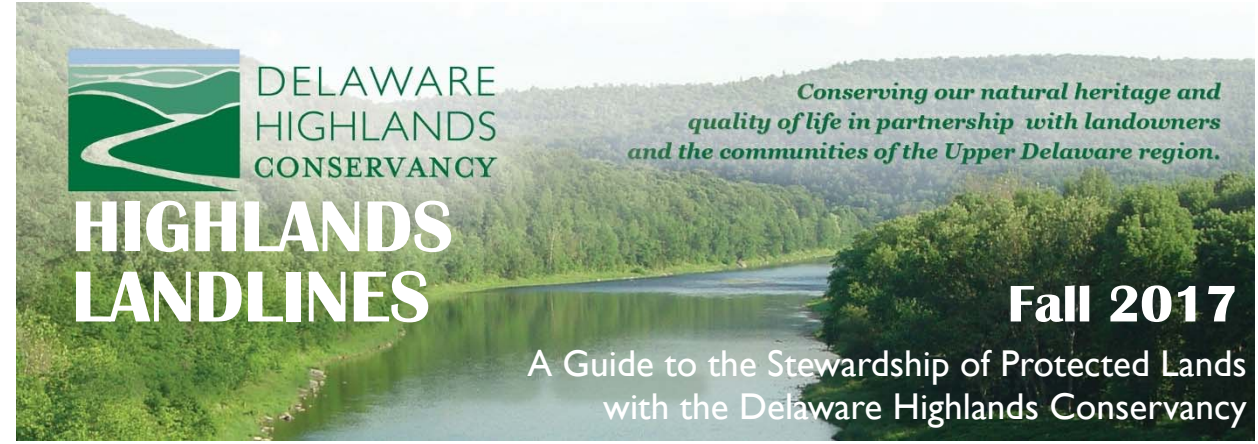


UPCOMING EVENTS

- NOV 25 - Golden Eagles of New York**
Narrowsburg, NY, 1pm-2pm
- DEC 2 - Eagle Watch Volunteer Training**
Lackawaxen, PA, 9am-1pm
- JAN 6 - Eagle Day**
Hawley, PA, 1pm-4pm
- JAN 13 - Eagle Watch Bus Tour**
Lackawaxen, PA, 10am-1pm
- JAN 27 - Eagle Watch Bus Tour**
Lackawaxen, PA, 10am-1pm
- FEB 10 - Eagle Watch Bus Tour**
Lackawaxen, PA, 10am-1pm

Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org, email info@delawarehighlands.org, or call 570-226-3164/845-583-1010 for more information on these events and others, and to register.



Funding for Stewardship on Private Lands

There are a variety of different funding sources to help landowners implement best management practices on their private lands. Two notable and underutilized programs are the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and the Voluntary Hunter Access Program. These programs can provide financial benefits to landowners who take active steps to manage their properties for ecological health.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), now available in all Pennsylvania counties as well as Sullivan and Delaware Counties in New York, helps private landowners protect wetlands, reduce pollutants entering the Delaware River, minimize soil loss and erosion, and improve habitat for fish, songbirds, and other wildlife. The program targets cropland and marginal pastureland and provides landowners with annual payments in return for removing their land from agricultural production and implementing conservation practices, like planting riparian forest buffers of at least 35 feet, planting native grasses, creating wildlife and pollinator habitat, and restoring wetlands.



In addition to providing the annual “rental” payment for the land, typically between \$40 and \$350 an acre, CREP also cost-shares the cost of installing the practices. Landowners, however, are responsible for maintaining the practices for the life of the contract, which range from 10 to 15 years. This program is run by the Farm Services Agency (FSA), who can answer specific questions about eligibility, qualifying management practices, and payment rates.

- **INSIDE**
- Funding for Stewardship on Private Lands
- A Note from Cindy
- Leaving a Legacy, Engaging Next the Generation
- Replanting After Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



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DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to conserving our natural heritage and quality of life in partnership with landowners and the communities of the Upper Delaware River region.

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Highlands Landlines is a semi-annual newsletter created by the Conservancy for landowners who have a conservation easement with the Conservancy. This publication is also available electronically.



What is Highlands LandLines?

You probably already receive the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's biannual newsletter, *Highlands Journal*. Our newsletter is distributed to all of our landowners, members, and other like-minded folks who are interested in the Conservancy's activities, accomplishments, and conservation goals.

This publication, *Highlands LandLines*, comes to you twice a year and is dedicated to landowners. *LandLines* provides you, the landowner, with useful information and tips for the stewardship of your land and conservation easement.

Participate in LandLines!

We are interested in your ideas for future articles and features, or your comments on the publication in general.

We'd love to know what you think!



Website for Women Forest Landowners

www.WomenOwningWoodlands.net strives to bring topical, accessible, and current forestry information to women woodland owners and forest practitioners through news articles, blogs, events, resources, and personal stories. We support women in forest leadership, women who manage their own woodlands, and all who facilitate the stewardship of forests.

Legacy Leaders

At the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, we believe that we are stewards not just of the protected lands and waters that we hold, but of the Upper Delaware River region itself—a responsibility that extends into future generations.

Becoming a Legacy Leader enables you to leave a legacy for future generations and help ensure that our kids and grandkids can still experience this region as it is today. Legacy Leaders have included the Conservancy in their will or estate planning, with bequests of stock, real estate, or other resources.

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.

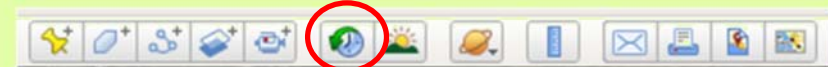
If you are interested in learning more, please contact Bethany Keene at Bethany@delawarehighlands.org or 570-226-3164 ext. 1.



Engaging the Next Generation

In our region, the average age of forest landowners is 57, which means the next decade will bring a substantial change in forestland ownership. Do you know who will be the future owners of your land? **Here are some ideas to help engage your heirs today, to ensure you leave a legacy of conservation values and love of land:**

- Download the MotionX GPS application on your iPad or iPhone and ask the Conservancy to send you your easement boundary GPS files. Take your children or grandchildren out to explore your property boundaries, set waypoints of your favorite spots, examine the change in topography, and more!
- Invite your heirs to join the Conservancy for a future visit. During this visit, we can discuss the special conservation values of your property and what future improvements the easement allows.
- Use the Google Earth historical imagery tool (pictured below) to see the changes in your local landscape. Use this opportunity to discuss with your children: What will our land look like in the future? What conservation values do you agree on?



- Ask our Conservancy Stewardship Team to lead a stewardship walk during the next family reunion at your conservation easement property. This is an opportunity to teach future landowners about the property's special values and management options.

It's never too early to share your passion with the next generation.

(Continued from page 1)

The Voluntary Hunter Access Program, run by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), offers private landowners free habitat improvements in return for allowing reasonable public hunting access on their land. All undeveloped, privately owned land over 50 acres is eligible for this program. Enrolled landowners sign a 5 or 10 year agreement to allow hunting or trapping access, though landowners can place certain restrictions on what types of hunting is allowed.

In addition to offering habitat improvements like shrub planting, tree cutting, and native grass planting, landowners who enroll in this program will receive a subscription to PGC's Game News Magazine, an antlerless tag, a hunting license for enrolling properties over 80 acres, as well as Game Law Enforcement on their property.

Landowners who enroll in CREP and the Voluntary Hunter Access Program can receive additional financial payments from certain CREP practices, like Native Grass Planting.



For more information on CREP please go to creppa.org or contact your local FSA office at 570-282-8732, or visit the office at 1300 Old Plank Road, Mayfield, PA.

For more information on the Voluntary Hunter Access Program, please contact your local Pennsylvania Game Commission office at 570-675-1143 or visit the office at 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas, PA.

Photos courtesy of John Kocijanski and David B. Soete.

Keep in touch! Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy>, www.DelawareHighlands.org, and on Twitter and Instagram @DHConservancy.

Discover Activities to Care For and Enjoy Your Woods



Visit www.MyWoodlot.com for outdoor activity ideas, advice on landownership, and opportunities to connect with other landowners through discussion forums. You'll find extensive resources on woodlands from both landowners and professionals, and the site developers have given them context through projects landowners like you can actually do.

All the resources on MyWoodlot are available for free.

Invasive Species Corner

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

Multiflora rose is a thorny, perennial shrub that can reach up to 15 feet in height. It is identifiable by its white, five-petal flowers and fringed stipules at the base of each compound leaf (see white arrow in photo). It bears red, late summer fruits known as "rose hips" that persist through the winter.

Though now banned, prohibited, or classified as a noxious weed in 13 states, multiflora rose was purposefully introduced to the United States by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service which used the shrub for erosion control and as living fences to confine livestock. Even recently, multiflora rose was planted in highway median strips as a crash barrier. However, multiflora rose's pervasive spread has caused pasture loss throughout the U.S., infesting more than 45 million acres. In forests, it can prevent the growth and regeneration of native plants.

Multiflora rose can be removed by pulling out seedlings and roots by hand. Mowing three to six times per growing season can also be an effective management tool. For chemical control, systemic herbicides, such as glyphosate or triclopyr should be applied to freshly cut stems. Because multiflora rose has regenerative power and seeds that stay viable for 20 years, all controls will need to be monitored and likely repeated. Winterberry holly, arrowwood viburnum or American hazelnut are suggested native replacements.



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Native Species Spotlight

Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

American witch hazel is a native shrub or small tree that grows in the eastern United States. It is most often found in the under-story of shaded forests and will grow twenty to thirty feet tall. Witch hazel has alternate, broadly ovate leaves and bright yellow flowers that bloom in late fall. Its basal branches typically spread laterally and create an arching, dome-like form. This, combined with its low height, provides favorable nesting sites for wood thrushes and flycatchers. Deer will occasionally browse its stems in the winter and gray squirrels may eat its brittle seeds.

Witch hazel plants frequently grow in clusters near each other because of their seed dispersal method. With an audible snapping sound, mature seeds are forcibly ejected from their woody capsules and are expelled twenty to thirty feet. This dispersal method explains its other common name: the snapping hazelnut.

Interestingly, American witch hazel has some alluring lore and uses. Early European settlers used forked witch hazel branches as a dowser to determine areas with adequate underground water resources. Medicinally, witch hazel leaves and bark have astringent, tonic, and sedative properties. It is used for a variety of treatments, such as soothing insect bites, burns, poison ivy, and other skin irritations.



A Note from Cindy Taylor, Stewardship Associate

As I wrap up the last few annual visits for our 2017 season, I'd like to thank each of you - our conservation easement landowners - for your help in protecting the Upper Delaware River region. In my first year as Stewardship Associate, visits to your properties brought our stewardship team to amazing vistas and excellent wildlife habitats, where we saw porcupines, bears, herons, bald eagles, turkeys, and countless other critters. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet some of you and to hear your stories of conservation. Thank you for protecting this special region.

I look forward to doing it all again in 2018. If you would like to join me in visiting other conservation easements, please call or email me to learn more about our volunteering opportunities.

See you next year,

Cindy

Cindy@delawarehighlands.org
570-226-3164 x4



Conservancy volunteer Tad McAlpin at the Crooked Creek Farm Conservation Easement.



Landowner Perspective This newsletter is YOUR space!

Share your connections to the land with other LandLines newsletter readers. Send an email to conserve@delawarehighlands.org with your photos, journal entries, drawings, other artwork, or stories, and we'll share it here.



Replanting Conifers Where Hemlocks Are Lost

Many landowners are currently **struggling to decide what to do about hemlock stands infested with hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA)**. Though reforestation of HWA-resistant eastern hemlock is an ideal goal, **planting and promoting other conifers could help replace the shady, cooling effect hemlocks have on our creeks and rivers**. Here is a summary of PA DCNR's list of potential replacements species:

- Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) – Shade tolerant. Not preferred deer browse. Lacks some thermal characteristics of hemlock.
- White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) – Intermediate shade tolerance. Not preferred deer browse. Considered hardy and retains its lower limbs.
- Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) – Shade tolerant. Not preferred deer browse. Not large at maturity, retains lower limbs.
- Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) – Very shade tolerant. Some deer browse occurs. Requires abundant moisture and retains lower limbs.
- Northern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) – Shade tolerant. Preferred deer browse. Grows bush-like appearance and may lose lower limbs in forested areas.
- Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) – Intermediate shade tolerance. Preferred deer browse. Grows rapidly and lacks some thermal characteristics of hemlock.



Landowners can view this lists' details and other management information at: http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20030071.pdf

For Pennsylvania landowners interested in riparian plantings to replace HWA infested hemlocks, DCNR offers a Riparian Forest Buffer Grant Program that provides financial assistance to design, establish, monitor, and maintain buffers. The minimum grant award is \$50,000 and requires a 50/50 match. **Please let us know if you would like to partner with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to apply for this opportunity. The application deadline is December 20, 2017.**

More information can be found at: <https://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/Dashboard/RBGGrants>