

Looking for monthly updates on our events and programs?
Sign up for our e-newsletter through our website!

Upcoming 2013 Events

June 8

Native Plants Walk on the Beaver Run Property
Pike County, PA, 9am-12pm

Dr. Ann Rhoads will discuss, illustrate, and answer your questions about native plants and their habitats.



July 19 & August 23
Moonlight Paddles

Lake Lacawac, 7-10pm

Reservations required. Call Lacawac Sanctuary to reserve your spot, 570-689-9494, or send an email to joann@lacawac.org.



August 17

Monarch Program with Ed Wesely • Bethel, NY, 10am

Learn about the monarch life cycle and help to tag early migrants before their long flight south to Mexico.

September 7

Field Day • NY Office, Bethel, NY

Tree ID: 9am-12pm

Member & Volunteer Picnic: 12-4pm

A forest stewardship field day at our NY office followed by a free picnic for members, volunteers, and easement holders.

To learn more or register for any of our events, visit DelawareHighlands.org, email info@delawarehighlands.org or call 570-226-3164.

To learn more about...

the Delaware Highlands Conservancy or to make a donation in support of our work, visit DelawareHighlands.org.

 Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy/>!

When our lands and waters are healthy, people are healthy too.



PO Box 218 Hawley, PA 18428-0218

SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

Highlands JOURNAL

May 2013

Printed on recycled paper.

So many trails awaiting you...

Are you looking for a great place to go hiking? How about finding a place to relax with your friends and family or go see eagles? You are in luck.

There's a great new trail resource for you. The TrailKeeper website [Trailkeeper.org] will show you places to hike to water, overlooks, in woodlands and through meadows in Sullivan County, New York.

You can plan a hike that's just right for you.

While you're there, check out the "Take a Hike!" brochure produced by the National Park Service to get the details on some trails on the PA side, too.

Together with the "Take a Hike" brochure, Trailkeeper was the recipient

in April of the Upper Delaware Council's Recreation Achievement Award for developing new resources to facilitate and promote hiking as a public recreational activity.

Trailkeeper.org is the result of a partnership between the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Catskill Mountainkeeper, the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, the Sullivan County Visitors Association, Morgan Outdoors, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, with support from the Upper Delaware Council, Sullivan Renaissance, the NY-NJ Trail Conference, the National Park Service, the Sullivan County Community College Hiking Class, and many volunteers.



Serious hiker? Beginner? Parent carrying a baby?

Trailkeeper provides access to trail information that matches hiker to trail.

With more than 50 trails listed—including maps, directions, and photos so you can be sure you're in the right place—you can hike a different trail every weekend!

 **TrailKeeper**
Look Where We Live!

Find the information you need about locations, routes, and facilities to be safe and have fun.



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Thanks to all the support from volunteers, local business sponsors, and all those that came (or folks who sent in contributions even though they couldn't come), our sixth annual Foods of the Delaware Highlands Dinner was the Conservancy's most successful to date.

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE Celebrating Where We Live

What do 150 people have in common? A love of the land—land in the Delaware River Watershed, to be specific.

Held at the Settlers Inn in Hawley, PA, the gala featured a five-course farm-to-table dinner featuring delicious cuisine prepared with locally grown and produced organic ingredients, paired with lovely wines.

A terrific live and silent auction celebrated the generous bounty of our local businesses and products. It was made all the more special by Sean Strub who provided an entertaining evening as our auctioneer. The auction was a huge success, and we are deeply appreciative of all who contributed generously, as that means we can conserve more land this year.

We want to extend a very special thanks to our Dinner Committee whose work was so integral to our success: Conservancy Board Member and Dinner Chair Michael Geitz, Sponsor Chair Amy Litzenberger, Auction Chair Brenda Ruello, Hospitality Chair Jeanne Genzlinger, and Board Member and New York Chair Jeffrey Moore.

It's because of you, and all those who supported the Foods of the Delaware Highlands Dinner, that we celebrate your love of the land. We look forward to seeing you next year. Thank you.

Sue Amanda Melinda Bethany



Funding raised from the event will go directly towards land conservation and our community programs to help foster a love of nature, farms and clean water with local kids and families.

Take a 'Staycation'

Help local conservation, enjoy a fabulous weekend

You can have a one-of-a-kind weekend at one of the locally owned sustainable hotels and inns in the Green Lodging Partnership and experience everything the Upper Delaware River region has to offer.

Visit a farmer's market and pick up some fresh, healthy, local food and then, while you're at it, try taking a hike on beautiful forested trails. But there's so much more to do. You can canoe or kayak the Delaware or a number of the neighboring streams and rivers.

Here's the really cool thing: The Green Lodging Partnership contributes to local conservation—and you're making sure that healthy lands, clean waters, and working farms and forests are protected for future generations. It's that simple. Learn more at DelawareHighlands.org/initiatives/greenlodging.

Dream a bit two days of local 'heaven'

- **Find the perfect place for your stay in PA**—reserve a room at the Settlers Inn, Woodloch Resort, Ledges Hotel, The Lodge at Woodloch, Hotel Fauchère, or James Manning House B&B.
- If you'd like to stay in **Sullivan County**, try the Apple Pond Farm, ECCE Bed & Breakfast, or The Sullivan. They all support local conservation.
- **Take a farm tour**—figure out where you want to go by visiting ShopLocalSaveLand.com. There's lots of farms, farm markets, and vineyards to choose from. Stock up on fresh local produce, cheese, honey—even furniture made with local wood products.
- **Explore the countryside with a hike or go swimming at a state park**—you can find the perfect spot by visiting Trailkeeper.org.
- **Come to a Native Plants Walk** (June 8), **Moonlight Paddle** (July 19 & August 23), or **Monarch Butterfly Program** (August 17) with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. You can learn more, and register, at DelawareHighlands.org.
- **Kayak or canoe down the Delaware River** and be sure to keep your eyes to the skies for eagles!

Tell us how it went! Send us your 'staycation' photos and stories and we'll share them on Facebook. Send an email to info@delawarehighlands.org.



Thousands Learn About Eagles

“Incredible.” That’s what one person said recently, as they watched an eagle land in a nearby tree.

This winter the Conservancy’s Eagle Watch, with the assistance of some amazing volunteers, helped thousands of visitors, from our own communities and from as far away as Texas and Scotland, enjoy more than 1,300 eagle sightings.

Five-year volunteer Ruth Randone was a major part of the team, making sure the Conservancy’s Lackawaxen Winter Field Office was open during the winter season through a partnership with the National Park Service.

“People just love the eagles—it’s a huge part of our local tourism,” she says, noting that she spoke with visitors from Africa and India.

The Conservancy is working to conserve important eagle habitat, including woodlands and clean, fresh, water from which the eagles fish.

Mitch Opresnick, a seven-year volunteer, says he’s seen an increase in visitors from all over the world, too.

“Folks don’t realize how many eagles live here. As a volunteer, I try to explain the role that habitat plays and what that means for humans, too. If the eagles are here, that indicates that the habitat is good—both for eagles and for humans.”

“When people see a live eagle in the wild, it really sparks their interest. Seeing families with children getting away from computers and experiencing a real living version of the national emblem is exciting.”

— Volunteer Coordinator
Patricia Diness



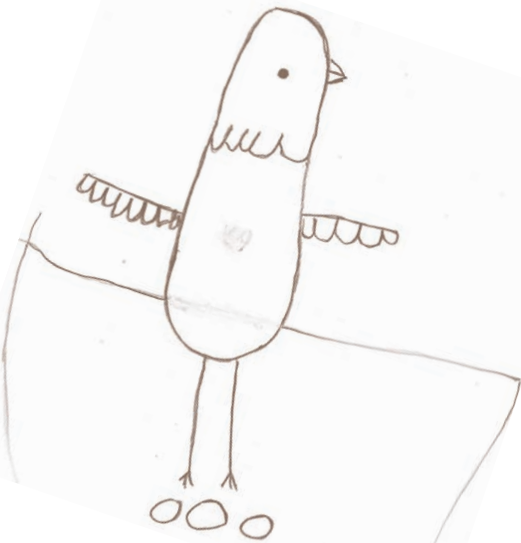
Habitat loss is the #1 threat to eagles in our region.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy protects healthy lands and clean waters that eagles—and people—need to thrive.

As we welcome spring, remember...

Your support of the Conservancy directly protects healthy habitat for breeding eagles year-round in the Upper Delaware River region—so as you hike, kayak, and enjoy all our region offers, keep your eyes to the skies!

Visit DelawareHighlands.org to learn about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and how you can help.



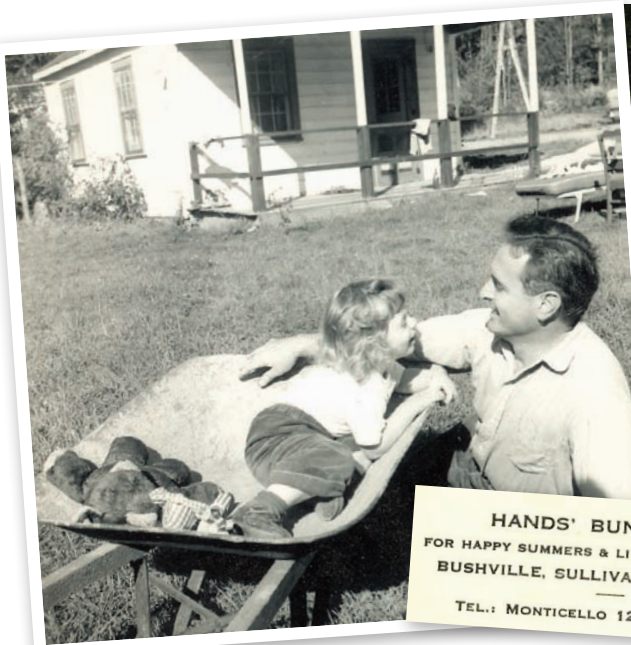
Drawing by Sammy, Grade 2
Damascus School



Find us on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy>

and follow along with naturalist Ed Wesely as he monitors an active eagle’s nest.



HANDS' BUNGALOWS
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Mongaup River Forest: The Hand family’s love of their land extends more than 100 years. To ensure their land will be conserved—and to help protect additional lands—the Hand family donated two Sullivan County properties to the Conservancy in 2012.

We wanted to honor our family’s love of the land...

Nathan Hand was 103 years old when he passed away last year. A lifelong conservationist, Mr. Hand would be pleased that his family recently donated their family’s land to the Conservancy to further local conservation efforts.

“I still marvel at how handy he was,” says Susanne Hand in reflecting on her father Nathan. “He loved the country and was a great outdoorsman.”

A respected lawyer, Nathan moved to the Catskills in the late 1940s, married Frances Rosen in 1949 and built a small cabin and nine bungalows by hand on their property in Bushville, NY. Today, the bungalows are gone and the small lake has filled in, but the memories are still vivid.

Susanne remembers summer days at the colony as pleasant simple times with lots of children around. Families left the city to spend the summer gathered on bungalow porches, enjoying the natural resources and contributing to the local economy.

After careful consideration of the options for the future of the family land, the Hand family decided that they wanted to donate their family land to the Conservancy. “We were pleased to know that good conservation work is happening in this part of the world,” Susanne explains, “and I am so pleased that the land he loved so much is now protected, and will be cherished by another family.”

The Conservancy will protect the land and then sell it to another family who wishes to own conservation land. Proceeds from the sale will help protect additional land.

The land stays on the tax rolls.

“We were pleased to know that good conservation work is happening in this part of the world...and I am so pleased that the land he loved so much is now protected, and will be cherished by another family.”

“What an amazing way to honor your family’s love of the land,” reflected Sue Currier, the Conservancy’s Executive Director, continuing, “Susanne and her husband David Kinsey, as well as their sons, Rafe and Alex, are so much like Nathan. They are generous, and they cherish the land as well. We are so grateful for their gift and for helping to ensure that future generations will know, and love, the land like they do.”





Great Opportunity for Women Forest Owners

From September 26-29, a four-day workshop will feature programs and field trips focusing on the care and management of forestland. Women from across the Mid-Atlantic region who own, care for, or are interested in learning more about forestland are encouraged to attend.



In a friendly, peer-learning environment, women of all ages learn the basics of mentoring other landowners along with topics such as forest ecology and tree identification, forest hydrology, improving wildlife habitat, determining the value of forestlands, silvicultural techniques and estate planning.

The program is very popular and provides an intimate learning experience.

“Being with other women at the retreat was important to me because I think women approach forest stewardship a little

differently,” explained a recent participant, Maggie Heyward. Maggie notes that she now feels she has a good network of resources — people and information — to use to educate others about good forest stewardship practices.

She remarked that “It’s amazing to have access like that, for four days, to people who give a lot of thought to issues that I had questions about for years. I strongly recommend it.”

The \$130 cost to attend covers lodging and meals at Camp Susque near Trout Run, PA for the four-day training. **The deadline to submit applications is August 1.** Applications, and the agenda for the retreat, can be downloaded from <http://DelawareHighlands.org/watw>.

“When it comes to land, it’s best to stay connected and keep planning for the future. I’m looking forward to sharing this knowledge with my family members so we can continue to enjoy this land through future generations.” – **Susan Benedict**, *Participant*



“I’m thrilled to be an active volunteer for Eagle Watch. Sharing the existence of the beautiful bald eagles that reside and visit here with locals and visitors is really quite Zen-like.” – **Nicole Slevin**



“Standing on the lip of the Upper Delaware, on a Sunday, with little or no traffic going by, when the weather is 5 above, and the wind is blowing down River, and a mature eagle lights in a tree across from the blind to pose for a 45 minute study; it’s spiritual, it’s like being in church, it’s a magnificent experience!” – **Joel Murphy**

The Eagles, Kids, and the Conservancy Need You

Conservation would be at a standstill without our dedicated and talented volunteers.

Would you like to volunteer? This summer and fall we need help monitoring protected properties. In the winter, volunteers play a critical role in our Eagle Watch, helping to collect data on eagles while educating the public.

If you like office tasks, events, fundraising, gardening and maintenance we’ve got just the thing in mind. You can volunteer in a way that fits your schedule. Our committees also welcome new members.

Volunteering makes a world of difference and it’s fun. No matter the task, you’ll be taking an active role in protecting everything that makes our region so special, giving back to our communities, and joining a friendly and enthusiastic group of folks.

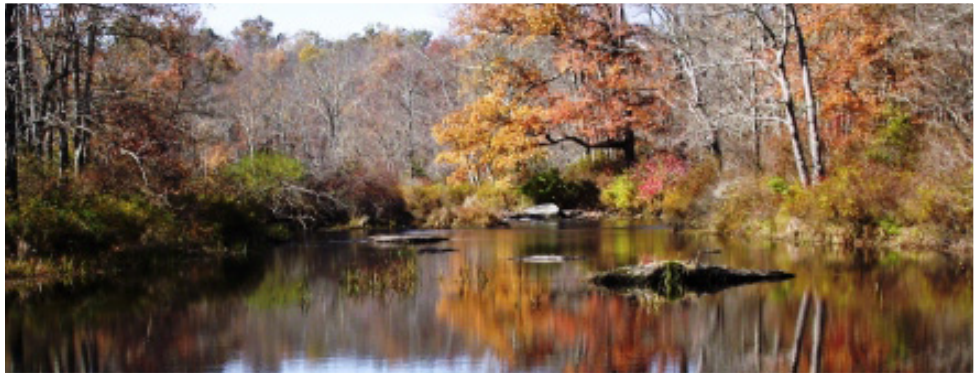
Enjoying the Newly Protected Beaver Run Property

Join us on Saturday, June 8 for a Native Plants Walk with Dr. Ann Rhoads, Senior Botanist of the Morris Arboretum, on the Beaver Run property.

Dr. Rhoads will discuss, illustrate, and answer your questions about native plants and their habitats. Call 570-226-3164 or email info@delawarehighlands.org to register.

In December, the Conservancy and Beaver Run Hunting and Fishing Club celebrated the protection of 857 acres in southern Pike County, PA.

Three public trails cross the property and connect adjacent blocks of the Delaware State Forest. The trails make previously difficult-to-reach parts of the state forest much more easily accessible.



Protecting the exceptional waters of Beaver Run Creek, home to native brook trout, eagles, beaver, otters, and other wildlife, also helps provide clean drinking water for millions downstream.