SPRING 2022

NEWS

Delaware Wild Lands

DELAWARE WILD LANDS • INCORPORATED 1961 •

NOTES FROM

Kate Hackett

Delaware Wild Lands'
Executive Director

It may not be a commonplace analogy, but I often compare stewardship of one's financial resources to the necessary stewardship of natural resources. Like one's monetary income, and the daily income and outflow that supports our households, the land, waters, forests, and farms around each of us and our households provide what each of us needs to survive and thrive. Food. Water. Plants. Animals. Biodiversity. Awe.

Just as you might track your financial resources, we at Delaware Wild Lands (DWL) track investments made in the natural resources that are needed to support our human and wildlife populations. With 21,800 acres of land in ownership, and active acquisition and restoration projects underway, perhaps we could be considered an investment house for natural assets! And, as bankers, stock brokers, and investment officers strive for consistency and trust, so, too, does DWL strive to ensure predictability and longevity. At DWL we are in the business of providing predictability so that current and future residents of and visitors to our region can thrive. Today, at DWL, we are securing the lands and water needed to sustain wildlife, and these same lands and waters will provide the foundational food sources, high quality air and water supplies, and recreation and respite of the future.

At DWL, we take our mission seriously. We are a resilient, hopeful group of conservationists known for delivering enduring results that change the landscape in positive ways. But we cannot do this work alone. We invite you to become part of our celebrated accomplishments and take action for a more promising future. We invite you to be a part of the next generation of DWL supporters who will forge a better future for us all.

Read on to learn more about the importance of DWL's work, land management tools that improve wildlife habitat in Delaware, new acquisitions, and snippets from DWL's history. Learn how the broader community in Delaware contributes to DWL's mission… and let the photographs in this newsletter (taken by DWL staff) inspire you and bring to life (literally and figuratively!) the commitment of DWL now, in the past, and in the future. Help us expand critical habitats and bucolic landscapes to connect the past with our collective future. Join with us today.

Cover Photo: Sabellaria reefs at DWL's Milford Neck Preserve (Kent County, DE).

Always stealthily avoiding the spotlight, Gene was both a steward of Delaware's history and, at the same time, a great purveyor of our future. He was a marvelous storyteller. He quietly, and thanklessly, curated relationships and cultivated people and meaningful projects that would secure the future of Delaware.

Eugene H. Bayard
(1946 – 2021)

If Delaware Wild Lands had a keel, Gene Bayard shaped it. And, true to form, before his passing, Gene skillfully shored up Delaware Wild Lands (DWL) with new leadership to guide us in coming years.

As we began anticipating DWL's 60th anniversary, Gene was contemplating our six decades of achievements in land conservation and habitat restoration. He knew DWL could become even stronger and more effective with a new cadre of officers at the helm. Today, thanks to Gene, we are fortunate to have as our President Robert W. Tunnell III (grandson of one of DWL's founders!) with Carrie Lingo, Porter Schutt, and Eli Sharp serving as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. With these officers, and our full Board, we are well poised to continue DWL's tradition and new momentum!

Gene's contributions to DWL, however, far exceed this important act. As DWL's longest-serving Board member, and immediate past President, Gene's character pervades the work of DWL. In every conversation and meeting, Gene reliably brought to DWL his discerning wit, keen intellect, strategic acumen, poignant humor, and relentless commitment to achieving impactful results. With his stalwart counsel, DWL forged new partnerships and tackled increasingly complex and significant land acquisition and restoration projects.

In addition to his service on Delaware Wild Lands' Board of Directors, Gene practiced law in Georgetown, Delaware for 47 years and mentored many of Delaware's strongest leaders. Immediately preceding his death, Gene served on the boards of DWL; Delaware State Fair; Chesapeake Utilities; Harrington Raceway & Casino; O.A. Newton; and J.G. Townsend, Jr. & Co.

Gene made himself available to DWL and he always offered tempered encouragement and effectual strategy. Though we miss his intellect and wit, Gene's contributions to DWL have become hallmark characteristics of our work today and will continue to fortify DWL and our commitment to protecting and restoring Delaware's natural resources.

On behalf of all of us at DWL, and the waterfowl, wildlife, and resources that depend on our work, we honor, celebrate, and are inspired by Gene Bayard. We at DWL remain ever grateful to Gene for advancing some of our most impactful and meaningful accomplishments, and for helping DWL to forever safeguard Delaware's unique and critically important natural resources, wildlife habitat, and forests and farms. Though we no longer see him around our Board table, the very fabric and culture of DWL are infused with the wise judgement of Gene Bayard.

ACQUISITIONS

Breeding Property

A small but significant wonder along the Pocomoke River

Compared to the 10,700 acres DWL owns and manages in the Great Cypress Swamp, 75 acres might not seem significant; but if you know about real estate, you've probably heard the words "location, location, location".

Situated just north of the Delaware-Maryland line, the Breeding property has approximately 1/3 mile of Pocomoke River frontage, and lies adjacent to other DWL properties along the Pocomoke River Corridor.

The property is also less than half a mile from our largest contiguous holdings in the Great Cypress Swamp, and equally close to sites of Pocomoke River floodplain restoration we completed with The Nature Conservancy in Maryland and Ducks Unlimited.

Although fundamentally altered by the channelization of the Pocomoke River in the 1920s and 1930s, the Breeding property still has a large concentration of two important tree species. The first is an impressive stand of mature Bald cypress tree, many of which are in excess of 200 years old. These magnificent specimens sequester a large amount of carbon, provide nesting habitat for numerous bird species, and help absorb flood waters and trap environmental pollutants in the water. The second species is Pawpaw, which not only provides valuable food for numerous mammals and birds in the form of their fruit, but is also the exclusive host plant of the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly.

With our recent focus on restoration and protection of the invaluable corridor surrounding the Pocomoke River, the acquisition of the Breeding property is a significant and strategic win for DWL, and for wildlife, and for ecosystem services in the region!

Above: DWL's Board President, Robert Tunnell, and newest Board member, Alexandra du Pont, inspect a 200-year-old Bald cypress tree at the Breeding property

Right: Once ripened (typically in September), the fruit of the Pawpaw tree takes on a distinct color and taste, described by some as a cross between pineapple and banana. Others compare it to the taste to "jackfruit", which grows in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The name "Pawpaw" is believed to be derived from the Spanish ward for "papaya".

DWL Welcomes A New Board Member:

Alexandra Kovach du Pont

Quick to offer thoughtful insight, experienced perspective, and meaningful assistance, Alexandra has a special talent for moving the normal to the notable… for transforming and elevating conversations, encounters, events, and initiatives around her.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Alexandra was surrounded by the ocean, bay, and natural beauty of the west coast beginning in her earliest years. Those resplendent lands and waters instilled in her a deep appreciation of beauty, natural curiosity, and a lifelong interest in transforming her environs for the better.

Alexandra launched a successful career working as a marketing professional for technology companies in California and Utah. While in Park City, Utah, she discovered her own penchant and passion for hospitality. Throughout her career, working independently and with private and non-profit organizations, she organized dozens of memorable weddings and worked in diverse geographies to create exceptional events and experiences that span from the Sundance Film Festival to the 2002 Winter Olympics to Georgetown University and to Washington, DC's presidential and diplomatic circles.

She sees how the functional, cultural, historical, logistical, and aesthetic elements of a project can come together. She recognizes integrity and quality, and skillfully nurtures them to excellence with the goal of achieving superlative results.

Alexandra has a B.A. in Art History from Santa Clara University and a Certificate in Hospitality Marketing from Cornell University. She enjoys painting, entertaining, and interior design and lives in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware and McLean, Virginia with her husband Lammot and dog Poppy.

She is deeply committed to arts and education, medical innovation, and environmental conservation. In all her endeavors, Alexandra fosters quality, beauty, and innovation, and DWL is pleased to have her bring her skills and talents to advance and accelerate our work!

RESEARCH/EDUCATION

Sanderlings forage among Sabellaria reefs at DWL's Milford Neck Preserve (Kent County, DE)

Sabellaria Worms at Big Stone Beach

If you have visited DWL's Big Stone Beach property (Kent County, DE), you may have seen some big, dark "stones" near the low tide line. These rounded masses are reefs constructed of tubes created by Sabellaria worms. Sabellaria vulgaris *(S. vulgaris)* is a tube-building annelid polychaete that congregates in dense clusters. The reefs typically form around mean sea level and become exposed during spring low tides. These worms and their structures are typically located in intertidal and subtidal mudflats, and are found along the mid-Atlantic coast, but large groupings are only known to occur within the Delaware Bay, where they build their reefs on hard bottom such as gravel, cobbles, or shells. They occur principally near the low tide line on sandy beaches in the lower part of the bay, where higher salinity waters, turbulence from wave action, a supply of sand, and a firm or hard substrate occur together.

The tubes are formed by cementing together grains of sand. Reefs develop in different shapes and sizes. Wide worm reefs trap sediment. Pillow mounds, ribbon reefs, and platform reefs are found to attenuate waves, helping to prevent erosion and minimize impacts from storms. While the Sabellaria worms serve as a food source for marine species and migrating birds, the reefs, which are more physically stable and ecologically diverse than surrounding sediments, provide essential fish habitat and serve as habitat for other organisms, increasing the diversity of species. Beach replenishment efforts are known to smother the structures and negatively impact aquatic biodiversity.

Scientists are using biological sampling and aerial drones to study the worms and map their extent. Worm populations die off in winter or in early summer due to destructive wave action from winter storms as well as air temperatures below freezing, which the worms cannot withstand for more than a few hours. Spring settlement can vary significantly from year to year and coverage has become much more extensive over the past half-century.

When the worms no longer maintain the structures with their mucus cement, the reefs will degrade and even collapse. Scientists have found that other species, such as striped anemone, clam worm, mud crab, amphipod, and greedy dove snail, may take over the reefs.

At DWL, we strive for ecosystem protection – lands, waters, tidal and inter-tidal areas – and everything supported by these natural resources from the soaring Bald Eagles and Osprey high overhead,to the tiny worms building castles in the sand.

RESTORATION

DWL Uses Fire to Fuel Conservation & Collaboration

Beginning March 1, DWL land managers eagerly start watching the weather, awaiting the right conditions. What is the forecasted wind direction and speed? Relative humidity? Temperature? Once favorable weather conditions arise, the real work begins.

One of DWL's habitat restoration priorities is enhancing and expanding grasslands and meadows. These habitats support important species such as Northern bobwhite and Eastern box turtle, yet they are one of the most imperiled habitat types in the State.

Without some type of active intervention, meadows and grasslands (or "early successional habitat") naturally transition from meadow to forest. One technique DWL uses to slow, and even prevent, this transition is prescribed fire.

The benefits of prescribed fire, over other control methods such as application of herbicide or regular mowing, are that fire is natural, more efficient, and less expensive.

Another important benefit of prescribed burns is "daylighting", which is the burning of dead vegetation that enables sunlight to reach the understory and seed bank of native grasses.

What does it take to conduct a prescribed burn? DWL's Land Steward Hannah Small says, "A clear plan, top-notch organization, and trained personnel!" To safely and successfully implement prescribed burns, a burn plan is first written to identify the goals of the burn and what resources, site prep, and environmental conditions are required. Then an experienced burn crew is assembled to watch the weather, monitor for potential spot fires, ensure safety of crew members, ignite burns, etc. Given DWL's limited capacity, it is essential that we collaborate with other trained land managers throughout the State to conduct prescribed burns.

Though we know much about the utility of prescribed fire, a changing climate and landscape require us to continually assess our land management techniques and be adaptive. DWL is supporting research led by the University of Delaware and Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve that will better inform land managers and private land owners on the use of prescribed fire in salt marsh restoration. This research is investigating changes in biogeochemical processes after burning Phragmites australis.

As you travel throughout Delaware this spring, keep an eye out for these prescribed burns and you may be lucky enough to witness how fire is fueling conservation and collaboration!

The prescribed burn crew ignites a meadow burn at DWL's Sharp Farm using a "drip torch".

After the fire is complete, the burn crew does "mop up", a thorough survey of the burn unit to extinguish remaining fire, "hot spots", or smoke.

RESEARCH/EDUCATION

Fascinating Fungi

BY LEAH BROOKS

Sparassis spathulate (common name: Cauliflower mushroom)

Desarmillaria caespitosa
(common name: Ringless honey mushrooms)

Leucocoprinus fragilissimus
(common name: Fragile dapperling)

Ganoderma sessile (common name: TBD)

Ganoderma sessile (common name: TBD)

Laetiporus Cincinnatus
(common name: Chicken of the woods)

Hearing the word "fungus" may conjure images of death and decay…or a weird mold growing in undesirable places! But the world of fungi is so much more than that… it is a world of mystery, of beauty, and of vast importance to our ecosystems. A walk through DWL's Great Cypress Swamp with Ron Haas, DWL Sussex County Project Manager, yielded a cornucopia of fungi. In some places, even a venerable collection of confetti! And, notably, all photographs for this article were take by Ron at the Great Cypress Swamp.

Fungi (plural of fungus) are neither plants nor animals -- they belong to their own kingdom. There are over a million species of fungi on earth! We encounter fungi in our everyday lives, and even inside our own homes as fungi are used to make beer, wine, and cheese. Even penicillin was first derived from fungi.

Fungi are typically characterized as decomposer fungi or symbiotic fungi.

Decomposer fungi (called saprotrophs) grow on decaying organic materials like leaves. They release enzymes to decompose matter and then reabsorb the nutrients through an underground network of branching structures called "mycelium." The mushrooms we see on the surface are merely the fruiting bodies of such networks. Saprotrophs, such as Ganoderma sessile, are the only organisms that can produce the enzymes needed to break down wood. If there were no fungi, our forests would be piled high with dead plant material, and ecosystems would not be able to function properly. Fungi are also carbon fixers. When fungi break down the carbon in plant material, they store it in the soil, creating a massive carbon reservoir that holds more carbon than plants and the atmosphere combined. Thus, fungi are crucial for climate control.

Symbiotic fungi have a close relationship with another organism. This relationship can be mutualistic, commensalistic, or parasitic. In mutualistic relationships, both the fungi and the other organism benefit. In commensalistic relationships, the fungus takes nutrients from the other organism, but the other organism neither benefits nor is harmed. Some relationships, like that of the White-spored chicken of the woods (Laetiporus cincinnatus) and Oak trees, are parasitic. In these situations, only the fungus benefits, and the other organism is harmed. Some symbiotic fungi, called "mycorrhizal fungi," have a close relationship with plant roots. In species where this relationship is mutualistic, the mycelium of the mycorrhizal fungi helps the plant take up nutrients like water and minerals. Nearly 90 percent of land plants benefit from these symbiotic relationships.

Even though fungi perform such important services to humans and our environment, their contributions and importance are rarely recognized. A special thanks to DWL's Ron Haas, who photographed an impressive diversity of fungi species in the Great Cypress Swamp, including ringless honey mushroom (Desarmillaria caespitosa), cauliflower mushroom (Sparassis spathulata), Ganoderma sessile, chicken of the woods (Laetiporus Cincinnatus), and fragile dapperling (Leucocoprinus fragilissimus).

[FUN}gi Facts

1. Ringless honey mushroom has bioluminescent (light-emitting) mycelium.
2. Cauliflower mushroom is a decomposer of roots and occurs as a single fruiting body at the base of old trees.
3. Fragile dapperling is a decomposer of leaf litter, and is rarely seen as the mushrooms only remain for 1-2 days. True to its name, this fungus is so delicate that it is nearly impossible to harvest without having the stalk break in your hand.

RESEARCH/EDUCATION

Species on the Move at Milford Neck!

Making way for wildlife migrations and minimizing human disturbance

There are few simple solutions to providing high quality habitat protection and restoration, particularly when wildlife habitat is increasingly degraded by land conversion, deforestation, intensification of land use, increasing sea levels, over-use, and litter and contamination. To combat these threats, DWL's restoration projects most often consist of tree plantings, management and expansion of meadow and early successional habitat, and wetlands restoration initiatives. At our Milford Neck property, in Kent County, however, our focus is different. Here we are working to protect the natural dune system, beaches, and inter-tidal systems that host spawning Horseshoe crabs and foraging shorebirds.

At Milford Neck, we use a multi-pronged approach to habitat protection that includes restoration of wetlands affected by increasing salinity levels, community outreach and education, and, perhaps most importantly, limiting vehicular access to Big Stone Beach and Bennett's Beach. Motorized vehicles and tire tracks undermine the structure and integrity of the natural system by displacing sand, causing erosion, prohibiting the establishment of vegetation, and altering the natural drainage of the dunes and beaches.

Last year, in an effort to reduce dune destruction, DWL placed 2-ton concrete blocks at strategic beach access points. Additionally, volunteers helped DWL develop and distribute an educational flyer about the unique species that rely on lands and waters at Milford Neck and DWL developed a formal usage policy for our Kent County properties. These efforts would not have been possible without the help of Atlantic Concrete, Teal Construction, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Each fall, DWL participates in the State of Delaware's Coastal Cleanup. This is an annual event held throughout the State of Delaware. In 2021, at the two sites sponsored by DWL, 30 volunteers removed 60 pounds of trash at Big Stone Beach and 301 pounds of trash at Bennett's Beach! Two other volunteers deserve special attention:

Milford Neck's tidal and mud flat support a multitude of aquatic, terrestrial, and migratory species

Jim Nelson and Wendy Dodge! Their love of the Milford Neck, its dunes and beaches, and spectacular diversity of birds and wildlife are infectious and their countless hours of sharing what makes Milford Neck special are changing "the Neck" in positive ways!

With Horseshoe crab and shorebird migrations coming soon, we urge beach-goers to access DWL's beaches only by foot, remove litter, carry out what you carry in, and leash dogs to prevent disturbance of resting and nesting birdlife.

DWL's Milford Neck Wildlife Preserve:

Policy for Use and Visitation

DWL is a private non-profit land conservation organization that purchases land and then protects and restores it to serve as a wildlife refuge.

Most of the beach and a significant amount of land between Bennett's Pier Road and Big Stone Beach are owned by DWL. The beach, dune systems, and land in the immediate area are privately owned by DWL and are of high ecological importance as critical spawning habitat for horseshoe crabs, valuable stopover point for numerous species of migratory birds, and vital foraging and resting sites for wildlife. Vehicle trespass (including trucks and ATVs), trash dumping, illegal camping and partying, and other dangerous behaviors have been a persistent issue and have degraded and threatened habitat here.

We at DWL appreciate the community members who help protect this habitat and remove trash and ask that everyone please help in our mission to preserve and protect the exceptional beauty and natural resources at Milford Neck. Vehicular access is prohibited here, but foot traffic for passive and non-destructive recreation is permitted and we ask that these activities be done on a strictly carry-in, carry-out basis. Thank you.

PARTNERSHIPS

It's the Tree's Knees! A Dogfish Head Beer Benefits DWL

In a 1782 letter to Thomas McKean, Founding Father, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and one of Delaware's delegates to the Continental Congress, the taste of waters in the Great Cypress Swamp were described as such: The water found among these cedars is stagnant, never putrefies, is always perfectly clear and in colour resembles strong beer. It has a peculiar indescribable taste, but not disagreeable.

Inspired by this history, and DWL's Bald cypress tree restoration work at our 10,600-acre Great Cypress Swamp property, Dogfish Head Brewery used the botanical inventory and scents of the Great Cypress Swamp to formulate the "Trees Knees" beer, a hearty red ale brewed specially for DWL.

The ale features ingredients such as smoked malt, peppercorns, and black urfa chilis to give it a robust, earthy flavor akin to the tannin-laden waters of the Swamp. The name itself is a reference to Bald cypress knees, the woody protuberances that grow up from the roots of the tree to aid with gas exchange and tree stabilization. In December, Dogfish Head Brewery generously hosted a Trees Knees beer release at their Emporium in Rehoboth Beach and a portion of all beer sales support DWL's Bald cypress restoration. A hearty shoutout and thank you to Dogfish Head for "growing" and expanding forest restoration in Delaware!

Kate Hackett and Brigham Whitman at the Trees Knees Beer Release at Dogfish Head's Brewing & Eats in Rehoboth.

RESTORATION

Not All Plants are Created Equal: Keystone Species and their Impact on Biodiversity

DWL is undertaking its largest reforestation project in New Castle County with the planting of 7,000 trees at our Roberts Farm property. Last fall and this spring, hundreds of volunteers helped plant 32 different species of trees and shrubs to help restore the biodiversity that naturally occurs throughout the Taylors Bridge area. The design of this tree planting is more complex than meets the eye as it integrates several "keystone species" into the planting. But what are keystone species, and why are they so important to ecosystem restoration? In architecture, a keystone is a large stone placed at the top of an arch to hold the other stones in place. If it is removed, the arch collapses. So, too, is the case with keystone species.

When these species are removed, ecosystems collapse. The concept of "keystone species" in habitat and forest restoration is relatively new and recognizes that not all native plant species are created equal because they vary in their ability to support ecosystem services, such as nutrient cycling and pollination. A recent study (Narango et al. 2020) determined that a good metric of the ecological function and biodiversity a plant species can support is the number of Lepidopteran species (butterflies and moths) it can host. Caterpillars (the larval stage of butterflies and moths) are critical to terrestrial food webs as they serve as a primary food source for insectivores and are responsible for transferring more energy up the food chain than all other herbivores combined! All insects, but especially caterpillars, form the foundation of a healthy food web, thereby supporting all of the birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals in an ecosystem. Thus, when the researchers found that a minority of plant species support the majority of native Lepidopteran species, they realized that just a few plant species do most of the "heavy lifting" in supporting the ecosystem and maintaining biodiversity.

Taking these concepts into the field, it becomes clear that plant species that support greater amounts of biodiversity enable habitat restoration projects to more effectively transform a degraded landscape into a fully functioning ecosystem.

In ourTaylors Bridge restoration project, DWL integrated keystone species to achieve the greatest ecological function possible with the fewest plants. This approach enables DWL to be most efficient and effective with our limited restoration funding.

The top ten keystone plant genera for achieving high biodiversity in the United States are, in descending order: Oak, willow, cherry, plum, pine, aspen, birch, blueberry, maple, hickory, and crabapple. Of these, DWL's Roberts Farm restoration planting included nine species of oak, cherry, and hickory. Oak saplings are particularly beneficial

because they host over 460 species of native caterpillars, while cherry trees support over 340 species, and hickories over 220. Oaks are also beneficial because they provide a secondary and important food source for birds and mammals when they produce acorns during mast years, which occur every two to five years. In addition to the woody keystone species, the Roberts planting site was also seeded with a variety of wildlife-supporting native perennials, including four keystone species of aster and one of goldenrod.

These native wildflowers support 90 and 106 species of caterpillars, respectively. The Roberts Farm tree plantings, and

Some of the 7,000 trees and shrubs planted at DWL's Roberts Farm, sorted by species.

Scores of volunteers work with DWL to plant keystone tree species at DWL's Roberts Farm.

other tree plantings hosted by DWL, are about more than the trees we are putting in the ground. These plantings are about habitat restoration, which starts with the trees, but also supports the Lepidopterans and other insects that form the base of the food web, the birds and mammals that eat them. The next time you plant a keystone tree species like an oak and imagine how it will become a mighty tree in the future, take some time to also reflect on the impact it will have on the ecosystem, supporting biodiversity far beyond the spread of its limbs.

RESTORATION

A snapshot from 61 years of DWL's conservation work

The Digger:
Seen here is one of a very few photos of the machine that was used to dig the main ditch in the Great Cypress Swamp in the 1930s. A relic from an era where a desire for economically productive lands led to the drainage of countless acres of wetlands, this machine was originally steam-powered (later converted to diesel) and straddled the ditch on four legs and "walked" along as it dug. This machine was thought to be only one of two of its kind, and was unfortunately sold for scrap by its owners around the time Delaware Wild Lands purchased the property.

NATIVE PLANT PROFILE

Sweet leaf

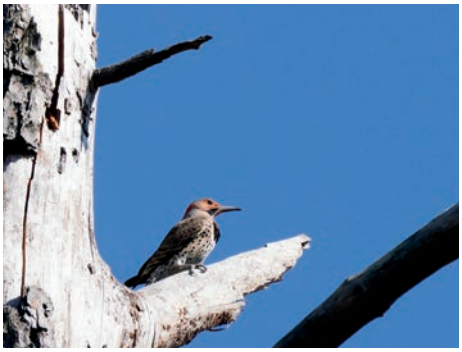
(Symplocos tinctoria)

One of the more common understory components in the forests of the Great Cypress Swamp is Symplocos tinctoria, commonly known as Sweet leaf or Horse sugar. Although we mostly see it in a shrubby state, at maturity, Sweet leaf can attain a height of around 30 feet! Before the days when forestry was conducted with heavy machinery, livestock were used to skid timbered trees from the Swamp and they readily consumed the sweet foliage of this low growing plant. This shade-loving species flowers from March through early May. Its fragrant flowers are a light yellow in color and bear a long, tubular drupe, or simple fleshy fruit, in the fall. In the Great Cypress Swamp, the sturdy green leaves of Sweet leaf persist into winter, dropping or yellowing only after a hard freeze. When the leaves are cast, the stems become a moderate source of deer browse as White-tailed deer switch their diet to more woody components in the winter.

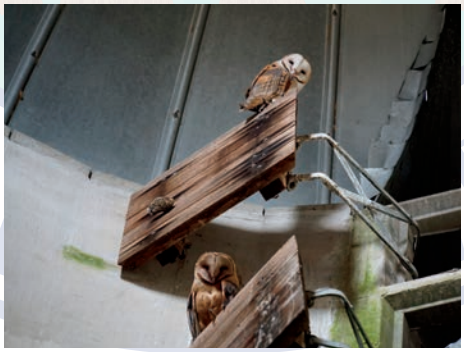
RESEARCH/EDUCATION

Out and About on DWL's Properties

River Otter

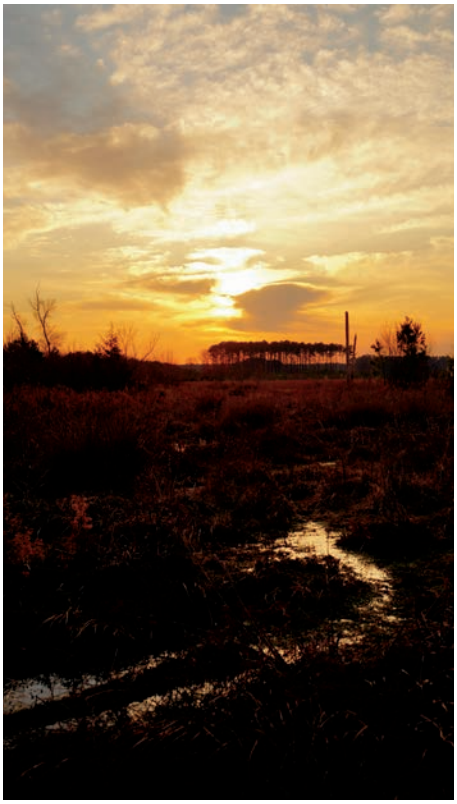


Northern Flicker



Pair of Barn Owls

Green Treefrog



Sunset at DWL's GCS Field 7 restoration site

Northern Shovelers

Spotted Turtle

Bobolinks

Mallard Ducklings

Red Shouldered Hawk

DWL Wish List

Looking for a unique way to support DWL's conservation and restoration efforts, or our stewardship and community outreach work? Check out our wish list:

- Loppers (Stewardship)
- Work gloves (Stewardship)
- Plastic storage totes (Outreach)
- Adult life vests (Outreach)
- 64GB and 16MB SD cards (Wildlife Monitoring, Outreach)
- Galvanized or stainless wood screws, various lengths (Maintenance)
- Drill bits (Maintenance)
- Flagging tape, various colors (Restoration)
- 4ft wooden stakes (Tree Plantings)
- Batteries – AAA, AA & D (Wildlife Surveys)
- Headlamps (Wildlife Surveys)
- Wood duck boxes
- Heavy duty trash bags (Trash Cleanup)
- Chest and hip waders (Wildlife Surveys)
- Cooler, 16-quart (Outreach)
- 4 pool noodles (Outreach)
- Garden hose (New office!)
- Wheelbarrow, with 2 wheels (New office!)

3 easy ways to contribute

1/ Monetary Donation: In addition to accepting cash donations and Donor Advised Funds, DWL accepts the transfer of marketable securities [Mutual Funds, Stocks, Bonds, and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)]. These types of donations may qualify for a tax deduction.

2/ Planned Giving: Did you know you can name DWL as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or include us in your will? It can be as easy as a phone call to your insurance carrier or attorney.

3/ Real Estate: DWL loves landscapes…so we are always pleased to accept donations of land! With permission from donors, we also accept donations of boats, buildings, and other assets, that can be sold and then use the proceeds to further DWL's conservation mission.

We encourage you to contact your financial advisor, estate attorney, or tax consultant to discuss how these transactions can benefit you. DWL also has staff and advisors available to help you and answer questions. For more information, contact Kate Hackett, DWL Executive Director, at 302-378-2736 or khackett@dewildlands.org.

DELAWARE WILD LANDS
PO Box 505
Odessa, DE 19730-0505

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DELAWARE WILD LANDS
PO Box 505, Odessa, DE 19730-0505

Telephone: 302-378-2736
Website: delawarewildlands.org
Email: info@dewildlands.org