



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

Highlands JOURNAL

June 2017



Outside in the Delaware Highlands

Summer is a particularly special time of year in our region—with endless opportunities to get outside and connect to nature, whether hiking, biking, birding, paddling, or simply relaxing.

For many of us, having the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors is why we love where we live—and why we invest our time, energy, and resources in protecting these lands and waters for future generations.

Often, it's childhood experiences in nature—exploring the woods, searching for salamanders, jumping into a clear lake—

that inspire lifelong care and concern for our natural world. This summer we invite you to bring the family and join us for a walk on our woodland trail or for our community picnic and star watch. We'll explore, learn, and work together for the bright future of our Upper Delaware River home.



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

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A Celebration of the Upper Delaware River Region

On Saturday, May 6, more than 130 of our members and friends gathered for the 10th annual Foods of the Delaware Highlands dinner at Silver Birches Waterfront in Hawley, PA. Attendees enjoyed a delicious farm-to-table meal with wine pairings, exciting live and silent auctions, and fun conversation with friends.

Foods of the Delaware Highlands is the Conservancy's primary benefit event. All of the funds raised from the evening support our mission to conserve the working farms and forests, clean waters, and exceptional quality of life of the Upper Delaware River region.

Mark your calendar and save the date for April 28, 2018 at Silver Birches for next year's Foods of the Delaware Highlands!



amazonsmile

If you can't shop local, shop to give back...

Through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of the purchase price of your items is donated back to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy by the AmazonSmile Foundation. **It's free to sign up and costs you nothing.** Visit smile.amazon.com to get started.



The Eagle Watchers

Imagine it. It's January, and you're standing outside in a small, uninsulated wooden shed. The wind whips through the open windows, bringing the temperature down to about 15 degrees. Is this where you want to be?

If you're an Eagle Watch volunteer for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, the answer is a resounding YES!

Each weekend in January and February, the Conservancy's Eagle Watch volunteers bundle up in their warmest clothes, grab their binoculars and spotting scopes, and head to our Eagle Observation Areas (also called viewing blinds) along the Upper Delaware River. They'll spend the day looking for eagles and helping visitors to the Observation Areas do the same, teaching them about these magnificent birds, their habitat, and "eagle etiquette."

For some Eagle Watch volunteers, spending their winter weekends this way has become a way of life. Brad and Denise Orey first began volunteering nearly twenty years ago in 1998, before the Eagle Institute and the Delaware Highlands Conservancy had merged. They enjoy viewing eagles and the birds that share the habitat so much that every weekend they drive two hours to the Mongaup Reservoir in Sullivan County, New York. "I've learned a lot about the eagles, and it's very rewarding to be able to share that with people," Brad explains.

Eagle Watch volunteers Mitch Opresnick—an eleven-year Eagle Watch veteran—and Paul Gamer agree. "I never get tired of seeing the eagles—it is just grand," Mitch explains. "But my favorite part is seeing the reactions of the people when they see them for the first time out in the wild. It's great to be able to share that, especially with kids." Paul especially likes when people come back year after year to visit him and observe eagles, but his favorite story is that

of a grandfather and his grandchildren. Paul directed them to the Lackawaxen River Access, and two hours later they returned and gave him a big hug because the kids were so excited that they had gotten to see an eagle fishing.

In addition to helping visitors see eagles in the wild, the Eagle Watch volunteers fill an important role—educating the public on "eagle etiquette." Eagles are extremely sensitive to human presence. The volunteers help the visitors view them safely without disturbing them—disturbances force the eagles to use precious energy they need to survive in the winter months.

The cold weather doesn't deter the volunteers, either. They see it as the perfect excuse to get out of the house during the winter—breathing the fresh air, enjoying nature, and meeting new people.

"It's my winter addiction," Brad says. "I wish there were more people interested in volunteering." Paul, who has been volunteering since he retired in 2011, agrees—"If you enjoy the outdoors, if you enjoy being with nice people, you enjoy being with eagles, it's a fun thing to do! When there's a lot of action, people there, birds flying around, you don't even feel the cold."

There is always something to see at the Eagle Observation Areas, and with approximately 3,000 visitors to the viewing blinds every year, volunteers play a crucial role in both educating people of all ages and helping to protect the eagles they love.



Thank you to all of our Eagle Watchers!

If you're interested in joining Brad, Mitch, Paul, and the rest of the dedicated Eagle Watch volunteers, the Conservancy hosts an annual Eagle Watch Volunteer Training Day in early December at our Upper Delaware Visitor Center.

To learn more, visit www.DelawareHighlands.org/eagles.

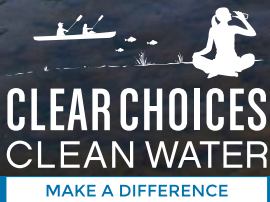
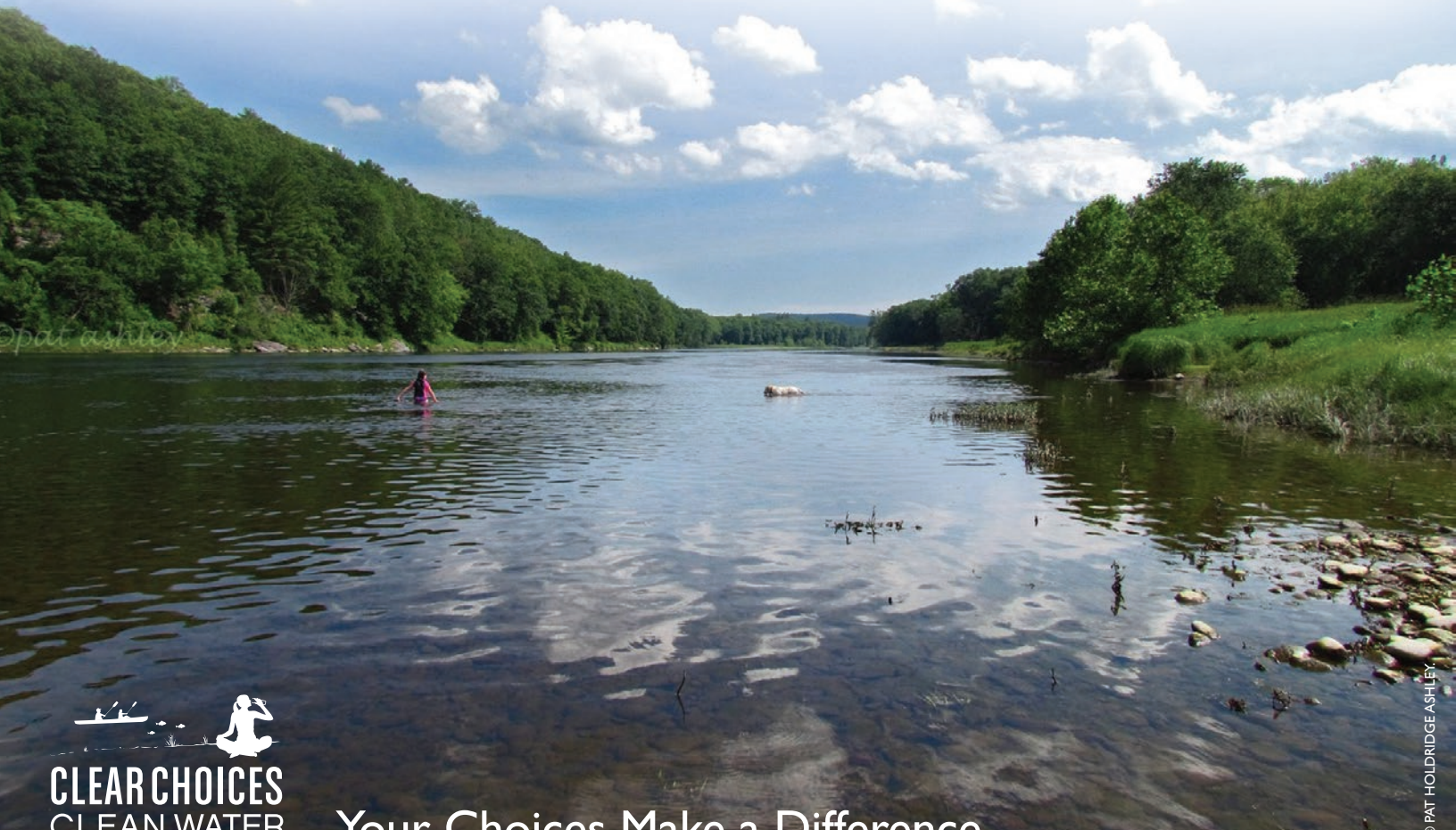


River Club

Land conservation is not just for today, but for the next seven generations. The River Club celebrates and recognizes investment in the Conservancy—an investment not just in protecting land and water, but in motivating and mobilizing our local community.

Members will enjoy exclusive invitation-only events, acknowledgement of your exceptional generosity to the Conservancy in our annual report, and the recognition of being a River Club member.

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, exclusive of auction purchases



Your Choices Make a Difference

These days, it's easy to get overwhelmed when you consider the threats to our natural world—and it's easy to feel like one person or one family couldn't possibly make a difference. **But that's just not true!**

Your everyday actions around your home and garden have a BIG impact on your local rivers, streams, ponds, and lakes. Whether or not you treat your lawn with fertilizer, wash your car in the driveway, or mow right

up to the edge of the backyard stream, be assured that your actions are impacting the water.

Visit mydelawareriver.clearchoicescleanwater.org to learn how you can prevent pollution from ending up in your local waters—and the drinking water that we all share.

Clear Choices, Clean Water: My Delaware River is supported through the Delaware River Watershed Initiative with funds provided by the William Penn Foundation.

A Family Legacy of Giving

Legacy Leaders

Sue Currier
Patricia Diness
Mary Evans
Linda Gearhart
Susanne Hand and David Kinsey
Susan Hartney
Alfred Lees and Ronald Nelson
Harold MacGregor
Dorothy Merrill (deceased)
Sally and Enrico Moretti
Mary Sue Sweeney Price
Kimberly (Mimi) Raleigh
Brenda Seldin
Shary and Gary Skoloff
Richard Snyder (deceased)
Charles Victor Traeger
Sigrid Wilshinsky
Jonathan Wind
Barbara Yeaman

The Conservancy's Leaving a Legacy initiative was supported with funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Linda Gearhart first learned about the Delaware Highlands Conservancy while managing her brother Jack's estate. Jack had been a dedicated volunteer for the Conservancy and a member of our Land Protection Committee since 2007, where his insight as a forester provided valuable guidance in many of the Conservancy's complex land protection projects. He was also a member of the Conservancy since 2003, giving not just his time, but investing his financial support in the mission as well.

Jack wanted to leave his legacy with the Conservancy and with the Boy Scouts, where he also volunteered by helping to plant hundreds of trees. After he passed away in January of 2015, Linda came to meet with our staff where she learned more about our work.

"In reading through all the materials, and talking with the staff, I thought, 'Oh my goodness, I didn't realize they did things like this! I wish I had more land!'" Jack had largely kept quiet about his volunteer work over the years, as was his nature, Linda explains: "He just quietly did whatever needed to be done. He was very passionate about conservation, and the natural world. He cared little for what was going on inside."

Linda soon decided to plan for her own bequest to the Conservancy. "I was taken by the work that he did for you," she explains. "He offered what he had—what he knew about, what he was good at. I can't do what he did, but I can pass along money in my will."

As an educator—Linda is a retired 5th grade Social Studies teacher—the educational aspect of the Conservancy's work is very important to her as well. She hopes that more young people will begin to see the importance of protecting our natural world.

Conservancy staff best remembers Jack sitting at the conference table, #2 pencil in hand, reviewing detailed policies and documents line by line—or, of course, walking the land with a landowner, discussing their options for protecting and caring for it for future generations. We're honored to continue Jack's legacy, and the legacy of all of those who make a planned gift to the Conservancy.

With their generous gifts, Linda and Jack Gearhart have both become Legacy Leaders—a special group of people who have included the Conservancy in their will or estate plans, or have helped a parent, partner or loved one leave a legacy.

We hope you will consider joining them to help ensure that we can carry out our mission into the future.

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.

If this sounds like the kind of legacy you would like to leave, 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.

Learn more, visit delawarehighlands.org/membership/leaving-a-legacy.



Meet the Conservancy Staff

Our Conservancy staff is here to help you—whether you want to learn more about caring for your land, participate in a workshop or event, or invest in the future of the Upper Delaware River region.

We've welcomed some new faces in 2017 and want to introduce you to our team. Contact our staff anytime with questions or suggestions about the Conservancy's activities.

Diane Rosencrance, *Executive Director*

Amanda Subjin, *Conservation Programs Team Lead*

Bethany Keene, *Outreach and Development Team Lead*

Susan LaCroix, *Land Protection Coordinator*

Jason Zarnowski, *Outreach and GIS Coordinator*

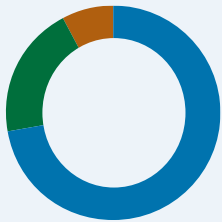
Avery Siler, *Land Protection Associate*

Cindy Taylor, *Stewardship Associate*



From top left: Diane Rosencrance, Jason Zarnowski, Amanda Subjin, Bethany Keene, Avery Siler; in front: Susan LaCroix and Cindy Taylor.

[Read more about our staff at delawarehighlands.org/about/staff >>](http://delawarehighlands.org/about/staff)



- 72.38% Conservation & Education Programs
- 19.97% Administration
- 7.65% Fundraising

The Cost of Doing Business

You have likely noticed that the Conservancy is busy fundraising year-round. In fact, on our Efficiency Chart, you'll see that about 7% of our expenses as an organization go toward fundraising—while 72% go to Conservation and Education Programs.

Our goal as an organization is to use every dollar you give to support our conservation and education mission, and we're proud of our efficiency. But in order to remain successful, we need to continuously raise funds. And that's where you come in.

For every dollar we raise—whether by hosting an event or sending a letter—fundraising costs can amount to 20 cents or more. By becoming a **recurring donor**—whether quarterly or monthly—you're helping to reduce our fundraising costs. This ensures that more of your donation goes directly to the programs you care about most.

Visit DelawareHighlands.org to set up your recurring credit card donation with the amount and timing you specify.

The Conservancy is grateful for your trust and investment in our work, and we are committed to transparency in our financial management. We encourage you to visit our website at delawarehighlands.org/membership-support/financials/ to view our annual audited financial statements, and to contact us anytime with questions.

A New and Improved DelawareHighlands.org

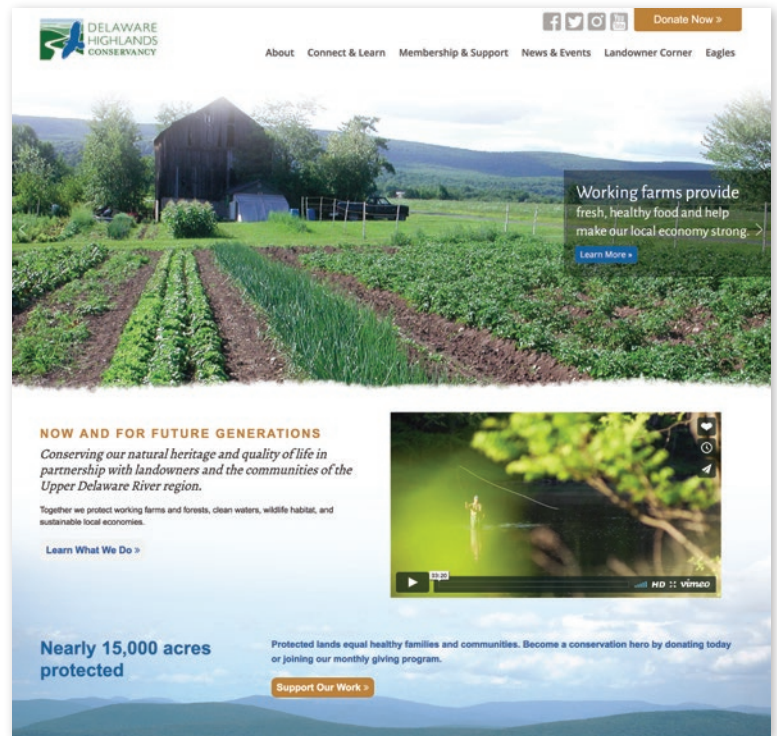
Have you seen our brand-new, completely redesigned website?

Located at DelawareHighlands.org, it is easy to navigate, mobile-friendly, and contains a wealth of information about the Conservancy and our ongoing efforts to protect the lands, waters, and quality of life in the Upper Delaware River region.

Easily stay up-to-date with us through our News and Events sections. Get to know the staff and Board of Directors, and connect with nature and learn through our educational and community programs.

Find the resources you need to learn more about managing or permanently protecting your lands in the Landowner Corner. Find details about becoming a volunteer or joining the Conservancy community as a member.

The user-friendly site is designed to present the information and resources you care about most in an easily accessible manner.



The website redesign project was supported with funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation. The website was designed by W Design, wdesigngroup.com.

Save the Date!

2017 Community Picnic September 16

We're looking forward to our annual community picnic for our members and friends, hosted on a beautiful protected property in Bethel, NY.

Join us on **Saturday, September 16 from 4-8pm** for a delicious catered picnic dinner, live music, a guided trail walk, a star watch, fun educational activities for all ages, and much more. RSVP to Jason at jason@delawarehighlands.org or 570-226-3164 ext. 6.





Looking for monthly updates on our events and programs?

Sign up for our e-newsletter on DelawareHighlands.org.

June 24

Native Plants Walk with Ann Rhoads
Camp Speers YMCA, Dingmans Ferry, PA

Join us this summer for our annual Native Plants Walk with renowned botanist Dr. Ann Rhoads. Dr. Rhoads will discuss, illustrate, and answer your questions about the native plants found in a wetland community.

July 22 & August 19

2pm • Guided Nature Walks with the Conservancy
Bethel Office, NY

Join Conservancy volunteers for guided nature walks on our woodland trail and learn about what you see.

September 16

Community Picnic for Our Members, Volunteers & Friends
Bethel Office, NY

At this year's annual picnic, we'll enjoy a guided trail walk, live music, a potluck dinner, and a star watch!


October 7

Fall Hike: Tusten Mountain Trail
Tusten, NY

Join the Conservancy for a guided hike and learn about the ecology and history of the area.

To learn more about...

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

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



When our lands and waters are healthy, we are healthy too.

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SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

“No matter how much one may love the world as a whole, one can live fully in it only by living responsibly in some small part of it. Where we live and whom we live there with define the terms of our relationship to the world and to humanity.” – Wendell Berry

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