

## Conservancy Welcomes New Executive Director



On September 1, 2016, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy was pleased to welcome Diane Rosencrance as its new Executive Director.

Formerly a Senior Director at Natural Lands Trust, Diane has an extensive background in land protection initiatives and has been an active partner with the Conservancy in many of its regional activities.

"Diane's twenty years' experience in the field of land conservation positions her uniquely to lead the Conservancy through our next phase of growth," stated Karen Lutz, President of the Board of Directors.

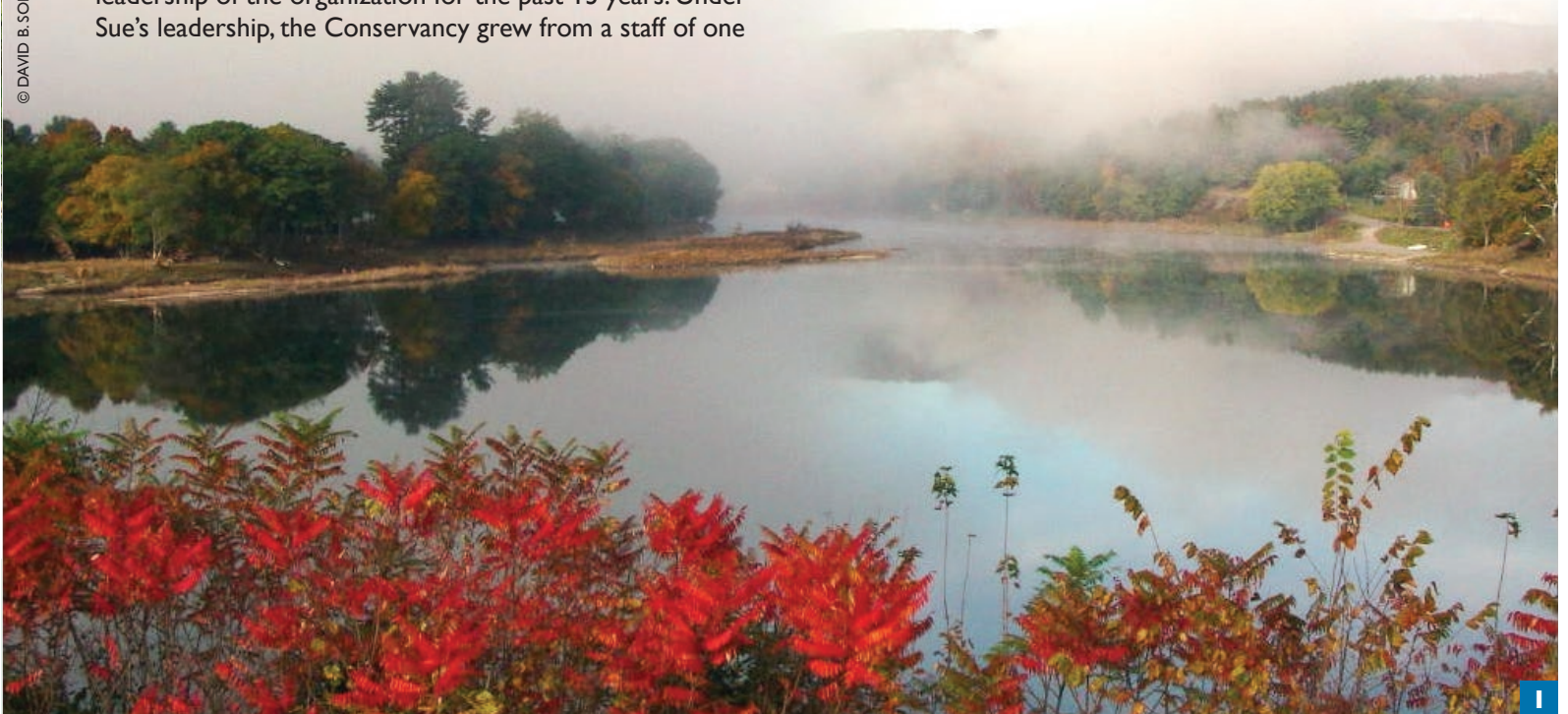
"I'm excited to take on this new challenge as the Executive Director, and am very much looking forward to personally building relationships with the Conservancy's partners and communities in New York and expanding relationships in Pennsylvania," Diane stated.

The Conservancy's Board of Directors thanked retiring Executive Director Sue Currier for her dedication to and leadership of the organization for the past 13 years. Under Sue's leadership, the Conservancy grew from a staff of one

full time employee to a cohesive team of six professional staff members, dedicated contractors, and a large contingent of volunteers. The Conservancy has created numerous productive partnerships with conservation-oriented entities on both sides of the River.

During Sue's tenure, the Conservancy has protected more than 14,000 acres, established offices in Pennsylvania and New York, become an accredited land trust, and successfully merged with the Eagle Institute. Sue commented on her plans: "I love the Conservancy and I'm proud of what we accomplished as a team. The best years for the Conservancy are ahead. I look forward to interacting with the Conservancy and with the community in new ways after my retirement."

Diane joined the rest of the Conservancy staff, including Amanda Subjin, Conservation Programs Team Lead; Bethany Keene, Outreach and Development Team Lead; Jason Zarnowski, Administrative Coordinator; Susan LaCroix, Land Protection Coordinator; and Mary Anne Carletta, Stewardship Associate.





## DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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### Outreach & Development

Bethany Keene

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Hawley PA 18428

DelawareHighlands.org  
info@delawarehighlands.org

### CALL US

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NY: 845-583-1010

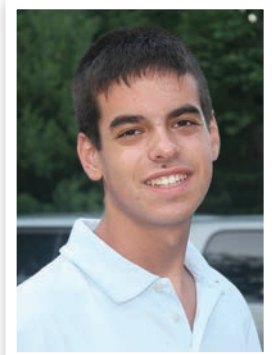


## Bright Futures in Conservation

### Conservancy Awards Scholarships to Local Students

**The Conservancy awarded its annual “Delaware Highlands Conservancy/Yeaman Scholarship” in the amount of \$1,000 to Daniel Smith, a 2016 graduate of Delaware Valley High School, and the “Vanessa Van Gorder Memorial Scholarship” in the amount of \$1,000 to Molly Mowatt, a 2016 graduate of Wallenpaupack Area High School.**

Daniel will attend the University of Maine where he will study wildlife ecology. As a wildlife ecologist, Daniel hopes to “research ways to conserve animal populations, specifically species that are on the endangered list.” He currently raises pheasants at his home and eventually also hopes to start his own pheasant farm to do research and assist states in establishing wild pheasant programs.



Molly will attend Penn State University Park campus and plans to double major in biology and secondary education biology. In high school, Molly was President and Historian of the Student Council and a member of the National Honor Society, as well a participant in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. With her degrees and love of science, Molly hopes to “provide an effective and enjoyable learning experience for students, and to offer guidance to high school students at a crucial time in their lives.”



To continue to inspire youth, encourage study and careers in natural science and education, and develop talent like Daniel and

Molly's, contributions to the Conservancy are encouraged. People interested in supporting the scholarship fund and other environmental education and conservation activities can donate online at [DelawareHighlands.org](http://DelawareHighlands.org) or by mailing a contribution to PO Box 218, Hawley, PA 18428.

*Upper Delaware River south of Narrowsburg, NY.*





# A Creative Way to Give

**Instead of being overwhelmed by the chaos of purchasing gifts and planning charitable donations over the holidays, one family decided to make a change. The Conservancy was lucky enough to receive this letter last year, and we're sharing it with you in hopes that it will inspire your own family this holiday season.**

To the Delaware Highlands,

My family does not have a lot, but then we are blessed in that there is not much we need. My niece Erica is very ecologically minded and she did not like all the waste that surrounded Christmas. There were always too many gifts that, although were given with love and thought, could not be used—not to mention the bags of wrapping paper that went into the landfill.

Several years ago, Erica asked us to all change our Christmas tradition. Everyone still in school gets Christmas as usual, and the rest of our family and friends puts 20 dollars or whatever amount they can afford into a pot. We then write the name of our favorite charity on a slip of paper and put it in a hat. On Christmas, whoever's charity is picked gets all the money. This year, MINE WAS PICKED!

After we draw a name, the fun begins. We play a game called White Elephant Christmas which involves everyone bringing one wrapped gift to put in a pile in the center of the room. The only rule about the gift is that it cannot be bought. It can be a joke, a handmade craft, or something from your house. (I won't tell you what the reindeer were doing on a winter hat someone knit one Christmas!) When it's your turn, you can either pick a gift or steal a gift. We all enjoy trying to find the best gift to put into the pile. It's turned our Christmas into a season without stress and into a day of laughs—not to mention the thousands of dollars we have raised for charity.

It was very strange the first Christmas not bringing any gifts, but Erica kept us all calm by sending weekly emails to remind us that this will only work as long as everyone follows the rules.

I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers at the Highlands who work so hard to keep this planet a great place to live for all creatures big and small. So with great joy and happiness I now present you with a check for \$420 dollars from my family and our friends.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Simpson



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**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](https://smile.amazon.com) to get started.

# What will your legacy be?



At the Conservancy, we believe that we are stewards not just of the conservation easements that we hold, but of the Upper Delaware River region itself—a responsibility that extends beyond the next seven generations. Protecting the Upper Delaware River region as you remember it can be part of your legacy, and an enduring gift to future generations.

You have a number of different planned giving options to leave your personal legacy, including through a will or bequest; a donation of stock or real estate; or other planned giving strategies including a charitable IRA rollover, a charitable remainder trust or lead trust, or a retained life estate.

If this sounds like the kind of legacy you would like to leave, 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.

Contact us at 570-226-3164 or visit <http://delawarehighlands.org/membership/leaving-a-legacy> to learn more.

*The Conservancy's Leaving a Legacy initiative was supported with funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation.*

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.

Sue Currier  
Patricia Diness  
Mary Evans  
Linda Gearhart  
Susanne Hand and David Kinsey  
Susan Hartney  
Alfred Lees and Ronald Nelson  
Harold MacGregor  
Dorothy Merrill (deceased)  
Sally and Enrico Moretti  
Mary Sue Sweeney Price  
Kimberly (Mimi) Raleigh  
Brenda Seldin  
Shary and Gary Skoloff  
Richard Snyder (deceased)  
Sigrid Wilshinsky  
Jonathan Wind  
Barbara Yeaman



## Helping the Monarch Butterfly Along the “Flyway by the Byway”

**Monarch butterflies are in trouble.** In the last twenty years, their population has dwindled from more than a billion to just 150 million, a nearly 82% decline that has been observed with alarm along the Delaware River which serves as a flyway for the annual migration of Northeastern Monarchs from their summer breeding grounds to their wintering roosts in central Mexico.

A beautifully illustrated new brochure aims to educate and inspire people to be proactive stewards in revitalizing this charismatic species by addressing threats to their habitat.

“The Monarch Butterfly: Fostering the Flyway by the Byway” includes information about monarch life cycles and cross-continental migration patterns, conservation efforts that can be easily undertaken in your backyard to grow milkweed and nectar plants that are critical to monarchs' survival, best mowing practices to minimize negative impacts on monarchs, tips to attract them, lists of available pollinator plants in this area, and how to participate in national campaigns that are underway to protect the species.

The brochure was produced by the Town of Highland, NY courtesy of a Technical Assistance Grant from the Upper Delaware Council. Pick up a copy at various locations throughout the Upper Delaware River region, or contact or stop by the Upper Delaware Council office at 211 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg or by email at [info@upperdelawarescenicbyway.org](mailto:info@upperdelawarescenicbyway.org).







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## Eagles in Our Region

It's that time of year once again! Wintering eagles, which spend the rest of the year in Canada and upstate New York, will soon be 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 to perch and roost.

Join us for one of our upcoming Eagle Events. 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 January 7th, enjoy live presentations from Bill Streeter of the Delaware Valley Raptor Center, and activities and fun 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 to talk to volunteers in our eagle-viewing areas throughout the Upper Delaware.

### Visitor Center Hours

**January – February**

Saturdays & Sundays • 10am-4pm

176 Scenic Drive, Lackawaxen, PA 18435

### Thank you to our partners and supporters!



### WINTER SCHEDULE

Space is 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, and snacks.

**Fee: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members.**

Call the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or 845-583-1010 or email [info@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:info@delawarehighlands.org) to register.

#### Saturday, January 7 • 1pm-4pm Eagle Day

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

#### Saturday, January 14 • 10am-1pm Eagle Watch Bus Tour

Upper Delaware Visitor Center  
Lackawaxen, PA

#### Saturday, January 28 • 10am-1pm Eagle Watch Bus Tour

Upper Delaware Visitor Center  
Lackawaxen, PA

#### Saturday, February 4 • 10am-1pm Eagle Watch Bus Tour

Upper Delaware Visitor Center  
Lackawaxen, PA

#### Saturday, February 11 • 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.





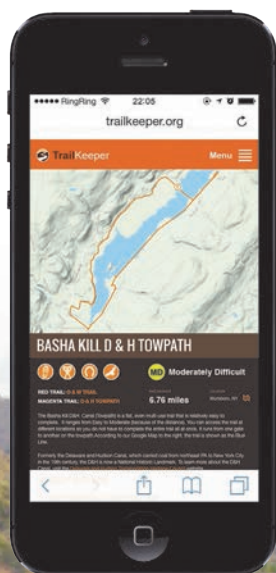
DelawareHighlands.org/watw

## Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat

In September, more than two dozen women forest landowners gathered for a four-day retreat in Milanville, PA to learn about forest management, with topics including forest ecology, wildlife, estate and financial planning, calculating the value in your forest, forest plant identification, and more. The educational retreat empowers and educates women to steward their forestlands and plan for the future. WaTW graduates will 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, visit [delawarehighlands.org/watw](http://delawarehighlands.org/watw).

*The Women and Their Woods program is administered by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Penn State Natural Resources Extension with support from the US Forest Service at Grey Towers and the PA Forest Stewardship Program.*



## New and Improved TrailKeeper.org

With an exciting re-launch in late summer, TrailKeeper.org is now mobile responsive, making it easy to use and access on a tablet or smartphone. In addition, a new interactive map helps you search nearby—find local restaurants, lodging, shops, and other local businesses near trailheads so you can plan your day and support your local community—and get directions right from the trail. New trails have been added to help you expand your territory.

TrailKeeper.org is a one-source outlet for hiking trails and public lands in Sullivan County, NY with easy-to-read, easy-to-access maps and facilities information and guides to hiking safety. With details about locations, routes, and facilities to make hiking safer, more accessible, and more fun, TrailKeeper.org provides information that matches hiker to trail.





## Pledge to Protect our Forests

**Our forests are special.** They provide rich wildlife habitats and they are the perfect places to hike, hunt, or bird watch. They are important economic drivers for our region and good sources of local jobs. And they protect vital drinking water sources for us and for more than 15 million people downstream—that water is filtered by the healthy forests that thrive here

Thousands of miles of streams drain directly into the Delaware—one of which might run through your backyard or neighborhood.

**Three-quarters of all the forestland in both Pennsylvania and New York is privately owned. The future of our forestlands—and our clean drinking water—is in our hands.**

We invite you to visit Clear Choices Clean Water at <http://mydelawariver.clearchoicescleanwater.org/forest> and check out our new Forest Stewardship section. It's full of information to help you learn to care for your forests and plan for the future.

*Clear Choices, Clean Water: My Delaware River and the TrailKeeper.org site improvements were supported through the Delaware River Watershed Initiative with funds provided by the William Penn Foundation.*



## 2016 Community Picnic

Conservancy members, volunteers, and friends enjoyed a beautiful day at our office in Bethel, NY for our annual community picnic this year. Featuring a Live Birds of Prey presentation with the Delaware Valley Raptor Center, a monarch butterfly program with naturalist Ed Wesely, a guided botany walk on our woodland trail, and games and fun for all, it was a great day celebrating the Upper Delaware River region.



© Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.

## Tackling Invasive Plants in Our Community

This summer, Conservancy staff and volunteers tackled an invasive plant discovered on the Riverside Trail outside our Hawley, PA office. In just a few hours, we removed six big bags of mile-a-minute weed: a fast-growing plant that can quickly smother other native plants and even ascend into the tree canopy where it becomes very dense.

The plant can be controlled early by hand-pulling, so landowners throughout the Upper Delaware River region should remain vigilant in identifying and removing mile-a-minute weed on their properties. To identify it, look for a vine with alternate, triangular, light green leaves that are barbed on the underside, with round leaf-like structures surrounding the stem.





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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](http://DelawareHighlands.org).

To learn more about...

the Delaware Highlands Conservancy or to make a donation in support of our work, visit [DelawareHighlands.org](http://DelawareHighlands.org).  
Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy> and on Twitter [@DHConservancy](https://twitter.com/DHConservancy)



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

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PO Box 218 Hawley, PA 18428-0218

SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

# DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

*"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. Where we live and whom we live there with define the terms of our relationship to the world and to humanity." – Wendell Berry*

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