

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JULY 29** **Composting and Soil Health Workshop**
Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 2pm-4pm
- JULY 30** **Cocktails & Conservation**
Cochecton Fire Station, Cochecton, NY • 5pm-7pm
- AUGUST 10** **Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk - The Botanical Hiker**
Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 1pm-4pm
- AUGUST 31** **The Pollinator Pathway: Bee On It!**
Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 10am-12pm
- SEPT 7** **Meadow Party**
Van Scott Nature Reserve, Beach Lake, PA • 11am-4pm
- SEPT 15-18** **Women & Their Woods Retreat**
Highlights Foundation Retreat Center, Milanville, PA

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.

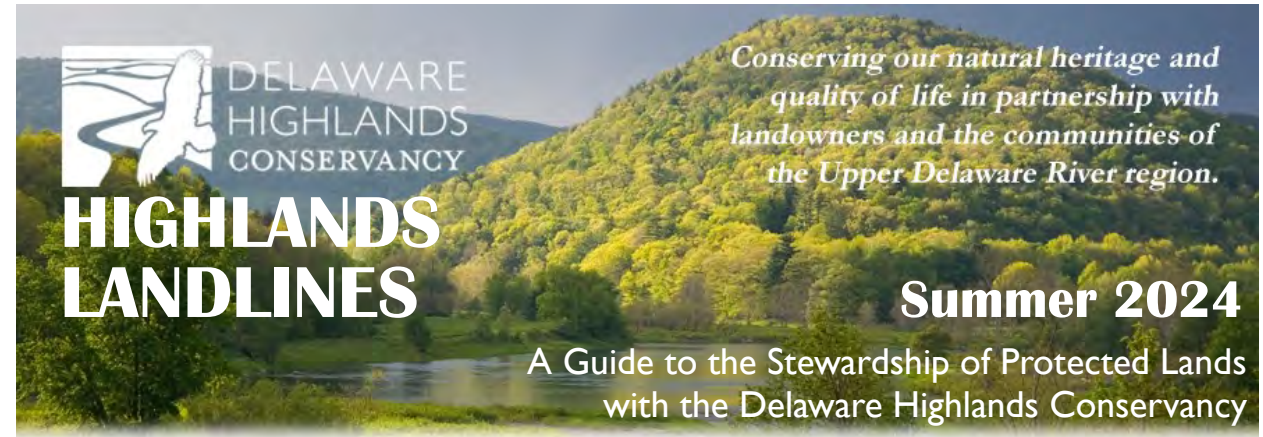
Our Events Calendar is updated regularly throughout the year.

- **INSIDE**
- **30 Years of Conservation**
- **Farewell from Nicole**
- **Native and Invasive Species Corner**
- **Birds to Be Renamed**
- **Annual Monitoring Questionnaire**



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

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY



30 Years of Conservation

In 1994, our beloved founder, Barbara Yeaman, created the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. What once started as an all-volunteer organization has transformed into a nine-staff-member team that continues to conserve the forests, farmland, clean waters, and wildlife habitat of the Upper Delaware River region.

As we ring in our 30th year, we are proud to announce that the Conservancy has helped to protect 18,949 acres throughout the region. The great and ongoing feat of land conservation would not have been possible without you, our conservation easement landowners. It is because of your stewardship of the land that the natural heritage and quality of life in the Upper Delaware River region continue to be upheld. To our original conservation easement landowners, we want to thank you for working with the Conservancy to conserve your special properties in perpetuity. To our successor conservation easement landowners, thank you for continuing the legacy of land conservation set by those before you.

The Conservancy is ramping up its environmental education program, and we want to ensure that we are providing education topics and events that would be beneficial to you as a conservation easement landowner. Please share your ideas with our education staff at the contact information below, and we will try our best to implement them into future programs:

Rachel Morrow
Education and Volunteer Coordinator
rachel@delawarehighlands.org
570-226-3164 ext. 2

Steven Gosch
Stewardship Coordinator
steve@delawarehighlands.org
570-226-3164 ext. 8

Thank you for your continued support of the Conservancy and for protecting nature together, forever.

Photo by Nicole DeCarolis

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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.



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: Steven Gosch
 571 Perkins Pond Rd, Beach Lake, PA 18405
 Or email: steve@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

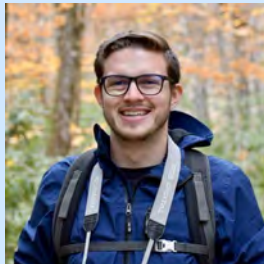
Your conservation easement may require the forest on your property to be cared for and managed in accordance with a forest management/ stewardship plan. Please contact the Conservancy before starting any forest management activities, as they must be reviewed and approved prior to any timber harvesting 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



Steven Gosch
Stewardship Coordinator
steve@delawarehighlands.org
570-226-3164 x8

Invasive Species Corner

Amur Cork Tree (*Phellodendron amurense*)

In 1850, the Amur Cork Tree (*Phellodendron amurense*) arrived in the United States from Eastern Asia, with a position to adorn landscapes and ornamental plantings. Initially prized in China for its yellow bark, which yields a bright yellow dye, the tree gets its name from another feature – the spongy, cork-like texture of its bark.

Thriving in high-sun environments, the Amur Cork Tree quickly outcompetes native plants for resources such as sunlight, water, and nutrients. With prolific seed production and a lack of natural predators, the Amur Cork Tree is additionally able to tolerate a wide range of conditions, including varying soil types, pH levels, and moisture levels.

Despite limited research on control methods, the Amur Cork Tree requires long-term management plans, monitoring, and follow-up treatments due to its ability to resprout from roots and cut stumps, with hand removal and targeted herbicide treatments being current common practice. Although not yet widespread, the Amur Cork Tree continues to rapidly infiltrate forest areas.

Source: PennState Extension - Amur Cork Tree



Native Species Spotlight

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

Known for its unique characteristics and significance to ecosystems, Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) is native to eastern North America where it thrives in moist, shaded environments such as swamps and along stream banks. The fern is most notable as an indicator of temperature fluctuations, turning brown and wilting in even the lightest frost. This reaction to slight temperature variations gives it the name 'sensitive.'

Sensitive ferns boast large fronds that appear in clusters around a central crown. The fern can reach heights of one to three feet and spreads through rhizomes, underground horizontal stems that are able to put out new shoots. This system of large ferns plays a vital role as habitat for various wildlife species and contributes to soil stabilization.

While it is not considered invasive in its native habitat, sensitive ferns can become aggressive in disturbed wetlands where it can outcompete native vegetation. Historically, the fern has been used as food, medicine, and for crafting. Today they are primarily cultivated for ornamental purposes, such as in landscapes and gardens.

Source: Adirondacks Forever Wild – Ferns of the Adirondacks: Sensitive Fern



Farewell from Nicole

Dear Easement Landowners,

It is with great sadness that I announce my resignation from Delaware Highlands Conservancy, as I have recently accepted a new job in New Hampshire to be closer to my family. I have sincerely enjoyed walking your conserved properties, all the conversations, and experiencing the beauty of the Upper Delaware River region over the past five years.

Coming to the Conservancy straight out of college, my time at the Conservancy has been pivotal. I will be leaving with many important experiences that will stay with me for the remainder of my career, and I cannot thank you enough for your involvement in those events. My last day at the Conservancy will be on Thursday, July 25. If you would like to remain in touch, please feel free to reach out to exchange contact information!



With my departure, I am very excited to announce that Steven Gosch has been promoted to Stewardship Coordinator at the Conservancy. Steven first joined the Conservancy as the Stewardship Intern in May 2023 and soon after proved to be a great addition to the staff. Along with his dedicated passion for the land and wildlife, Steven brings exceptional interpersonal and conflict resolution skills that are crucial for conservation easement stewardship. Working with Steven for the past year has been one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job and one that I will dearly miss. I could not have left the Stewardship department in better hands.

If you have not had the pleasure of meeting or talking with Steven, his contact information is listed on Page 1 and Page 6. Please direct all your conservation easement inquiries to Steven moving forward and congratulate him on his new role!

Thank you for all the memories and for helping to conserve the natural resources of the Upper Delaware River region.

All the best,

Nicole

North and South American Birds to Be Renamed

In a groundbreaking decision, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) will soon begin the process of renaming 152 North American and 111 South American birds, removing eponymous (named after a person) names linked to racism and colonialism.

With interest in emphasizing public engagement and diverse representation, advocates heading the change are planning to use names based on each bird's appearance or ecology. A bold step in a commitment to inclusivity and understanding the true legacies of historic figures, this change marks a step towards a more inclusive bird naming system. The renaming effort will begin in 2024 with a to-be-selected subset of birds found in the United States and Canada.



Wilson's warbler.
Photo source: www.ebird.org

Learn more about the change on the National Audubon Society website:
<https://www.audubon.org/>.

Pennsylvania Tick Research Lab



Did you know you can send in your ticks to test for tick-borne diseases? The Pennsylvania Tick Research Lab, based in East Stroudsburg, PA, is a university-affiliated lab that provides tick testing to people nationwide.

The Tick Lab offers qPCR-based tick testing that is 99.9% accurate and can detect the presence of 18 pathogens that cause diseases such as Lyme disease,

Anaplasmosis, Babesia, Bartonella, Ehrlichiosis, Tularemia, *B. miyamotoi*, Southern Tick-Associated Rash illness, and Rocky Mountain Spotted fever.

In addition, the Tick Lab has options for ordering a free, basic panel, or you can pay for more comprehensive diagnostics.

Learn more about the Tick Lab and the laboratory tests on their website:
<https://www.ticklab.org/>.