



Planning for the Future

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

PHOTO BY DEAN DONOVAN

Challenges await. Together, we can meet them.



DelNature is more committed than ever to building a sustainable future where nature thrives, and all people have the opportunity to connect with, learn from and protect the natural world.

With increasing threats from climate change and habitat loss, our work has never been more important.

Building on our strengths developed in partnerships over the last 60 years, DelNature has created a three-part strategic plan that will guide our organization through 2027.

We strive to be:

Healthy & Resilient

Supporting healthy communities and plentiful natural areas and ecosystems that host and protect diversity and are resilient to changing conditions.

Informed & Engaged

Building an environmentally literate, diverse community of people who understand the challenges and are engaged in finding and supporting creative solutions.

Dynamic & Sustainable

Ensuring we are a compelling organization that serves as a model, change agent, and viable source of mutual support for natural areas and communities.

With this plan as our foundation, and you as our partner, we can make Delaware a national model for environmental stewardship. We're excited to see the results.

Join us today!

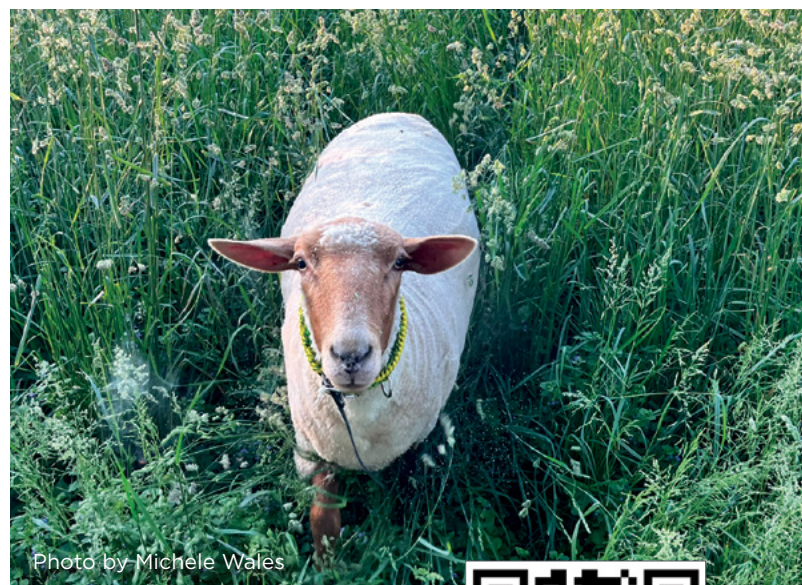


Photo by Michele Wales

Read the complete
strategic plan



From the Executive Director



Dear Members, Volunteers, and Friends,

I'm pleased to share our Annual Report for 2023, a year of planning for the future of Delaware Nature Society. Throughout the year, we engaged hundreds of stakeholders seeking input as part of a year-long strategic planning process. From our own staff and board, to other members, donors and key partners, we gathered insights through retreats, surveys, interviews and meetings. The result is a new strategic plan entitled "Life Depends on Us" featured here and online at www.DelNature.org.

Something that came out loud and clear in the planning process is that our mission is strong and unifying. Another is that our unique value is doing a range of environmental work, which gives us the ability to reach many different kinds of people across Delaware, in different ways. We emerged more committed than ever to our mission of **connecting people and nature to create a healthy environment for all, through education, conservation and advocacy.**

While the strategic plan itself is the top highlight of our work in 2023, we also took some important steps toward achieving the goals of this new plan, including:

- Reinvigorating our land protection work with new easement projects and advocating for increases in conservation funding.
- Fully welcoming people back to all four of our sites, with new leadership at Abbott's Mill Nature Center and DuPont Environmental Education Center.
- Expanding conservation work and partnerships for creating and caring for green spaces in the City of Wilmington.
- Growing overall participation in our programs and events by 40% over 2022 (a whopping 86% over 2021!)
- Using scholarships to provide opportunities for over 1,000 children to participate in our programs.
- Investing in our financial systems and exploring new government grants to build our capacity for managing more and different sources of revenue.

Our planning in 2023 also laid the groundwork for 60th Anniversary events and programs in 2024 by identifying key themes to promote and celebrate. In the process we realized that **we have much to celebrate, and even more to accomplish.**

We can't do either without you - thank you for your support and partnership!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jen Adkins
Executive Director

Our Mission

Connecting people and nature to create a healthy environment for all through education, conservation, and advocacy.

Our Vision

We envision Delaware as a place where people:

- View themselves as part of nature and understand that nature is essential for life
- Recognize the immediacy of addressing environmental issues
- Take pride and find joy in caring for the natural world

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Laura Schumacher
Alexandra White
Katherine Fisher
Tyler Conover

THANK YOU!
Thanks also to our Seasonal and Part Time Staff.
Our work would not be possible without all of you!



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR MEMBERS AND DONORS!

Your membership and donations help support our mission of connecting people and nature to create a healthy environment for all through education, conservation, and advocacy.

Become a Member today: **DelNature.org/Join**



Honor Roll List of Donors

We extend sincere thanks to our many friends and donors whose combined commitment and loyalty make possible Delaware Nature Society's ongoing work to connect people with nature and improve the environment through education, conservation, and advocacy. The following contributions reflect donations received by Delaware Nature Society in Fiscal Year 2023 (January 1 through December 31, 2023). We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of these listings - if you notice any inaccuracies, please contact us at 302.239.2334 to update our records.

Endowment Gifts

Endowment Gifts are planned gifts that provide perpetual annual support for DelNature's education programs, conservation stewardship, and advocacy initiatives. The following are endowment gifts received between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

Estate of Karen Zeitler
Estate of Connie Logothetis

Monarch Legacy Society

The Monarch Legacy Society recognizes individuals who have made long-term provisions for DelNature through an estate planning arrangement. All known members of the Monarch Legacy Society are listed. If you have intentions to plan an estate gift or would like more information, please contact us at 302.239.2334..

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Marcus & Diliana Henry
Margaretta Frederick & Michael Martin
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Corteva AgriScience
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
Wilmington Trust
Dan Barbato
Dogfish Head Craft Brewed Ales
BrightFields, Inc.

Reaching & Engaging with Nature to Empower Wilmington (RENEW) Program

BlackRock, Inc.
DuPont Corporation
Veolia North America, Inc
June J. Peterson
Corteva AgriScience

2023 Gifts, Grants & Contributions

Gifts received 2023, January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

The Guardians

Guardians provide leadership support of \$1,000 or more to advance organizational priorities in fulfillment of our mission.

Guardians \$100,000+

Herbert & Yvonne Blades

National Audubon Society
The Bancorp, Inc.
William Penn Foundation

Guardians \$50,000-99,999

Maggie Brokaw
Exelon Power
National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

Guardians \$25,000-49,999

E. Bradford du Pont
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Tribute gifts are those made to DelNature In Memory or In Honor of a loved one.

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In Honor of Lorraine M. Fleming

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In Honor of Mike Riska

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Chris Killian

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Jennifer Drawbridge
Matthew Riley

In Memory of Mary Lou McCabe

The Estate of Mary Lou McCabe

In Memory of Michael Johnson

Rhonda & John Brown

In Memory of Naomi Brown Edwards

Barbara & Jeffrey Garland

In Memory of Raimon L. Beard

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In Memory of Rita McWhorter

Camille Berl
James McGowan
Carla & Jack Markell

In Memory of Shannon Modla

Julie Taie

In Memory of Stuart Lawrence Wilkie

Kathy Butler

In Memory of Jim McGovern

Leonard Avdey

Gifts to the Mike Riska Education Intern Scholarship Fund

Helen & Brian Fischel

Gifts to the Mary Fey Jenkins Scholarship Fund

Helen & Brian Fischel
Barbara & Jeffrey Garland
Mary Ping

In Kind

Non-cash contributions

Wild Birds Unlimited
Frank Levy & Rawnie Paradis
Hank & Mary Davis

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Contributing 20+ hours

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Daniel Barbato
Michael Bard
Walt Blackwell
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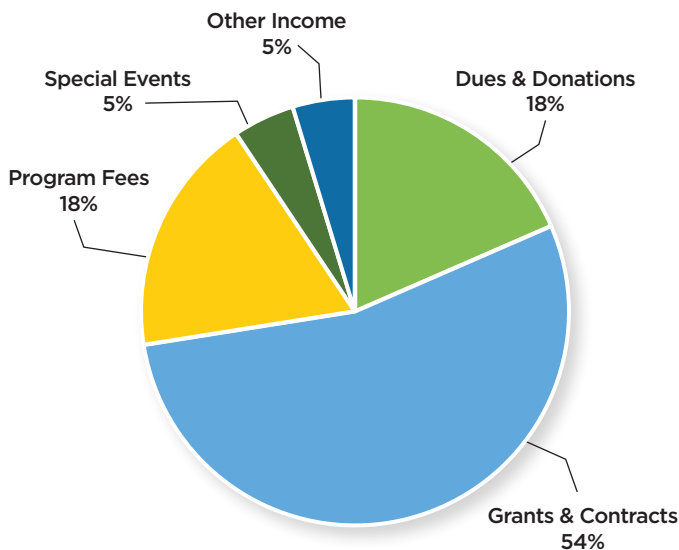
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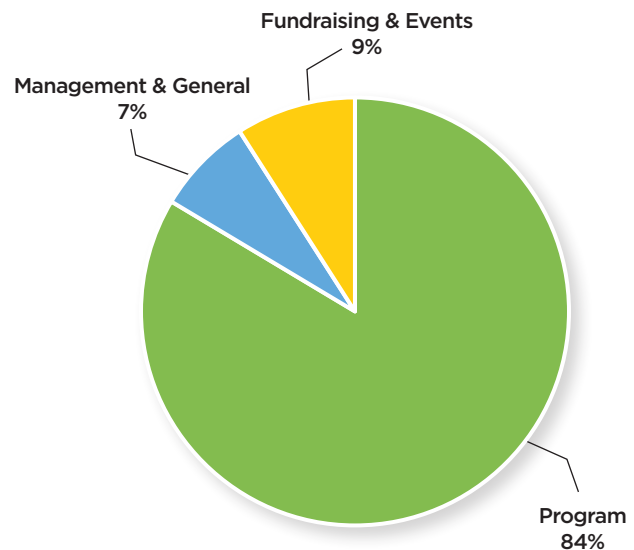
2023 Financial Summary

Income

(excluding Investment Income)



Expenses



SUPPORT & REVENUE

	2023	2022	2021
Dues & Donations	748,259	526,637	2,273,161
Grants & Contracts	2,189,304	1,413,956	2,568,603
Program Fees	734,426	752,863	599,309
Special Events	189,397	139,034	139,635
Other Income	190,959	210,563	159,229
Investment Income	3,383,572	(4,096,392)	2,929,794
<i>(Includes Unrealized Gains/Losses)</i>			

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE

7,435,917 **(1,053,339)** **8,669,731**

EXPENSES

Program	4,126,241	3,545,912	3,487,975
Management & General	362,790	423,578	317,579
Fundraising & Events	447,709	279,103	251,146

TOTAL EXPENSES

4,936,740 **4,248,593** **4,056,700**

Surplus/(Deficit)

2,499,177 **(5,301,932)** **4,613,031**

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, & NET ASSET SUMMARY

Cash & cash equivalents	1,387,330	1,902,736	1,181,657
Marketable securities	24,250,532	21,650,675	27,191,149
Accounts & grants receivable	1,228,582	636,344	1,053,441
Prepaid expenses	52,169	44,226	44,970
Property & equipment, net	24,228,880	24,331,769	24,391,079

TOTAL ASSETS

51,147,493 **48,565,750** **53,862,296**

Total Liabilities

309,273 226,707 221,878

Total Net Assets

50,838,220 48,339,043 53,640,418

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

51,147,493 **48,565,750** **53,862,296**

Operating Revenue

4,269,210 4,002,585 4,258,380

Operating Expenses

4,505,613 3,819,993 3,675,685

Operating Surplus/(Deficit)

(236,403) **182,592** **582,696**



HAPPY RETIREMENT JIM WHITE

At the beginning of 2023, Jim White, Senior Fellow for Land & Biodiversity Management, retired after 42 years on staff at Delaware Nature Society. Jim has played many roles - an educator, land manager, herpetologist, author, photographer, colleague, manager, mentor, leader and expert representative to other groups and committees. Through these roles he has touched the lives of so many people (and other life forms!) and has been a force of nature, FOR nature, here in Delaware and beyond.

*On behalf of the whole team here at Delaware Nature Society,
congratulations and thank you Jim!*



LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY THAT BENEFITS THE ENVIRONMENT

When you include DelNature in your Estate Plans or Will, you can trust that you are leaving a lasting gift to preserve and protect land, wildlife, and natural resources through our conservation and advocacy efforts. You are inspiring future generations through our education programs. For more information on how to make a planned gift and join our Monarch Legacy Society, please visit DelNature.org/donate





Abbott's Mill Nature Center
15411 Abbott's Pond Road
Milford, DE 19963

Ashland Nature Center
3511 Barley Mill Road
Hockessin, DE 19707

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543 Way Road
Greenville, DE 19807

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DelNature.org

THANK YOU!