



Families and Forests Connecting Kids to Nature

You're invited to join the Delaware Highlands Conservancy this summer at a series of three free educational workshops. The **Family Tree** series will provide fun, hands-on learning outdoors in three different locations, including the new woodland trails at the Conservancy's Bethel, NY office.

All ages are welcome, and families will learn together about topics including Mapping Your Property, Plant ID and Tree Planting, Backyard Wildlife, and Forest Health. Participants will receive "Field Packs" to help them get to know their own forests and learn how to care for them, participate in craft projects such as birdhouse building and other fun activities, and learn about the wide variety of wildlife and plants in their own backyards.

Program dates are June 28 in PA, July 12 in NY, and August 2 in PA, from 10am to 1pm. Snacks will be provided but attendees are asked to bring a picnic lunch. To register and for more information, visit DelawareHighlands.org or call 570-226-3164.

Workshops are co-sponsored with the Grey Towers Heritage Association.



Join us for the Family Tree series of workshops this summer to help you connect to and care for your forests.



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Why Do You Love Where You Live?

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

The theme of our annual Foods of the Delaware Highlands Gala Dinner, hosted this year on April 26 at the Settlers Inn in Hawley, PA, reminds us to appreciate everything that's special about our region—our working farms and forests, sustainable local businesses, clean waters, and healthy wildlife habitat.

This year the theme has an even greater meaning, as the gala dinner kicked off our full year of celebrating our twentieth anniversary. The dedication of supporters like you makes all of our achievements possible, and will be even more critical over the next twenty years.

We offer very special thanks to our Gala Dinner Committee, including Conservancy Board President Michael Geitz, Board Member Brenda Ruello, Betsy DuBois, Molly Flewharty, Jeanne Genzlinger, Amy Litzenberger, Mary Sue Price, and Keith Williams.

We are also very grateful to all of the donors and supporters of our live and silent auctions showcasing many of our local businesses and products, and to everyone who attended or donated in support of the dinner.



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Funding raised from the event goes directly to our work conserving the lands and waters of the Upper Delaware River region.

Save the Date!

Mark Your Calendars for Our 20th Anniversary Celebration

Bethel Woods
Sullivan County, NY
November 22, 2014

Featuring live music, great food and drinks, fun conversation, and admission to the Bethel Woods Museum.

Tickets are \$150 per person with additional sponsorship levels available.
Stay tuned for details!



The Conservancy's Origins

Celebrating 20 Years of Conservation

By Barbara Yeaman

It was hard to imagine the need for a land trust when I first paddled my canoe from Narrowsburg to Port Jervis in 1984. Over the years I had played in many rivers and streams, but these waters were the clearest I had ever seen.

My family and I knew many wonderful streams and lakes. But after WW2, some began to change, as farm fields were graded, and trees disappeared to make room for new housing for returning veterans. The transformation seemed to happen overnight, and I hardly noticed that the streams were changing from clear to brown with each rain storm.

Then in 1984 I discovered the Upper Delaware River. What a change from the Potomac and Monocacy rivers that seldom ran clear anymore! Paddling the Upper Delaware revealed all kinds of fish and plants growing in the clear water under our paddles.

I wondered how we could accommodate the coming growth without spoiling the waters? Surely the National Park Service, or the states of Pennsylvania and New York could do something to prevent environmental damage? But no one seemed to wield such power.

Finally I realized that it's up to the people who live here to stand up for the Upper Delaware. And that's when the idea for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy was born.



"I loved this new place, and was drawn to live here, but quickly realized that this river too could change."

JOIN US! September 6, 2014

You don't want to miss our annual Member and Volunteer Thank-You Picnic, a free community event at our beautiful Bethel, NY office.



Summertime Eagle Viewing

Even though you'll spot the most eagles during the winter season, eagle-viewing is an activity you can try year-round. It's important to practice 'eagle etiquette' when eagle-viewing to ensure you do not disturb the birds. Their breeding period begins at the end of February or early March, and most young fledge by the Fourth of July.

Bald eagles are extremely sensitive to human disturbance, so it is important to remain inside viewing blinds when eagle-watching, and to avoid going near an eagle's nest. Avoid loud noises, use binoculars and a spotting scope instead of trying to get closer, and don't do anything to try to make the eagle fly.

The clean waters of the Delaware River under your kayak, the cool canopy provided by the healthy forests on a favorite hiking trail, the picturesque rolling hills of local farms, and the majesty of seeing a bald eagle soaring overhead represent a dedicated and ongoing movement to take responsibility for our impacts on the lands and waters around us and the wildlife with whom we share our space, and are poignant reminders that we must not take this spectacular quality of life for granted.



Shop through AmazonSmile and Support the Conservancy

Through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of the purchase price of your items is donated back to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy by the AmazonSmile Foundation. **It's free to sign up and costs you nothing.** Visit smile.amazon.com to get started.



© STEPHEN DAVIS.

The time we spend respectfully enjoying the outdoors in the spring and summer in our beautiful Upper Delaware River region is full of reminders to be mindful and appreciative of the efforts it took to get here—and the power we all have to ensure that it remains that way, for people and for eagles.



© ED WESELY.

Love for the Land Across the Generations

When Julie Kulak first heard about the Delaware Highlands Conservancy almost a decade ago, she knew she wanted to take action to protect her cherished family land in Wayne County, Pennsylvania.

Originally owned by her grandparents, the 86 acres is part of what once was a working dairy farm and is now healthy forestland permanently protected with a conservation easement with the Conservancy.

Julie grew up on the land and fondly remembers a wonderful childhood taking walks through the woods with her mom, field guides in hand, identifying the many different plants and animals they saw.

She remembers picking mushrooms with her dad and grandfather, learning to track animals, and playing in the small waterfall and the stream that runs through the property—a tributary of the Lackawaxen River that eventually flows into the Delaware.

Her love for the property only grew over the years, and though the family no longer lives there, she, her husband

Kevin, and their two sons—currently ages 5 and 13—return for visits a few times each year.

Julie relishes the opportunity to share the land with another generation of her family and explore the woods searching for her favorite feature—the salamanders and frogs that rely on the healthy habitat provided by the stream and forests.

She remembers picking mushrooms with her dad and grandfather, learning to track animals, and playing in the small waterfall and the stream that runs through the property—a tributary of the Lackawaxen River that eventually flows into the Delaware.

“The thought of anybody coming in and disrupting that kind of beauty or hurting the salamanders—it would break my heart,” Julie explains.

Just as her own family has enjoyed the land for generations, Julie’s foresight will allow future generations of children and grandchildren to benefit from its protection.





Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat: September 25-28, 2014

Do you own, care for, or hope to own forestland? Do you enjoy learning in a friendly, casual workshop environment with your peers?

Apply now to join the 2014 class of women forest landowners and participate in a four-day retreat filled with exciting sessions and field trips on the care and management of forestland. Women from across the mid-Atlantic region are encouraged to attend. Hosted at the beautiful Camp Susque in Trout Run, PA, the \$130 cost to attend includes lodging and meals. Learn more, read stories from past attendees, and apply at www.DelawareHighlands.org/watw.



Shop Local: Find Your Experience

Shop Local Save Land

★ PENNSYLVANIA & NEW YORK ★

"If you choose the locally made cheese from local cows and local farmers, you're going to be paying not just for cheese. You're going to be paying for a fair wage, for open land and pastures, and healthy water. You're going to be paying for wildlife habitat in your local area."

—Andy Curtis, Journey's End Farm

We couldn't have said it better ourselves. **Our new short video about shopping local is up on DelawareHighlands.org. Check it out and let us know what you think—and be sure to visit ShopLocalSaveLand.com to see all of the farm and forest providers you can visit in our local area this summer.**





Hike With Us!

You already know that TrailKeeper.org is a great resource for hiking trails and information in Sullivan County—but this year, the TrailKeeper partners have put together a series of guided hikes all year long to get you out on the trails.

Whether you're an experienced hiker or beginner, we have something for everyone, from hikes through history with a local historian to bird walks and star watches. Check out the complete schedule on TrailKeeper.org.



Native Plants Walk at the Smallwood Forest Reserve

The scenic 134-acre Forest Reserve at Smallwood was once slated for a 200-townhouse development. Now, this beautiful public park is protected forever. It will feature hiking trails and other opportunities for outdoor recreation and protects the source of drinking water for the community of Smallwood, NY.

Join us at the Forest Reserve on June 14 for a Native Plants Walk with Dr. Ann Rhoads, senior botanist of the Morris Arboretum, where she will discuss, illustrate, and answer your questions about native plants and their habitats. Call 570-226-3164 or email info@delawarehighlands.org to register.

A Regional Vision for the Future

Green Tourism 2015 CONFERENCE

Tourism Conference at Villa Roma Resort. More than 200 attendees from local businesses and organizations on both sides of the Delaware River enjoyed educational workshops, networking opportunities, and more on sustainability, ecotourism, and making our region the #1 destination for green tourism.

Save the date for next year

April 14th and 15th at Woodloch Pines Resort in Hawley, PA.
We hope to see you there!

On April 7-8th 2014, the Conservancy, in partnership with HospitalityGreen, hosted the first ever regional Green



Looking for monthly updates on our events and programs?

Sign up for our e-newsletter through our website!

June 14 : Native Plants Walk • Forest Reserve at Smallwood, Sullivan County NY, 9am-12pm

Dr. Ann Rhoads, Senior Botanist of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and renowned author, will lead a walk on the Smallwood Forest Reserve property to discuss, illustrate, and answer your questions about native plants and their habitats.

June 28, July 12, & Aug 2 : Family Tree Series • 10am-1pm

Join the Conservancy and the Grey Towers Heritage Association for a series of workshops geared towards families who own forest-land. All ages welcome. Workshop topics include activities for families related to mapping your property, plant ID and tree planting, backyard wildlife, and forest health. Email conserve@delawarehighlands.org for more information.

Aug 23 : Monarch Program with Ed Wesely • Bethel Office, NY 10 am

For twenty years, Ed Wesely and Barbara Yeaman rescued monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars from threatened habitats. With the help of local school children, they've nurtured and released over 6,000 adult monarchs. Come and learn about the monarch life cycle and help to tag early migrants before their long flight south to Mexico.

Sept 6 : Forest Stewardship Field Day : Tree ID • 9am-12pm

Member and Volunteer Thank-you Picnic • Bethel Office, NY, 12pm-4pm

A forest stewardship field day at our Sullivan County office – learn tree identification – followed by a free picnic for members, volunteers, and conservation easement holders.



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> and on Twitter  @DHConservancy



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SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

"Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you...while cares will drop off like autumn leaves." – John Muir

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