

UPCOMING EVENTS

- APRIL 27** **Foods of the Delaware Highlands Gala Dinner**
Hawley, PA
- MAY 4** **Women and Their Woods Spring Workshop**
Lake Ariel, PA, 9am-3pm
- MAY 11** **Native Plants Walk and Photography Workshop**
Milford, PA, 9am-12pm
- JUNE 1** **Forestry Management for Small Acreages**
Bethel, NY, 1pm-4pm
- JUNE 22** **Birding Walk**
Bethel, NY, 7am-9am
- AUG 24** **Firefly Picnic**
Bethel, NY, 3pm-6pm
- OCT 6** **Walk in Penn's Woods at Stairway Ridge**
Westfall Township, PA, 9am-12pm

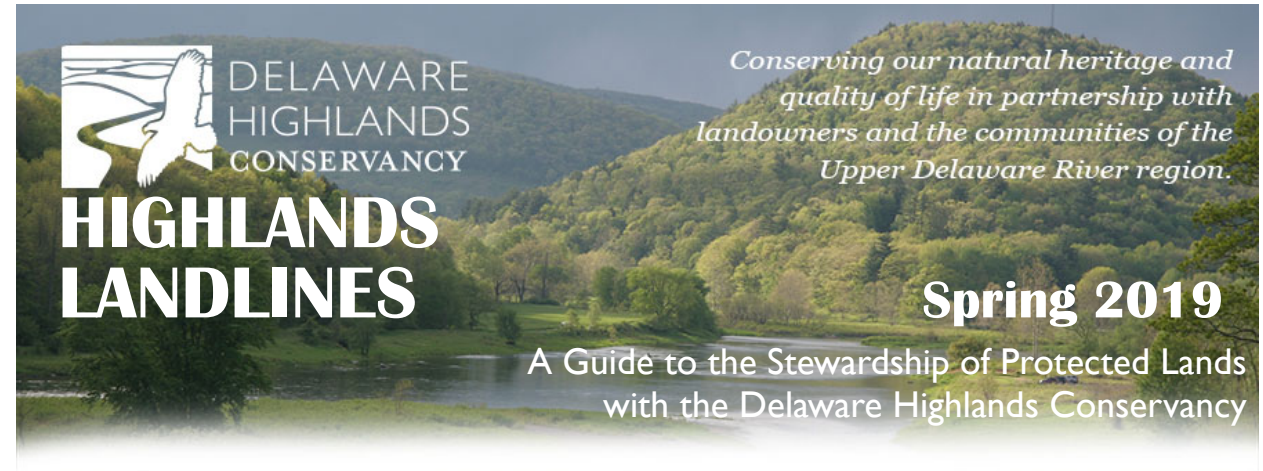
Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org, or call 570-226-3164/845-583-1010 to learn more.

- **INSIDE**
- **How to Have Happy Bees**
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- **Meet Our New Stewardship Associate**



Serving New York and Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 218 Hawley, PA 18428-0218

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY



How to Have Happy Bees

by Mary Anne Carletta

Specifically, how can you manage your land to keep pollinators healthy and working for you? Honeybees, which were originally imported from Europe, and native bees have the same basic requirements as we all do: water, food, and shelter.

Beekeepers recommend providing water near your beehives or locating them near an unpolluted pond, lake, stream, or just an area that's always wet. Of course, native pollinators also require water. If you don't have water nearby, you can use a birdbath or a chicken waterer. Bees may not be picky about the cleanliness of their water supply, but do make sure it's free of pesticides and herbicides. Bees also need a landing zone to stand on without risk of drowning. They use more water during droughts and dry seasons.

For food, both honeybees and native bees generally prefer a diversity of native wild plants, since hybrids and other highly bred cultivars often have far less nectar and pollen. However, honeybees and native pollinators can have somewhat different preferences. For example, bumblebees tend to like perennials because they have more nectar. Honeybees like open flowers because they have short tongues, whereas bumblebees have longer tongues and can buzz to shake pollen loose. Some plants such as tomatoes need that buzzing to release pollen at all.



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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 for landowners who have a conservation easement with the Conservancy. This publication is also available electronically.



What is Highlands LandLines?

You already receive the Delaware Highlands Conservancy’s regular 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’re celebrating our 25th anniversary in 2019! Thank you for supporting us to help further the Conservancy’s mission to conserve our natural heritage and quality of life. With your help, we’ve conserved **more than 15,000 acres** of working farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat.

We invite you to participate in our year-long **celebration** and help us **showcase** your conserved properties. Here is a list of ways you can contribute:

- Does your land have easy access and available parking? If so, please consider inviting the Conservancy to host a forest walk on your conserved property.
- Is there a place on your property that you find exceptionally special? Share your photos or a story about what you value.
- Would you be willing to share your experience obtaining a conservation easement? The Conservancy can provide refreshments and a relaxed setting for you to share your experience with a small group of landowners.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Annual Property Visit Questionnaire

Please help the Conservancy prepare for our annual property visits by completing the below survey and mailing to:

Delaware Highlands Conservancy Attn: Nicole DeCarolis
PO Box 218, Hawley, PA 18428

Or email: nicole@delawarehighlands.org

You may also complete the survey online at

<https://delawarehighlands.org/landowner/caring-for-your-land/monitoring-form>

Contact: _____ Email: _____

Annual property visits allow the Conservancy to uphold the terms of the conservation easement for each property. These visits allow the Conservancy to determine whether the conservation values outlined in the conservation easement are intact. In addition, the visit is a fundamental part of relationship building between the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, its members, and landowners.

Would you like to attend the property visit? Yes No

Do you have plans to sell, subdivide or lease the property?..... Yes No

Do you plan to build or replace any structures (houses, sheds, barns, gazebos, garage, pole barn) within the boundaries of the conservation easement?..... Yes No

Has there been or do you plan for there to be any land disturbance as a result of road/trail construction, digging/filling, planting, fencing or other construction?..... Yes No

In the last year, has the protected property been affected by any of the following:

Insect damage.....	Yes	No
Storm damage.....	Yes	No
Fire.....	Yes	No
Vandalism; trespassing, dumping, abusive use of ATVs or other vehicles....	Yes	No
Property line violations from neighboring parcels.....	Yes	No

Do you plan for or has there been any timber harvesting on the property?..... Yes No
If so, is this a result of a recommendation by a current Forest Management Plan?.... Yes No

Have you noticed any of the following affecting wetlands or waterways on the property?

Encroachment of invasive vegetation or animals.....	Yes	No
Change in flow, quality or quantity of water	Yes	No
Livestock in or near waterways or wetlands.....	Yes	No
Erosion along banks or channels.....	Yes	No

Have you signed a lease for use of the land? (ie. gas lease, agricultural)..... Yes No

Have you noticed new populations or an increase in existing populations of invasive vegetation?..... Yes No

Do You Need Help Managing Your Land?

Here are some options:

- If your easement allows for forest management, we can provide you with our *Forest Management Plan Guidelines* and help connect you with a forester who will help you achieve your goals for your property.
- There can also be funding available to private landowners interested in acquiring a forest management plan and conducting forestry practices.
- Farmers may also qualify for funding to assist with cropland and livestock management through the Natural Resource Conservation Service.
- For example, funding is available to help with:
 - ⇒ Curbing erosion
 - ⇒ Conserving & improving soil health
 - ⇒ Conserving water resources
 - ⇒ Protecting waterways from erosion & degradation
 - ⇒ Managing manure
 - ⇒ Managing grazing lands
 - ⇒ Establishing wildlife habitat (such as creating Golden-winged warbler habitat)
 - ⇒ Managing forestlands
 - ⇒ Improving air quality and conserving energy



Talk to us during our monitoring visit or contact Amanda Subjin at amanda@delawarehighlands.org or 570-226-3164 ext. 2 to learn more.

New Stewardship Associate Nicole DeCarolis

In April we welcomed a new staff member to our team. Our Stewardship Associate, Nicole DeCarolis, will coordinate annual visits to the Conservancy's protected properties, ensuring the conservation goals of the agreements are upheld, and communicate with landowners about questions and inquiries related to their conservation easement.

Nicole has a B.S. in Natural Resources Conservation & Management with a double minor in Sustainable Communities and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from Paul Smith's College. She was a Conservation Easement Monitoring Intern for the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock, NH in 2018, and a Summer Intern for Lincoln Land Conservation Trust in Lincoln, MA in 2016.

Nicole will be in contact with you to set up a visit. We hope you join her!



Invasive Species Corner

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

Japanese honeysuckle was introduced to the United States in 1906 as an ornamental plant. It is a semi-evergreen woody, twining vine with oval-shaped opposite leaves and white tubular flowers that fade to yellow April through July. In the fall, the plant develops small, shiny black fruits that are consumed by birds and other wildlife which then disburse the seeds and promote its spread. The plant also spreads through its roots.

Japanese honeysuckle can be found in forests, wetlands, and along roadsides and fencerows. It is often planted as an ornamental or for erosion control. However, it can become very dense and can kill smaller saplings and out-compete native vegetation. For removal, manual pulling and herbicide is recommended, which will require repetition as the roots continue to sprout. Mowing the plant will stimulate growth and increase its density.

Source: http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010263.pdf



Native Species Spotlight

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Also called Northern spicebush, this native deciduous shrub can grow 6-12 feet tall with alternate, deep green leaves and dense clusters of small, pale yellow flowers in spring before the leaves emerge. It is sometimes called "forsythia of the forest." Later in the season, spicebush produces glossy red berries, and eventually the leaves turn golden yellow in the fall. The name refers to the spicy fragrance of the stems, leaves, and fruits.

Spicebush is a favorite of many different types of wildlife and provides habitat for the spicebush swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*), which lays its eggs and feeds on the leaves. It is found naturally in moist woodland areas but is also planted as a landscape border, stream buffer, or in a shade or butterfly garden. Some boil the leaves of the spicebush plant to make a hot or iced tea.

Source: https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_libe3.pdf



PHOTO CONTEST

Confluence: Land, Water, and Wildlife

The Conservancy is pleased to announce our second annual juried photo contest for the Upper Delaware River region, open to professional and amateur photographers. **Confluence: Land, Water, and Wildlife** invites photographers to capture striking nature-inspired photos in four categories: landscape, wildlife, macro, and water.

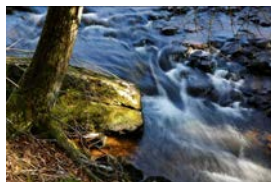
Photos will be judged on creativity, originality, composition, clarity and quality, and impact. The Conservancy is offering a guided Photography Workshop and Native Plants Walk on May 11th in Milford, PA, but participation in the walk and workshop is not required to enter the contest.

Photographers may submit entries from **May 1st until August 31st**. The winning photos will be chosen by a panel of judges, along with one People's Choice, and will be hung at the ARTery gallery in Milford, PA, beginning with a reception on November 9th from 6-9pm. The ARTery is a cooperative owned and operated by successful and emerging artists and artisans from the Tri-State area.

Photographers are invited to submit no more than two photos to the contest. Entrants must agree to the Official Rules and submit a \$10 entry fee to be eligible. For full contest details, to download the Official Rules, and to submit your photos, please visit www.delawarehighlands.org/photo-contest/.

Categories

- ◆ **Landscape** – The Upper Delaware River region is known for its beautiful views—scenic vistas of forests, farms, and the river itself. How does this landscape illustrate our story, our heritage? What makes this region special? Why is it worth protecting? How does it feel to be in nature? Consider the story your landscape photo is telling.
- ◆ **Wildlife** – From a honeybee to a bald eagle, a chipmunk to a black bear, we share our world with thousands of other creatures. What do we have in common? What does it look like to live in harmony with wildlife? What changes happen at night, or underwater? Without disturbing or harming any creature or its habitat, be creative in showcasing the diverse wildlife of our region and the spaces where our lives overlap.
- ◆ **Macro** – Looking closely at nature—plants, wildlife, even rocks—often reveals hidden worlds and fascinating details. For these extreme close-ups, try to show us an out-of-the-ordinary way of looking at something.
- ◆ **Water** – Even the smallest streams eventually find their way to the Delaware River. In this broad category, consider how water impacts our lives—and how our everyday lives impact the water. How do you interact with water in nature? How does the land and our forests help to keep the water clean? How does clean water impact the landscape, the wildlife, the people of this region?



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Bees can't see red, but are most attracted to purple, blue, and violet flowers. A good bee habitat has plants blooming from early spring through late fall. Penn State Extension has a chart of bee-friendly plants native to Pennsylvania with estimated blooming periods (<https://extension.psu.edu/conserving-wild-bees-in-pennsylvania>). At least three local beekeepers plant acres of forage for their honeybees, including various types of clover, buckwheat, and fruit trees. (If you plant clover or buckwheat, check with the local extension office to make sure that the type you plant is not invasive in this area.)

Don't use pesticides! Bees actually recognize landmarks, but neonicotinoid pesticides in particular reduce honeybees' ability to remember landmarks and to navigate, as well as reducing their sperm count. This makes it difficult for them to return to their hives and decreases bee populations. As a result, the European Union has banned three neonicotinoids (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) and France has banned two more (thiacloprid and acetamiprid). In addition, herbicides reduce the diversity of plants available for bees to feed on.



It's best to avoid all pesticides on your property and nearby properties if possible, as bees can forage miles away. Local authorities that apply roadside pesticides will avoid the border of a beekeeper's property if requested.

For shelter, beekeepers provide manmade hives for honeybees, but native pollinators like undisturbed "wild" areas. Ground nesters like undisturbed soil (no tilling or plowing), and other bees will nest in rock piles, bird nests or boxes, dead trees, unkempt hedgerows, and uncut tall native grasses and reeds. In general, areas that contain diverse native plant species attract more and varied species of bees. Grass lawns don't provide good shelter or food for honeybees or for native bees. Leave substantial ungrazed areas: it reduces your workload and provides good habitat.



Do you plan on walking your property boundary this summer? Let us know if you need new signs!

We have 4x4" boundary signs or 9x12" no trespassing signs available for you.

