



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

Highlands JOURNAL

Summer 2025





DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

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571 Perkins Pond Rd
Beach Lake, PA 18405

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Impact of Current Events

Your Support Is More Important Than Ever!

As summer unfolds across the Upper Delaware River region, we are reminded of the beauty and resilience of the lands we all cherish. Thanks to your support, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy has helped to protect more than 19,000 acres of working forests, local family farms, important wildlife habitat, and clean waterways, ensuring that they will remain healthy and vibrant.

But today, we face new and pressing challenges.

Recent funding changes and economic uncertainty have resulted in unexpected shortfalls for critical conservation programs. The grants and resources we relied on to support land protection, stewardship, and education have been reduced, threatening our ability to continue this essential work.

As a Conservancy member, your continued support will help us:

- ◆ Protect vital forestlands that filter our drinking water and sustain wildlife (like the protected forest and wetlands on the cover of this newsletter);
- ◆ Support the local family farms that provide us with fresh, healthy food and strengthen our local economy;
- ◆ Maintain and expand our environmental education and community programs at the Van Scott Nature Reserve and throughout the region;
- ◆ Ensure that conservation agreements are upheld, protecting the land now and for future generations.

These are critical times for conservation. Together, we have achieved so much, and with your continued support, we can do even more. Whether you are a Conservancy member, volunteer, partner, or you simply enjoy attending our events or walking the trails at the Van Scott Nature Reserve, your support is essential to help us navigate these challenges and continue our mission to protect the places you love.

To make a contribution to the Conservancy, please visit www.DelawareHighlands.org or mail to 571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake, PA 18405.



Harmony In The Woods Benefit Concert for Delaware Highlands Conservancy

August 9 • 6pm-8pm

*Home Again: A Tribute to the
Music of Carole King*

Details and tickets at
DelawareHighlands.org/events



In Memoriam: Barbara Yeaman

1924 - 2025

On April 6, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's beloved founder, **Barbara Yeaman, passed away at the age of 100.** Driven by a goal to protect the clean, clear waters of the Delaware River, Barbara founded the Conservancy in 1994 at age 70. Her own property along the river in Milanville, PA became one of the Conservancy's first conservation easements, setting a lasting example for land stewardship.

Together with her partner, Ed Wesely, Barbara welcomed thousands to their land over the years for joyful Meadow Parties, educational visits to the Butterfly Barn to learn about monarch butterflies, and countless conversations that nurtured a deep love for conservation. Guided by her vision, the Conservancy has flourished, protecting more than 19,000 acres on both sides of the Delaware River in Pennsylvania and New York.

Throughout her life, Barbara was honored with numerous awards, including the Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, the Environmental Partnership Award from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and the Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Barbara's legacy is one of kindness, compassion, and fierce

determination. She motivated all who knew her to care for the natural world, and her legacy will continue to guide and inspire us for generations to come.

Celebration of Life

The Yeaman family, together with the Board of Directors and staff of the Conservancy, cordially invite you to attend a Celebration of Life honoring Barbara on Saturday, June 21 from 11am-1pm at the Conservancy's Van Scott Nature Reserve.

The day will include a dedication ceremony for Barbara's Bench, located along the Butterfly Trail in the wildflower meadow overlooking the Reserve. Family and friends will offer remarks in celebration of Barbara's long life of service and the legacy of her dedication to our treasured Delaware Highlands. A reception with light refreshments will follow in the covered pavilion. Guests are welcome to share memories of Barbara during this time.

Please RSVP to Samantha Mango, Samantha@DelawareHighlands.org or by phone at 570-226-3164 ext. 9.

The Van Scott Nature Reserve is located at 571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake, PA, 18405. Contributions in Barbara's memory may be made to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy at the address above or online, and will support the *Barbara Yeaman Fund for Land Conservation*.

Annual Photo Contest

Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife

The Conservancy is pleased to announce our eighth 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

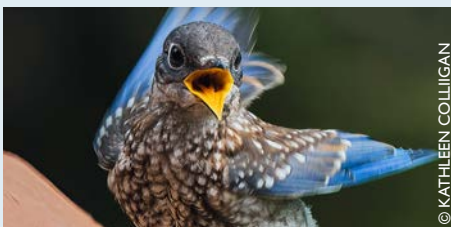
www.delawarehighlands.org/photo-contest.



© APRIL RICHLING

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?



© KATHLEEN COLLIGAN

Wildlife

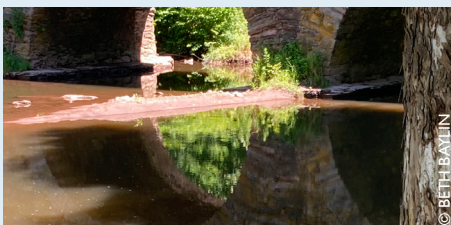
From a honeybee to a bald eagle, a chipmunk to a black bear, we share our world with thousands of other creatures. What do we have in common? What do you find reassuring, calming, or even funny when watching our local wildlife? Without disturbing or harming any creature or its habitat, be creative in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



© MEAGAN HILL

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.



© BETH BAYLIN

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.*



© OWEN DOYLE

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.)*

Rose Valley Forest Permanently Protected

Extending a Conservation Legacy

Brothers Henry and Gordon MacAdam first worked with the Conservancy in 2012 to place a conservation easement on 25.6 acres of their historic family homestead, originally acquired by their maternal great-grandmother in 1874. Their positive experience partnering with the Conservancy and stewarding the land over the past twelve years motivated them to extend their conservation legacy and protect another 18.4 adjacent acres in 2024.

Known as Rose Valley Forest, the land has been owned by the MacAdam family for 150 years. The brothers grew up on the property, and, now octogenarians, they recognized that no other family members would return to live there. By working with the Conservancy, they wanted to ensure it would remain protected for future generations, regardless of ownership.

The conservation easement that protects this Sullivan County, NY property ensures that their cherished family lands will continue to provide healthy habitat for wildlife

and support the unique rural character of the region while protecting the property from development and subdivision.

“We are proud to work with local landowners like the MacAdam family to help them reach their conservation goals for their property,” stated Conservancy Executive Director Diane Rosencrance. “Protected lands are key to the resiliency and sustainability of our region, now and for future generations.”

The property is privately owned and is not open to the public. A conservation easement is a voluntary, legally binding agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently protects a property’s natural values while the landowner continues to own and manage the land, subject to the permitted uses detailed in the easement.

This project was supported with grant funding from the Delaware River Watershed Initiative of the William Penn Foundation.



Brothers Gordon and Henry MacAdam worked with the Conservancy to protect their historic family homestead.



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.

Visit [DelawareHighlands.org/vsnr](https://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.

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& Associates, LLC



Learn more at delawarehighlands.org/membership-support/corporate-sponsorships/.



Upcoming Events at the Reserve

Join us for community programs for all ages at the Van Scott Nature Reserve! Space is limited and events require advance registration; a small registration fee is requested. Visit [DelawareHighlands.org/events](https://delawarehighlands.org/events) for all the details, to register, and to view our complete Calendar of Events.

Forage: Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk

June 21 • 2:30pm-5:30pm

Join herbalist Heather Houskeeper in exploring the wild edible and medicinal plants that inhabit our landscape. Meet plants that are easy to recognize, safe to work with, and inhabit your backyard, garden, and familiar wild places. Learn how to identify, ethically harvest, and prepare them as delicious meals and useful home remedies.

Mystery Zoom *Free*

June 24 • 12pm-1pm

It's a mystery! Join us on the last Tuesday of every month through October for a fun and exciting Mystery Zoom. Engage with us each week on social media to try and guess the theme based on clues and questions we share. Each Zoom will cover a different topic, so stay tuned until the end of the month to see if your guess was right!



Ask a Forester

June 27 • 1pm-2:30pm

Join us for a relaxed hike with Trevor Tochydlowski, Forest Specialist from the Wayne County Conservation District. Whether you're curious about tree identification, forest management, invasive species, wildlife habitats, or simply have questions about what you're seeing in the woods, Trevor will be on hand to share his knowledge and answer your questions.

Pond Investigation

June 28 • 11am-1pm

Join us as we take an in-depth look into life in a pond! During our pond investigation, you will be getting your hands dirty looking for insects known as macroinvertebrates. We will use our findings to determine the quality of our pond!

Summer Bird Walk

July 5 • 9am-11am

Join us for a morning walk at the Van Scott Nature Reserve to look for birds in our meadows, forest, and along our ponds.

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 (deceased)
 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 (deceased)



PHOTO BY DAVID SOETE



The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is protecting more than 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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DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

571 Perkins Pond Rd Beach Lake, PA 18405



CEDAR WAXWING PHOTO BY DAVID SOETE

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