



# Pennsylvania Land Trust Association



*presents*

## *D. Andrew Pitz*

*with the*

### **Lifetime Conservation Leadership Award**

*On behalf of Pennsylvania's 75 leading conservation organizations, the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association honors Andy Pitz for his decades of leadership and dedication in conserving our special places and landscapes.*

A key leader and thinker within the conservation community, D. Andrew “Andy” Pitz has spent his entire professional career working to permanently protect Pennsylvania’s natural resources.

From 1986 to 2012, Pitz worked in various capacities at Natural Lands, where he coordinated public-policy activities, developed strategic plans, and oversaw the organization’s successful application for accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Pitz’s other accomplishments at Natural Lands include:

- preparing and supervising conservation, stewardship, and real estate transactions on hundreds of conservation projects
- initiating several landscape-scale conservation efforts, including the Maurice River corridor in New Jersey, the Unami Hills of northern Montgomery County, and the Hopewell Big Woods
- creating ecological management plans for NL preserves like the 5,000-acre Glades Wildlife Reserve and for the lands of other nonprofit organizations, including Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and the Winterthur Museum
- investigating the feasibility of a forest carbon sequestration program in PA



Pitz was a founder of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and served as PALTA president for six of PALTA's early years. He was instrumental in the passage of the Conservation and Preservation Easements Act (2001) and the hiring of Andy Loza as PALTA's first executive director (2000). Pitz rejoined the PALTA board in 2013 and remains an active board member to this day.

Currently, Pitz is the executive director of French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. Under his leadership, FPCCT expanded its staff and conservation holdings, achieved accreditation, developed a new strategic plan, significantly increased revenue, and undertook the largest conservation project in its 50-year history.

Pitz has also been active in the Climate Reality Project as a presenter and activist. He participated in one of the first groups trained by Al Gore in 2007, and in the following years presented more than 80 times in 15 states, focusing on the links between land conservation and climate change.

“Andy’s kindness, grace, and sense of humor make it a joy to work with him,” said Reneé Carey, PALTA President and Executive Director of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy. “His dedication to the profession and commitment to Pennsylvania’s land conservation efforts has helped create a community of professionals across the state.”

“Andy’s passion, humility, humor, vision, and dedication are a continual inspiration. Pennsylvania is all the better for his decades of making conservation happen and building and shaping the conservation movement in which we all work,” said Andy Loza, PALTA e.d. “It’s been a pleasure knowing and working with Andy for many of these years. I expect that Andy’s efforts to make the world a better place are far from over.”



*The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association thanks Andy Pitz for his remarkable leadership and commitment to conservation efforts.*