



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

Highlands JOURNAL

Fall 2021



PHOTO BY NICOLE DECAROLIS

Whether you have feet, fins, or feathers, nature is home. It's where we come together and connect. It's where we find peace, and it's how we survive.

Your favorite spot to take a break from the chaos of the day might also be a safe winter home for a bald eagle. When you see a mother bear and her cubs in your backyard, they are also seeing you in theirs.

The Conservancy's mission is to protect the working farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat of the Upper Delaware River region. But it reaches far beyond that.

We want to honor your connection to nature and to our shared local history, to offer quality educational programs that foster a new understanding of the natural world and each other, and to support the farm, forest, and ecotourism industries that sustain the local economy.

From our Eagle Watch program to guided hikes, forestry workshops, and river paddles, we offer these programs throughout the year so we can meet in the space that we share—people and wildlife alike.

We look forward to welcoming you to the new Van Scott Nature Reserve (*read more about this inside!*) and introducing this special property to our community as a beautiful place to learn about, explore, and enjoy nature.

Thank you for caring about the people, the wildlife, and the irreplaceable special places of the Upper Delaware River region. We are truly grateful to share this beautiful home with you, and to steward it together.



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

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CONTACT US

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Beach Lake, PA 18405

DelawareHighlands.org
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Scholarships Awarded to Local Students

In June, the Conservancy awarded its annual Delaware Highlands Conservancy/Yeaman Scholarship for \$1,175 to Amy Carpenter, a 2021 graduate from Delaware Valley HS, and the Vanessa Van Gorder Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 to Ella Clabaugh, a 2021 graduate of Wallenpaupack Area HS.

Recipient **Amy Carpenter** will attend Susquehanna University to study Earth and Environmental Science. In high school, she discovered an interest in diversity in ecosystems and looks forward to working on ecosystem restoration. She was co-president of the Martial Arts Club and a member of the National Honor Society.



YEAMAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT AMY CARPENTER

Recipient **Ella Clabaugh** will attend Lafayette College. She is passionate about conservation and the environment and intends to study environmental science. In high school, she was an Executive Council member of the National Honor Society and a member of Science Olympiad and the Environmental Club where she participated in the Envirothon Competition and received first place locally. She volunteers with Keep Hawley/Honesdale Beautiful to pick up litter throughout the area.

Learn more about the scholarships at www.delawarehighlands.org/learn/scholarships.

Donations to the scholarship fund and other environmental education programs can be made at DelawareHighlands.org or by mail to 571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake, PA 18405.

River Club

The River Club celebrates and recognizes investment in the Conservancy. River Club members will establish a legacy that lives on and helps to ensure the perpetual continuity of the mission of the Conservancy. You can become a member of the River Club with an annual gift of \$2,500 or more.



River Club Members as of July 31, 2021

Lifetime Members

Anonymous
The Van Scott Family

\$5,000 and Up
Michael and Cynthia Cann
Barbara and Gerard Cuffe
Kate and Doug Hayes
Sonja Hedlund and Dick Riseling
Karen and Charles Lutz
Michael and Roberta Martin, *Berkowitz II Foundation*
Jorge Perez and Estela Rojas
Mary Sue Price
John and Donna Ross
Tony and Debby Waldron

\$2,500 - \$4,999

James Asselstine and Bette Davis
Greg Belcamino and Judith Welcom
Brown Brothers Harriman Trust Co., *GBH Foundation*
The Dime Bank
Christopher King
Brian Mattson
Clark and Peggy Pitcairn
David Satnick and Monique Palladino
George and Lori Varsam, *Janice Michelle Foundation*
Louise Washer and Mary Clay Fields

Winter Eagle Watching in the Upper Delaware

In the winter months, our region becomes a temporary home to hundreds of bald eagles. Arriving in December from Canada and upstate New York, the eagles come in search of open water to fish, and large stands of trees in which to perch and roost. The clean waters and protected forests of the Upper Delaware River provide the perfect winter habitat for these magnificent birds, and eagle-viewing is a popular winter activity.

The Conservancy is tentatively planning a series of guided Eagle Watch bus trips in 2022. Please visit DelawareHighlands.org/events or call 570-226-3168 ext. 8 for more information and to register. Or, visit DelawareHighlands.org/eagles for information on viewing eagles safely on your own and to download a map with GPS coordinates to take your own driving tour and visit the Eagle Observation Areas staffed by Conservancy volunteers on weekends in January and February.

Follow the Conservancy on Facebook [@DelawareHighlandsConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy) and Instagram

[@DHConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/DHConservancy) for photos, videos, and updates from our volunteers through the winter season.

During your visit, remember to practice 'eagle etiquette' to ensure you do not disturb the birds. Avoid loud noises such as yelling, car door slamming, horn honking, and unnecessary movement. Use binoculars instead of trying to get closer, and don't do anything to try to make the eagle fly. If the viewing blind is closed, remain inside your vehicle to avoid disturbing the birds, and park only in designated public parking areas.

Practicing eagle etiquette ensures that the eagles are able to conserve the precious energy they need to survive the cold winter months.

The Upper Delaware River region is one of the largest wintering habitats for eagles in the northeast United States. Being respectful when watching wildlife means we can continue to experience the joy and satisfaction we get from seeing eagles soar above our rivers and forests.

Please be compliant with CDC and state COVID guidelines, and follow safety recommendations made by Conservancy volunteers.

Thank you for doing your part to keep eagles and people healthy and safe!

2022 WINTER SCHEDULE Eagle Watch Bus Tours

Please note, dates are tentative and plans may change. Please visit DelawareHighlands.org/events or call 570-226-3164 ext. 8 for up-to-date information and to register. Tours are 10am-2pm.
\$15 for members and
\$25 for non-members.

January 8
January 15
January 22
February 5
February 12

Or, visit our Eagle Observation Areas staffed by volunteers on weekends in January and February.
DelawareHighlands.org/eagles

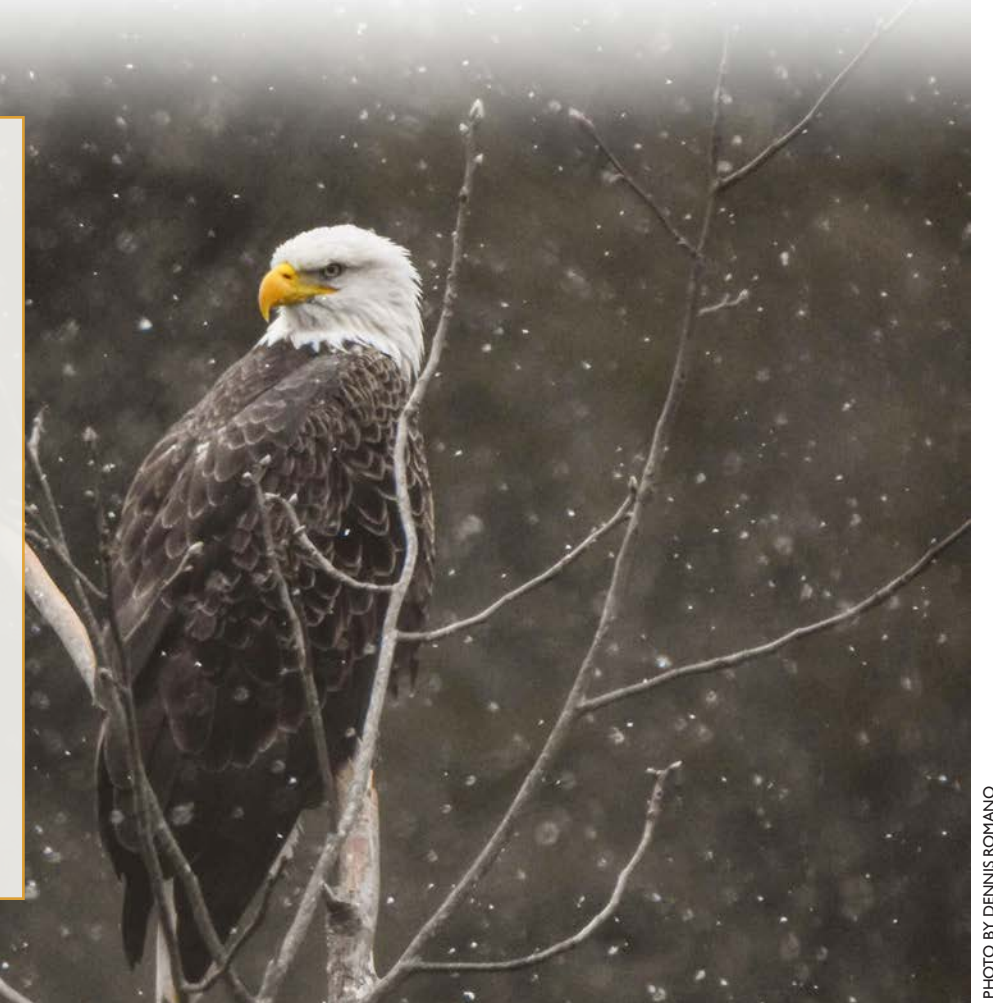
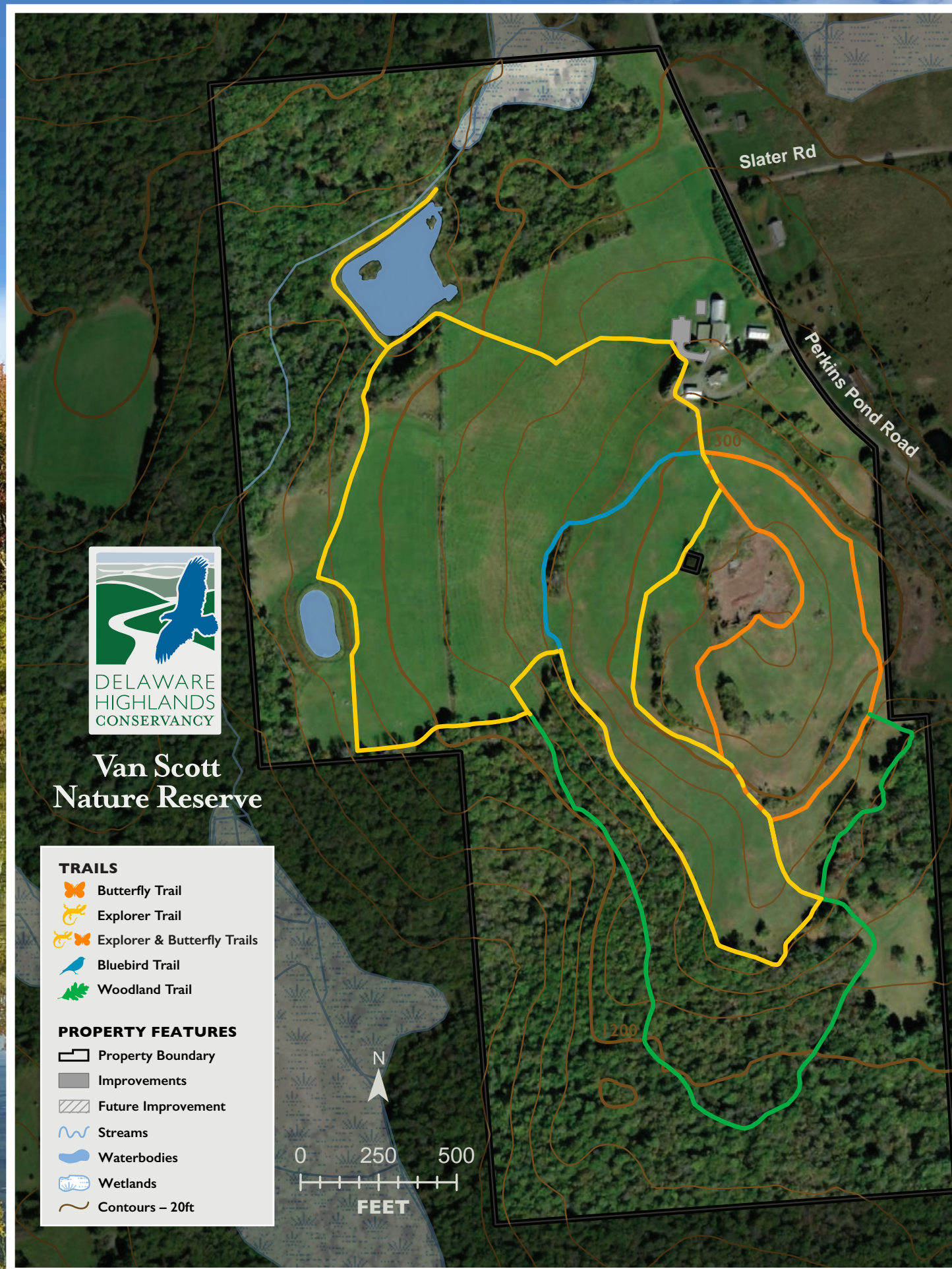


PHOTO BY DENNIS ROMANO



The Van Scott Nature Reserve A Place to Learn and Explore

The 144-acre Van Scott Nature Reserve in Beach Lake, Wayne County, PA is now open to the public and is a welcoming, accessible place for people of all ages to learn about, explore, and enjoy nature. The Reserve is the new headquarters of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and features more than three miles of walking trails through the wildflower meadows, wetlands, and forest.

The meadows provide important habitat for ground-nesting birds and pollinators, while the forests on the property provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and help to protect clean drinking water.

The Reserve is home to the Conservancy's year-round educational programming including nature walks, forestry and land management workshops, demonstration projects, and winter Eagle Watch. Over time, other farm structures will be adapted for new and enhanced educational programs.

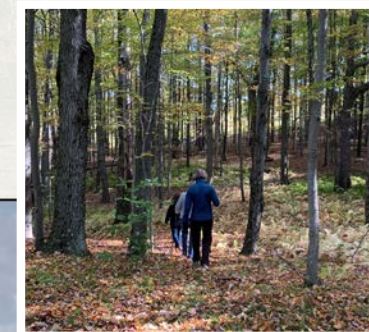
More information about the property, including a downloadable trail map and the complete Reserve Rules, can be found on the Conservancy's website at www.DelawareHighlands.org/vsnr.

Trail maps may also be picked up at the trailhead kiosks. To help us protect clean water and wildlife, dogs are not allowed on the Reserve.

We look forward to welcoming you for a special event, educational program, or a nature walk!

Share your photos taken at the Van Scott Nature Reserve! Tag us in your pictures on Instagram @DHConservancy and use the hashtag #vsnr and we might feature your photo on Instagram.

Van Scott Nature Reserve
571 Perkins Pond Rd
Beach Lake, PA 18405
570-226-3164



Leaving a Legacy

What type of legacy will you leave behind? 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.

We can personally discuss (along with your tax and financial advisor) strategies to help you support the Conservancy's land protection mission while also maximizing your tax and financial benefits. If you would like to learn more, or if you have already considered us in your estate plans, please contact us at info@delawarehighlands.org or 570-226-3164 so we may thank you during your lifetime.

Legacy Leaders

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



Congratulations to the Photo Contest Winners!

Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife

Through summer 2021 the Conservancy held its fourth annual juried photo contest, “Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife.” The contest invited local photographers to capture striking nature photos from the Upper Delaware River region in five categories: landscape, wildlife, macro, water, and a youth category for photographers under age 18.

The Conservancy is pleased to announce the winners of the juried contest. In the **landscape category**, winner - Tina Tison, runners-up - William Brown and Daniel Pilz. **Wildlife category**, winner - Kathleen Colligan, runners-up - Laurie Lobbregt and Paul Lobbregt. **Water category**, winner - Milicent Wightman, runners-up - Liz DiMenno and Clark Pitcairn. **Macro category**, winner - Jeffrey Sidle, runners-up - Melissa Stiglich and George Silvaney.

Youth category, winner - Anna Brown, age 13; runners-up - Klara Gonzalez, Kallista Strout, Daisy Olivo Heller, Aidan Berman, Mckayleigh Lokuta, Jackson Hancock, and Maxwell Hancock. The **People’s Choice** winner is Clark Pitcairn and the **Conservancy Staff Pick** is Kathryn Beisel.

The ARTery Gallery in Milford, PA will host the Conservancy from November 11th until December 6th in an exhibition featuring the winning photographs alongside artwork created by ARTery member artists, **opening with a reception on Saturday, November 13 from 2-4pm** at 210 Broad Street, Milford.

A selection of the winners is below; **all of the winning photos may be viewed on the Conservancy’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/delawarehighlandsconservancy.**



Conservancy Seeks Accreditation Renewal

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of accreditation. The Conservancy was first accredited in 2011 and reaccredited in 2017. A public comment period is now open.



The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs. Accreditation means that our standards for fiscal, fundraising, stewardship, easement acquisition, and overall non-profit management meet or exceed rigorous national requirements. The Conservancy provides expert professional guidance and operates with the highest professional standards in the land trust community.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Delaware Highlands Conservancy complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on the Conservancy’s application will be most useful by March 21, 2022.

Remembering Ed Wesely

Ed Wesely was a dear friend and supporter of the Conservancy since its inception, founder of the Butterfly Barn Nature Center at his and Barbara Yeaman’s home alongside the Delaware River, and a lifelong champion of the natural world. He passed away on May 26, 2021.

Ed’s many projects in support of protecting nature, wildlife conservation and education, and the preservation of local history included rescuing, raising, and releasing hundreds of monarch butterflies every year. People of all ages enjoyed learning from Ed at his popular monarch butterfly programs, where he shared an enduring message of respect and care for the natural world.

The milkweed and native wildflowers in the meadows at the Van Scott Nature Reserve provide perfect habitat for monarch butterflies. In honor of the wonderful legacy that Ed has left for the entire Upper Delaware River region, the Conservancy will install and

dedicate a bench and educational sign along the Butterfly Trail in Ed’s memory.

If you would like to honor Ed’s memory with a contribution toward the butterfly meadows, memorial bench, and educational programming, please direct your donation to Delaware Highlands Conservancy, 571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake, PA 18405, or visit DelawareHighlands.org and indicate that your donation is in memory of Ed.

To read a beautiful profile of Ed’s life and work written by his partner and Conservancy founder Barbara Yeaman, please visit: www.riverreporter.com/stories/remembering-ed-wesley,44980.



PHOTO BY NICOLE DECAROLIS
A CONSERVED PROPERTY IN PIKE COUNTY, PA



The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is protecting more than 18,000 acres of working farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat in the Upper Delaware River region.

To learn more about...

the Delaware Highlands Conservancy or to make a donation in support of our work, visit DelawareHighlands.org.

Find us on  @DelawareHighlandsConservancy  @DHConservancy  @DHConservancy

♻️ Printed on recycled paper.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN COLLIGAN
WINNER, WILDLIFE CATEGORY 2021 PHOTO CONTEST

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

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"Nature is not a place to visit. It is home." – Gary Snyder