UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 14	Van Scott Nature Reserve Welcome Day - Open House
	Beach Lake, PA • 10am-2pm
JUNE 23	Guided Weekday Walk
	Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 9am-11am
JUNE 25	Guided Walk: Animals and Their Habitats
	Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 10am-12pm
JULY 9	Guided Walk: Forest Bathing and Wild Plants
	Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 9am-12pm
JULY 14	Guided Weekday Walk
	Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 9am-11am
JULY 23	Mindful Family Yoga with Bright Kids Yoga
	Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 10am-11am

Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org/events 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.

> Stewardship of Your Property :SNI

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- Annual Property Visit Questionnaire
- Updates to Pennsylvania's Noxious Weed List
 - Mason Bees: The Super Pollinators! •



571 Perkins Pond Rd | Beach Lake, PA 18405 Serving New York and Pennsylvania

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY



Conserving our natural heritage and quality of life in partnership with landowners and the communities of the Upper Delaware River region.

Spring 2022

A Guide to the Stewardship of Protected Lands with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy

Mason Bees: The Super Pollinators!

Mason bees (genus Osmia, of the family Megachilidae) are solitary bees, named for their habit of using mud, or other "masonry" products, in building their nests. Though many are native to North America, there are a variety of mason bees that naturally inhabit worldwide geographic landscapes and range in body coloration.



Female mason bees are best known for their scopa, which is a dense mass of long, branched hairs on their abdomens that are used to collect pollen. This body feature results in the solitary bees being considered "belly floppers" because of their tactic to

drop onto flowers and collect pollen all over their bodies, which allows them to pollinate 95% of the plants they land on as they visit over 1,600 flowers a day. Mason bees are exceptional pollinators and are recognized as being more efficient than honeybees, given their ability to fertilize an entire acredepending on the type and density of pollinator plant species—with about 250 female bees.

Solitary bees do not produce honey or live in a hive. Since mason bees do not have a queen and support from a colony, every female bee must create her own nest and raise offspring alone. A mason bee will fill as many nesting tunnels as she can during her four-to-six-week life span. Their male counterparts only live for two-three weeks, with their sole purpose being to reproduce.

After mating, the female bee will find an existing tunnel for her nest and gather mud in her mouth to build a back wall. She then makes multiple visits to flowers to collect pollen and nectar, which she will place at the end of the nest as the egg's first meal when it hatches. After the food source has been placed, the bee lays an egg on top of it and will then collect more mud to build a chamber, sealing off

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 Van Scott Nature Reserve 571 Perkins Pond Rd Beach Lake, PA 18405 www.DelawareHighlands.org

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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:

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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?		
Do you have plans to sell, subdivide or lease the property?		
Do you plan to build or replace any structures (houses, sheds, barns, gazebos, gar- age, pole barn) within the boundaries of the conservation easement?		
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?		
In the last year, has the protected property been affected by any of the following: Insect damageStorm damage Fire Vandalism; trespassing, dumping, abusive use of ATVs or other vehicles Property line violations from neighboring parcels	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	No No No No
Do you plan for or has there been any timber harvesting on the property? If so, is this a result of a recommendation by a current Forest Management Plan?		No No
Have you noticed any of the following affecting wetlands or waterways on the prop- erty? Encroachment of invasive vegetation or animals Change in flow, quality or quantity of water Livestock in or near waterways or wetlands Erosion along banks or channels		No No No No
Have you signed a lease for use of the land? (ie. gas lease, agricultural)		
Have you noticed new populations or an increase in existing populations of invasive vegetation?		No

Stewardship of Your Property

Stewardship staff encourage you to reach out any time you have questions or concerns about your conservation easement. There are several activities and uses that may require the Conservancy's feedback or approval, so it is always a good idea to contact us before making any significant changes, including the following:



BEFORE YOU BUILD

A conservation easement may allow for residential or agricultural structures to be built on the property. However, it is important to confirm with the Conservancy that your easement permits new structures or the expansion of existing structures, and to follow the proper process before beginning any construction.



BEFORE YOU CUT

Your conservation easement may require the forest on your property to be cared for and managed in accordance with a forest management/ stewardship plan. Please contact the Conservancy before starting any forest management activities, as they must be reviewed and approved prior to any timber harvesting activities per the easement terms. We can also provide a list of natural resource professionals to help you achieve your land management goals.

BEFORE YOU SELL



Conservation easements run with the land even if you sell or transfer the conserved property, which means subsequent landowners are also bound by the terms of the easements. Informing and connecting the Conservancy with the realtor and ultimately the new landowner(s) before selling or transferring your property helps with reducing the risk of easement challenges or violations after the transition is complete.

STEWARDSHIP STAFF



Amanda Subjin Stewardship and Education Manager amanda@delawarehighlands.org 570-226-3164 x2



Nicole DeCarolis (she/her) Stewardship Coordinator nicole@delawarehighlands.org 570-226-3164 x4

Invasive Species Corner

Northern Snakehead (Channa argus)

Northern snakeheads (*Channa argus*) are predatory fish native to Asia. It is believed that snakeheads were introduced to our region through aquarium disposals and fish market releases. Snakeheads are long, brown fish with dark blotches along their bodies and a single fin running the length of their back. The fish can grow up to three feet long and are distinguished by their flattened, pointy head with toothed jaws. Northern snakeheads can be confused with native Bowfin (*Amia calva*) and Burbot (*Lota lota*).





It is illegal to possess, sell, transport, and use snakeheads as bait in NY and PA. If you believe you have caught a northern snakehead, do not release it! Kill the fish immediately as it can survive on land, photo document the fish, report where it was found, and freeze it.

Sources: https://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/PennsylvaniaFishes/Pages/Snakehead.aspx https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/45470.html#:-.text=Northern%20snakeheads%20(Channa%20argus)%20are,intentional%20releases%20from%20fish%20markets.

Native Species Spotlight

Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum)

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), also known as bog onion or wild turnip, is a perennial plant that can be found in rich deciduous woods and floodplains. The plant species develops from an underground acidic rhizome and an individual plant can change sex depending on age or nutrients stored in the corm.

The plant is pollinated by small flies, moving from male to female plants, and flowers from March through June. Jack-in-the-pulpits do not usually set viable seed. The result of the pollinator's fertilization is a tight cluster of green berries that mature to red berries by late summer. Animals, such as birds and rodents, disperse the fruits with seeds.

All vegetative parts of the plant contain crystals of calcium oxalate, which cause a deep burning sensation if handled or ingested. However, both the starchy rhizome and berries can be eaten if they have been boiled or dried. Jack-in-the-pulpits have also been used historically for various medicinal uses, including treating tuberculosis.

Sources: https://vnps.org/jack-in-the-pulpit-preaches-preservation/ https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/arisaema_triphyllum.shtml



Continued from page 1...

the egg inside. The process is repeated until the nest is filled with eggs, which she will then cap with mud to protect the larvae from predators. Depending on the type of mason bees, most of this work occurs during the early months of spring.

As spring progresses into summer, the eggs begin to transform into adult bees. The eggs hatch into larvae and consume their pollen-nectar food source, and, after a rest period, the larvae spin cocoons. Around September, fully-grown adult bees are nestled inside each of their chambers and wait out the winter months. Once spring air temperatures reach a consistent 55-degree range, the bees emerge from their chambers and then repeat the mating and pollination cycle.

Mason Bee Houses

Mason bees nest inside tunnels, such as those made from wood-boring beetles, hollow stems of pithy plants, and ones that are man-made. Solitary bees are gentle and easy to raise, and you can encourage them in your backyard by providing nesting tunnels, pollinator plants, and a mud source. Mud sources should be about 50 feet from the nest, while rich-pollinator plants can be within 200-300 feet away. However, the closer these necessities are to the nest results in the bees spending less energy traveling to obtain them and instead focusing on laying eggs.

If you choose to create a man-made nest for mason bees, it is important to mount the nest securely on the side of a building, tree, or fence, facing east or south, where it will receive warmth from the sun and protection from wind and rain. It is also recommended to place the nest four to seven feet off the ground for protection against moisture.

In the fall, take down your egg-filled bee houses and store them in a dark, unheated garage or shed during the winter months. During this time, it is important to inspect the cocoons to minimize disease, parasites, and other pests to ensure the bee populations maintain or increase every year. Homemade

wooden bee houses with paper tubes are also easy to clean or replace yearly. In early spring, before the flowers bloom, return the cocoons to your garden and watch mason bees stream in and out of the nest as spring takes hold.

These Mason Bee houses were made and donated by the students from the SHINE program in Wayne and Pike counties and are available to landowners at Delaware Highlands Conservancy's Van Scott Nature Reserve for pickup at no cost. To learn more about SHINE please visit: www.wpworkforce.org/shine.

> Sources: https://www.ecolandscaping.org/03/landscaping-for-wildlife/beneficialspollinators/attract-mason-bees-no-protective-gear-needed/ https://rentmasonbees.com/about-mason-bees/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mason bee



Updates to Pennsylvania's Noxious Weed List

Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergia), Japanese stiltgrass (Microstegium vimineum), garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolate), Callery or Bradford pear (Pyrus calleryana), Eurasian watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum), Ravenna grass (Saccharum ravennae; or Tripidium ravennae), Glossy buckthorn (Frangula alnus or Rhamnus frangula), and Common buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica) have been officially added to Pennsylvania's Noxious Weed List as Class B noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are defined as harmful to public health, crops, livestock, agricultural land, and other property types. The weeds cannot be sold, transported, planted, or otherwise propagated in PA. Class B noxious weeds are widely established in Pennsylvania and cannot feasibly be eradicated.

The Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council has since identified an additional 25 invasive species they are recommending to be considered for the Pennsylvania Noxious Weed List.

Noxious Weed List: https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants Land Water/PlantIndustry/ NIPPP/Pages/Controlled-Plant-Noxious-Weed.aspx









Japanese barberry

The Spongy Moth

Spongy moth is the new common name of Lymantria dispar dispar, previously known as the gypsy moth. The new name refers to the moth's 10-month egg cycle, where they appear as fluffy, porous egg masses. The name was changed by The Entomological Society of America (ESA) as part of their Better Common Names Project.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (PA DCNR) is spraying for spongy moths across Pennsylvania this year. Please reach out to your local PA DCNR representatives and County Conservation Districts to get on the list if you are experiencing issues with spongy moth infestations.



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At this time, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) does not provide funding for controlling spongy moths on private property.

For More Information:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/83118.html https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/03/science/spongy-moth-romani.html https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsAndTrees/InsectsAndDiseases/SpongyMoth/Pages/default.aspx https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/83118.html Photo source: https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/03/science/spongy-moth-romani.html