

Looking for monthly updates on our events and programs?

Sign up for our e-newsletter through our website!

You don't want to miss our eagle-watching
bus trips (and Eagle Day in January)!

Winter schedule and registration
information inside.



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To learn more about...

the Delaware Highlands Conservancy or to make a donation in support of our work, visit DelawareHighlands.org.

 Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy>

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

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead



Highlands JOURNAL

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Celebrating YOU!

...and your help safeguarding our quality of life

Our 2013 Member and Volunteer Thank-you Picnic was a wonderful day as we celebrated our local community. Hosted annually at our Sullivan County, New York office, the fun and educational free picnic celebrates our dedicated members, volunteers, and friends, and highlights what's so special about our region.

With great music from local bluegrass band Little Sparrow, foods made with fresh herbs from the Conservancy's garden and apples from our orchard, a fascinating presentation from the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center,

pottery lessons from volunteer Gary Silien, a hike on our new woodland trail, and a program on monarch butterflies from Ed Wesely, **the day was one that reminded us why we really love where we live—all of you!**

We love where we live. Attendees enjoyed a hike on one of our new woodland trails—part of a plan to turn our Bethel office into an outdoor classroom with gardens, meadows, and fun for all.



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Our Youth = Our Future

Katie Krause plans to make a difference in the world.

The winner of the Conservancy's annual scholarship and a 2013 graduate of Delaware Valley High School, Katie hopes to one day work with the National Institute of Health or the Environmental Protection Agency "to research, protect, and influence the future world, its people, and the environment so vital to the survival of all."

Given in honor of our founder, Barbara Yeaman, the \$1,000 scholarship is open to students in school districts bordering the Upper Delaware River in New York and Pennsylvania. **The annual award embodies Barbara's vision and the dedication of our members to protect our region now and for future generations.**

To continue to inspire youth, encourage study and careers in natural science, and develop talent like Katie's, contributions to the scholarship fund can be made online at DelawareHighlands.org or by mail.

The Conservancy thanks Joann Puskarcik and the organization RESCUE for a generous contribution to our scholarship fund for graduating seniors.

Scholarship Applications are due in March. Keep an eye on our website for details.



Katie Krause, this year's scholarship recipient, will attend Pennsylvania State University this fall, majoring in biology.



© SHANNA KENNY

We're inspired – are you?
It's all about the water

Visit our homepage to watch our video and learn how protecting our farms and forests protects clean drinking water for us, and for millions downstream.

While you are online be sure to visit www.DelawareHighlands.org/greenlodging to watch another inspiring video about what a big resort and a small nonprofit have in common.



Your Donation Dollars at Work

When you donate to the Conservancy, you make a direct investment in a sustainable future for the Upper Delaware River region. Your contribution directly helps protect healthy lands and clean waters—like three Sullivan county properties permanently protected.

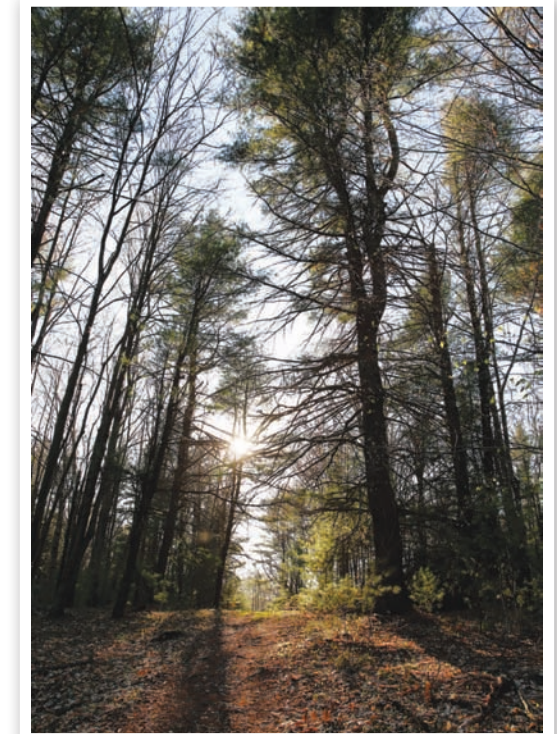


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The town of Bethel and the Bethel Local Development Corporation worked with the Conservancy to protect 134 acres in the town of Smallwood, New York. This public park will be available for passive recreation and ensure the drinking water for the entire community is protected forever.



Benjamin Wechsler's bequest protected 36 acres of his beloved "Jewel of the Neversink." Part of a larger 1,600-acre parcel in Forestburgh, Sullivan County, adjacent to the Neversink River Unique Area, this spectacular property helps protect trout habitat and water quality.



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Brothers Henry and Gordon MacAdam protected their 26 acres—a cherished family property—in the town of Thompson, New York. Inspired, they went on to write a book about their family history.



To learn more about protecting your land or to read the complete stories of these protected properties, visit www.DelawareHighlands.org and visit the "Landowner Stories" section.



In our region, the term “winter snowbirds” has a unique meaning to many: bald eagles!
While many species head south for warmer climates this time of year – including humans – bald eagles head to the Upper Delaware. Why?

Winter Visitors

Eagle Habitat is Our Habitat

The same environment that attracts and sustains us – clean water, clean air, undisturbed and unfragmented forests – helps hundreds of bald eagles survive the cold winter months.

When lakes and rivers freeze over up north (as far north at Labrador, 900 miles away from the Delaware River), bald eagles head south – to our backyard – to open water where they can find fresh fish, and large stands of trees where they can perch and rest.

Protected lands in Sullivan County, NY, and Pike and Wayne counties in PA, provide a safe haven for these migratory birds.

Your support of the Conservancy ensures the upper Delaware region remains healthy for both of us.

Without your support of our ongoing conservation efforts, bald eagles would be forced to find other suitable habitat to survive the winter months.

Keep Your Eyes to The Skies!



Whether through a formal land protection agreement, or just being mindful of protecting our natural resources, the residents and visitors to this region—you!—can be proud of their role in helping bald eagles survive and thrive.

Opportunities for Eagle-Watching

The Conservancy has a number of activities planned for the winter months to help celebrate the bald eagle.

Join us for guided field trips or stop by our Lackawaxen, PA Winter Field Office with its new interpretative exhibits and short documentary (it’s so cool we can’t wait to show you), and then venture out on your own to talk with trained volunteers ready to assist at the viewing areas (Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday 9-4, January and February).

Your Calendar for Winter Fun

Join an expert guide on a heated bus and take a scenic drive throughout the Upper Delaware River region to look for and learn about eagles and the impacts of habitat loss. **Space is very limited and reservations are required for all Eagle Watch bus trips.***

Be sure to dress warmly in layers and wear waterproof boots. Bring binoculars, camera, snacks, and a bagged lunch. Fee: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Call the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or 845-583-1010 or email info@delawarehighlands.org to register unless otherwise noted.

WINTER SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 18

Eagle Tour

Winter Field Office, Lackawaxen, PA, 9am-12pm

Wednesday, January 22 & Saturday, January 25

Eagle Tours with PPL

Environmental Learning Center, Hawley, PA, 8:30am-12pm

Katie Lester of PPL will share information about how PPL’s hydroelectric dam has helped in the return of the bald eagle. Explore eagle biology, habitat needs and proper eagle-viewing etiquette. Contact PPL at 570-253-7001 or pplpreserves@pplweb.com to register.

Saturday, January 25

Eagle Day!

Environmental Learning Center, Hawley, PA 1pm-4pm

Join the Conservancy, PPL, the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, and other local organizations for an educational, fun (and free!) Eagle Day for the whole family. Enjoy a presentation with live birds from Bill Streeter, help to build an eagle’s nest, and participate in other fun activities.



Saturday, February 1

Eagle Tour with NEPA Audubon Society

Winter Field Office, Lackawaxen, PA, 9am-12pm

The guide on this bus tour will focus on eagle biology, our unique habitat, and how the eagles recovered from the brink of extinction. Call Bob at 570-676-9969 or email jeanbob@ptd.net for reservations.

Saturday, February 8

Eagle Tour

Winter Field Office, Lackawaxen, PA, 9am-12pm

Saturday, February 15

Marion “Becky” Finch Memorial Excursion

Winter Field Office, Lackawaxen, PA, 9am-12pm

Join us to pay tribute to a long-time supporter and volunteer in the most fitting way we know how: by sharing the awesome eagle-watching experience.

**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 the event of inclement weather, snow dates are the Sunday immediately following.*



Women and Their Woods: Learning through connections

Annual retreat for women forest landowners educates, inspires...



It's all about connections at the annual Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat, where women forest landowners from across the mid-Atlantic region gather to learn all about the care and management of forestland in a changing world.

In four days of workshops, indoor and outdoor sessions, field trips, and hands-on learning at this September's retreat, attendees connected to a network of forestry professionals and resources; got the tools they need to manage healthy forestlands; and became mentors to friends, neighbors and family members. They returned home as inspired forest stewards, ready to share what they've learned.

"It was a wakeup call to have a meeting with my adult children to learn what their thoughts are as to the future of our forest," explains PA landowner Jennifer Schoonover.

When we talk about good forest stewardship, we consider how healthy forests filter the water, clean the air, provide habitat for wildlife, and support sustainable local economies.

"It is hard for me to believe how differently I view my woods after our four days together. In addition to loving my woods, I feel a strong responsibility to care for it in a purposeful way. The network of support available is wonderful. I am embarked on a new, beautiful, and heretofore unexpected relationship with my forest."

— **Christine Foland**, PA landowner and 2013 WaTW graduate

We recognize that everything in nature is connected, and as good forest stewards, we can support and foster those connections.

What the Women and Their Woods Retreat reminds us is that we're all connected, too—to our families, to our communities, and to the world in which our actions on our lands have the power to make a difference.

To learn more about Women and Their Woods and upcoming workshops, get resources, materials, and toolkits, see more retreat photos, and download issues of the quarterly Women and Their Woods newsletter, visit www.DelawareHighlands.org/watw.



Attendees learn to identify trees with Jane Swift, Environmental Education Specialist for PA DCNR's Worlds End State Park.



"I think we're really lucky to have such an amazing area in our backyard," Cathy explains, "and that eagles are doing so well here. I recommend participating in the Eagle Watch program highly to anyone who wants to learn more. It's a great way to pass knowledge down to the next generation."

From Volunteer to Student

Eagle-Watching Inspires One Volunteer to Go Back to School

As a volunteer for Eagle Watch, Cathy Liljequist found that learning more about nature and the plight of the eagle affected her so much that she was inspired to go back to school and earn another degree—a bachelor of science in wildlife studies.

Though Cathy had lived in Middletown for thirteen years, she never realized the number of species of plants and animals that could be found in protected natural areas, and in our own backyards.

Having retired from the Air Force after 22 years, Cathy now hopes to continue her volunteer work as well as to find a new part-time job working in conservation or for an animal sanctuary in this next chapter of her life.

The Conservancy is lucky to have Cathy as one of our dedicated team of volunteers, and we thank her for the dozens of hours she's given to help inspire others about the richness in our backyard.

To learn more about how you can volunteer for Eagle Watch or for any of the Conservancy's other programs, visit DelawareHighlands.org or send an email to volunteer@delawarehighlands.org.



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Stay local, save eagles.

How does your winter eagle-watching weekend help local conservation?

Green Lodging PARTNERSHIP

The Green Lodging Partnership connects local hotels and inns with the protection of clean, healthy habitat for eagles and people, too.

Every guest has the opportunity to join the lodging partners and invest back in our region with a \$2 donation for every stay. Visit

www.DelawareHighlands.org/greenlodging to learn more about the Partnership and how it connects local businesses to a sustainable future for the Upper Delaware River region—and book your weekend eagle-watching stay with one of our lodging partners!

On October 24, the Conservancy's Green Lodging Partnership was awarded the Environmental Partnership Award by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. We thank DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Community Conservation Partnership Program administered through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council for their support of the Green Lodging Partnership.