

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEPT. 7 - Forestry Field Day: Tree Identification Workshop**
Bethel, NY, 9am-12pm
- SEPT. 7 - Member & Volunteer Thank-You Picnic (You're Invited!)**
Bethel, NY, 12pm-4pm
- SEPT. 26-29 - Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat**
Camp Susque, Trout Run, PA
- OCT. 12 - Fall Hike**
Tusten Mountain Trail, Tusten, NY, 10am-12pm
- OCT. 16 - Financial Benefits of Land Conservation**
Hawley, PA, 7pm-9pm
- DEC. 7 - Eagle Institute Volunteer Training**
Lackawaxen, PA, 9:30am-12pm

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

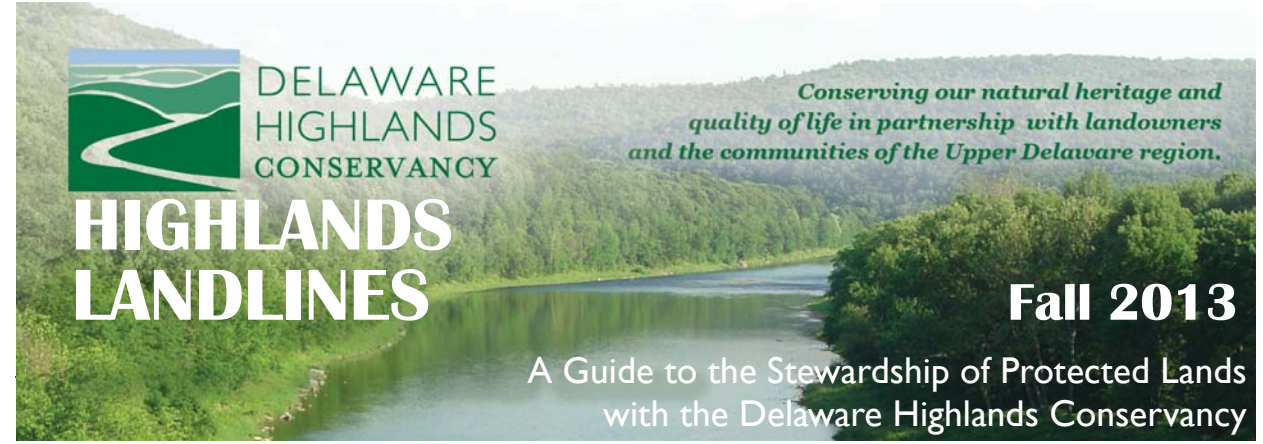
- **INSIDE**
- **Enhancing Habitat for Wildlife**
- **Landowner Spotlight: Journey's End Farm**
- **Eat the Invaders: A New Use for Invasives**
- **Free Energy Usage Assessments**
- **Support for Wetlands**



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Enhancing Habitat for Wildlife

Benefits of Wildlife

Your forest can provide important habitat for wildlife on your land. A healthy forest needs to have wildlife, and many wildlife species occur only in forests. Forests provide food and shelter for numerous wildlife species, which in turn provide recreational, aesthetic, and ecological benefits to us. Hunting, fishing, photography, nature study, and wildlife watching are activities you may be able to enjoy on your property. Having the ability to manage for, and see, animals that interest you can be a rewarding experience.



The benefits of wildlife go far beyond our enjoyment. Each species performs specific functions in the ecosystem like seed dispersal, forest pest control, or pollination. These functions directly benefit other living organisms, as well as people.

Squirrels bury acorns for food but fail to retrieve many of them. Acorns that aren't uncovered may become a new generation of oak trees. In this way, squirrels help to provide for continued forest growth.

Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds feed on nectar, pollinating many of our native trees and wildflowers. By feeding on insects, animals such as bats, birds, frogs, or dragonflies help to control insect pests that may be harmful to forests or people. Moles and other small mammals aerate and mix the forest soil.

Amphibians may help control the rates of decomposition by eating insects and other invertebrates that break down leaf litter on the forest floor. Their pollution-sensitive, semi-permeable skin also allows them to serve as indicators of environmental health. Forest landowners



(Continued on page 6)

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.

DIRECTORS

- Greg Belcamino
- Keith Fitzpatrick
- Joe Fowler
- Denise Frangipane
- Michael Geitz
- Jeffery Moore
- John Ross
- Nicole Slevin
- Scott VanGorder
- Dawn Williams
- Keith Williams
- Barbara Yeaman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sue Currier

LAND PROTECTION

- Melinda Ketcham
- Amanda Subjin
- Jamie Bartholomew

OUTREACH

Bethany Keene

DEVELOPMENT

Kate Mitchell

t: 570-226-3164

t: 845.583.1010

www.DelawareHighlands.org

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!

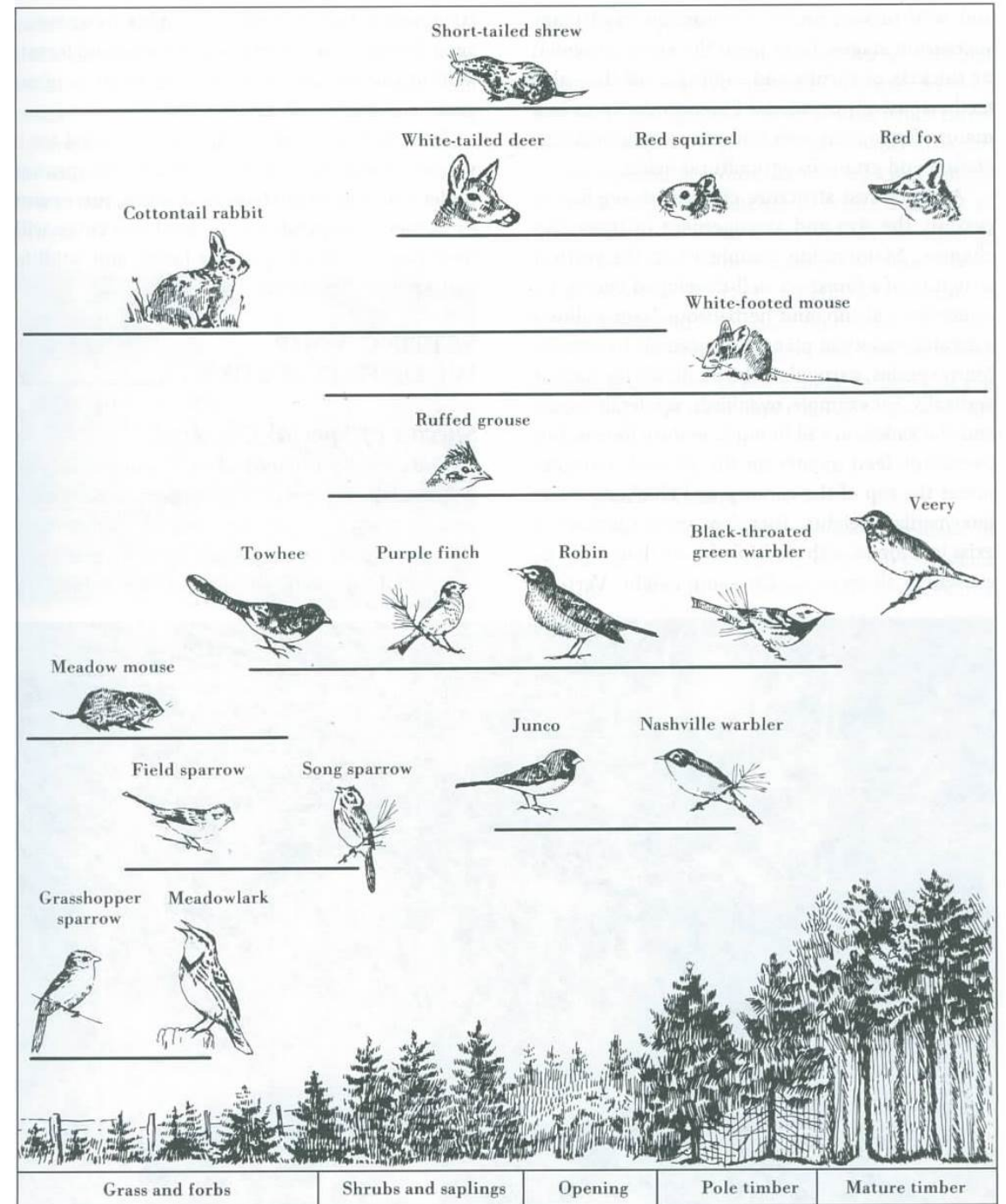
We are interested in your ideas for future articles and features, or your comments on the publication in general.

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.



As forests change, their structure and available food and cover change as well, providing habitat for different wildlife species at each stage.

(Continued from page 1)

play an important role in ensuring that present and future generations can enjoy the many ecological, recreational, and aesthetic benefits of wildlife.

Wildlife Basics

To survive, every animal requires four basic habitat elements—food, cover, water, and space. The arrangement and ratio of habitat types, plant cover, water, topography, geology, human activity, and presence of other wildlife species all influence the number and kinds of wildlife that can live on your land. Although factors like topography and geology seldom change, you can manage your forest to provide optimum cover, food, and sometimes water, for species of interest.



As you think about the wildlife on your property, consider your property within the larger landscape. Because many wildlife species can move between your property and your neighbors, your actions may attract some desired wildlife but may not have a large impact on the total variety of wildlife species in the area.

See the diagram on the next page to learn about the types of forests that different wildlife species prefer.



*Article and diagram reproduced with permission from *Forest Resource Management: A Landowner's Guide to Getting Started*, NRAES-170, Plant and Life Sciences Publishing, www.palspublishing.com. Wildlife photography by David B. Soete.

EAT THE INVADERS

FIGHTING INVASIVE SPECIES, ONE BITE AT A TIME

www.eattheinvaders.org

This new website has come up with a unique way to manage invasive species—eat them! Maintained by Joe Roman, a conservation biologist, author, and researcher, the site has a variety of different recipes for invasive species, as well as information for preventing their spread. Here's a simple one:

Garlic Mustard Pesto

by 'Wildman' Steve Brill

- 4 cloves of garlic
- 3 tablespoons garlic mustard tap-roots
- 3/4 cups parsley
- 1 cup garlic mustard leaves
- 1 cup basil
- 2 cups walnuts or pine nuts
- 1/2 cup mellow miso
- 6 | 1/4 cup olive oil or as needed

Chop the garlic and garlic mustard roots in a food processor. Add the parsley, garlic, garlic mustard and basil and chop. Add the nuts and chop coarsely. Add the olive oil and miso and process until you've created a coarse paste. Makes 4 cups.



Photos and recipe courtesy of eattheinvaders.org.

Native Species Spotlight

Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

Some of the most common butterflies in North America, monarchs are known for their mass migration in late summer and early fall when they travel thousands of miles to Mexico and California.

The four stages of the monarch life cycle are egg, larvae (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and the adult butterfly. Monarchs hatch four times through the year, and most butterflies live from two to six weeks. But the monarchs that hatch later - August and September - are the only generation that migrate, and may live from six to eight months.

Monarchs depend on milkweed plants to survive. They use the plants to lay their eggs, and later, the larvae feed exclusively on the milkweed plants. Adult monarchs also feed on milkweed, but may also feed on other nectar plants.

The monarch population is declining as milkweed is eliminated due to increased use of herbicides, and as open fields and meadows are lost to development. But you can create habitat for monarchs in your own yards and gardens, just by planting milkweed. Check with your local nursery, or purchase seeds online at www.butterflyencounters.com/.



Invasive Species Corner

Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*)

The gypsy moth is a destructive pest. It was introduced in 1869 from its native range in Europe and continues to spread across the U.S.

Egg masses are laid on branches and tree trunks. The larvae (caterpillars) emerge in the spring and begin feeding on foliage--some consuming as much as one square foot of leaves per day.

By July, the larvae enter the pupal stage for two weeks before the adult moths emerge and live for about one week. Each female moth lays approximately 500 eggs.

Gypsy moths cause widespread ecological and economic impacts, as trees that are defoliated repeatedly over several years may die. Trees that survive become more susceptible to disease and environmental stresses.

Though state agencies often treat woodlands over large areas with aerial application of insecticides, landowners may also take action by destroying the buff-colored, nickel-sized egg masses beginning in late summer or in the spring before they hatch; they can be removed from the bark with a spoon and placed in soapy water for 1-2 days to destroy them.



LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT: Partners in Protecting Land

The Curtis family, owners of Journey's End Farm, are an example of a perfect partnership between landowners and the Conservancy. With plans to make some changes to their land, and transfer ownership to a new generation of landowners, the family organized a meeting with both generations, Conservancy Stewardship Coordinator Amanda Subjin and Executive Director Sue Currier to review their conservation easement **before making any changes on their land.**

The up-and-coming generation wanted to ask questions and clarify what is allowed on their property. It also gave them the opportunity to review maps of the land protected. Their goal was to make an easy transition between generations. They were able to discuss possible land development within the guidelines of the easement, drafted in 1997, and also went over the original letter of intent written by the older generation.

Each easement has specific clauses put in expressly to ensure that protected land stays healthy. But as years pass and new landowners take over, it can become increasingly difficult to remember what was specified in the easement—and can even cause tension in the family.

Meeting with the Conservancy to review an easement—whether the land is being sold to new owners, being taken over by a new generation, or if there are simply questions about what can and cannot be done on the land—can avoid this tension and prevent problems in the future.

Easements protect the land in order help keep our watershed clean, our people and wildlife healthy, and our quality of life high.



The Curtis family is a perfect example of how land owners and the Conservancy can be perfect partners in protecting land!

If you have questions about your easement or protecting your land, contact the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 / 845-583-1010 or email conserve@delawarehighlands.org.

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Marie and Ralph Curtis, the original landowners who protected their property.



The sugarbush at Journey's End Farm produces 200 gallons of maple syrup a year with two wood-fired evaporators, shown here with Kristin Curtis.

Free Home Energy Assessments With SEEDS

Residents of Wayne and Pike Counties in PA have an opportunity to save money on their electric bills by signing up for a free energy assessment today with SEEDS (Sustainable Energy Education and Development Support), a local non-profit.



TEAAM (The Energy Awareness Action Movement) is their residential energy conservation program.

Trained TEAAM volunteers will visit your home, review your electric bills, and prepare a thorough, customized report on how you can make your home more comfortable, save money, and help the environment. Assessments are scheduled at your convenience.

Call 570-245-1256 or visit www.seedsgroup.net to sign up.

NRCS Seeking Landowners Interested In Preserving Wetlands

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is now accepting applications from Pennsylvania landowners interested in the Wetlands Reserve Program. A new round of funding authorizes Pennsylvania NRCS over \$7 million to enroll up to 800 additional acres into WRP.

Anyone interested in these voluntary programs should contact their state or local NRCS office. The **Wetlands Reserve Program helps landowners restore and protect wetland ecosystems on private lands.** They may select a permanent or 30-year easement or a restoration cost-share agreement, retaining ownership of the land once the agreement is in place. Nationwide, more than 11,000 private landowners participating in WRP are already protecting more than 2.6 million acres of America's wetlands.

"The benefits of these reserved wetlands reach well beyond their boundaries to improve watershed health, the vitality of agricultural lands, as well as the aesthetics and economies of local communities," said NRCS Acting Chief Jason Weller.

For more information, visit the NRCS-PA Wetlands Reserve Program webpage at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/pa/programs/easements/wetlands/>.

Annual Property Visits

Monitoring all of your beautiful protected properties went smoothly this year, with the help of our dedicated volunteers!

If you are interested in getting outdoors and helping out with monitoring visits next summer, send an email to monitor@delawarehighlands.org or call 570-226-3164.

At right: Monitoring Coordinator Jamie Bartholomew, her dog Blue, and volunteer Jamie Dillon. Photo by Jeff Sidle.



Keep in touch! Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy> and www.DelawareHighlands.org.