DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife

Official Rules of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy Photo Contest
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY
VOID WHERE PROHIBITED

Eligibility

The photography contest ("photo contest') is open to all professional and amateur photographers. Board members, Committee members, Employees, interns, as well as immediate family (spouse, parents, siblings, and children) and household members of employees, are not eligible to enter.

Sponsor

The photo contest is sponsored by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, 571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake, PA 18405 ('Sponsor'). This contest is not sponsored by, endorsed by, administered by, or associated with Facebook.

Entry Period

Photos can be submitted beginning at 9:00am on Monday, August 3, 2026 to Monday, August 31, 2026. Entries submitted before or after the entry period will not be eligible. Sponsor's computer will be the official timekeeping device for the photo contest.

Voting Period

The public vote for the People's Choice begins on Monday, September 14 and ends Wednesday, September 23, 2026. Votes submitted before or after this period will not be eligible. Sponsor's computer is the official timekeeping device for the photo contest.

Eligible Photos

For the photo contest, we are accepting entries in the following categories:

1. Landscape – The Upper Delaware River region is known for its beautiful views—scenic vistas of forests, farms, and the river itself. How do these landscapes provide fresh perspective, or a new way of looking at things? What does each season feel like? Where do you find peace?

2. Wildlife – From a honeybee to a bald eagle, a chipmunk to a black bear, we share our world with thousands of other creatures. What do we have in common? What do you find reassuring, calming, or even funny when watching our local wildlife? Without disturbing or harming any creature or its

habitat, be creative in showcasing the diverse wildlife of our region and the spaces where our lives overlap.

3. Macro – Looking closely at nature—plants, wildlife, even rocks—often reveals hidden worlds and fascinating details. Where can you find something special, inspiring, or joyful that otherwise might go unnoticed? For these extreme close-ups, try to illustrate a tiny detail that has a big impact.

4. Water – Even the smallest streams eventually find their way to the Delaware River. In this broad category, consider how water impacts our lives—and how our everyday lives impact the water. How do you interact with water in nature? How does clean water impact the landscape, the wildlife, the people of this region?

5. Van Scott Nature Reserve – The Delaware Highlands Conservancy's beautiful 144-acre Van Scott Nature Reserve features three miles of walking trails through the woods, wildflower meadows, and wetlands. This contest category is exclusively for photos taken at the Reserve. ***Please stay on the marked trails.***

6. Youth Category – For photographers between under 18 years of age. Many of you were forced to find new ways to learn this year, outside of the classroom. What lessons did you learn from nature? What is something you now appreciate in nature that you never noticed before? ***(Must be under 18 years old at the time of entry submission)***

Please remember to observe proper wildlife viewing etiquette while photographing wildlife. This includes not harassing wildlife, flushing, or in any other way disturbing the natural behavior of wildlife. Please respect private property rights. Drone photography will not be accepted.

Only photos taken in the Upper Delaware River Region will be eligible for the photo contest. For the purposes of this contest, the Upper Delaware River Region is defined as any area in Delaware, Sullivan, or Orange Counties in New York and Wayne, Pike, and Monroe Counties in Pennsylvania.

Photo files should be no larger than 10MB in size and be of high enough resolution to be clearly printed at 11in x 17in with a minimum of 300 pixels/inch. Photos must also be in .jpg, .JPEG, or.png file format. All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter as it appears. Digitally altered photos beyond standard optimization (such as removal of dust, cropping, adjustments to exposure, color and contrast, etc.) will be disqualified. Photos must be original works submitted by the photographer.

Please include the following information with your submitted photo:

- Name of photographer
- Name of parent/guardian if entering Youth category
- Contact information including email address
- Location - please be as specific as possible.
- City of photo taken
- State of photo taken
- County of photo taken

Please do not include photos that include people or photos that involve putting any animal in danger. Submissions should also not be watermarked. Photos may be deemed ineligible for any reason by the contest sponsor and does not require notification of the participant.

How to Enter

Visit http://www.delawarehighlands.org/photo-contest/ and between August 3 and August 31 and fill out the entry form completely. Only **one entry per person** is permitted with a maximum of two photos per entry (photos may be entered in the same or different categories), and each entry requires a non-refundable entry fee of $15 to be paid when photos are submitted. For youth entries under age 18, there is no entry fee. A parent or legal guardian should submit entries on behalf of youth participants. Only the first entry will be entered into the contest if multiple entries from a party are submitted. By submitting your entry, you acknowledge your unconditional agreement to and acceptance of the Official Rules and Sponsor's decisions.

Judging

Judges will conduct a blind review of the photos without photographer names attached. Photos will be judged on creativity, originality, composition, clarity and quality, and impact by a panel of jurors. Jurors will be:

- **Jill Carletti**
  - Jill Carletti is a visual artist, art instructor, and creative director whose work is held in private collections across the country. A native of the Pocono region, she has long drawn inspiration from its woodlands, waterways, and shifting seasonal beauty, all of which continue to inform her own artistic practice. In addition to her work as a practicing artist, Jill leads painting workshops and creative experiences, including at The Lodge at Woodloch, where she shares her knowledge of visual composition, technique, and artistic expression with learners of varied backgrounds. Her lifelong familiarity with the region, combined with years devoted to creating and teaching art, informs her appreciation for photography that conveys atmosphere, beauty, and a strong visual sensibility. She is honored to help recognize work that reflects both artistic excellence and the distinct character of the Delaware Highlands.

- **Nancy Kiesendahl Bloch**
  - Nancy, a graduate of Cornell University, was raised in her family's business, Woodloch Pines Resort in northeastern Pennsylvania where she was trained in the true spirit of hospitality and continues to serve as a consultant. Nancy is the co-owner and President of Kiesendahl+Calhoun Fine Art, Ltd. 2005-present, a Fine Art Gallery business originating in Beacon, New York. Her company represents over 50 artists and curates numerous shows in a variety of venues; private homes, cultural institutions, and distinctive gallery spaces, and seasonally hangs 50 pieces in an award-winning destination spa: The Lodge at Woodloch. Her criteria for choosing our artists is largely about a strong emotional response: wonder, exuberance and contemplation. She is a director of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

- **Marie Liu**
  - The Delaware River Valley, its creeks, woods scenes and waterfalls provide painter Marie Liu with endless inspiration. Since moving to the Poconos over a decade ago, she has dedicated

herself entirely to exploring its landscape and history. Although primarily a painter, Marie has varied experience that spans the spectrum of the art industry. She has been a member of the ARTery co-operative gallery in Milford, PA for 12 years, where she exhibits her paintings. She also serves as its Director and Curator, working to provide an excellent forum for regional artists and collaborations with local organizations to create exhibits that engage the community and educate visitors about the region. Resident Artist for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area for the 2015 - 16 season, she was able to indulge her interest of the region, its natural features and history, engage with it's visitors and employees, exhibit at the visitors centers, research and present "The History of Art of the Minisink Region." She continues researching the topic and presenting to the public at various venues including Grey Towers National Historic Site and historical societies throughout the region. She is able to share her interest in, and add to her knowledge about the region as a contributing writer for Pocono Living Magazine.

- **Mary Sue Sweeney Price**
    - Mary Sue Sweeney Price is Director Emerita of the Newark Museum, which displays one of the nation's finest collections of American art in galleries designed by acclaimed architect Michael Graves. The Museum is nationally recognized for its collections, architecture, and historic commitment to education and access. Mrs. Price oversaw the restoration and reinterpretation of the Victorian Ballantine House, a National Historic Landmark, the creation of the Victoria Hall of Science, and exhibitions such as "Crowning Glory: Images of the Virgin in the Arts of Portugal," and "Wrapped in Pride: Ghanaian Kente and African American Identity." She is past president of the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD), representing the major art museums in North America, past president of ArtTable Inc., the national organization for women leaders in the visual arts, and most recently served as a Commissioner of the American Alliance of Museums. She is a director of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

Winners

One (1) winner and two (2) runners up will be chosen from each category. Additional photos may be selected for printing and hanging for the gallery showing. In addition, one (1) people's choice photo will be chosen from a group of photos determined by the jurors. The people's choice award will be chosen based on the number of "Likes" the photo receives on the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's Facebook page during the voting period from the selection of photos chosen by the judges. All judging decisions are final. Please do not contact us about the status of entries or judging. Winners will be notified via contact information (email) provided at the time of entry once final selections are made. Chosen photos will be printed and framed by the Sponsor and hung in the Artery Fine Art and Craft Gallery in Milford, PA during the month of November 2026. There will be gallery opening event in November 2026 that is free and open to the public. Winners will be given their framed photos after the closing of the exhibit.

Your Rights

Entrants will retain rights and ownership of photos submitted. By submitting a photo into the photo contest, you grant the Delaware Highlands Conservancy a royalty-free, nonexclusive right to display the photo on our website and social media sites, use the photo in Delaware Highlands Conservancy's internal and external communication materials including but not limited to websites, web publications, fundraising publications,

newsletters, and annual reports, and sell prints of the photo for fundraising purposes, including but not limited to individual prints, cards, and calendars.
This license also includes permission for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to allow selected photos to be displayed digitally at local or regional festivals or community events for promotional or educational purposes, with clear credit to the photographer and to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy Photo Contest.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy will provide photo credit whenever photo is used.

General Conditions

Photo contest is subject to all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Void where prohibited. Membership to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy will not be considered in any way during the judging of the contest. By submitting your photo, you will automatically be signed up for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's mailing list and e-communications. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Youth Entries

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy will be accepting youth entries from participants under age 18. Youth entries must be submitted by a parent or legal guardian on behalf of the participant. All rules and regulations apply to youth photo submissions.

RELEASE AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

By entering, you agree to release and hold harmless Sponsor, Facebook, their respective parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents (the "Released Parties") from and against any loss, cost, expense, damage claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the Photo Contest or receipt or use of any prize, including, but not limited to: (a) unauthorized human intervention in the Photo Contest; (b) technical errors; (c) printing errors; (d) late or undelivered mail or email; (e) errors in the administration of the Photo Contest; or (f) injury or damage to persons or property. You waive the right to claim any attorneys' fees and any damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, direct, or indirect damages.

Questions about the Photo Contest may be submitted to **bethany@delawarehighlands.org**.

Thank you for submitting your photos and good luck!