



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

Highlands JOURNAL

Fall 2018

A Million Little Things

For a vibrant, colorful autumn landscape like this one to appear, it takes millions of individual leaves changing color at once. Millions of tiny, quiet actions.

Wendell Berry said, "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." Fiona Macleod wrote, "A handful of pine-seed will cover mountains with the green majesty of forests."

If we stop to consider it, is it possible there are no small things? No inconsequential actions?

You'll read in this newsletter about our Green Lodging Partnership—a program in which visitors to our region donate \$2 per stay to the Conservancy. The amount we raise every year from these small donations is enough to

help us cover the costs of protecting a special piece of land, forever.

So start small. Plant one tree. Donate \$2 to a cause you care about, if that's what you can afford, and know that you are making a difference. Remember that the only way we make any change or create a world we're proud to live in is by taking one small step at a time.

With enough of us working together, one seed becomes a forest. \$2 becomes \$50,000. Thank you for all you do, in a million actions big and small, to protect the Upper Delaware River region and leave a healthy world for future generations.



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MAIL US

PO Box 218
Hawley PA 18428

DelawareHighlands.org
info@delawarehighlands.org

CALL US

PA: 570-226-3164
NY: 845-583-1010



Future Environmental Leaders

In June, the Conservancy awarded its annual “Delaware Highlands Conservancy/Yeaman Scholarship” for \$1,000 to Carly Naundorff, a 2018 graduate from the Delaware Valley School District, and the “Vanessa Van Gorder Memorial Scholarship” for \$1,000 to Ali Brand, a 2018 graduate of Wallenpaupack Area High School.

Carly is a volunteer with Relay for Life and the American Legion and is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Art Honor Society, and Odyssey of the Mind. She will attend Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL, to major in environmental studies. A lifelong environmental advocate, Carly explains: “I am an outsider. No, not the stereotypical outsider, the one that just doesn’t fit in, but the one whose heart knocks through her ribs when exploring what’s beyond the new technological advances: Earth’s natural wonders. In the future, I hope to not only be an environmental advocate but also the voice heard across the world and in developing countries on the importance of our environment.”



Ali will attend Marywood University in Scranton, PA to major in Secondary English Education. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Girl Scouts for the entirety of her school career, and was active in extracurriculars, participating in the marching band as a section leader, theater, and concert choir. According to Ali, “It is because of my love of reading that I chose to major in Secondary English Education. I want to carry on what I’ve learned and instill this into my students. I believe that the time between seventh and twelfth grade is the time of the most academic and personal growth, and I want to inspire and prepare them for adulthood in the way that my teachers inspired and prepared me.”

Donations toward the scholarship fund and other environmental education and conservation initiatives can be made online at DelawareHighlands.org or by mail to PO Box 218, Hawley, PA 18428.



amazon smile

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 and select Delaware Highlands Conservancy to get started.



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Upper Delaware Eagle Watching

It's that time of year! Wintering eagles, which spend the rest of the year in Canada and upstate New York, are returning to our region as lakes and rivers freeze over up north. The eagles arrive in search of open water to fish, and large stands of trees for perching and roosting.

On our Eagle Watch bus tours, you'll sit on a heated bus for a scenic drive throughout the region while you learn from an expert guide and look for eagles. On **Eagle Day**, enjoy a live presentation from Bill Streeter of the Delaware Valley Raptor Center and activities for the whole family.

Or, stop by the Upper Delaware Visitor Center in Lackawaxen, PA and view our interpretive exhibits, watch the short film about the bald eagle's return, and pick up a map to go on your own driving tour and talk to volunteers in our Eagle Observation Areas throughout the region.

Upper Delaware Visitor Center Hours

January – February (at the Zane Grey Museum)

Saturdays & Sundays • 10am-4pm

135 Scenic Drive, Lackawaxen, PA 18435

Thank you to our partners and supporters!



WINTER SCHEDULE

Space is limited and advance reservations are required for all Eagle Watch bus trips.* Be sure to dress warmly in layers and wear waterproof boots. Bring binoculars, camera, and snacks.

Fee: \$15 for members, \$25 for non-members, unless otherwise noted.

Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org to register, or call 570-226-3164 or 845-583-1010.

Saturday, November 17 • 1pm-3pm

Eagle Day - Free

Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center
126 PPL Drive, Hawley, PA

Saturday, January 12 • 10am-1pm

Eagle Watch Bus Tour

Upper Delaware Visitor Center
Lackawaxen, PA

Saturday, January 26 • 10am-1pm

Eagle Watch Bus Tour

Upper Delaware Visitor Center
Lackawaxen, PA

Saturday, February 2 • 10am-1pm

Eagle Watch Bus Tour

Upper Delaware Visitor Center
Lackawaxen, PA

Saturday, February 9 • 10am-1pm

Eagle Watch Bus Tour

Upper Delaware Visitor Center
Lackawaxen, PA

*Be sure to check our website for the most up-to-date information and any additional trips. Refunds are not given in the event of cancelled reservations. In case of inclement weather, snow dates are the Sunday immediately following. Reservations are not required for Eagle Day.



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Invasive Invaders

By Jason Zarnowski

It seems like every day a new invasive species is in the news wreaking havoc on the landscape. Whether it's the spotted lanternfly, the hemlock woolly adelgid, didymo, Japanese knotweed, or one of the other many invaders impacting our region, their effects can be devastating.

An invasive species is one that is introduced to a new environment that has no natural predators, whether animals that eat the plants, diseases or fungi that keep them in check, or insects that help control the spread of the new species.

It may seem like a losing battle, but there are many things you can do to help prevent the spread of these pests. The best way to fight invasive species is to keep them from becoming established in the first place.

- If you're a boater you may have seen signs to clean your boat thoroughly before transporting it to a different body of water. It's the law in many states, including New York. Cleaning your boat and gear can help prevent the spread of species such as the Quagga Mussel and Rusty Crayfish into new habitats. Dump unused bait into the trash as this can also spread invasive species.
- Clean your boots and other gear before you hike in new areas. Hitchhiking seeds can hide in the treads of your shoes to be deposited in a new area.
- Don't move firewood more than 50 miles or out of any quarantined areas. Many invasive insects can hide in or underneath the bark of firewood. If you're going camping, get your firewood from a local source or buy packaged heat-treated firewood with a stamp showing that it was treated to a core temperature of 160°F for 75 minutes to kill any potential pest species. For more information on moving firewood, visit www.dontmovefirewood.org.
- When purchasing plants for your yard or garden, plant only native species. Your local extension office can help you to identify plants that are native, or ask the nursery staff for help choosing plants that are native or non-invasive.
- Never release unwanted pets or aquarium plants into local waterways.

With a little help, we can prevent these invasives from forever changing our forests, fields, and waterways and protect wildlife habitat for future generations.

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
Alfred Lees & Ronald Nelson
Harold MacGregor
Dorothy Merrill (*deceased*)
Sally & Enrico Moretti
Mary Sue Sweeney Price
Kimberly (Mimi) Raleigh
Brenda Seldin
Richard Snyder (*deceased*)
Charles Victor Traeger (*deceased*)
Sigrid Wilshinsky
Jonathan Wind
Barbara Yeaman

Two Dollars for a Better Tomorrow

Anyone who has ever kept a change jar in the kitchen—emptying pockets at the end of the day, knowing that, as if by magic, it will eventually add up to something great—is familiar with the concept of taking small steps toward a bigger goal. It is, perhaps predictably, very effective.



The Green Lodging Partnership and Drinks for the Delaware operate on a similar theory. You might even call it a big change jar for the Upper Delaware River region. The participating local businesses ask their guests to contribute \$2 at the end of their stay, or an extra \$1 per featured drink purchase, to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. The Conservancy then uses these funds to protect land, water, and wildlife habitat.

When we first launched the Green Lodging Partnership six years ago, we were excited to use it as a tool to get the word out about what we do. We think it's pretty exciting to protect clean drinking water, to conserve the beautiful forests that bald eagles need to thrive, and to promote our local farms. To us, the Partnership was a great way to talk to a lot of people about our work—and if it helped us raise a little money so we could work with more landowners to conserve their land (we're up to almost 15,000 acres to date!), even better.

But, if you've ever emptied your change jar and discovered that, without even noticing, you had saved enough to go on a weekend getaway or buy something nice, you may understand how we feel now: awed by the \$200,000 that has been contributed since 2012 by visitors to the Upper Delaware River region.

\$2 is, for most of us, a relatively insignificant amount. We're all familiar with the "less than a cup of coffee a day" cost analogy, and though we're not all purchasing \$5 lattes on a daily basis, the concept is unmistakably clear: small choices add up.

We're thrilled to have been able to talk to so many people about our work. We're excited that so many visitors have embraced the opportunity to invest in this region that they—and we—love. And we are incredibly grateful for the partnerships with local businesses that have made it all possible.

The Upper Delaware River region is a wonderful destination year-round—for tourists and for residents—for all of the reasons we already know. The quality of life is spectacular. Hundreds of bald eagles migrate here to find clean, open water, and we have the pleasure and privilege of watching them. Miles of trails provide great summer hiking and bird-watching, and beautiful cross-country skiing in the winter. Our lakes and rivers are

perfect for paddling, fishing, skating, or simply enjoying the peace and quiet.

There's no need for us to sell you on the Upper Delaware River region. You already know how great it is to live or visit here. Our job at the Conservancy is to make sure it stays this way, now and for future generations—and the Green Lodging Partnership and Drinks for the Delaware help us do that.

But, most importantly, these simple programs serve as a reminder that no matter how much you can give, or how much you are able to do, it has an impact. And that impact is made even more significant when those around you are working toward a shared goal—like the more than 100,000 individuals and families who have said "yes" to a simple \$2 donation.

The funds raised from the Partnerships will continue to go directly into local conservation and into our local community. You can find complete listings of participating lodgings and local establishments, plan your stay, and learn more or add your own contribution to protecting our area on www.DelawareHighlands.org.



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 enjoy exclusive invitation-only events—like this year’s reception on October 28th at The Cooperage in Honesdale, PA—plus acknowledgement of your exceptional generosity to the Conservancy in our newsletters and 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.

River Club Members as of July 31, 2018

Lifetime Member

Anonymous

\$2,500 - \$4,999

James Asselstine and Bette Davis

Gary Beilman

Greg Belcamino and Judith Welcom

Linda Gearhart

Michael and Elizabeth Geitz

Ann Rhoads

Sam and Brenda Ruello

Henry Skier

Louise Washer and Mary Clay Fields

\$5,000 and Up

Michael and Elizabeth Drummond

Barbara and Gerard Cuffe*

Don and Edie Downs

Doug and Kate Hayes*

Peter Kellogg

Mike and Suzanne Kroboth

Karen and Charles Lutz*

Michael and Roberta Martin

Jorge Perez and Estelle Rojas

Mary Sue Sweeney Price*

John and Donna Ross*

Scott and Beth Van Gorder*

George and Lori Varsam

Tony and Debby Waldron

* Board Member

Women and Their Woods

Educating and Empowering Women Forest Landowners

Forestry has traditionally been a male-dominated field. But today, more and more women landowners are responsible for managing their forestlands. In September, more than two dozen women forest landowners gathered for four days at the Highlights Retreat Facility in Boyds Mills, PA to learn about forest management, with topics including forest ecology, wildlife, estate and financial planning, forest values, tree identification, and more.



The educational retreat is a dynamic and fun program that teaches women to effectively care for their lands. It builds a sense of confidence and empowerment in their abilities to meet the challenges of forestland ownership and plan for the future. Graduates go on to serve as mentors for other landowners in their communities in the proper stewardship of their lands. To learn more about Women and Their Woods or to join the mailing list and receive quarterly newsletters and information about upcoming events and workshops, visit www.delawarehighlands.org/watw.



Become an Eagle Watch Volunteer

Join us on December 1st for a training and overview of our volunteer Eagle Watch program followed by visits to monitoring sites. The winter Eagle Watch program runs through January and February, weekends only. Volunteers cover morning or afternoon shifts at our observation areas and at the Upper Delaware Visitor Center, now located inside the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA.

Eagle Observation Areas are located at Mongaup Reservoir and the Delaware River at Minisink Falls and the Zane Grey boat launch at Lackawaxen.

During their shift, our volunteers collect important data on wintering eagles and resident pairs. They educate the public in "Eagle Etiquette" and on how to have the best eagle-watching experience.

To learn more about the winter Eagle Watch volunteer program, or to register for the Training Day on December 1st, please contact Jason Zarnowski at jason@delawarehighlands.org or 570-226-3164.





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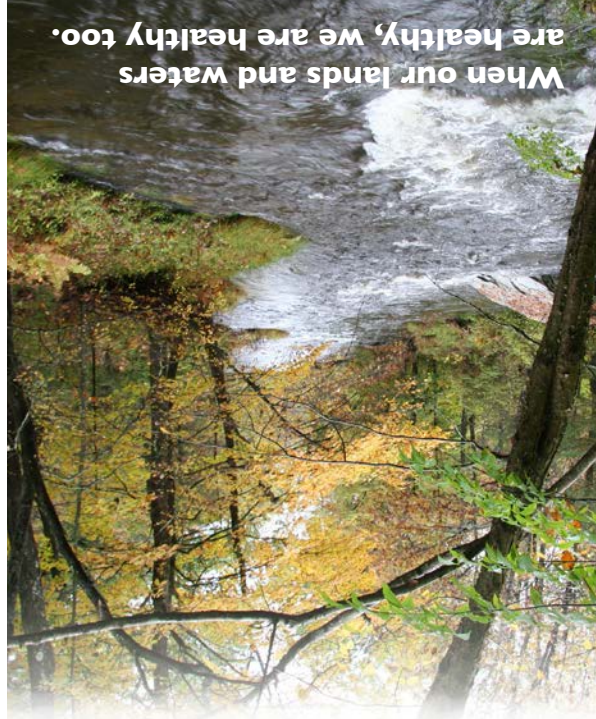
Join us this winter for
an Eagle Watch bus trip!
Winter schedule and registration
information inside.
Sign up for our e-newsletter at
DelawareHighlands.org.

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

PO Box 218 Hawley, PA 18428-0218

SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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

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