



DELAWARE  
HIGHLANDS  
CONSERVANCY

# Highlands JOURNAL

Summer 2023





DELAWARE  
HIGHLANDS  
CONSERVANCY

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#### CONTACT US

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## A Celebration for Conservation

**O**n April 29th, the Conservancy hosted our annual **Foods of the Delaware Highlands dinner at The Inn at Woodloch in Hawley, PA.** Guests enjoyed a beautiful evening and a delicious farm-to-table dinner.

We were pleased to honor our recently retired President Karen Lutz (*pictured, top left, with President Mary Sue Sweeney Price*) for her devoted service to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. Karen became a Conservancy Director in 2013 and served as its President from 2015 through 2022, during seven years of unprecedented growth, including the gift of the Conservancy's first permanent home, the Van Scott Nature Reserve in Beach Lake.

We were also pleased to honor the leadership and members of Lehman Lake Rod & Gun Club, Mink Pond Club (*pictured, left, with Executive Director Diane Rosencrance*), and Maskenozha Rod & Gun Club (*pictured, bottom right*)—the three members of “The Northeast Connection,” comprising nearly 3,700 acres of forests and waters now permanently protected in Pike County, PA. Their foresight will enable these conserved lands to benefit residents, visitors, and wildlife for generations to come.

Foods of the Delaware Highlands is the Conservancy's primary benefit event. The funds raised from the event will directly support the Conservancy's mission to protect the working farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat of the Upper Delaware River region, now and for future generations.



PHOTOS BY DAVID B. SOETE



## Leaving a Legacy for Future Generations

### Make a Charitable Donation Through Your Estate

**P**rotecting the Upper Delaware River region can be part of your legacy as an enduring gift to future generations.

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

Most people leave the bulk of their estate through wills and/or living trusts and can make bequests to charitable organizations. If you'd like to leave the Delaware Highlands Conservancy a bequeathed gift in your estate, there are just three simple things you need:

- Our full legal name and location, which is:  
Delaware Highlands Conservancy Inc.,  
571 Perkins Pond Road Beach Lake, PA 18405
- The nature of the gift (for example, cash or property),
- Details of any restrictions you wish to add on the gift.

Besides a monetary gift, there are other ways you can leave a charitable gift as part of your will. You can name a charity as an IRA or life insurance beneficiary, donate appreciated stock, and/or gift real estate to a charity. Landowners who donate real estate do not have to pay federal taxes on the donated property's appreciated value.

If you are interested in leaving real estate as a gift to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, please reach out to us to

discuss the details of the property and determine how to maximize the conservation impact of your real estate gift.

The Conservancy may:

- Keep the property for use as a nature reserve;
- Protect the property in perpetuity with a conservation easement, and then sell it to raise funds to support our ongoing conservation efforts; or
- Sell the property without a conservation easement and use the proceeds to support our ongoing conservation efforts.

By leaving a gift to the Conservancy in your estate or will, you are a **Legacy Leader**. We honor those who have committed to help carry out our mission through their legacy by thanking them on our website, newsletter, and at special events throughout the year.

**To learn more about our Legacy Leader program, please visit:**  
[DelawareHighlands.org/Membership-Support/Leaving-a-Legacy/](https://DelawareHighlands.org/Membership-Support/Leaving-a-Legacy/).

If you'd like to further discuss making a charitable donation to the Conservancy through your estate or will, or if you have questions, please reach out to Samantha Mango, Donor Relations Coordinator, at 570-226-3164 ext. 9 or by email at [samantha@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:samantha@delawarehighlands.org).

And lastly, if you have already left Delaware Highlands Conservancy in your will, please let us know so we can say **thank you** during your lifetime!

# Protecting Meadow Habitat for Wildlife at the Van Scott Nature Reserve



The Conservancy’s 144-acre Van Scott Nature Reserve in Beach Lake, Wayne County, PA features three miles of publicly accessible walking trails through wildflower meadows, forests, and wetlands. These protected lands provide safe wildlife habitat and offer excellent opportunities for visitors to the trails to enjoy and learn about nature.

Filled with native flowering perennials including milkweed, wild bergamot (also called bee balm), aster, and goldenrod, the meadows at the Reserve this time of year are a safe haven for ground-nesting birds and pollinators such as butterflies and bees.

Milkweed is the host plant for the monarch butterfly, without which they would not survive. Adult butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves, and the larvae (caterpillars) feed on the milkweed leaves after hatching. Adult butterflies then feed on the nectar in the milkweed flowers along with all the other native wildflowers at the Reserve.

Through the summer, the meadows are also home to hundreds of bobolinks, known for their black-and-white plumage that almost resembles a backwards tuxedo. These songbirds nest on the ground, building their homes from twigs and grass. They require open, undisturbed fields and meadow areas but their specialized habitat is often lost to development or to the frequent mowing of open fields.

Meadows at the Reserve are mowed annually in the fall after the wildflowers have finished blooming and gone to seed and the bobolinks have hatched and migrated south for the winter. Annual mowing late in the year helps to spread the wildflower seeds into the soil for regeneration next year, protecting this important meadow habitat to ensure it is here when wildlife returns in the spring.

The Van Scott Nature Reserve is open from sunrise to sunset every day, unless otherwise noted. **To protect this sensitive wildlife habitat, dogs are not allowed on the Reserve.**

Visit [www.DelawareHighlands.org/vsnr](http://www.DelawareHighlands.org/vsnr) for more information about the property, including the complete Reserve Rules and a downloadable trail map. Trail maps and interpretive guides may also be picked up at the trailhead kiosks.



The meadows and wetlands at the Van Scott Nature Reserve provide sensitive habitat for ground-nesting birds like the bobolink and for endangered wood turtles.



## Keeping Eaglets Safe

Spring and summer in the Upper Delaware River region means breeding season for our resident pairs of bald eagles that live in our region year-round. Many nests will now be home to young eaglets until they fledge in late June or early July.

During this time of year, it’s more important than ever to keep a respectful distance if you see an eagles’ nest and practice “Eagle Etiquette”—staying quiet, calm, and out of sight of the birds—to ensure that the eagles stay safely in their nests until they are ready to fly. If they are startled, they may be flushed from the nest before they can survive on their own.

At about nine to ten weeks, eagles will begin practicing their flying skills by spreading their wings and jumping to nearby branches from the nest. Once they are strong enough to fly,

they will begin learning to hunt, but will continue to return to the nest over the next six weeks until they are ready to live on their own. By the time they are ten to twelve weeks old and ready to fledge, the eagle will be as tall as its parents.

Today, habitat loss is the number one threat to breeding eagles. The Conservancy works to permanently protect farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat in the region, and these protected lands offer safe places for eagles year-round—so even though you are likely to spot the most eagles during the winter months, eagle-viewing is an activity you can try anytime.

Learn more about eagles week by week from hatching to fledging on our website at [www.DelawareHighlands.org/eagles](http://www.DelawareHighlands.org/eagles) and view the complete list of Eagle Etiquette tips.

## Save the Date!

Please mark your calendar and save the date for **Taste of the Harvest on October 1** at Seminary Hill Orchard & Cidery in Callicoon, NY.

Enjoy brunch, cider tasting, and an intimate concert with masters of music and storytelling **Jay Ungar and Molly Mason** while taking in the beautiful surrounding views of the Delaware Highlands. Find all the details and purchase tickets at [DelawareHighlands.org/events](http://DelawareHighlands.org/events).



# Annual Photo Contest

## Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife

The Conservancy is pleased to announce our sixth 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 six categories: landscape, wildlife, macro, water, the Van Scott Nature Reserve, 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.



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### 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?

### 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.*

### Youth Category

*For photographers under 18 years of age.* Many of you have been challenged to find new ways to learn, 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.)*

Photos will be judged on creativity, originality, composition, clarity and quality, and impact. Photographers may submit entries via the Conservancy's website from August 1 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 in November. Photographers are invited to submit no more than two photos to the contest. Entrants must agree to the official rules and submit a \$15 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](http://www.delawarehighlands.org/photo-contest).



## Upcoming Events at the Reserve

Join us at the Van Scott Nature Reserve this summer! Space is limited and events require advance registration; a small registration fee may be requested. Visit [DelawareHighlands.org/events](http://DelawareHighlands.org/events) for additional details, to register, and to view our complete Calendar of Events for 2023.

### Mini-Macros

June 10 • 2pm-4pm

Join us as we explore the life of insects known as macroinvertebrates! These insects play a huge role in the aquatic ecosystem. For this program we will be discussing the importance of these insects and how their variation can be an indicator of water quality. We will be going on a short walk down to a pond and stream to take a closer look at these aquatic macros!

### Fish of the Delaware River

June 24 • 2pm-3pm

Have you ever wondered what fish our eagles along the Delaware River are eating, what fish you may catch if you cast your line out in the water, or even the importance of the river for the life cycle of the freshwater eel? Join us as we discuss and identify many species of fish that live in the Delaware River.

### Finding the Rainbow

July 1 • 2pm-4pm

Have you ever observed how many colors are in the natural world around you? Do you think you can find all the colors of the rainbow in the woods? For this fun family event, join us at the Reserve and take a walk on the trails to see if you have the eye to spy all the colors!

### Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk with the Botanical Hiker

July 15 • 1pm-4pm

Join certified herbalist Heather Houskeeper, aka the Botanical Hiker, in exploring the array of edible and medicinal plants at the Reserve. Heather will provide methods for correct identification, harvest, and preparation. Our walk will be easy to moderate in nature with stops along the way to meet the plants!

### Cyanotype Art

July 29 • 2pm-3pm

Looking for a new fun way to turn nature into art? Join us to learn about Cyanotype fabric and how to use it! Enjoy some outdoor exploration and create your own nature imprints to take home with you.

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 CORPORATE SPONSORS



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

## Legacy Leaders

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 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 Samantha Mango, Donor Relations Coordinator at [samantha@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:samantha@delawarehighlands.org) or 570-226-3164 ext. 9 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
- 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
- Jonathan Wind
- Barbara Yeaman



PHOTO BY LIZ DIMENNO



VAN SCOTT NATURE RESERVE  
PHOTO BY BETHANY ZARNOWSKI

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](http://DelawareHighlands.org).

Find us on  @DelawareHighlandsConservancy  @DHConservancy  @DHConservancy



PHOTO BY KATHAN HUBBARD

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

571 Perkins Pond Rd Beach Lake, PA 18405

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