



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

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The Choice Is Yours

Clean water is essential to life. Every day we make choices that can impact our water. Even small changes make a big difference in safeguarding our water.

A new website “Clear Choices Clean Water: My Delaware River”

(<http://mydelawareriver.clearchoicescleanwater.org>) has water-saving tips and advice for the home and garden, to help you cut down on your water usage (and your utility bills), prevent pollution from running off into rivers and streams, and even help you find native flowers to use in your garden.



Visit Clear Choices Clean Water and look around—then, share your choices by taking a free pledge to see how much water you’ll save or protect in a year. (Did you know that shortening your shower by just 5 minutes could save almost

5,000 gallons per year, or that using phosphorous-free or no fertilizer on a one-acre lawn could prevent 8,300 pounds of algae?)

When you take a pledge, you’ll see yourself on the map—and you’ll see how your pledge, combined with those of your friends and neighbors, impacts water quality for people and wildlife in the Upper Delaware River region.

Every little bit makes a difference. Healthy forests—and lawns with native plantings and stream-side buffers—are excellent water filters, which is easy to see for yourself if you take a look at streams after a rainfall. Streams near parking lots or suburban areas—where lawns are mowed right up to the edge of the streambank—will often turn brown after a storm because there is nothing to slow and filter the rainfall, or to prevent runoff from nearby surfaces. But rainfall in forested or planted areas is captured by the roots and filtered through the soil before slowly making its way back into the water, so the stream continues to run clear.

In the Upper Delaware River region, we have the increasingly rare opportunity to protect our water before it becomes polluted.

These choices belong to you. Every healthy choice you make—whether it’s taking shorter showers and turning off the water while brushing your teeth, planting native flowers in a rain garden, or repairing a leaky faucet—adds up to protecting thousands of gallons of clean water.

THROUGH JUNE 27, 2016 every pledge will be entered to win a 9’ Old Town Heron kayak, generously donated by Alice’s Wonderland in Greeley, PA!





DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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We Love Where We Live

Each year, we're so grateful for the number of people who attend our Foods of the Delaware Highlands gala dinner, contribute an item or experience to the live and silent auctions, or make a donation in support—and we think it can't possibly get any better. And then, each year, it exceeds our expectations!

Hosted this year on April 30th at the Settlers Inn in Hawley, PA, 150 guests joined us to celebrate everything that's special about the Upper Delaware River region, contributing an unprecedented amount to protect land and water in our region.

Please save the date for our event next year on May 6, 2017, and stay tuned for details. It will be our 10th year for the Foods of the Delaware Highlands gala dinner, and we're moving it a new location and have exciting plans to make it even bigger and better.

We offer very special thanks to our Gala Dinner Committee, including our honorary co-chairs Gary Beilman, President and CEO of The Dime Bank, and Mark Ruffalo, actor, activist, and founder of Water Defense. Committee members included Jeanne Genzlinger, Nancy Kiesendahl Bloch, Amy Litzenberger, Karen Lutz, Mary Sue Price, and Brenda Ruello. We are also very grateful to everyone who attended or donated in support of the dinner.

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



Shop through AmazonSmile and Support the Conservancy

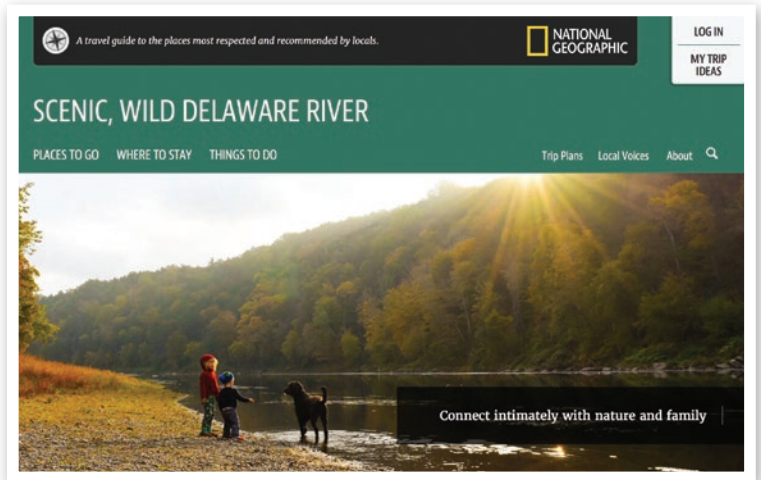
Through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of the purchase price of your items is donated back to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy by the AmazonSmile Foundation. **It's free to sign up and costs you nothing.** Visit smile.amazon.com to get started.

Scenic, Wild Delaware River

We invite you to check out a new website for our region, “Scenic, Wild Delaware River” at <http://delawareriver.natgeotourism.com>. You’ll find listings for unique local businesses, natural areas, places and spaces to visit in the Upper Delaware River region, whether you want a weekend “staycation” or to plan a longer trip.

The Scenic, Wild Delaware River geotourism initiative seeks to contribute to the area’s economic health and long-term vitality by promoting geotourism: Tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place — its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and the well-being of its residents.

Since the Scenic, Wild Delaware River geotourism initiative was launched in partnership with National Geographic, local residents have nominated more than 600 unique landmarks, natural resources, attractions, activities, events, lodging and dining venues to be included on the MapGuide. Residents and visitors may continue to nominate new sites, events and special places for the website, which will be dynamic and constantly updated.



River Club

The River Club celebrates and recognizes investment in the Delaware Highlands Conservancy —an investment not just in protecting land and water, but in motivating and mobilizing our local community.

Members will enjoy exclusive invitation-only events, acknowledgement of your exceptional generosity to the Conservancy in our annual report, and the recognition of being a River Club member.

River Club members will establish a legacy that lives on and helps to ensure the perpetual continuity of the mission of the Conservancy. **You can become a member of the River Club with an annual gift of \$2,500 or more, exclusive of auction purchases.**

Together, we are stewards not just of the 14,000 acres of conserved lands that we hold, but of the Delaware Highlands themselves. **Learn more, see our list of Charter Members, and join the club at <http://delawarehighlands.org/membership/river-club>.**



One Percent for the Upper Delaware

We're often reminded to invest in our retirement, to put away money for that rainy day, to take it out of our paychecks on a regular basis. A little here and there adds up—but how often do we invest in the world we want to live in?

Meet Keith Fitzpatrick, a man who loves where he lives, and who chooses to make a small investment every day in the future of the Upper Delaware River region—an investment that adds up to a significant sum at the end of the year.

Keith and his wife Betsy had moved to Washington, DC for work, but in 2006, they returned to the Upper Delaware River region, fondly remembering their childhoods spent growing up in small towns, spending time outdoors and on the river as much as possible.

Keith soon started his own custom carpentry business, and concerned about the poorly planned development he was seeing, began donating 1% of his annual revenue to the Conservancy.

"I think it's important to give back to the community I live in—and certain areas are just gone. They're just parking lots. When I was young, it was all trees," Keith explains. "I feel like it's important to protect what's left before it's all parking lots."

He was drawn to the Conservancy's mission to preserve the region's rural character, and soon decided to join the board of directors. He now chairs the Land Protection Committee, helping to guide our work developing land preservation agreements with landowners throughout the region.

Keith's annual donation emulates the "One Percent for the Planet" model, an alliance of businesses financially committed to creating a healthy planet. Founders of "One Percent," Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, owner of Blue Ribbon

Flies, both passionate environmentalists, realized that it was smart business practice to protect the natural resources that kept them in business. They established One Percent for the Planet to encourage local businesses to choose a local conservation organization to which to donate 1% of their yearly income.

The "One Percent" model reminds us that it's up to all of us to invest in our community to create the type of world we want to live in—by making our own contributions, or by supporting the local businesses that follow this model. It's a small but significant contribution toward our future.

With Keith's annual gift, he's helping to ensure that the working farms and forests, clean waters, and wildlife habitat of the Upper Delaware will not just be here for his own children, but for generations to come.

We're inspired by Keith's generosity, and we invite you to join him and the larger 1% movement by investing in what makes our area so special. To make a donation, visit www.DelawareHighlands.org or call 570-226-3164. To contact Keith Fitzpatrick at Hillside Woodworks, visit www.hillsidewoodworks.com or call 845-557-6975.



"We moved back here because we wanted our kids to grow up the way we grew up," Keith, owner of Hillside Woodworks and a board member for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, explains.

What will your legacy be?

At the Conservancy, we believe that we are stewards not just of the conservation easements that we hold, but of the Upper Delaware River region itself—a responsibility that extends for the next seven generations. Protecting the Upper Delaware River region as you remember it can be part of your legacy, and an enduring gift to future generations.

You have a number of different planned giving options to leave your personal legacy, including through a will or bequest; a donation of stock or real estate; or other planned giving strategies including a charitable IRA rollover, a charitable remainder trust or lead trust, or a retained life estate.

If this sounds like the kind of legacy you would like to leave, we can personally discuss (along with your tax and financial advisor) strategies to help you support the Conservancy's land protection mission while also maximizing your tax and financial benefits.

Visit <http://delawarehighlands.org/membership/leaving-a-legacy> or call us at 570-226-3164 to learn more. If you have already included the Conservancy in your will or estate plans, please let us know so we may thank you.



“On our farm, always there was the idea that this was just too precious a place to allow an unforeseen future. We are just caretakers... we’re just here for a very short time.”

— Anita Orlow

Our Legacy Leaders have included the Conservancy in their will or estate plans, or have helped a parent, partner or loved one leave a legacy.

Sue Currier
Mary Evans
Linda Gearhart
Susanne Hand and David Kinsey
Susan Hartney
Alfred Lees and Ronald Nelson
Harold MacGregor
Dorothy Merrill (deceased)
Sally and Enrico Moretti
Mary Sue Sweeney Price
Kimberly (Mimi) Raleigh
Brenda Seldin
Shary and Gary Skoloff
Richard Snyder (deceased)
Sigrid Wilshinsky
Jonathan Wind
Barbara Yeaman



DelawareHighlands.org/watw

Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat

September 15-18

Highlights Foundation Facility
Boyd's Mill, Milanville, PA

In four days of workshops, indoor and outdoor sessions, field trips, and hands-on learning at the Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat, attendees will connect to a network of forestry professionals and resources; get the tools they need to manage healthy forestlands; and become mentors to friends, neighbors and family members.



The cost for the retreat is \$200 and includes lodging for three nights, meals and snacks, and all workshop materials and resources. Applications are available online at www.DelawareHighlands.org/watw and are due by August 1, 2016. Scholarships are available, and you do not need to own land to attend. For more information, please contact Amanda Subjin at 570-226-3164 x. 2 or conserve@delawarehighlands.org.

The Women and Their Woods program is administered by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Penn State Natural Resources Extension with support from the US Forest Service at Grey Towers and the PA Forest Stewardship Program.





The Delaware River Watershed Initiative

We've begun year three of a grant from the William Penn Foundation, working with partners throughout the region on the Delaware River Watershed Initiative to protect and restore the clean waters of the Delaware through education and land protection projects.

Our region is part of the Pocono-Kittatinny Cluster, and encompasses portions of New York's Catskills and Shawangunk Mountains, New Jersey's Kittatinny Ridge, and Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains.

The funds from this program are helping the Conservancy improve our outreach to the public about the importance of our forests to protecting water quality, to encourage landowners to take action to protect their land, and to work with local government on actions that will safeguard our water resources.

To learn more about the Delaware River Watershed Initiative and the Pocono-Kittatinny Cluster, visit <http://www.drwi.net/poconos-kittatinny-1>.

Thousands of Acres to be Protected

The federal Forest Legacy Program has allocated funding for the purposes of protecting private forestlands in our region. Nearly \$3 million will be directed to "The Northeast Connection" for the permanent protection of thousands of contiguous, unfragmented acres of forests, lakes, and wetlands along the Little Bushkill Creek in Pike County, Pennsylvania.

Protected forestlands provide clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, and sustainable local jobs in the Upper Delaware River region. Private forest landowners have numerous opportunities to protect their cherished forestlands for future generations, including working with a land trust like the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to craft a land preservation agreement for the property.



Landowners in the Delaware River watershed may be eligible for funding to assist with the costs of protecting their properties or implementing a forest management plan; contact the Conservancy to learn more at 570-226-3164 or 845-583-1010, or email our Land Protection Coordinator Jennifer Sherwood at protect@delawarehighlands.org

Looking for monthly updates on our events and programs?

Sign up for our e-newsletter on www.DelawareHighlands.org.

June 25

**Native Plants Walk with
Ann Rhoads at BioBlitz
Tusten, NY**

New this year, join us at the Upper Delaware BioBlitz in Tusten, NY for our annual Native Plants Walk with renowned botanist Dr. Ann Rhoads.

June – August

**Guided Nature Walks
with the Conservancy
Bethel Office, NY**

Join Conservancy volunteers for guided nature walks on our woodland trail and learn about what you see. Select week-ends available through the summer; visit website for details.

August 27

**Community Picnic for Our Members,
Volunteers & Friends
Bethel Office, NY**

Our annual picnic for our members and friends at our Bethel, NY office features entertainment, educational programs, music, guided walks, delicious local food, and more.

October 8

**Fall Hike: Tusten Mountain Trail
Tusten, NY**

Join the Conservancy for a guided hike and learn about the ecology and history of the area.



SPECIAL THANKS TO DAVID B. SOETE FOR PROVIDING PHOTOS THROUGHOUT THE NEWSLETTER.

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](https://twitter.com/DHConservancy)



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SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

"No matter how much one may love the world as a whole, one can live fully in it only by living responsibly in some small part of it. Where we live and whom we live there with define the terms of our relationship to the world and to humanity." – Wendell Berry

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