



DELAWARE  
HIGHLANDS  
CONSERVANCY

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



VAN SCOTT NATURE RESERVE  
PHOTO BY BETHANY ZARNOVSKI





DELAWARE  
HIGHLANDS  
CONSERVANCY

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#### CONTACT US

Van Scott Nature Reserve  
571 Perkins Pond Rd  
Beach Lake, PA 18405

DelawareHighlands.org  
info@delawarehighlands.org  
PA: 570-226-3164 • NY: 845-583-1010



# Conserving Nature Together, Forever

In 2024, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy celebrated our 30th anniversary and more than 19,000 acres of working farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat protected to date. It was a busy and fulfilling year as we continued to engage with our community through popular programs at the Van Scott Nature Reserve and across the region. Browse our photo album below for highlights!

In 2024, we completed a comprehensive Strategic Planning process, guided by input from our community about their goals and vision for a sustainable future for our area. The Green Lodging Partnership, which offers visitors the opportunity to contribute to the conservation of the Upper Delaware River region with every reservation, raised nearly \$80,000 in a record year. Our dedicated team of more than 80 volunteers donated countless hours of their personal time serving on committees, on our Board of Directors, helping out around the Reserve and on visits to protected properties, or on our winter Eagle Watch program.

With several land protection projects underway, programs scheduled throughout the year, and exciting activities planned at the Reserve—including new community and demonstration gardens—our staff and volunteers are busier than ever, and we're looking forward to seeing you in 2025!

We invite you to join us on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at The Inn at Woodloch in Hawley, PA for our annual Foods of the Delaware Highlands dinner as we celebrate accomplishments and invest in the future. Tickets for the event are available at [DelawareHighlands.org/events](https://DelawareHighlands.org/events).

This work is made possible by the generosity of our members, friends, and volunteers. Whether through financial contributions, volunteer service, or participation in our events, your support enables us to continue our mission. **Thank you for your continued support!**

Learning together at the Pond Investigation.



PHOTO BY JEFF SIDLE

The annual Confluence: Land, Water, The Artery Gallery in Milford, PA.



Getting to meet some new friends!



Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat for women forest landowners and aspiring landowners.



# A Century of Impact

## Celebrating Barbara Yeaman's Conservation Legacy

On December 16th, 2024, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's beloved founder, Barbara Yeaman, celebrated her 100th birthday.

Barbara founded the Conservancy thirty years ago, in 1994. Since those early days, the organization has grown from a small group of dedicated volunteers to a prominent organization with offices on both sides of the Delaware River and more than 19,000 acres of farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat protected to date.

**In honor of Barbara's 100th birthday and the decades that she has dedicated to protecting the lands and waters we all cherish—while inspiring generations of others to do the same—the Conservancy established the Barbara Yeaman Fund for Land Conservation.** The fund will assist landowners with the costs associated with protecting their land with a conservation easement and will support the Conservancy in offering educational programs on conservation and sustainable land management.

**To honor Barbara's legacy of conserving the Upper Delaware River region and make a gift to the fund in her honor, donations may be made on the Conservancy's website at [DelawareHighlands.org](https://DelawareHighlands.org) or mailed to 571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake, PA 18405.**

**Thank you** to all those who have already contributed to the Barbara Yeaman Fund for Land Conservation!



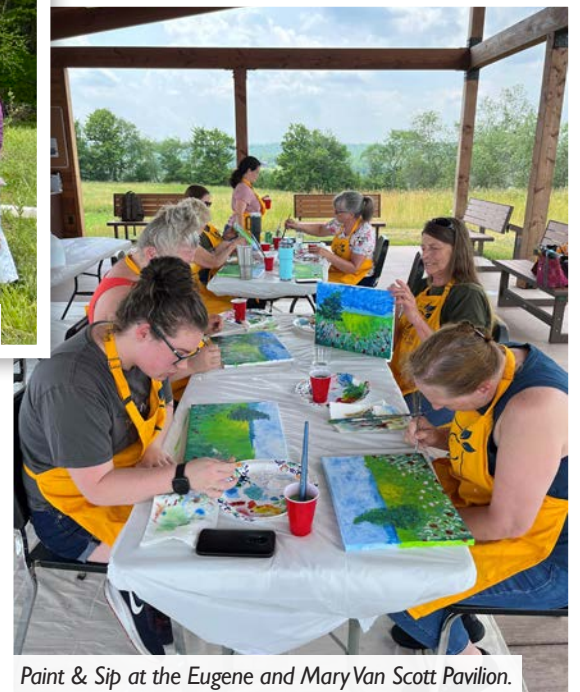
Wildlife photo contest exhibit at



Volunteers plant nearly 500 trees at the Van Scott Nature Reserve.



Taste of the Harvest concert and jazz brunch featuring Jonny King, Dezron Douglas, and Billy Drummond.



Paint & Sip at the Eugene and Mary Van Scott Pavilion.



# 2024 Donors

## River Club Member

Individual donors of \$2,500 or more annually (from July 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024) become members of the Conservancy's River Club. Learn more at [www.delawarehighlands.org/membership-support/river-club](http://www.delawarehighlands.org/membership-support/river-club).

## \$100,000 or more

William Penn Foundation

## \$50,000 or more

Kentfields Foundation

## \$10,000 or more

Anonymous

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Barbara Yeaman  
Darren and Ivonne Zeller  
Tom Zibinski  
Edward and Amber Zygmunt

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Sue Currier  
Patricia Diness  
Helen Early (deceased)  
Mary Evans  
Arnold Friedman (deceased)  
Linda Gearhart (deceased)  
Susanne Hand & David Kinsey  
Susan Hartney  
Karen Lutz  
Harold MacGregor (deceased)  
Dorothy Merrill (deceased)  
Mary Sue Sweeney Price  
Kimberly (Mimi) Raleigh  
Denise Risley & Will McTarsney  
Brenda Seldin  
Richard Snyder (deceased)  
Charles Victor Traeger (deceased)  
Sigrid Wilshinsky (deceased)  
Jonathan Wind  
Barbara Yeaman

## 2024 Corporate Sponsors

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The Dime Bank  
Brian T. Kelly CPA & Associates  
Christopher Kimler  
Kiley Associates  
Pioneer Construction  
Trashcans Unlimited  
Wallenpaupack Brewing Co.

In 2024, the Conservancy received donations **in memory of** Douglas Lee Kelley and Vanessa Joy Van Gorder. The Conservancy received donations **in honor of** Kevin Barber, John and Donna Ross, Raye Levine Spielberg and Sawyer Spielberg, and Barbara Yeaman.

**You too can support the Delaware Highlands Conservancy with a one-time, sustaining, or legacy gift.** Our Legacy Leaders have included the Conservancy in their will or estate plans, or have helped a parent, partner or loved one leave a legacy. Visit [DelawareHighlands.org](http://DelawareHighlands.org) to donate now, or contact Samantha Mango at 570-226-3164 ext. 9 to discuss your gift.

# President's Remarks

Dear Members and Friends,

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy continued to thrive in 2024 and in a large part this is because of you. One metric that any non-profit organization can measure is "member retention," and we are proud that our results are consistently one of the highest. Thank you for your continued support!

One important reason for the Conservancy's success is that we serve one of the most beautiful and unspoiled regions in our country. The landowners who have chosen to work with us are spread across northeast Pennsylvania and the adjacent New York State counties. Our easement holders have one thing in common and that is an appreciation for natural land and the desire to preserve it for future generations. We appreciate their decision to protect their land and we work to maintain an ongoing relationship with them, assisting them with land management when called upon.

If you follow us on social media or visit our website, you will notice that we are expanding our educational offerings. In addition to our traditional Eagle Watch tours, we are hosting a variety of programs at the Van Scott Nature Reserve ranging from nature walks highlighting invasive species to Conservation Conversations with our Land Protection specialists.

We have also begun to host school groups and other youth organizations at the Van Scott Nature Reserve. The scenery at the Reserve is unsurpassed and we want to share it with as many people as possible!

Please mark your calendar for two upcoming events. On Sunday, June 8th we will host our annual "Foods of the Delaware Highlands Dinner" at The Inn at Woodloch and on Saturday, August 9th Harmony in the Woods will host a benefit concert for the Conservancy featuring a popular Carole King Tribute band.

Let me close with a big thank you to our staff, our volunteers, our corporate sponsors and my fellow board members who make the Delaware Highlands Conservancy successful. Our ranks include longtime residents, new residents, farmers, and business owners. We work together to make our region the special place that it is.

All the best,

**Doug Hayes, President**

## Green Lodging Partners

Boarding House at Seminary Hill  
Brookmill Cabin

The Chestnut Inn on Oquaga Lake  
Himalayan Institute  
Hotel Anthracite  
Hotel Fauchere

La Posada Ledges Hotel  
The Lodge at Woodloch  
Pepacton Cabins

The Settlers Inn  
Silver Birches  
Smokey Belles Catskills  
Tom Quick Inn  
Woodloch Resort



## Volunteers

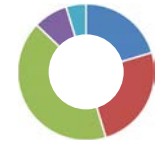
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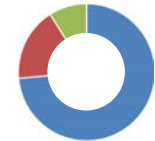
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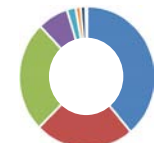
### Operating Income 2024

Donations & Bequests	\$254,000
Grants	\$311,000
Investment Income	\$521,000
Education & Engagement	\$101,000
Land Protection & Services	\$59,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,246,000</b>



### Operating Expenses 2024

Program Expenses	\$705,000
Management and General	\$167,000
Fundraising	\$86,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$958,000</b>



### Select Assets as of 12/31/24

Fund for the Future	\$1,931,000
Property & Equipment	\$1,169,000
Stewardship funds	\$1,254,000
Cash and Reserves	\$362,000
Eagle Habitat funds	\$105,000
Educational Scholarship funds	\$58,000
Accounts Receivable & Prepaids	\$58,000
Land Protection funds	\$20,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,957,000</b>

Unaudited financials. For the full audited financial report and our 990, visit [Delaware-Highlands.org](http://Delaware-Highlands.org).

## 2025 CORPORATE SPONSORS



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Learn more at [delawarehighlands.org/membership-support/corporate-sponsorships/](http://delawarehighlands.org/membership-support/corporate-sponsorships/)



# Protecting Land and Celebrating Community

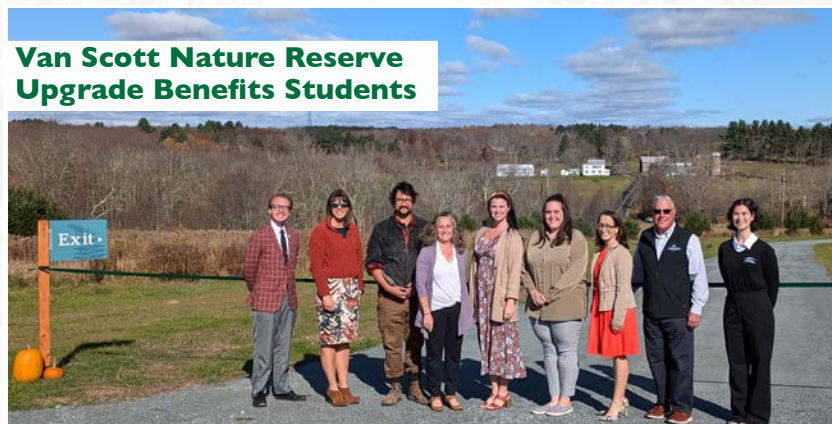
## Land Protected in the Upper Delaware River Region



**Rose Valley Forest, 18 acres of forests and wetlands in Sullivan County, NY, is now permanently protected with a conservation easement.** The property has been owned by the MacAdam family for 150 years, and brothers Gordon and Henry MacAdam had previously worked with the Conservancy in 2012 to protect 26 acres of their family homestead. Their positive experience partnering with the Conservancy and stewarding the land over the past twelve years motivated them to extend their conservation legacy.

**Read their story and learn more about protecting your land at [delawarehighlands.org/landowner-stories](https://delawarehighlands.org/landowner-stories).**

## Van Scott Nature Reserve Upgrade Benefits Students



In October, we were thrilled to cut the ribbon on a new exit driveway at the Van Scott Nature Reserve. The existing driveway and parking area was previously too small to accommodate buses and oversized transportation vehicles. **With the construction of this new, larger exit drive, the Reserve now has the capacity to host visiting school buses and other large groups.** The construction project was generously supported by local community grant funders including The Honesdale National Bank Foundation, the Human Resources Foundation, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, and the Wayne County Community Foundation.

**Read more at [delawarehighlands.org/news/](https://delawarehighlands.org/news/).**

## Community Raises Funds for Memorial Scholarship



The Vanessa Joy Van Gorder Memorial Scholarship Fund was **generously supported by the Fall Music Festival at Dorflinger, with a contribution of \$2,000** from funds raised during their fall event. In 2024, the scholarship was awarded to Jillian Hoey, a graduate of Honesdale High School. Jillian is attending the University of Scranton and majoring in environmental studies. The \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a student in one of the nine school districts in the Upper Delaware River region.

**Contributions to the scholarship fund may be made at [DelawareHighlands.org](https://DelawareHighlands.org) or by mail to 571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake, PA 18405.**

## A Trail at the Reserve for Your Four-Legged Friends



In a pilot program, the Conservancy is **now allowing leashed dogs on the Wildflower Trail at the Van Scott Nature Reserve.** The trail can be accessed by following the Explorer Trail a few feet from the main parking lot, and is marked with the dog symbol. Dogs must be leashed at all times, and leashes are free to borrow from the dog station during your visit. The station also includes waste bags and a trash can. Please help us protect the clean water and wildlife at the property by following the rules for the dog trail. Special thanks to Wallenpaupack Veterinary Clinic for sponsoring the dog station.

**To view the Van Scott Nature Reserve trail map, visit [delawarehighlands.org/vsnr/map](https://delawarehighlands.org/vsnr/map).**



# Upcoming Events

Most events require advance registration, and a registration fee may be requested. Visit [DelawareHighlands.org/events](https://DelawareHighlands.org/events) or call 570-226-3164 ext. 2 for additional details, to register, and to view our complete Calendar of Events.

## Spring Birding Walk

**April 12 • 9am-11am • Van Scott Nature Reserve**

Join us for a morning walk at the Reserve to look for birds in our meadows, forest, and along our ponds.

## Rain to Drain

**April 19 • 1pm-3pm • Van Scott Nature Reserve**

Join us for a workshop to explore the importance of water conservation and the role stormwater plays in it. We'll dive into the water cycle and examine how stormwater fits into the process and why it's crucial to understand its path and impact.

## Earth Day Scavenger Hunt

**April 22 • 10am-3pm • Van Scott Nature Reserve**

Celebrate Earth Day by heading outdoors for a Scavenger Hunt! Stop by anytime between 10am and 3pm for your scavenger hunt booklet. Once you've completed the hunt, return to the office to claim a small prize!

## Spring Monitoring Volunteer Training

**April 23, May 1, May 9 • 1pm-5pm • Van Scott Nature Reserve**

Join our Stewardship Staff for an informative Monitoring Volunteer Training to learn more about our monitoring program and how volunteers can participate in annual visits to protected properties.

## Boundin' Furbearers

**April 25 • 3pm-4pm • Van Scott Nature Reserve**

Ever wonder about the difference between a red fox and a grey fox? Did you know that grey fox are the only member of the canine family that can climb trees? Do opossums really play dead? What is a fisher? Join us to learn about the furry animals that live in the woods around us!

## Mystery Zoom!

**April 29 • 12pm-1pm**

It's a mystery! Join us on the last Tuesday of every month for a fun and exciting Mystery Zoom workshop on a new topic each month.

## To learn more about...

the Delaware Highlands Conservancy or to make a donation in support of our work, visit [DelawareHighlands.org](https://DelawareHighlands.org).

Find us on [f @DelawareHighlandsConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy) [@DHConservancy](https://www.instagram.com/DHConservancy)



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