

## Are you eligible for \$\$\$ to protect forests on your property?

The **Common Waters Fund** still has money available for private landowners and some conservation and forestry professionals to implement forest management and conservation projects in the Upper Delaware River watershed.

The Fund also works with regional land trusts to permanently protect forests. “We were fortunate in this round of funding to be able to permanently conserve 939 acres of land by defraying the legal expenses of placing conservation easements on two properties,” explains Fund director, Stephanie Pendergrass.

Costs associated with protecting land with an **conservation easement** are also eligible. So, if you would like to place an easement on other unprotected parts of your land - or have an interested neighbor who has been thinking about an easement - call the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or 845-807-0535 to learn more.

You can also visit [www.commonwatersfund.org](http://www.commonwatersfund.org) for more information

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **APRIL 21 - Pike/Wayne Earth Day at PPL**

Hawley, PA at the PPL's Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center  
10am—4pm

#### **APRIL 30 - Conservation Subdivision & Smart Growth Design Workshop**

Ferndale, NY 5-8pm

#### **MAY 5 - Bird Walk with Sullivan County Audubon**

Sullivan County, NY 7:30am-9:30am Call for directions

#### **June 2 - Native Plants Walk with Dr. Ann Rhoads**

Pike County, PA at Camp Speers Eljabar 9am-12pm

#### **Aug. 3 - Moonlight Canoe Trip**

Rio Reservoir, NY 7-9pm Call for directions

**Go to [www.delawarehighlands.org](http://www.delawarehighlands.org) for more information.**



# HIGHLANDS LANDLINES

Spring 2012



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

## "Green" Yards Protect Streams

Maya K. Van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Bristol, PA

All across the Watershed communities are expanding, new developments are appearing, and the amount of land laid with green grass carpet is growing. At the same time floodwaters are rising, stream banks are eroding, drinking wells are running dry and water quality is on the decline. There is a direct connection between what happens in our back yards and what happens in our local streams.

When vegetated with native trees and shrubs, when covered in a blanket of decaying leaves, needles and wood, the land acts as a sponge. Rainwater can percolate into the soil and filter down to the water table below to re-supply the aquifers that provide our drinking water. Rainwater also provides base flow to our streams, creeks and rivers. The landscape, in this natural state, is alive with life – birds sing in the trees, squirrels dance across the ground, bugs revel in the earth. Our lives are richer and our water flows free and clean.



Lands vegetated only with grass cannot perform the functions of the natural landscape. Lawns don't act as sponges. They more closely resemble sidewalks and roadways – limiting groundwater infiltration and causing rainwater to run off the site, carrying with it any excess or improperly applied fertilizers and pesticides. This runoff is then channeled, usually by roads, to a nearby storm drain, which is likely receiving runoff from other roadways, lawns and communities. Storm water runoff travels through storm sewers to a local creek where it combines with the runoff from all other upstream communities. More and

(Continued on page 4)

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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Highlands Landlines is a semi-annual newsletter created by the Conservancy for landowners who have a conservation easement with the Conservancy.

This publication is also available electronically.



What is Highlands LandLines?

You probably already receive the Delaware Highlands Conservancy’s regular newsletter, *Highlands Journal*. Our newsletter is distributed three times a year to all of our landowners, members, and other like-minded folks who are interested in the Conservancy is activities, accomplishments, and conservation goals.

This publication, *Highlands LandLines*, comes to you twice a year and is dedicated to landowners. *LandLines* provides you the landowner with useful information and tips for the stewardship of your land and conservation easement.

This issue contains information focused on monitoring the health of your land and forests. We’ve also included information on upcoming programs, events and incentive programs related to managing your land. We will start scheduling annual property visits in the spring. Please help us get a jump start on monitoring your property by completing and returning the questionnaire on page 7.

Participate in LandLines!

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

We’d love to know what you think!

We need your Email Address!

The Conservancy, like so many other conservation minded organizations, is hoping to conserve resources by communicating with its landowners members through e-mail.

Please send your email to [info@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:info@delawarehighlands.org) and specify if you would like to receive our mailings electronically or continue to receive hard copies in the mail.

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: Stewardship Coordinator  
PO Box 218  
Hawley, PA 18428

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to attend property visit: Yes No  
When is the best time to visit \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Do you have plans to sell, subdivide or lease the property?..... Yes No

Have any structures (houses, sheds, barns, gazebos, garage, pole barn) been built or replaced within the boundaries of the conservation easement?..... Yes No

Has there been any land disturbance as a result of road/trail construction, digging/ filling, planting, fencing or other construction?..... Yes No

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, operation of ATVs or other motorized vehicles.... Yes No  
Property line violations from neighboring parcels..... Yes No

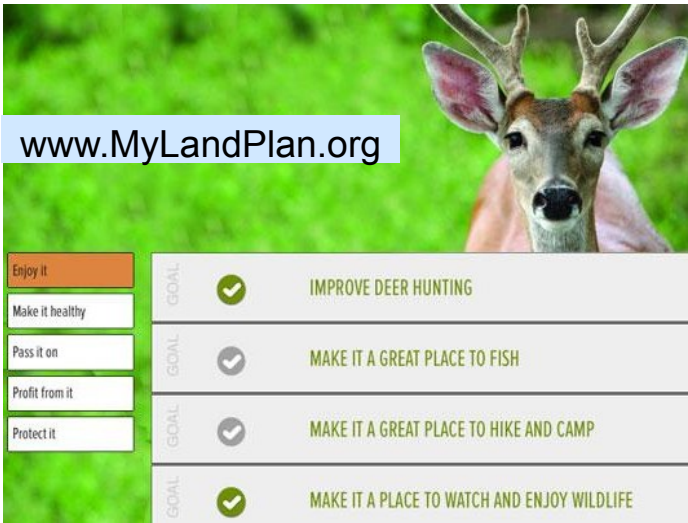
Has there been any timbering on the property?..... Yes No  
If so, was the timbering a result of a recommendation by a current Forest Management Plan?..... Yes No

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 7





# New Website For Landowners

By: Jamie Bartholomew

You have already taken the first steps in ensuring your land is protected. Now what can you do to ensure that your land meets your stewardship goals?

The American Forest Foundation has created the website to help you make future plans for your land: [www.MyLandPlan.org](http://www.MyLandPlan.org). The site has information on five main goals regarding your land. How to enjoy it, protect it, make it healthy, profit from it, and pass it on. Each section has a variety of information to help you manage your land.

The tool, aimed primarily at landowners but widely applicable to practitioners, allows landowners to map their property, property features, and forest activities. Track forest activities such as management activities and wildlife sightings. Lastly access a vast wealth of information tailored to individual landowner goals & objectives.

Once you create your own profile you can start to map your property and begin to determine goals and objectives tailored to your property. The map feature of this website allows you to map your property, put in pinpoints of features that you already have on your property or would like to have in the future. You can also make a goals and actions list within your profile that will help you keep track of your progress. A forest journal feature allows you to keep track of what you see on you property.

The American Forest Foundation has done a great job putting this website together make sure you take a moment to check it out. It is FREE and user friendly.



# Native Species Spotlight

## Wild Bergamot

*Monarda fistulosa*



Wild bergamot, also known as Bee Balm grows throughout the United States. Its lavender to white blooms can be seen in many open fields from June to September. This delicate flower is part of the mint family and has been used for medicinal uses and in cooking for centuries. Added to your garden wild bergamot is sure to be a favorite among visiting humming birds and butterflies.

## Educational Retreat and Training—September 27—30, 2012

Women forest landowners from across the state of Pennsylvania and the surrounding region are invited to attend an educational retreat to learn more about managing their forestland and connecting with other forest landowners. The retreat will be held at Camp Susque north of Trout Run, Lycoming County, PA in the scenic Pennsylvania Wilds. Space at the retreat is limited. The cost per attendee is \$130 and includes lodging for three nights, three meals and snacks each day, and meeting materials and resources. If you would like more information about the retreat or to receive an application to attend, please contact Allyson Muth at Penn State University. Phone: 814-865-3208 or Email: [abm173@psu.edu](mailto:abm173@psu.edu).





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more frequently Riverkeeper is hearing from downstream communities suffering from the effects of the upstream loss of open space and vegetation; they are suffering from the loss of the land's natural sponge. Downstream communities are getting flooded out as the result of the increased storm water flows. Moreover, without the slow filtration of rainwater through the ground to the water table and aquifers below, drinking wells can run dry and the base flow of streams is compromised because there is less fresh water to flow into the stream. Storm water picks up energy as it moves through storm sewers. As a result, it is often discharged with greater velocity and, when infiltration is reduced, in greater quantities than the local stream can handle. Rainwater once held on the land and released slowly now flushes into the receiving stream from a pipe, with every additional storm drain increasing the impacts. The influx of fast-moving storm water scours and undermines stream banks – many of which are vulnerable to erosion due to clearing and mowing of streamside vegetation. The scoured sediments turn the stream a chocolate brown, depriving fish and plants of light. When the sediments do settle, they smother streambeds where fish lay their eggs and which also serve as home for aquatic macroinvertebrates, important components of many food chains.

Storm water retention basins, as they are presently constructed, do little to alleviate problems associated with runoff – in fact they can contribute to them. Retention basins, which send runoff directly to local streams, do not reduce the amount of runoff and they may not reduce the velocity with which it enters the local creek. Retention basins serve only to reduce peak flows of storm water runoff, which ultimately can prolong the harmful impacts of the storm event on neighboring and downstream communities.

Most of us enjoy a grassy area in our yards – a place to play, sunbathe or read. We can continue to enjoy our spot in the sun while reducing the total amount of lawn we must maintain. By re-vegetating little used grassy areas and adding a perimeter of native trees, shrubs and plants we can greatly enhance the quality of our lives. Through these simple landscaping practices we can improve local water quality, offer flood relief to downstream communities, provide habitat for birds and wildlife, bring privacy and peace to our own back yards while still allowing for the lawns many people so love to mow.



## Invasive Species Corner

### HYDRILLA

*Hydrilla verticillata*

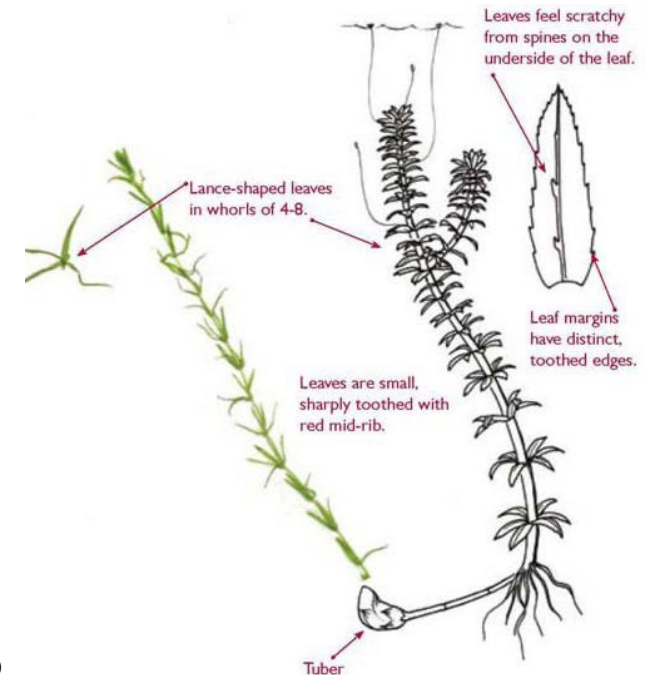


Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft.,  
Bugwood.org

Hydrilla is an aquatic invasive. It is a perennial native to Asia and Africa. It takes root on pond and lake bottoms and can have stems 25-30 feet long. The stems can grow up to an inch per day and branch horizontally at the surface forming a dense mat of vegetation. Hydrilla has pointed bright green leaves about 5/8" long. The leaves grow in whorls of 3 to 10 leaves around the stem with 5 leaves being the most common. The plant also has small white to yellowish flowers with potato-like tubers attached to the roots.

Like many  
invasive

species the Hydrilla is easily spread. Fragments of the plant can establish new roots leading to a new population. Fragments can be transported by currents, boats and in any other way a small fragment might find a way to travel. The spread of Hydrilla can be avoided by inspecting boats, equipment, and trailers for any plant fragments after each use. Dispose of all plant matter and mud in a trash can or above the waterline on dry land where it will not be washed back into the water.



Courtesy of Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

**Join us on June 2 for a native plant walk with Dr. Ann Rhoads  
at Camp Speers Eljabar Pike County, PA 9am-12pm**

For more information on invasive species visit:  
New York Invasive Species at <http://www.nyis.info/>  
The USDA at <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/pa.shtml>