currently overgrown with Japanese Barberry.



Deer Management

A recent survey conducted by USDA Wildlife Services has estimated that the current deer density in our area exceeds 160 deer per square mile, which is 16 times a healthy population balance. An overabundance of deer negatively affects forest health by consuming all new growth, leading to habitat degradation for themselves and other species. Regrettably, the deer impact around Buck Hill Falls has been rated as "Too High" and is deteriorating further;



this impact is particularly evident along the deer fence in Jenkins Woods. The deer also carry ticks that spread Lyme disease.

Restoring a healthy balance allows both deer and forest ecosystems to thrive. The most effective method for managing deer overpopulation is lethal removal which, combined with safe processing, helps to address poverty-related hunger. Accordingly, the Foundation collaborated with USDA Wildlife Services to harvest 64 deer over 4 nights this winter, resulting in the distribution of nearly 8,300 meals to local food banks. Our Foundation will continue monitoring the health of the forest understory to evaluate the effectiveness of this program over time.



Reforestation

To enhance forest regeneration affected by invasive species and deer over-browsing, our Reforestation Project focuses on planting and protecting desirable native tree saplings. In 2024, we successfully planted 150 protected saplings, including blight-resistant chestnuts, on Chestnut Mountain. Additionally, we have constructed an 800-foot deer fence to protect a sensitive acre within Hemlock Cathedral. In 2025, we have already planted over 100 hemlocks and reintroduced 25 chestnut trees to Chestnut Mt., and we plan to continue planting in the fall to help restore the riparian buffer zone between Buck Hill and Griscom Creeks in Jenkins Woods.



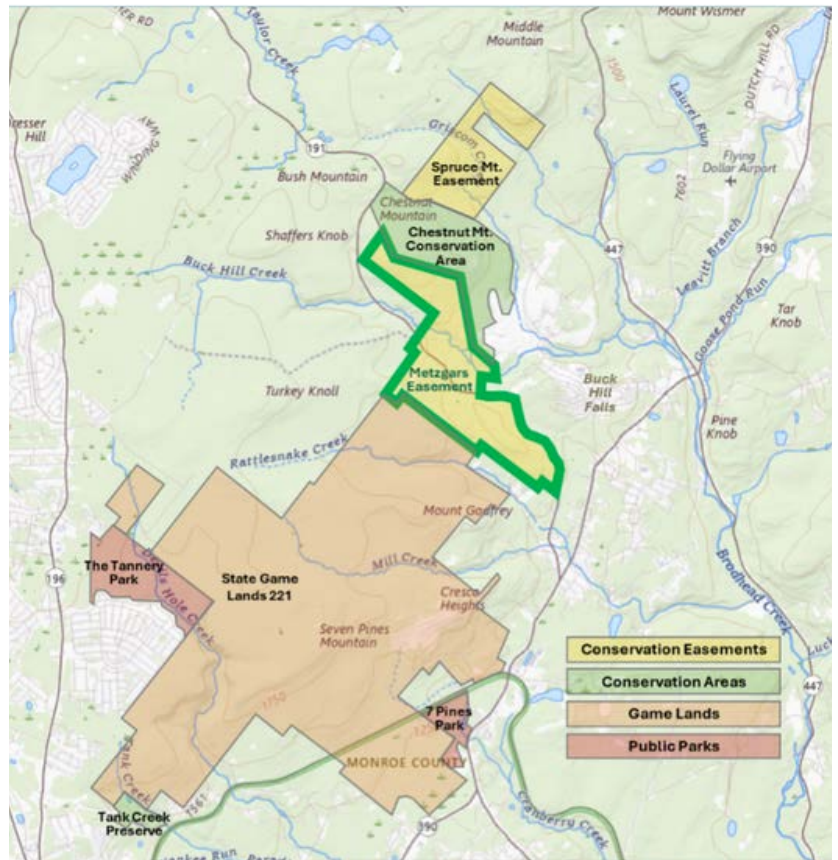
TRANSACTIONS

Inn Site Land Swap Complete!

In January 2025, our Foundation achieved a significant milestone by completing an exchange of the Inn Site property for a 688-acre Metzgars Conservation Easement on Buck Hill Falls Company land.

This exchange is a win for the Foundation, the Company, and our community:

- The Foundation furthers its mission by increasing the land it protects in perpetuity by two-thirds, to 1,712 acres. Additionally, we have already begun working on forest management plans to promote the health of the new conservation easement land.
- The Company regains ownership of the Inn Site, while continuing to own the easement property and retaining current passive recreational uses.
- This conservation easement has created a contiguous ~6,700-acre watershed conservation area for our community by establishing a key link between our Chestnut Mountain conservation area to the north and the State Game Lands to the south.



According to the Monroe County 2022 Return on Environment Study, large, forested areas such as this “provide significant natural system benefits: they help maintain healthy watersheds and water quality, filter air pollutants, moderate weather extremes, and provide important wildlife habitats.”

Thanks to everyone involved in securing the Metzgars Conservation Easement, including our donors and the Open Space Institute's Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund, which is supported by the William Penn Foundation.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

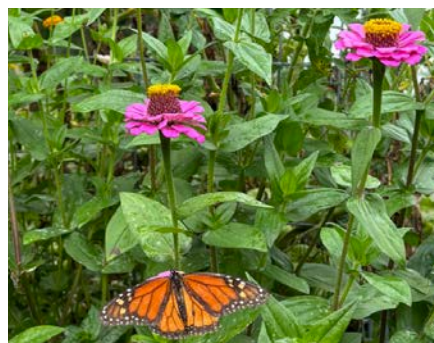
Community Garden



This year, the Buck Hill Community Garden had a successful season, with all 47 garden beds fully utilized and a growing waitlist. The dedication and passion of our gardeners continue to be the driving force behind the garden's vibrant success.

Our community celebrated another fruitful year at our annual Garden Party, where this year's Best Garden Award was presented to Gary and Helenanne Lasher for their beautiful work in the "Three Bears" plot.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year such a wonderful success. We look forward to more bountiful seasons ahead!



Annual Meeting of Members



John Styk and Frank May were awarded Lifetime Membership awards at our Annual Meeting of Members in May for their longstanding contributions to the Foundation.

Congratulations to Myron Manternach, our board president, for winning the 2024 Jack Dugan Award for his transformative leadership and commitment to modernizing our foundation.



Trail Gang

Two Trail Gang sessions were held in 2024, with many young participants helping Ranger Joe, Rick Mittereder and Ed Post throughout the forest. The Gangs worked on multiple projects over the two sessions, starting with the clearing of the new Black Bear trail, which now connects Chestnut Mountain to Spruce Mountain. The Gangs also helped clean up the Foundation's Henry Property, which is an 18-acre wooded parcel on Route 390 behind the cottages on Lenape Lane. Ranger Joe removed truckloads of trash and tires, a testament to the Gang's hard work. We thank our 2024 Trail Gangs and look forward to working with this year's volunteers!

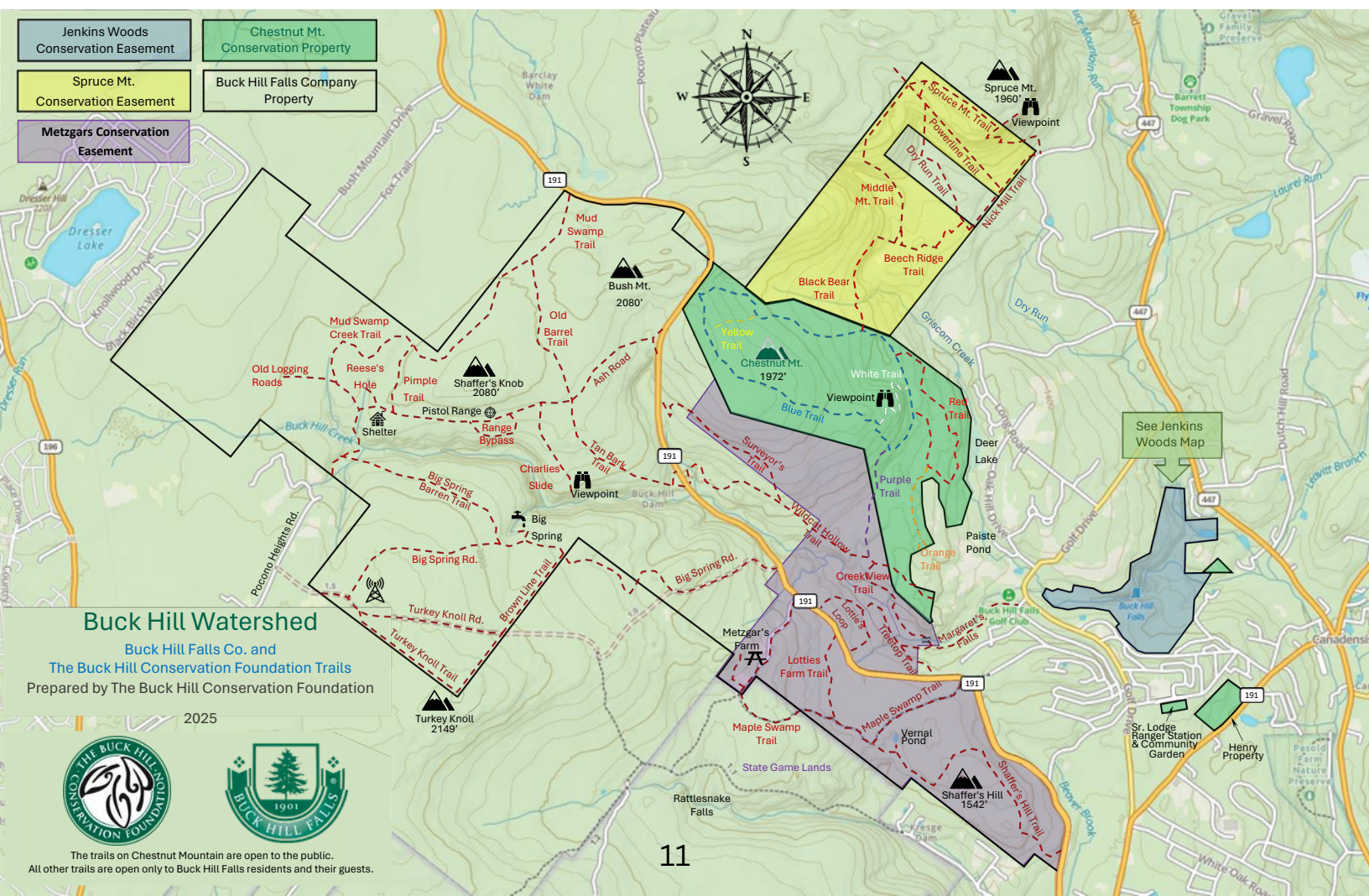


Hikes

- Chestnut Mountain Overlook
- Metzgars Farm Nature Discovery
- Vernal Pond
- Jenkins Woods Nature Trail
- Historical Hike
- Bird Watching



New Trail Map with Metzgars Conservation Easement



FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

Grants

The Foundation wants to acknowledge the generous grants that we have received over the past year from the following organizations. Their support has been instrumental in allowing us to continue our important work.



Open Space Institute

The Foundation's Metzgars Conservation Easement project was supported through the Open Space Institute's Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund, which is made possible with funding from the William Penn Foundation for its Delaware River Watershed Initiative that seeks to protect water quality in the Delaware River Basin.



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Restoring Dynamic Forest Structure for Priority Birds in the Delaware River Watershed: Phase 5
For the Chestnut Mountain Dynamic Forest Restoration Project



Chester County Community Foundation

Margaret S Devinney Foundation
For Ranger Joe's Polaris Ranger

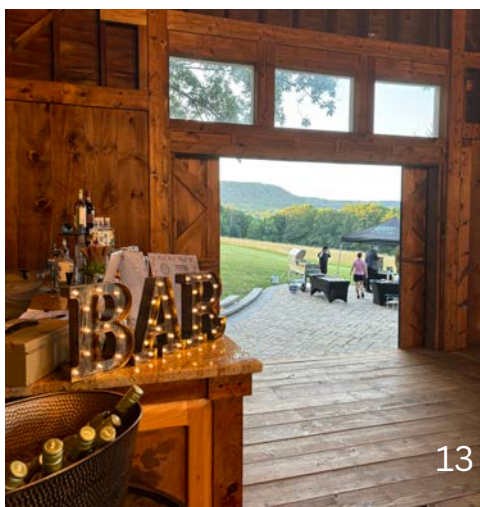


The Claneil Foundation

Unrestricted Grants from Ale and Tyler McNeil

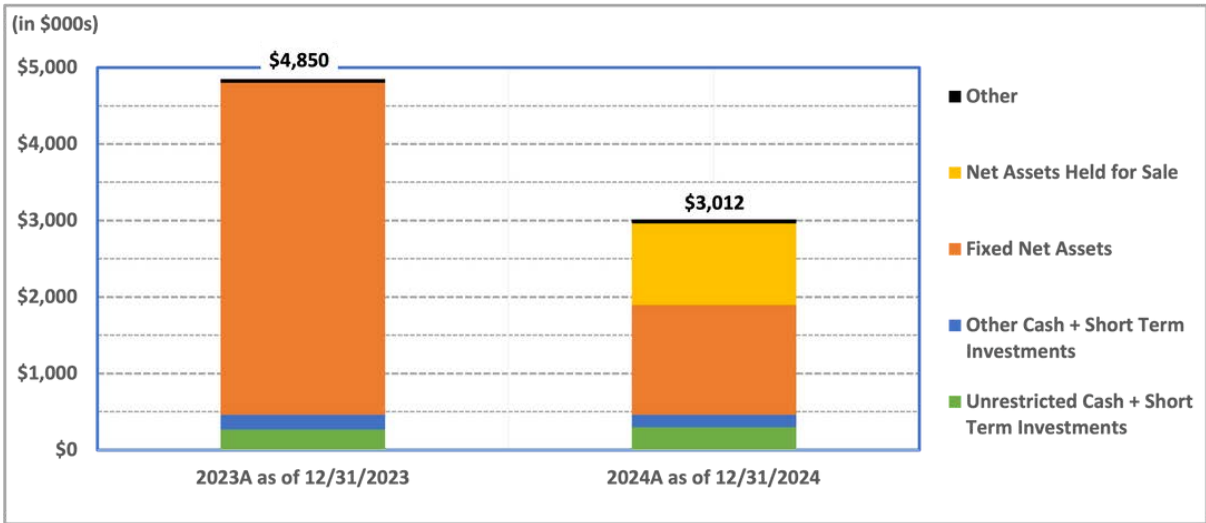
Annual Fundraiser

The Foundation's inaugural music concert and auction was a resounding success! The night kicked off with BBQ style catered buffet dinner from Barley Creek and lively music performed by Southside Station. As the sun set, attendees loosened up and flocked to the dance floor where everything from the limbo to dance circles took place. Bidders were able to participate in the silent auction through the night, and everyone was eager to purchase a wine vault key with the hopes of winning over \$6,000 worth of wine. Many thanks to our sponsors listed below!



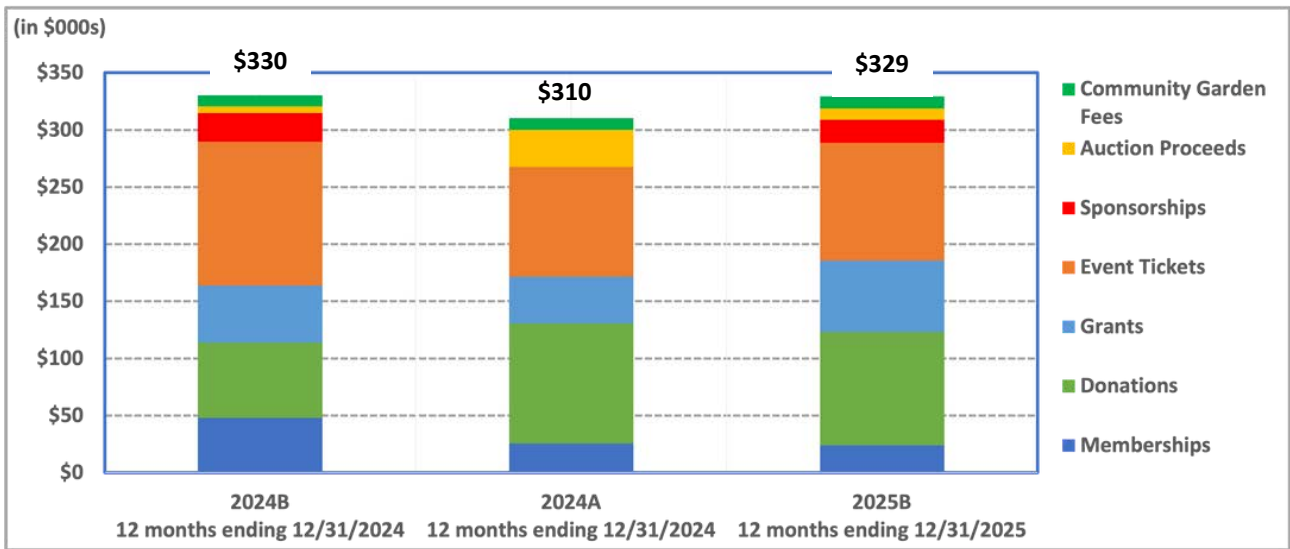
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Net Financial Position



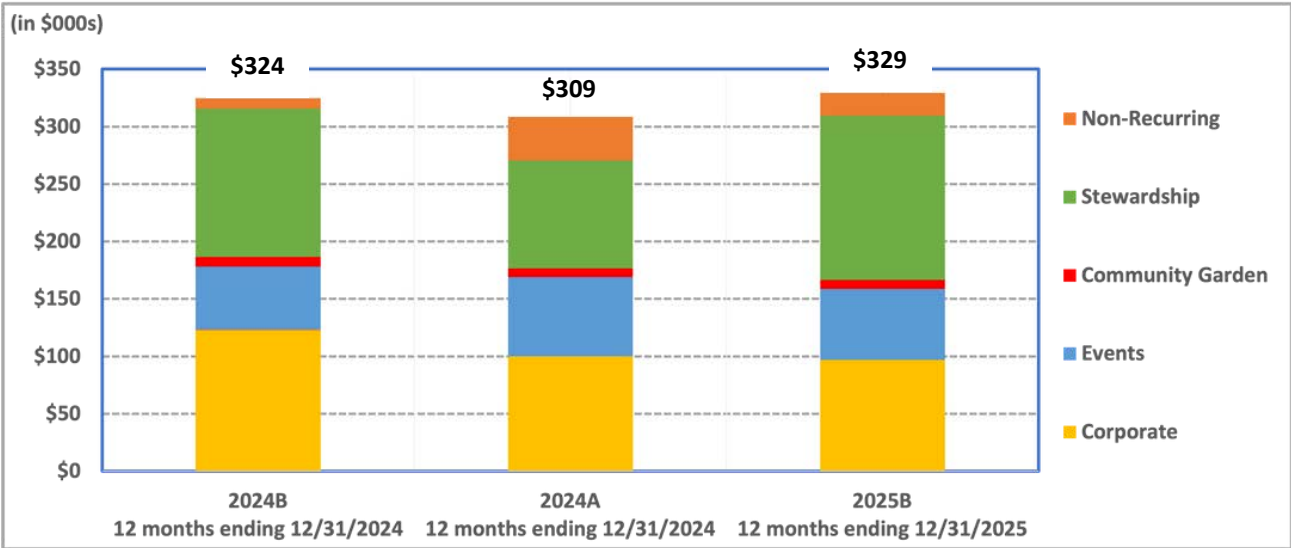
As of December 31, 2024, the Foundation held cash and short-term investments sufficient to cover 1.4 times the total cash expenses budgeted for 2025. The Foundation’s short-term investments are held primarily in mutual funds. In the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, the Inn Site property was written down by \$1.8MM to its sale value of \$1.1MM and reclassified from Fixed Net Assets to Net Assets Held for Sale.

Revenues



In 2024, the Foundation generated cash revenue of \$310K net of payment costs. Total cash revenues (net of payment costs) increased by 26% from 2023 and were 6% below the budget for 2024. In December 2024, the Board of Trustees approved an annual budget that targets total revenue (net of payment costs) of \$329K in 2025. The 2025 budget implies a 6% increase in total revenue, driven primarily by our work to increase event ticket sales, grant awards, sponsorships, donations and memberships.

Expenditures



In 2024, the Foundation incurred total cash expenditures of \$309K, including \$38K of non-recurring expenditures. Total cash expenditures increased by 6% from 2023 and were 5% below the budget for 2024. In December 2024, the Board of Trustees approved an annual budget that provides for total cash expenditures of \$329K in 2025. The 2025 budget includes \$20K of non-recurring transaction expenses and certain items that are contingent on achieving budgeted revenue increases.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Buck Hill Conservation Foundation acknowledges the following contributions by our donors from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

Visionary \$10,000+

Anthony and Susan Mainwaring Roberts
Jennifer McNeil

Benefactor \$5,000+

Anonymous
Michael and Karen Gregorich
Gerald and Regina Griffin
Barbara Lott
Chris and Jeannine Robbins
Charles and Susan Rusbasan

Patron \$2,500+

Robert and Leslie Bohner

Robert and Colleen Jeffries
Tyler and Alejandra McNeil
David and Marina Ottaway
Barry and Ann Ridings
John A. Robbins and Christopher Gaillard
John and Claire Rodgers
Trip and Eileen Ruvane
Erica Pettis and Jerome Wallace

Sustainer \$1,000+

Barley Creek Brewing Company
Richard and Denise Boyle

John Dixon Hunt and Emily Cooperman
Amy and Jerry Fritz
Ashley Goodall and Tina Bennett
Dan and Jean McCoubrey
Gerard and Susan Neumann
Ed and Margaret Post
Peter Shriver and Melissa Von Stade
Skyland Farms
Corey and Jonne Smith
Peter and Susan Temple
Susan Worth and Ed Reilly
Chuck Hood and Marianne Zychal

Donors continued...

Supporter \$500+

Kevin and Mary Becker
Buck Hill Falls Corporation
Susan Demuth
Stanley and Nicki Doggett
Bruce and Betsy Finley
Lynn Hahn
Tom and Ethel Huff
Richard and Susan Huffman
Kathy Legg and David Seifman
Thomas and Paige LeGrand
Myron Manternach and
Tabitha Oman
Jake and Ali Marshall
Tyler and Katie Miller
Anthony Kyriakakis and
Aleni Pappas
Thomas and Pamela Robertson
Brad and Sarah Sablosky
Ken Schurman
Adam Schwarz and Judy Scinto
Nadya Shmavonian and
Robert Woodward
Elizabeth Strode
Joe Strode III and Mary Cairns
Bruce and
Susan Westwood-Booth
Tom and Robin Widing

Annual Membership \$250+

Marc and Angie Banziger
Leonard Ciriello and
Kimberly Bishop
Christine Brogan and Tim Paulson
John Bugos and Karen McConomy
Blake Callaway, Aaron Krach and
Helen Walters
Matthew and Carolyn Carroccio
Bill and Claire Castellano
David Christine and Lori Cerato
Hayle and Monica Chun

Dr. Rick Mittereder and
Virginia Clark
Jeremy and Laura Conlon
Andrew and Francesca Dickson
Fran Durst
John and Adrienne Fretz
Lauren Fulford
Colin Gardner and Erika Faust
Alison Gerstell and David Smith
Chris and Caroline Goodchild
David and Brook Graff
Mike and Kelly List Henry
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George and Marsha Kivowitz
Milan and Jean Kofol
Phil and Sandy Kraus
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Adam and Kyeong-ah Leven
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John and Kathleen Mutch
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Thomas and Andrea Osmun
Brock and Amy Peabody
Eric and Patrice Pettis
Karen Breimann and John Place
Emanuel Kivowitz and
Emily Poler
Bill and Linda Potter
Everett and Adrianne Ramstack
Raoul Bhavnani and
Savitha Reddy
Andy and Anne Ridings
William and Marilyn Roberts
Linda Rooney

Patricia Ruvane
Briton Frith and Nicole Sheetz
Ernest L. Sims
Drew and Addie Snyder
Larry and Sara Stessel
Bradlee and Lisa Strode
Dana Strode-Tritle
Rick and Shellie Unger
Steve and Becky Vosburgh
Sonia M White
William W Price Nursery

Donors up to \$249

Vivien Azer
Andrew Ballard
Ronald and Karen Bauman
Ernest Jr. and Patricia Berckman
Anthony and Nancy Bowe
Carole Bonnie Brennan
David and Tina Burns
John and Ann Caggiano
John Caminiti
Richard and Elizabeth Carey
Domenic and Carolyn Cerasi
Karen Chase
Fritz Favorule and Lynn Krohn
John and Susan Frehse
Geoff and Beth Goldwater
Nancy Smith Hayden
Scott and Connie Houseknecht
Andy Kolb
Pat and Patty Lawrence
Greg Lewis
Martha Maguire
Frank and Ginny May
Jock and Kay Miller
Pedro and Jaclyn Mugica
Robert O'Donnell and Erin Pick

Donors continued...

Robin and Audra Ottaway
Tom and Elisabeth Parker
Baz and Jill Preston
Gussie Reilly
Joel and Debra Rossi
George Sopko and
Christina Russo

Caroline Salvino
Saeed and Mitra Savar
Christopher Wahl and
Letitia Shields
Daryl and Jackie Speicher
Mark Trudell and Valerie Stevens
Joan and Michael Taylor

Thaddeus Tracy and
Michele Haberland
Barbara Wahle
Robert and Lois Walinchus
Kaitlyn Ward
William Wiebolt Jr.
Geoffrey Whelan and Lisa Neary

Donations In Memoriam

We want to thank everyone who donated in memory of their loved ones during 2024. We received donations in memory of Charlie Lott and Robert McNeil. Below are the lists of families who dedicated their donations:

Robert McNeil

Anthony and Susan Mainwaring Roberts

Charlie Lott

Barbara Herkner
John and Julie Mutch
Barbara Wahle

Charlie Lott continued

Tom and Ethel Huff (2023)
Richard and Susan Huffman (2023)
John and June Leatherbee (2023)
Jock and Kay Miller (2023)
Mary Omara (2023)
Chris and Jeannine Robbins (2023)

Donations In Honor

We are grateful to Paul Mandry who donated in honor of the three Mandry sons and two daughters.

Please note the list of donors above (the “donor list”) reflects the total cash and in-kind donations (collectively, “charitable donations”) received by the Foundation from each individual/family during calendar 2024. The Foundation’s calculation of charitable donations includes only proceeds for which no value was received by the donor and excludes proceeds from other purchases such as event tickets, raffle tickets, wine vault keys, and community garden plot licenses. Please contact the Foundation at info@tbhcf.org if you believe your placement (or absence) on the donor list is in error. The donor list and tax statements prepared by the Foundation are not intended to provide tax advice. The Foundation recommends that each donor seek professional advice on the tax treatment of its transactions with the Foundation.

