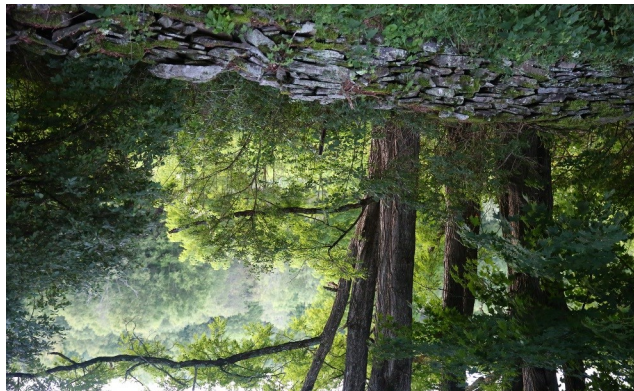


UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAY 15** **Women and Their Woods Chainsaw Safety Class**
Lake Ariel, PA, 7:30am-4pm
- JUNE 5** **Native Plants Walk**
Smallwood, NY, 10am-1pm
- AUG 6-13** **Delaware River Sojourn**
Learn more at www.delawareriversojourn.com
- SEPT 19** **Back to Nature Celebration**
Van Scott Nature Reserve and the Inn at Woodloch, 4:30pm
- OCT 3** **Walk in Penn's Woods**
Location and details to be determined.

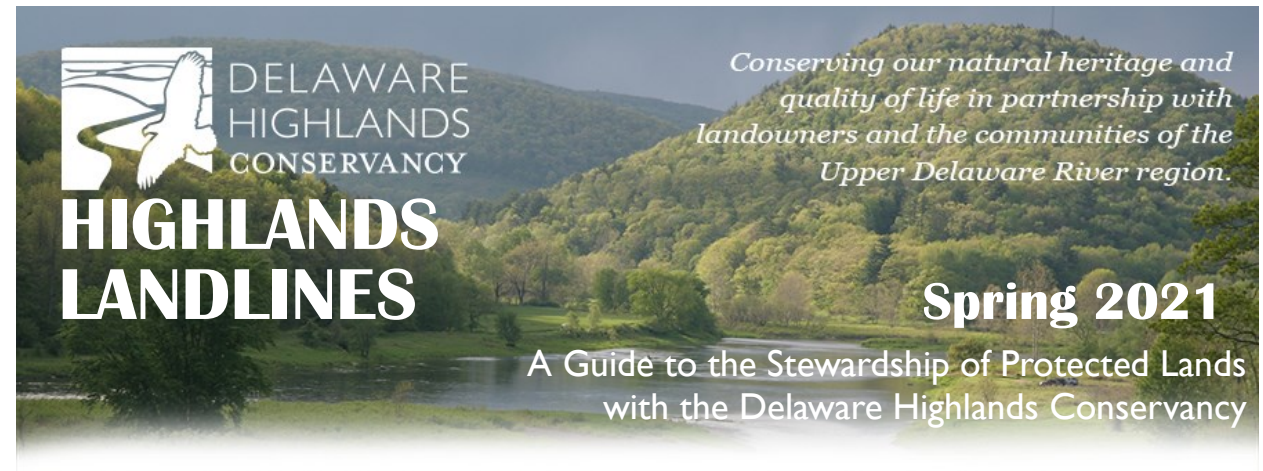
Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org, or call 570-226-3164/845-583-1010 to learn more or register for these events. Our Events Calendar is updated regularly throughout the year. Remember to visit us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to find all our virtual activities including guided nature walks and outdoor explorations.

- **INSIDE**
- Participate in the Leaf Pack Network
- Recipe: Bradford Pear Jelly
- Native and Invasive Species: Trout Lily and Bradford Pear
- Native Animal Spotlight: American Eel



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DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY



How Healthy is Your Stream? Join the Leaf Pack Network

The Leaf Pack Network (LPN), started by Stroud Water Research Center, is a program for monitoring stream health by placing packs of leaves in the stream for three to four weeks, ideally in the spring or fall, to see which macroinvertebrates colonize.

Macroinvertebrates are organisms widely used as indicators of water quality and habitat stability. The program is described as a great opportunity for families with children, teachers looking for new ways to engage students, and community associations interested in hands-on learning to discover an educational way to explore their local streams.

LPN supplies participants with a manual and data sheets to monitor their stream of choice. Participants can purchase a Leaf Pack Stream Ecology Kit or individual items of the Kit for their project ([links below](#)). After the three to four weeks are over, data from the experiment can be submitted and viewed on Stroud's online database.

The Pike County Conservation District (PCCD) in Pennsylvania is looking for people to participate in the LPN and it is open to anyone who is interested.

PCCD's Communications Coordinator, Devan George, can provide information on the District's \$500 Environmental Education grant, which is available to offset costs to participate in an LPN project for teachers, community associations, or youth groups. Contact Devan: dgeorge@pikepa.org

Kit links: <https://lamotte.com/products/environmental-science-education/aquatic-macroinvertebrates/leaf-pack-experiments-stream-ecology-kit-5882> and <https://leafpacknetwork.org/resources/equipment/>

Data: <https://leafpacknetwork.org/data/>



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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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 who have a conservation easement with the Conservancy. *LandLines* provides you, the landowner, with useful information and tips for the stewardship of your land and conservation easement. This publication is also available electronically.

Participate in LandLines!

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



www.DelawareHighlands.org
571 Perkins Pond Rd
Beach Lake, PA 18405

@DelawareHighlandsConservancy

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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
571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake, PA 18405
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

Eat the Invasives Recipe: Bradford Pear Jelly

This is the time of year when Bradford pear trees are in flower (see page 3 for a description) - a great time to identify places to collect fruit for this recipe.

Ingredients:

- Plastic grocery bag of Bradford pear fruit
- Cinnamon stick
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- Water
- Sugar
- Box of powdered pectin

Directions:

- 1) Clean the small pears by removing the stem. Put pears in a large pot. Fill pot with water to just above the fruit. Add stick of cinnamon.
- 2) Bring to a boil and reduce temperature to simmer. Cook until pears are mushy (about an hour). Using a potato masher or spoon, lightly mash the pears to help release the pectin and flavor.
- 3) Start your canner and water to boil if you plan to complete the jelly on the same day. Mine takes about an hour to get to a boil so now is a good time to turn it on.
- 4) At this point, you can drain your mixture using a jelly bag over night. However, I am too impatient for that. Start with a spaghetti strainer and strain the large parts out of your mixture, keeping the juice. Add the leftover fruit mush to your compost. Then move to a fine mesh strainer and strain juice twice. Finally, put coffee filters into your spaghetti strainer and then strain the juice. This takes about 10 minutes which is much easier than waiting overnight and works just as well.
- 5) Measure your juice. For every cup of juice, add a cup of sugar. Add two tablespoons of lemon juice. Bring to a boil, stir often.
- 6) In a separate bowl, mix your powdered pectin with about a half cup of water until powder is no longer lumpy. Add to your boiling liquid. Stir and bring back to hard boil. Boil for an additional minute.
- 7) Fill your jars with the hot liquid and boil in a water bath for 10 minutes.



Recipe adapted from:
<http://southernforager.blogspot.com/2013/11/bradford-pear-jelly.html>



Invasive Species Corner

Callery or Bradford Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

Native to Asia, Callery or Bradford Pear was introduced to the United States in the early 1900s as rootstock for domesticated pears. This deciduous tree was bred to produce sterile fruit, but cross-pollination between species resulted in viable seeds. Callery Pear has since been widely planted as a street and ornamental tree. The viable fruits result in the aggressive spread of this tree throughout fields and hedgerows.

Callery Pears can grow up to 40 feet in height. Its white, five-petaled flowers have a rancid odor and bloom in a ball-shaped bundle in spring before the leaves appear. The shiny green leaves are alternately arranged, two to three inches long, and have edges that are wavy and finely toothed. Fruits are green to brown in color, flecked with pale dots, half an inch in diameter, and held in the same clusters as the flowers. Although Callery Pear prefers full sun, it will tolerate partial shade, a wide range of soil conditions, and pollution.

Management methods consist of manually/mechanically removing the species and chemical application. Native tree alternatives to Callery Pear include Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*), White Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), and Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*). Source: <http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1738751&DocName=callery%20pear.pdf>; <https://extension.psu.edu/callery-pear>



Native Species Spotlight

Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)

A member of the lily family, Yellow Trout Lily was given its name because it blooms around the time of trout season. Its fleshy, mottled green and purple leaves are one of the plant's most recognizable features, which also contributes to its namesake for having markings like those of the brown or brook trout.

Yellow Trout Lily is a very common spring ephemeral in our region and is found in large runner colonies, blooming in moist woods and edges of shady bogs from March to May. Lilies with singular leaves typically do not flower, but plants with two leaves pointing in opposite directions will bear a single flower stem with a nodding yellow flower. The wildflower also has petals and sepals that bent backwards exposing deep reddish-brown stamens. Source: https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=eram5



Native Animal Spotlight: American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)

An important fish in the Upper Delaware River, the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) is a catadromous species, meaning they migrate down freshwater rivers to reproduce in the Northern Atlantic Ocean. After hatching, the young eels transform during their travels from “glass eels” to “elvers” and then finally “yellow eels” upon reaching their freshwater destination, which can be large rivers or lakes. American Eels reach sexual maturity in 5 to 25 years and then migrate back to the Sargasso Sea to breed and die.

American Eels are generally carnivorous and prefer to feed at night on worms, insects, small fish, fish eggs, frogs, crustaceans, clams, and other mollusks. During the day, the species can be found sheltering from the light in crevices or often burying themselves in mud, sand, or gravel. The average length of the adult American Eel is 50 cm (19.7 inches), and it ranges in color from yellow to olive brown.



The Eastern Elliptio mussel (*Elliptio complanata*), which is an essential species for keeping the waters of the Upper Delaware clean through its water filtering capability, uses the American Eel as its main host for reproduction. Eastern Elliptio larvae, known as glochidia, attach to the gills of the American Eel and remain there until they metamorphose into juvenile mussels.

The American Eel faces multiple threats due to being harvested at various stages of their life cycle for aquaculture, bait, and food. The long migration pattern of the American Eel has forced multiple fishery management jurisdictions such as the United States, Canada, and tribes to all work together to conserve and restore American Eel stocks.

Advocating for policies that protect the Delaware River and other marine, estuarine, and freshwater habitats is vital to the survival of American Eel and many other keystone species in our region.

Source: https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/freshwater-fish-of-america/american_eel.html; <https://www.nps.gov/upde/learn/nature/migratory-fish-species.htm>; https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Anguilla_rostrata/; <http://www.asmf.org/species/american-eel#:~:text=Stock%20Status&text=Information%20is%20limited%20about%20their,remains%20depleted%20in%20U.S.%20waters>; <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/pennsylvania/stories-in-pennsylvania/american-eel/>



Invasive Plants Fact Sheets

Landowners often ask Stewardship staff members for more information regarding invasive plant species on their properties. We are happy to share that Penn State Extension recently released a new invasive plant fact sheet series. Species within the series include tree-of-heaven, Callery pear, common and glossy buckthorn, Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, shrub honeysuckles, autumn olive, privet, burning bush, Oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, mile-a-minute vine, Japanese stiltgrass, and garlic mustard.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) also has invasive plant fact sheets for trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, herbs, and aquatic plants. Links are below.

If you know of any other great resources about invasive species, please send Nicole an email so she can share them with other landowners! Nicole@DelawareHighlands.org

PennState Extension Fact Sheets: <https://extension.psu.edu/announcing-new-invasive-plant-fact-sheets-series>

DCNR Fact Sheets: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/InvasivePlants/InvasivePlantFactSheets/Pages/default.aspx>



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” signs available for easement owners.

