



DELAWARE WILD LANDS NEWS

OFFICERS:

EUGENE H. BAYARD, ESQ.
President

RICHARD S. FISCHER
Vice President

BLAINE T. PHILLIPS, ESQ.
Secretary

C. PORTER SCHUTT, III
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

EUGENE H. BAYARD, ESQ.

WILLIAM F. D'ALONZO

THOMAS H. DRAPER, JR.

WILLIAM K. DU PONT

ROBERT L. EDGELL

RICHARD S. FISCHER

CHARLES F. GUMMEY, JR.

CARRIE LINGO

PETER T. MACGAFFIN

GREGORY PETTINARO

BLAINE T. PHILLIPS, ESQ.

C. PORTER SCHUTT, III

ELI R. SHARP

ROBERT W. TUNNELL, III

STAFF:

KATHERINE F. HACKETT
Executive Director

ANDREW S. MARTIN
*Field Ecologist, Program Manager
& Director of Social Media*

KATHLEEN H. HARVEY
Program Manager

BRENNA NESS
Conservation Programs Manager

RONALD J. HAAS
Project Manager

DEBORAH P. TURNER
Administrative Assistant

WENDY SCOTT
Development/Marketing Manager

PETER S. MARTIN
Field Ecologist



This Eastern Screech-Owl, no bigger than a pint glass, sleeps the day away in a Wood Duck box at DWL's Great Cypress Swamp.

Hello Darkness My Old Friend

The Wonders of Nature at Night

Imagine it's a warm spring night. You're outdoors, on the edge of a forest, well away from buildings and roads. A half-moon rises behind the trees into a blanket of stars. A light breeze rustles in the leaves and tall grasses.

As eyes and ears adjust to the darkness, you become aware of the vibrant nocturnal world all around you. A musical chorus of mating insects and frogs fills the air. An owl hoots in the distance. Thousands of feet overhead, a river of migrating birds passes across the moon.

Every living thing needs darkness to thrive. Every plant. Every animal. Every human.

Species such as bees, box turtles, and songbirds are diurnal, meaning they are primarily awake during

the day, and sleep at night. Nocturnal animals such as owls, bats, and fireflies sleep during the day, and are active at night. All animals – including humans – need periods of total darkness.

Light Pollution is a Form of Habitat Loss

In many places, however, the regular cycles of day and night are now completely interrupted by the glow created by artificial lights. Excessive artificial light has negative effects on the survival of wildlife. Light can confuse some animals and insects (moths, frogs, sea turtles) by attracting them to places they shouldn't be, making them easy prey, or just resulting in a trap which exhausts and kills them. Other animals simply avoid well-lit areas, excluding them from habitat where they might otherwise breed or make a living. Without darkness, crucial resting time is reduced, and mating cycles are altered so much that some species fail to reproduce.

Where the Wild Things Are – in the Dark

Large tracts of undeveloped land are the places with the darkest skies. And the most welcoming places for wildlife are large, undisturbed areas with

A few nocturnal animals that depend on Delaware Wild Lands:

- *Eastern Screech-Owl*
- *Big Brown Bat*
- *Spring Peepers*
- *Carpenter Frogs*
- *Flying Squirrels*

Notes from Kate Hackett

DWL's Executive Director

*Blooming maple buds at the
Great Cypress Swamp.*

I grew up in the Appalachian Mountains where I spent the early days of spring among mountain laurel, digging for ramps and swinging from grapevines. These days, I've made a few trades: replacing ramps with tender cat briar leaves and grapevine adventures for marsh boardwalks and hummocks.

Regardless of my 14-year-old experiences in the mountains, or my 40(ish)-year-old experiences throughout Delaware, more than ever I am compelled to nurture nature and achieve higher levels of

stewardship and management of the 21,000 acres owned by DWL. More than ever, I understand the need to visit and bring others to witness the scenic vistas along Route 9 that imbue a sense of the past, our future, and our shared cultural history. More than ever, scheduled visits to DWL properties inspire awe and wonder about something much greater than the influence of one individual. These lands protected forever by DWL, along Route 9, at Milford Neck, and at the Great Cypress Swamp, reflect DWL's appreciation of and commitment to simplicity. We are

grateful to our founders' foresight and five decades of financial investment and sweat equity in Delaware's future.

As you read further and learn more about our activities, I hope you also will embrace a tradition of land protection and join us in expanding efforts to sustain the future of Delaware's vital landscapes. Read on for ways you can get involved, volunteer, support our work, or participate in an event. With your help, we are making a commitment to secure the natural vitality of the First State, our past, and our future.

Governor Carney and Girl Scouts Recognize Kate Hackett

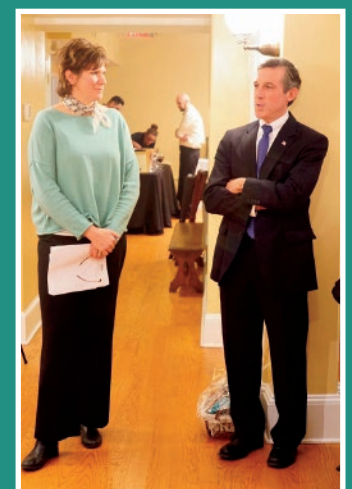
Governor's Transition Team

Governor Carney recognized Kate's leadership by appointing her to his Transition Team. Kate, and 35 others Delawareans with diverse areas of expertise, developed recommendations and action items to help guide the Governor's policy objectives. Kate served on the Economic Development & Healthy Environment committee.

"Not only was my work with the Transition Team an opportunity to identify critical issues and creative solutions, I also developed new partnerships for Delaware Wild Lands," said Kate. "I forged new relationships with Governor Carney, his staff, my fellow Transition Team members, and other Delawareans up and down the state. I enjoyed sharing Delaware's many successes in protecting our natural resources – and shining a light on DWL's role in that history."

This spring, the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay presented their 18th Annual Woman of Distinction award to Kate Hackett at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington. "It was a great honor, and I'm delighted the Girl Scouts chose Nurturing Nature as this year's theme," said Kate. "This celebration helped inspire influential adults and Girl Scouts – our future female leaders – about the importance of the nature and the environment to our society."

Dr. Nancy Targett, the first woman president of the University of Delaware and now provost at the University of New Hampshire, served as this year's Honorary Chair.



*Governor Carney chats with
Kate Hackett at our Wild Game
Dinner (Cantwell's Tavern).*

Delaware Wild Lands' Board of Directors: *Bob Edgell*

As a successful businessman and avid outdoorsman, Bob Edgell stands at the ready and is always prepared to lend his expertise to Delaware Wild Lands, whether it be in the field or in the Board Room. Born and raised in Kent County, Bob takes pride in laying the groundwork for success literally and figuratively. As President of Teal Construction, Bob expanded his business from a utility construction business to a full-service firm that offers an array of underground and above ground construction and site prep work. Pragmatic and practical in his approach, and creative and strategic in his thinking, Bob knows well how to grow an organization without compromising quality and results. His commitment to delivering high quality outcomes, clear decision-making abilities and unwavering integrity are as apparent in his professional endeavors as they are at his 1,400-acre Bombay Hook Farm and around the DWL Boardroom table.

Away from the office, and as a long-time DWL Board member, Bob's business acumen and prowess in habitat management are helping DWL garner additional land conservation and restoration successes. Always keenly interested in land conservation and habitat restoration, Bob leverages his expertise in construction and business management with his

keen eye for conservation to help DWL rebuild, restore, and expand important wildlife habitat throughout Delaware.

Bob is active with Delaware Ducks Unlimited, having served DU in numerous capacities including State Chairman and Kent County Chapter Chairman. Bob resides in Dover with Lynn, his wife of 49 years. Recognizing the importance of the wetlands on his Bombay Hook Farm, and the waterfowl and wildlife that depend on that habitat, Bob spends countless hours at the Farm with family and friends never tiring of the rich display of waterfowl and wildlife present and passing through. In his free time, Bob enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, travel, The Greater Kent Committee, and The Lewes Yacht Club.

DWL is fortunate to benefit from Bob's reliable experience and enduring perspective. We are grateful to Bob for his service to the DWL Board of Directors and look forward to continuing our work to improve the quality and availability of Delaware's natural resources and most important waterfowl and wildlife habitat!

Aspiring Eagle Scouts Add Character to the Sharp Farm

DWL's Sharp Farm is getting a little love from two Eagle Scout candidates.

Owen Fink, from Troop 283, created a ¼ mile trail that loops through the Sharp Farm's diverse hardwood forest and early successional habitat. With the help of nearly 25 volunteers, Owen's trail was completed in a single day. The trail includes a series of interpretive signs that can be easily updated to provide educational information tailored to various age groups or interest areas. DWL plans to use the trail for education and entertainment during scheduled events at the Sharp Farm. Visitors will have an opportunity to discover local plant and animal life in a natural environment and learn about how DWL manages these habitats.

Gabe Nichols, from Troop 123, will soon be constructing tables, benches, and outdoor games for DWL. This outdoor equipment expands DWL's capacity to hold volunteer and education events at the Sharp Farm. We look forward to inviting the community to enjoy these new additions in the coming year.



Before-and-After photos of this Eagle Scout Project gives a sneak peek of the fun to come at the Sharp Farm.



Hello Darkness My Old Friend

The Wonders of Nature at Night

plenty of food and forage – like the 21,000 acres owned and managed by Delaware Wild Lands.

We're in the business of "forever" and have spent decades ensuring that the natural beauty of Delaware's iconic landscapes will continue, now and for generations to come. We follow best practices in conservation science, and we work to restore healthy ecological systems on our lands. Some species live on our properties year-round, and some depend on traveling through the wildlife corridors we have carefully connected over the years.

Migrating at Night

Most birds and many insects migrate at night. On any given night in the spring and fall, thousands of birds migrate across the Delmarva Peninsula. Nocturnal birds, such as owls and nighthawks, always fly at night. Other species of birds, such as thrushes, vireos, and nuthatches, fly at night during migration periods only. There are many reasons why some birds like to migrate when it's dark. The stars and moon help with navigation. The atmosphere

is often calmer at night, making for easier flight and maintaining a steady course, especially for smaller birds such as warblers. Cooler temperatures keep hard-working birds from overheating. Flying under the cover of darkness keeps birds safe from daytime predators like hawks and cats.

Wildlife corridors of open space with dark skies also keep birds safe from the dangers of city lights. Sadly, birds often confuse the lights in tall buildings with starlight, especially in fog or rain. Once disoriented, many birds collide with the buildings and fall to the sidewalks below. Hundreds can be injured or killed in a single night at just one building.

In addition, large areas of healthy habitat along the way, like the properties of DWL, offer places for migrating animals to find food during the day. Night travelling birds and insects will spend the daylight hours in a high-quality stopover area, resting and eating to regain the weight lost in their overnight flight.



DE F&W Offers New Conservation Access Pass

Please help support improvements to Wildlife Management Areas owned by the State of Delaware

Submitted by Dave Saveikis, Director, Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife

Beginning July 1, 2017, a State of Delaware Conservation Access Pass (CAP) will be needed for registered motor vehicles to access State-owned Wildlife Areas for hunting, birdwatching, photography, hiking, and similar activities. The purpose of this new Pass is to help provide needed funding to maintain and improve public access facilities and wildlife habitat on state Wildlife Areas.

Hunters can receive a free CAP with the purchase of their hunting license. Others will need to purchase a Conservation Area Pass, at an annual pass cost of \$32.50 (for residents). Starting July 1, Conservation Access Passes may be purchased on-line, at the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife licensing desk (in the Richardson and Robbins Building, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE), or at authorized license agents throughout the state. Please visit www.de.gov/fw for more information, including CAP costs and areas exempt from the Pass.

DON'T MISS...“IN THE DARK”

June 24 - September 4

This summer, DWL is providing sights and sounds from Wild Land's properties for a new exhibit at the Delaware Natural History Museum about how some plants and animals have adapted to ecosystems like caves, the deep sea, the forest at night, and underneath the ground. You and your family will be able to explore mysteries of the dark via electronic, mechanical and computer interactives, immersive dioramas, and lifelike models.

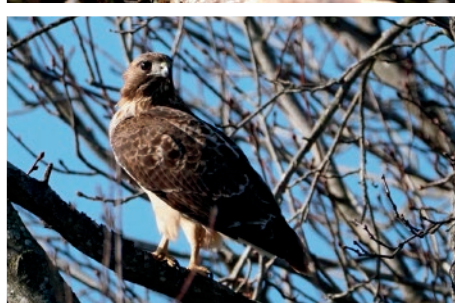
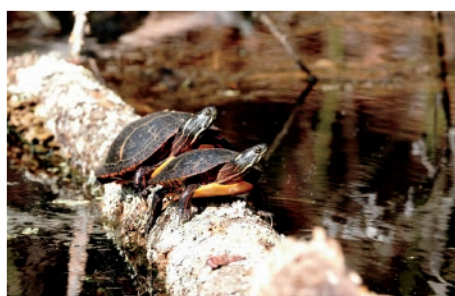
Read more at delmnh.org/event/in-the-dark/



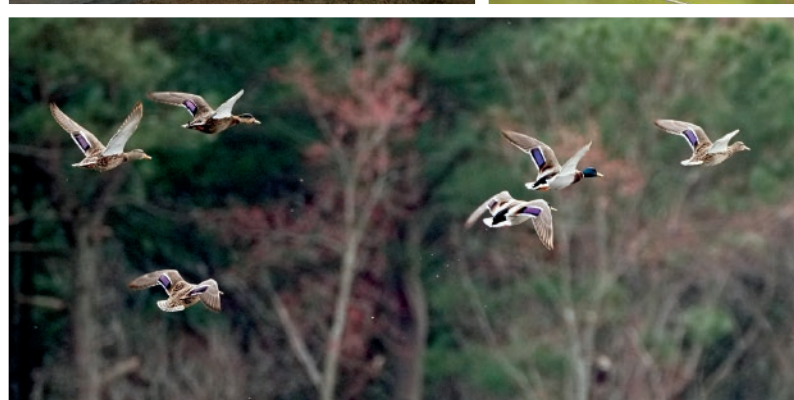
**Delaware Museum
of Natural History**

DWL's Great Cypress Swamp Restoration Benefits Wildlife and People

Our wetland restoration efforts at the Great Cypress Swamp are paying off for wildlife and plant communities...and human communities surrounding the Swamp. Last fall, following a downpour of 10" of rain, DWL's Great Cypress Swamp soaked up floodwaters like a giant sponge. Instead of inundating downstream communities, enhanced and expanded wetlands at the Swamp prevented flooding and facilitated replenishment of groundwater that will be needed during the dry months of the summer.



OUT AND ABOUT ON DELAWARE WILD LANDS' PROPERTIES



Leave a Lasting Legacy

You can protect this beautiful vista – forever

A gift through your will, retirement plan, or insurance policy is one of the simplest ways to support Delaware Wild Lands. These thoughtful gifts ensure that we can continue our work long into the future, protecting the beauty and bounty of Delaware's iconic landscapes.

Gift and estate planning with Delaware Wild Lands is a low-cost and tax-efficient way to support our mission. It also allows you to address other important financial needs such as generating annual income, caring for

aging relatives, or donating land assets with retained use rights.

For more information, please call Kate Hackett at (302) 378-2736, or visit our website at www.dewildlands.org/make-a-contribution/planned-giving.

Have you already designated a gift to Delaware Wild Lands through your will, retirement plan, or insurance policy? If so, please let us know your plans so that we can thank you.

How are Wild Game Dinners like potato chips?

Because you can't eat at just one!

Our annual Wild Game Dinners at Cantwell's Tavern have become so popular we took the concept on the road – to Abbott's Grill in Kent County.

Both events were full of fabulous food and fun to benefit Delaware Wild Lands and conservation throughout the First State. Our guests enjoyed 5-course feasts creatively paired with an alcohol selection that complimented the featured dishes.

Thank you to Cantwell's Tavern and our event sponsors— M&T Bank, Pratt Insurance, and Brown Advisory – for another wonderful evening!

Our dinner at Abbott's Grill was also a delicious success and the team at Abbott's Grill pulled out all the stops to make us feel welcome. Thank you to our sponsors who supported this new event: Crawford Financial Services, L&W Insurance, Teal Construction, Inc., Atlantic Concrete, and Turners Creek & Bombay Hook Farms.

Of course, these Wild Game Dinners would not be possible without generous contributions of game from Bob Ashby, Charlie Blaisdell, Greg Pettinaro, Rob Piascinski, Dan Hackett, Brad du Pont, Rick Fischer, and Hank Draper. We couldn't have done it without you!



Three reasons to attend our annual Wild Game Dinner at Cantwell's Tavern: good food, good friends, and a good cause.



Who would suspect a combination of moose sausage and grilled octopus would be so delicious?

The Science of Photography:

How DWL Uses Trail Cameras for Conservation

Have you ever wondered about wildlife that roams the woods at night? Or how many bucks live nearby? DWL answers these and other questions using trail cameras, which help us monitor the size, age, and gender ratio of deer herds as well as the abundance and health of nocturnal species on DWL properties.

At DWL's 10,500-acre Great Cypress Swamp, we conduct intensive camera surveys by placing 18 trail cameras in representative habitats at the Swamp. Each year, volunteers donate their equipment and time to capture, review, and analyze thousands of photos of bucks, does, and fawns.

Insights gleaned from these data enable DWL to monitor long-term trends in deer density, adult sex ratios, and fawn recruitment, all of which are indicators of the health of a deer herd and the health of the habitat. When their populations are out of balance, extensive browsing of vegetation by deer, or "deer over-browse," can have detrimental effects on forest habitats and agricultural crops. These tenacious herbivores can easily clear acres of emerging agricultural crops or newly planted trees.

The loss of seedlings and sapling trees, in particular, threatens the ability of forests to regenerate, which causes a serious concern for DWL's forest restoration efforts in the Great Cypress Swamp. In addition to managing the deer population, DWL uses trail cameras to measure biodiversity on our properties and observe secretive and nocturnal species such as wild turkey and red fox.

Trail cameras provide a simple method of conducting science-based surveys, which guide our conservation practices and management decisions. And, you never know what might show up on camera!

A "piebald" deer seen near one of DWL's properties.



A turkey struts its stuff past DWL's trail camera.



A trail camera captures a reclusive raccoon foraging at night.



DELAWARE WILD LANDS NEWS


315 Main Street, PO Box 505
Odessa, DE 19730-0505

Telephone: 302-378-2736


Facsimile: 302-378-3629

Website: delawarewildlands.org

Email: info@delawarewildlands.org

 Delaware Wild Lands

 @DEWildlands

 delaware_wild_land

Delaware Wild Lands relies on the support of those who are committed to achieving great conservation in the First State.
Please support the work of Delaware Wild Lands
with a tax-deductible contribution.

Upcoming DWL Events

PICK AND PULL AT THE SHARP FARM

JULY 13, 4-6PM

Pull invasive plants and pick wineberries and blackberries
to take home and bake into delicious desserts.

DELAWARE COASTAL CLEANUP

SEPT. 16, 9AM-12PM

Participate in an international effort to clear trash from
shorelines. Register with DNR/EC to select a location from
more than 50 cleanup sites, including DWL properties.

BLACKBIRD CREEK PADDLE TRIP

FALL 2017

Join us for a tour of DWL lands via kayak or canoe!
Check back for details on this event.

For more information on these and
other events, be sure to follow us on at:
Facebook.com/DelawareWildLands

