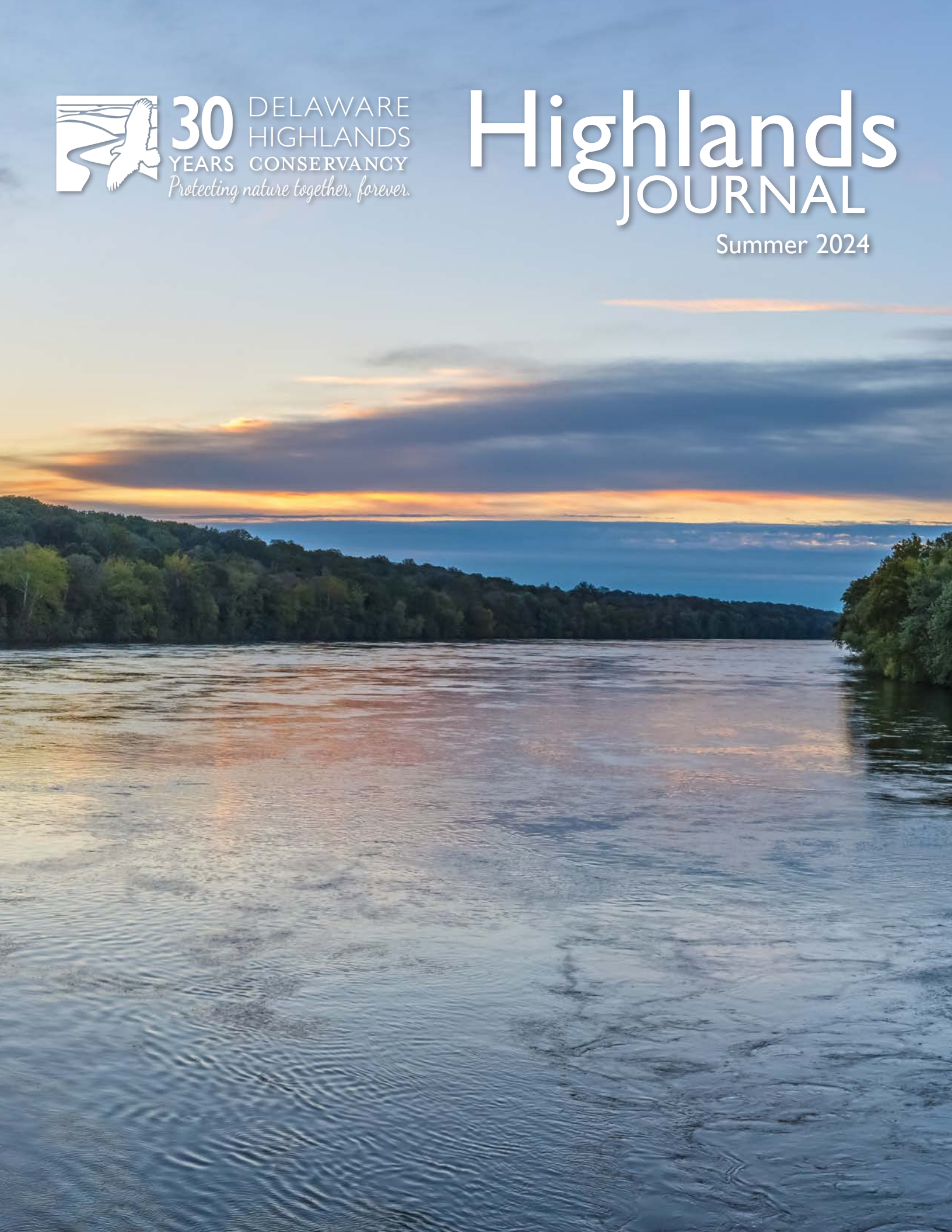




30 DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
YEARS CONSERVANCY
Protecting nature together, forever.

Highlands JOURNAL

Summer 2024





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30th Anniversary Celebration

On May 4th, the Conservancy hosted our annual **Foods of the Delaware Highlands dinner at Silver Birches in Hawley, PA.** Guests enjoyed a beautiful evening and a delicious and seasonal farm-to-table dinner as we celebrated our “Pearl” anniversary and raised a glass to thirty years of success conserving the forests, farms, and waters of the Upper Delaware River region.

We were pleased to honor Victoria Kohler, owner of the 50-acre “Sometimes Brook” property in Sullivan County, NY, and Norcross Wildlife Foundation and David Tolson of the 63.5-acre “Confluence Flats” property in Wayne County, PA. These special properties were both protected with conservation easements in 2023, ensuring that they are forever protected from subdivision and development and that their wildlife, healthy forests, clean water, and wetlands will continue to thrive.

The elegant event also featured live and silent auctions generously supported by local businesses and individuals who contributed unique art, experiences, and more to reflect and celebrate the character of the Upper Delaware River region.

Foods of the Delaware Highlands is the Conservancy’s primary benefit event. The funds raised 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



Thirty Years: Protecting Nature Together, Forever

In the thirty years since the Delaware Highlands Conservancy was founded in 1994, so much has changed. We have grown from an all-volunteer group meeting around our founder Barbara Yeaman's kitchen table to a nationally accredited organization with a full-time staff of nine and offices on each side of the Delaware River. We opened our first nature reserve and headquarters at the Van Scott Nature Reserve in Beach Lake, PA in 2021, and have helped to permanently protect nearly 19,000 acres of working farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat across the Upper Delaware River region.

This work is generously supported by dedicated volunteers, from those who strategize and guide our activities on our Board of Directors and committees, to those who get their hands and hiking boots dirty helping out at the Reserve or joining us on annual visits to protected properties, to those who participate in our Eagle Watch program and spend their winter weekends outside, helping visitors have a great eagle-watching experience.

Our work would also not be possible without the generous financial support directed our way by members, friends, local businesses, partners, and funders in the community.

As we reflect on the past thirty years and look ahead to the future, we are inspired by the continued support and dedication of our community, and by the efforts we're witnessing throughout the Upper Delaware River region to protect and conserve our precious natural resources.

As we face the increasing threat of a changing climate, it would be easy to become disheartened by the challenges ahead. But working together, we are committed to confronting them head-on as we work to protect and steward the lands and waters of our region, now and for future generations.

In 2024, we're developing our next Strategic Plan, and look forward to hearing from you about your vision for the Conservancy and your goals for the direction of our work. We're committed to embodying the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging in everything we do, and to offering programs and activities that reflect the different experiences, backgrounds, and interests of those who live and visit here. Our differences make us stronger.

Thank you for your continued support and for your efforts to ensure a more sustainable and just world. Whether you're a thirty-year member of the Conservancy or you have just learned about us, we are so glad you're here.

Restoring Healthy Forests at the Van Scott Nature Reserve

Volunteers Help to Plant Nearly 500 Trees and Shrubs

In May, with the generous help of dedicated volunteers and in partnership with the Wayne County Conservation District through the Keystone 10 Million Trees project, we planted nearly 500 trees and shrubs at the Van Scott Nature Reserve in Beach Lake, PA!

The Forest Management Plan that the Conservancy has in place for the 144-acre Reserve identifies some areas on the property where forest reforestation would benefit water quality and wildlife habitat. These trees and shrubs were planted in two of those areas to soften forest edges and to provide a buffer area next to one of the ponds (called a “riparian buffer”). Riparian buffer plantings help to filter runoff from storms and rainwater, keeping the water clean.

By working with a consulting forester to develop a forest management plan for your land, you can ensure that

your activities are supporting the goals you have for your property, whether it is to create or improve wildlife habitat, protect water quality in nearby waterways, or ensure that timber harvesting activities are sustainable for future forest growth.

The three miles of walking trails through the woods, wildflower meadows, and wetlands at the Van Scott Nature Reserve are open daily from sunrise until sunset.

Plan your visit to the Reserve or sign up to volunteer for future activities with the Conservancy at www.DelawareHighlands.org.

The tree planting was also generously supported by The Dime Bank, the Delaware Valley Agway, the Honesdale Rotary Club, and the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau.



PHOTOS BY NICOLE DECAROLIS

Volunteers and staff planted nearly 500 trees and shrubs in targeted areas at the Van Scott Nature Reserve to benefit wildlife habitat and water quality.

30th Anniversary Get Outdoors Raffle!

Enter to Win This Exciting Package



In celebration of our 30th anniversary, we're raffling off this exciting package full of items to enjoy your time outdoors in the Upper Delaware River region!

Tickets are \$30 each and only 300 tickets will be sold.

The raffle winner will receive (\$575 value):

- ◆ Pelican 70 Quart Elite Cooler
- ◆ North Face Wawona Insulated Packable Blanket/ Ground Tarp
- ◆ Hydro Flask 32 oz. Water Bottle
- ◆ 2 Delaware Highlands Conservancy Stainless Steel Pint Glasses
- ◆ 2 Delaware Highlands Conservancy Baseball Hats
- ◆ 2 Tickets to a Winter 2025 Eagle Watch Bus Tour
- ◆ Bottle of Wine, 2017 Bacchus Chardonnay

To enter the raffle, scan the QR code with your phone camera, visit www.DelawareHighlands.org/raffle or purchase tickets at any Conservancy-sponsored event now through September 29, 2024.

Raffle will be drawn on September 29, 2024 at the Taste of the Harvest event. You need not be present to win. Raffle ticket purchases are not tax-deductible.



Special thanks to Alice's Wonderland, Greeley, PA for donating the cooler, blanket, and Hydro Flask for the raffle!

Permits Available for Local Photographers

The Van Scott Nature Reserve is a beautiful location for photography and we welcome visitor photos for personal use. A permit issued by the Conservancy is required for any commercial photography or video shoots, wedding, stock, and portrait photography. Professional photographers interested in obtaining a permit for photography at the Reserve are invited to apply online through the Conservancy's website.

To download the Conservancy's Photography Policy and apply for a permit, please visit the Van Scott Nature Reserve Rules page at www.delawarehighlands.org/vsnr/reserve-rules/.



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Annual Photo Contest

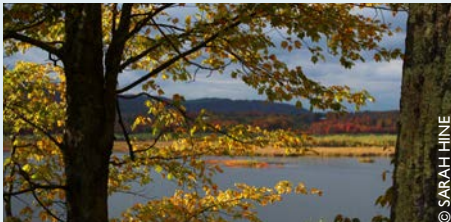
Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife

The Conservancy is pleased to announce our seventh 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.

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.



© SARAH HINE

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?



© TERRY ROGERS

Wildlife

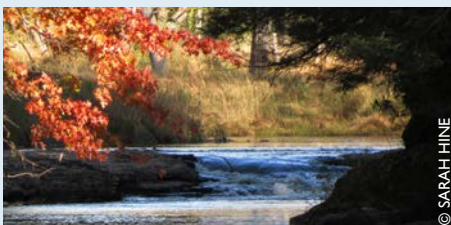
From a honeybee to a bald eagle, a chipmunk to a black bear, we share our world with thousands of other creatures. What do we have in common? What do you find reassuring, calming, or even funny when watching our local wildlife? Without disturbing or harming any creature or its habitat, be creative in showcasing the diverse wildlife of our region and the places our lives overlap.



© TINA TISON

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.



© SARAH HINE

Water

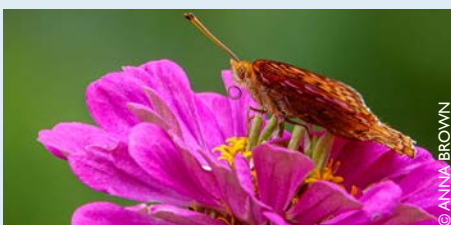
Even the smallest streams eventually find their way to the Delaware River. In this broad category, consider how water impacts our lives—and how our everyday lives impact the water. How do you interact with water in nature? How does clean water impact the landscape, the wildlife, the people of this region?



© CLAIRE SHICKORA

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.*



© ANNA BROWN

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.)*



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 for all the details, to register, and to view our complete Calendar of Events.

Designing With Nature: Permaculture Workshop

July 20 • 10:30am-1:30pm

Join Maria Grimaldi, Garden and Permaculture Consultant, to develop an understanding of permaculture design principles for your property based on nature's perfect design. This three-hour session will give you the tools to create a 5-year plan for your outdoor living space by using nature as a guide.

Composting and Soil Health Workshop

July 29 • 2pm-4pm

Join Michelle Proscia, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan Agriculture Program Manager, to learn about the principles, methods, and FSMA regulations of on-farm composting and soil health. The workshop will include aerobic and anaerobic composting, small scale vs. large scale composting, and the basics of vermiculture. Soil testing bags will be available to identify pH and nutrients in your soil and how to improve them.

Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk with the Botanical Hiker

August 10 • 1pm-4pm

Join certified herbalist Heather Houskeeper, aka the Botanical Hiker, in an easy walk exploring the array of edible and medicinal plants at the Van Scott Nature Reserve. Heather will provide methods for correct identification, sustainable harvest, and preparation. Many of these plants are easy to recognize and may be found in your own backyard or on other favorite trails.

The Pollinator Pathway: Bee On It!

August 31 • 10am-12pm

Thousands across the country have joined forces to create the Pollinator Pathway, a grassroots movement focused on protecting and restoring habitat for bees, birds, butterflies, moths, and other pollinating insects. Join Louise Washer, Conservancy Board Member and member of the Executive Board of the Pollinator Pathway, to learn how you can be part of this important effort to help reverse declines in bird and pollinator populations. We will discuss the threats pollinators face and some easy steps you can take to help support them in your yard and your community.

Meadow Party!

September 7 • 11am-4pm

Join us at the Van Scott Nature Reserve for our Meadow Party! For this **special free community event**, we invite you to enjoy guided trail walks, crafts, and fun educational programs for all ages including a "Creature Story Investigator" animal mystery puppet show, Amazing Animal Adaptations with Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, introduction to fly fishing, and meditation and yoga. Food will be available for purchase, or you may bring your own picnic to enjoy (please bring a blanket or camp chairs).



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 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 or 570-226-3164 ext. 9 so we may thank you during your lifetime.

Legacy Leaders

Sue Currier
Patricia Diness
Helen Early (*deceased*)
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 (*deceased*)
Jonathan Wind
Barbara Yeaman



PHOTO BY NICOLE DECARROLLIS



The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is protecting nearly 19,000 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

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PHOTO BY CORINE HINTON

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