



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

Spring & Summer 2021

Highlands JOURNAL



Safely being together with friends and family. Giving time and energy to the causes you value most. Finding quiet moments of peace outdoors in nature. Over the past year, we have all considered what is truly essential in our everyday lives.

The natural world is full of these everyday essentials, too: the plants and animals that are so commonplace they can easily be overlooked, but without which our world would be a much different place.

The cover photo of this newsletter features a Common Yellowthroat perching on a milkweed plant. Neither are rare or unique, but they are both crucial parts of the natural world with big impacts on the ecosystem that surrounds them.

Like the humble milkweed plant that provides essential

and irreplaceable food sources and habitat for dozens of pollinators, your support of the Conservancy has a big impact that continues to multiply as we permanently protect land, water, and wildlife throughout the region.

Through the spring and summer, we hope you are finding peace in nature and enjoying the many signs of renewal. Thank you for all you do for the future of the Upper Delaware River region, and to all those people in our community who have worked hard over the past year to continue to provide the essential services that help us all stay healthy and safe.



DELAWARE
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Save the Date to Celebrate

Sunday, September 19, 2021

The past year's experiences have given us a heightened awareness of what we cherish most: time spent with friends and family. As we begin moving forward, we are gratified to be making plans to gather once again at a special and safe outdoor event on Sunday, September 19, 2021: the Back to Nature Celebration.

The Back to Nature Celebration will begin with an exclusive "sneak-peek" tour of the Conservancy's new 144-acre **Van Scott Nature Reserve** in Beach Lake, PA. Then, guests are invited down the road to our neighbor, the **Inn at Woodloch**, for a fun, relaxed, and delicious lakeside dinner with appropriate socially distanced seating.

Unwind by the fire, enjoy live music, take a boat ride on Lake Teedyuskung, and dine on a variety of specialty gourmet barbecue and tapas-style selections with signature cocktails. Our online silent auction will feature fun and unique activities, art, and more highlighting the beauty and bounty of the Upper Delaware River region.

Masks will be worn and social distancing will be observed; in case of rain, socially distanced dining will move under cover.

Opportunities to sponsor the event are available, or tickets are \$150 per person.

Learn more about sponsorships and reserve your tickets early at www.DelawareHighlands.org/events.



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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 and select Delaware Highlands Conservancy to get started.



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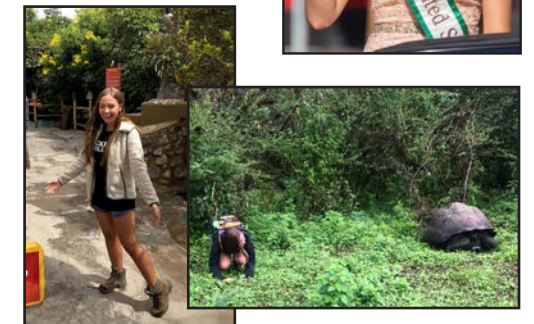
Catching Up With Past Scholarship Recipients

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy annually awards two \$1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors, the Conservancy/Yeaman Scholarship and the Vanessa Van Gorder Memorial Scholarship. We invited prior scholarship recipients to share some of their personal and professional accomplishments.

Mikala Anderson (2019) is attending Cornell University where she is an Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in animal science and agricultural education. She intends to pursue a master's degree in agricultural education and recently completed an internship with the Delaware County Watershed Agricultural Council and Delaware County Cornell Cooperative Extension. In addition, she is a sprint football manager with Cornell and a Broome County 4H leader where she is working to help improve their livestock program and 4H auction. She served as the 2020 New York Miss United States of Agriculture.



Carly Naundorff (2018) is a junior at Eckerd College where she is double majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies. Her studies have included a class on the Natural History of Ecuador where she explored Ecuador's famous archipelago by boat, camped in the Amazon rainforest, hiked in the cloud forests, and explored the city of Quito. She completed an internship studying Black Skimmers, an east coast seabird, and currently has a paper in review with the journal *Waterbirds* titled "Use of Morphometric Measurements from Photographs of Banded Birds to Determine Gender."



Alex Hess (2015) graduated from SUNY ESF in Syracuse, NY summa cum laude in 2019 with a B.S. in Environmental Resources Engineering and a minor in water resources. He is a certified New York State Intern Engineer and is currently employed by Barton and Loguidice, DPC in Liverpool, NY as an Engineer 2 in the Water and Wastewater Discipline where he is working on a variety of water and wastewater projects across New York State.



Kristen DeVilliers Sanborn (2014) is currently studying to become a Licensed Veterinary Technician while working at an emergency animal clinic and working toward increasing her knowledge to help animals. She lives with her husband, Nick and their dog Buster in northern Virginia where she loves being outside exploring and enjoying nature.

Are you a prior recipient of a Conservancy scholarship and would like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter? Please email bethany@delawarehighlands.org for details.

Learn more about the scholarships or make a donation to the scholarship fund at www.delawarehighlands.org/learn/scholarships.



© LOUISE WASHER

Notes from the Reserve

In spring 2020, the Van Scott family generously donated a 144-acre property in Beach Lake, Berlin Township, Pennsylvania to the Conservancy to develop as an environmental learning center, headquarters, and for use as a nature reserve.

This summer, the Conservancy will relocate our offices to the **Van Scott Nature Reserve** and will close our Hawley, PA office, which was generously provided to us rent-free by Henry Skier since 2006.

Once the Reserve opens to the public later in 2021, it will feature more than three miles of publicly accessible walking trails through the woods and wildflower meadows. Over time, other farm structures will be adapted for new and enhanced educational programs.

The photo at left was taken at the Reserve and is an example of the wonderful pollinator habitat that the meadows provide: note the milkweed pod in the lower right, wild bee balm (also called wild bergamot), and goldenrod, all of which are essential for butterflies and bees. The meadows also provide a protected and safe space for ground-nesting birds like bobolinks. Forests on the property provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, provide clean air, and help to protect our clean drinking water.

Stay tuned for updates on our website and social media platforms as we develop our educational trail system and ready the property to open to the public. We look forward to welcoming you for a special event, educational program, or a nature walk!

A New York Office Space

In 2020, with the acquisition of the Van Scott Nature Reserve, we made the decision to consolidate our headquarters and outdoor educational programming and to close the Lemons Brook Farm office in Bethel, NY.

To continue to locally serve our New York community, we are pleased to announce that **we have opened an office space in Barryville, Sullivan County, NY**—with a great view of the Delaware River! We will be located at 3512 State Route 97, Barryville, NY. Please check our website for future office hours, which may vary, or to make an appointment to meet with a member of our staff. For COVID safety, our offices remain closed to the public except by appointment.

Welcome New Team Members

We are pleased to announce that we have recently welcomed two new members to our Conservancy team. **Sara Velazquez** has joined us as our Education and Development Assistant, a consultant position, and will be providing support with educational events, partnership programs, and fundraising. Contact Sara at sara@delawarehighlands.org.

Conservancy volunteer and committee member **Carolyn Seifried** is generously donating her time as our Lead Volunteer and will be working with our large group of dedicated volunteers on a variety of activities, including new projects at the Van Scott Nature Reserve. Sign up to volunteer at www.DelawareHighlands.org or contact Carolyn at volunteer@delawarehighlands.org.

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



Annual Photo Contest

Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife

The Conservancy is pleased to announce our fourth annual juried photo contest for the Upper Delaware River region, open to professional and amateur photographers.

Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife invites photographers to capture striking nature images in five categories: landscape, wildlife, macro, water, and a youth category for photographers under age 18. Without disturbing or harming any creature or its habitat, be creative in showcasing the diverse wildlife, plants, and special places of our region.

Photos will be judged on creativity, originality, composition, clarity and quality, and impact. Photographers may submit entries via the Conservancy’s website from August 2 until August 31.

The winning photos will be chosen by a panel of judges, along with one People’s Choice, and will be hung at the ARTery gallery in Milford, PA, beginning with a reception on November 13th. Photographers are invited to submit no more than two photos to the contest. Entrants must agree to the official rules and submit a \$10 entry fee to be eligible. For full contest details, to download the Official Rules, and to submit your photos, please visit www.delawarehighlands.org/photo-contest.



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© KATHLEEN COLLIGAN



© MELISSA OLIVO HELLER



© JOHN MUSICK



© REILLY MOONEY

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?

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 places our lives overlap.

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.

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?

Youth Category

For photographers under 18 years of age. Many of you were challenged 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; entry form must be submitted by a parent or guardian. Youth entries are free.)



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Celebrating Eagle Institute Founder Lori McKean on Her Retirement

In honor of Eagle Institute founder Lori McKean’s retirement from the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers after 22 years, we asked a few of her colleagues and volunteers to share their thoughts on Lori’s lifelong dedication to bald eagle conservation in the Upper Delaware River region.



The Eagle Institute, a nonprofit volunteer organization, was founded by Lori in 1998 and focused on education about eagles and eagle habitat stewardship. The Eagle Institute and the Conservancy merged in 2012, becoming the Eagle Watch program of the Conservancy.

“Lori’s energy, enthusiasm and creativity have always inspired me. She is so good at finding novel ways to meet people where they are – to instill in them that same curiosity that she possesses for the roots of conservation, the personal histories of people and places and the connections to present-day issues and ideas.” *Susan Beecher*

“As the eagle population started to grow in the Delaware Valley area, Lori saw a need to educate the public who came to see these endangered birds. She singlehandedly started The Eagle Institute to fill that need. Through

trained, dedicated volunteers, people learned how to have the best experience, both for themselves and the eagles. Eagle Etiquette was born. For many years she did it all. Building a volunteer team. Annual training sessions for the volunteers. Working with the National Parks Department in Pennsylvania and the DEC in New York State. When The Eagle Institute was well established, she saw the need for the program to expand. It needed new leadership and a paid staff. After much deliberation she chose the Delaware Highlands Conservancy as the best match. It is never easy to let our ‘children’ go – but Lori knew when it was time. That is true leadership.” *Patricia Diness*

“The educational programs and services provided by The Eagle Institute over the years have definitely paid off with the number of nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in the area increasing every year. Heading up an organization like The Eagle Institute is no small task on top of having a full time job and raising a family. I was fortunate enough to be asked by Lori to serve on the Board of The Eagle Institute for a few years before it merged with the Conservancy. The merger was a perfect match for both organizations and has helped to strengthen the core values of land conservation and the importance it plays in providing a safe and healthy environment for the future of our national symbol. My wife and I have been volunteers now for 23 years and it is as exciting as the day we first met Lori.” *Brad Orey*

Read more quotes and stories, or sign up to volunteer for the Eagle Watch program, online at www.DelawareHighlands.org.




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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

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SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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

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