

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 24	Fish of the Delaware River Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 2pm-3pm
JULY 1	Finding the Rainbow Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 2pm-4pm
JULY 15	Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk - The Botanical Hiker Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 1pm-4pm
JULY 20	Cocktails & Conservation Here & Now Brewing Company, Honesdale, PA • 5pm-7pm
JULY 29	Cyanotype Art Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 2pm-3pm
AUG 5	“Little Acorn” and Craft Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 2pm-3:30pm
Events require advance registration. 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.	

INSIDE

- Support Your Local Pollinators & Mow Less!
- The American Marten
- Connect With Stewardship Staff
- Native and Invasive Species Corner
- Fun App for Birders!



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

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY



Support Your Local Pollinators and Mow Less!

Did you know that adjusting your mowing practices can benefit pollinators, increase biodiversity, help conserve water, and save you money? Spring is an important time for many pollinators, but they often have limited food sources since many flowers have yet to bloom. By letting some of the flowering plants in your lawn blossom, including dandelion and clover, you can supply more food for pollinators.

Most landowners mow their lawns once a week during the spring and summer months, but by mowing less frequently, such as every two weeks, you can support the pollinators, promote a healthier lawn, and avoid undesirable weeds and invasive species from taking hold. If you do join in this practice, it is recommended to mow your lawn at a height of 3.5 inches, which will require you to raise the height of your mower to reduce overworking your equipment. Also, please keep in mind the importance of being chemical-free whenever possible, as pesticides and herbicides kill pollinators.

If you do not want to rely on your lawn to provide food sources for pollinators, consider planting a designated pollinator garden or converting your lawn into a meadow. Pollinator gardens and meadows support pollinators from spring to fall and have the additional benefit of being beautiful to look at. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources is a great resource for landowners who are interested in landscaping with native plants. Check out these websites for more information: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/LandscapingwithNativePlants/Pages/default.aspx> and <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>.

*Make sure to check your local ordinance on mowing and meadow restrictions.

Sources: <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/tips-participating-no-mow-may>
<https://extension.psu.edu/neighborly-natural-landscaping-in-residential-areas>



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Barber
Greg Belcamino
Michael Cann
Barbara Cuffe
Amy Erlwein
Doug Hayes
Nancy Kiesendahl Bloch
Mary Sue Price
Jacqueline Sailer
David Satnick
Scott VanGorder
Louise Washer
Marie Zwayer
Barbara Yeaman, *Director Emerita*

STAFF

Diane Rosencrance
Executive Director

Bethany Zarnowski
Communications & Development Director

Trey Talley
Senior Land Protection Coordinator

Nicole DeCarolis
Stewardship Coordinator

Lucas Green
Reserve & Facilities Coordinator

Kaylan Hubbard
Land Protection Coordinator

Samantha Mango
Donor Relations Coordinator

Rachel Morrow
Education and Volunteer Coordinator

Steven Gosch
Stewardship Intern

t: 570-226-3164
t: 845.583.1010



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.



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY



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

@DelawareHighlandsConservancy
 @DHConservancy

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? (i.e. gas lease, agricultural)	Yes	No
Have you noticed new populations or an increase in existing populations of invasive vegetation?.....	Yes	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



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

Invasive Species Corner

Jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*)

Jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*) is a deciduous shrub in the rose family (*Rosaceae*) that is native to Asia. The plant was introduced as an ornamental in the United States in the late 1800s and has since become widespread in northeastern and midwestern states.



The shrub is comprised of multiple stems that can grow to five feet tall. Its bright green leaves have a rough surface and are opposite and extra-toothed. Jetbead has four-petaled white flowers that form in small groups and produce black berries in clusters of four, which ripen in October and may remain on the plant during winter. While the species prefers full sun and moist, well-drained soils, it is highly adaptable to various habitat conditions.

The plant spreads primarily through root suckers and seeds and can create a dense layer of vegetation in forests that displace native plants and prevents regeneration. Jetbead can be managed manually and with herbicide application, but all plant material should be bagged and removed from the site.

Sources: <https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=3643058&DocName=Jetbead.pdf>
https://www.wnyprism.org/invasive_species/black-jetbead/

Native Species Spotlight

Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)

Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is a flowering perennial that is often one of the early emerging plants in spring. The plant's name derives from the unpleasant odor it emits. Skunk cabbage can live up to 20 years and be found in forests, wetlands, or near streams.

Appearing before the leaves, the flowers have a spotted maroon hoodlike leaf and contain a knob-like spike of petal-less flowers that have male and female reproductive parts. As the flowers mature, the plant opens more to allow pollination. The flower head later swells and develops into a compound fruit and deteriorates in late summer. Its seeds are then dispersed by animals and water, or even germinate where they fall. The green leaves appear later and decay quickly due to their high water content. The plant has an extensive, contractile root system, which pulls it deeper into the soil each year. Skunk cabbage is also among a group of thermogenic plants that can produce heat, even in freezing temperatures.



Bears will eat young plants in the spring, but most animals do not eat skunk cabbage because of its burning sensation when ingested. Skunk cabbage has also been historically used in natural medicine for many different ailments.

Sources: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/48961-Symplocarpus-foetidus>
<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Plants-and-Fungi/Skunk-Cabbage>
<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/skunk-cabbage-symplocarpus-foetidus/>

The American Marten

By Rachel Morrow

The American Marten (*Martes americana*), formerly known as the Pine Marten, was once a native resident in Pennsylvania until it disappeared from the state by the turn of the 20th century due to deforestation and poor timber management practices. They are still found in the Adirondacks in New York State, Alaska, northern New England, the Great Lakes Region, Canada, and the Rocky Mountain and Sierra Nevada Mountain ranges, but the Pennsylvania Game Commission is currently reviewing the possibility of reintroducing the American Marten to Pennsylvania.

The American Marten is part of the Mustelidae family, better known as the weasel family, which contains Mink, Fishers, Long-tailed weasels, Short-tailed weasels, Ermines, and many other weasel species. The Marten is about the same size and shape as a Mink. Martens have short, pointed faces and large, rounded ears. Their thick fur varies in color from buff brown to almost black, and it is normally thicker in the winter than in the summer. They have a yellow-orange patch on their throat and a darker rump and tail.

Martens like to live in mature, dense conifer forests, mixed conifer-hardwood, and hardwood-dominated forests. They are agile climbers and often spend their time in trees. While in the trees, Martens spread their scent onto them with their strong scent glands. Despite this, they do a lot of their hunting on the ground. Martens are characteristically solitary and nocturnal; they will typically do their hunting around dawn or dusk. Martens are largely omnivorous with their main diet being small mammals, including squirrels and rodents, but they will occasionally eat birds, fruit, nuts, insects, and carcasses. Martens are even known to consume weasels and even other Martens at times. In the winter, they can be found seeking out prey under the snow in what is known as the subnivean zone.

Martens breed between July and August. When seeking out mates, one male will court and breed with many females. Martens display what is known as delayed implantation, which is a reproductive strategy where the embryo does not implant immediately to the wall of the uterus. With this strategy, a female Marten can take anywhere from 200-275 days before implantation and then only 28 days for actual gestation to occur. Martens will utilize large logs, snags, and live spruce and fir trees for their dens. Kits are typically born between the March and May, with litter sizes ranging from one to five kits. The kits are born blind and helpless, needing extensive parental care until they are around 46 days old, then the young move out of the den and will reach sexual maturity by 15 months.



Continued on next page...

New Stewardship Intern: Steven Gosch



In May, we welcomed a new staff member to our team: Steven Gosch. Steven will assist Nicole with completing annual visits to the Conservancy's protected properties, ensuring the conservation goals of the agreements are upheld, and communicating with landowners about questions and inquiries related to their conservation easement.

Steven and Nicole will be contacting landowners shortly to schedule monitoring visits. See you soon!

Thank you to David Satnick and the John and Helen Villaume Foundation for funding the Stewardship Internship.

The Leading App for Birds: Merlin Bird ID

Do you have an interest in birds and want to get better at identifying the ones that inhabit our region through the year? Merlin Bird ID is a free app through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology that allows people to identify birds they see or hear.

The app is operated by eBird, which is the world's largest database of bird sightings, sounds, and pictures. Users can identify birds by answering a few questions, uploading a photo, recording a bird call, or exploring birds in a region. By downloading Bird Packs, you can create custom bird lists wherever you are.

Learn more about the app here: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>



The American Marten, continued...

The American Marten has been reintroduced in a variety of areas and rebounded successfully when they were presented with a healthy forest habitat. As predators, American Martens have an impact on prey populations that helps with the structure of the forest community.

Check out this link to learn more about the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Feasibility Assessment for the reintroduction of the American Marten:
<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/Documents/PA%20Marten%20Reintroduction%20Feasibility%20Assessment%202022.pdf>

Sources: <https://wildlifepark.novascotia.ca/animals/american-marten.asp>
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Animals.asp?mode=detail&SpecCode=AMAJF01040>
<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/Pages/American-Marten-.aspx>
https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Martes_american/
<https://www.zooamerica.com/animals/american-marten/>