

CELEBRATING Resilience & Regeneration BIENNIAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

Youth Getting Outdoors with DelNature's Trail Ambassadors

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Ashland Nature Center | PO Box 700, Hockessin, DE 19707 Phone: 302.239.2334 | Fax 302.239.2473

Our Vision & Mission

DelNature envisions a healthy and sustainable environment for all.

Our mission is to connect people with the natural world to improve our environment through education, conservation, and advocacy.

Letter From Our Director

Delaware Nature Society's (DelNature) resilience as an organization is remarkable. Looking back on 2020 and 2021 is both humbling and surreal for me as its new Executive Director.

It's surreal to realize that for at least half of that time, basic work functions like meetings, programs and events weren't feasible because of the threat they posed to public health. And humbling to reflect on how people responded to the challenges that created, learning new technology, finding innovative ways to interact safely, all under stressful conditions like masking and social distancing. As wellness became the national focus, our preserves teemed with people seeking physical and spiritual relief from their isolation indoors, creating both new opportunities and new challenges.

Yet, with your support we achieved some incredible things during this time, like a new Clean Water Trust for Delaware and our new Market at Coverdale Farm open to the public.

I'm grateful to those who steered DelNature through the worst of this storm. Anne Harper navigated multiple waves of COVID and our first-ever pandemic policies until her retirement as Executive Director in June 2021. Joanne McGeoch bravely stepped in as Interim Executive Director to navigate back into offices and programs until her

hland Nature Center Hawk Watch Hill, Photography by Christi Lees

departure in June 2022, while continuing to lead our fundraising efforts. As Director of Advocacy until November 2021, Emily Knearl led the way in advocating remotely to achieve a major victory for clean water and make environmental justice a core component of our work. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, support for DelNature did not waiver thanks to them and to you.

We survived this storm intact but not without change. The pandemic revealed the importance of nature for health and resilience while highlighting the fact that we don't all have the same access to those benefits. It also took a heavy toll on our staff and volunteers that we are still recovering from today. With your support, we are thinking creatively about how to regrow parts of DelNature that have been lost. Because our work connecting people to the natural world is more important than ever - not just to improve the environment, but for the wellness of the people who live here.



Jen Adkins **Executive Director**

Highlights of 2020-2021

Education Thrived Online

Our online education programs for all ages flourished, including a new Master Naturalist Certification Program in partnership with the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension.

Since its launch in Fall 2020, 112 Master Naturalists have completed the program and committed 40+ hours annually to conservation initiatives such as restoration and habitat management, environmental education, and community science.

\$150K in Grants Supported Open Space & Resiliency

Fifteen grants totaling nearly \$150K supported open space and resiliency projects in Delaware and Maryland. These grants were made possible by our partnership with Delmarva Power's Sustainable Communities Grant Fund.

This regional program awards grants each year to provide funding to support:

- Open space preservation
- Improvements to parks and recreation resources
- Environmental conservation
- Innovative community resiliency project

In 2020-2021 projects included:

- Developing recreational trails
- Purchasing open space
- Restoring forests and other habitat
- Installing solar array systems

10K Native Plants Improve Biodiversity Across Delaware

Our annual Native Plant Sale moved online and was offered in the spring and the fall. Using this new covid-safe format, DelNature constituents across the state purchased over 10K native plants, improving biodiversity in their backvards.

Over 400 volunteers participated in planting 800 native trees to improve habitat, water quality, and biodiversity at the Middle Run

\$50M in Funding for Clean Water for Delaware

Governor John Carney signed the Clean Water for Delaware Act into law. This included an initial investment of \$50M for clean water infrastructure projects prioritizing high need communities in Delaware.

This achievement was made possible by the dedication of our partners in the Clean Water Alliance, University of Delaware Water Resources Center, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Center for Inland Bays, and Water Warrior volunteers.

98 Rare Saltmarsh Sparrows Observed

Our Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve is an eBird hotspot with 98 total observations of the native Saltmarsh Sparrow, which is on the Conservation Red Watch List.





40 Years of Education in Southern Delaware Celebrated

We proudly celebrated Abbott's Mill Nature Center's 40th Anniversary in 2021 and adapted to the pandemic by taking our Pre-K - 5th grade programs with Milford School District virtual.

DelNature also forged a new partnership with the City of Milford Parks and Recreation Department to develop public programming for the Mispillion Riverwalk Greenway.

Rare Birds Arrived at Coverdale Farm Preserve

Bird surveys throughout the preserve confirmed breeding by declining grassland birds like the Field Sparrow and woodland birds of conservation concern including Wood Thrush and Veeries - positive signals of our ongoing habitat management.

1,400 Children & Teens **Grew Through RENEW**

In 2021, we expanded our youth development programs in the City of Wilmington, engaging over 1,400 children and teens in outdoor activities.

Our environmental educators led a variety of activities at community centers, city parks including the Southbridge Wilmington Wetland Park, DuPont Environmental Education Center, Wilmington's Riverwalk, and on the water.



DelNature constructed an energyefficient Agriculture Education Building at Coverdale Farm Preserve. It includes a produce wash and pack area, walk-in cooler, propagation greenhouse, and farm market.

Our market is open to the public weekly Friday - Sunday.

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 2020 (January 1 through December 31, 2020) and Fiscal Year 2021 (January 1 through December 31, 2021).

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of these listings - if you notice any inaccuracies, please contact Marie Graham, Development Manager 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, 2020 and December 31, 2021. Estate of Ethel L. Sayre Estate of George M. Fisher IV

Monarch Legacy Society

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

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Coverdale **Farm Preserve Master Plan**

New Castle Conservation District

Farm to Fork **Sponsorships**

Farm to Fork is Delaware Nature Society's premier fundraising

event. Donors reflect event or table sponsors at Farm to Fork. Corteva AgriScience Dogfish Head Craft Brewed Ales M&T Bank Calvert Retail **Blessings Greenhouses** Brightfields Inc. Margaretta Frederick & Michael Martin Artesian Water Peter & Karen Flint Kristen & Peter Abessinio Susan & Michael Williams

Reaching & Engaging

with Nature to Empower Wilmington (RENEW) Program

BlackRock. Inc. Brokaw Foundation Corteva AgriScience DuPont Corporation

PSEG Nuclear REI The Chemours Company

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2020 Gifts, Grants, and Contributions

Gifts received during FY 2020, January 1. 2020 through December 31, 2020

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

Guardians \$100,000+

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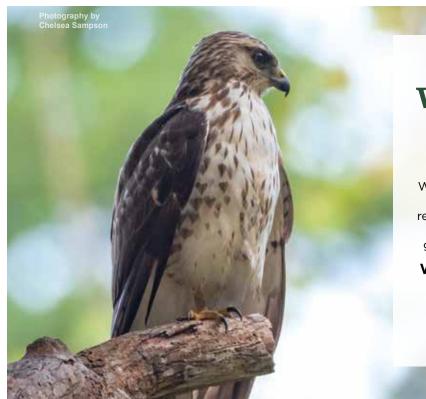
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Plan your Legacy with Delaware Nature Society!

When you include us in your Estate Plans or Will, you can trust that you are leaving a lasting gift to preserve and protect land, natural resources and wildlife through our conservation and advocacy efforts, while inspiring future generations through our education programs.

What better legacy can you imagine?

Learn how to make a planned gift and join our Monarch Legacy Society: Marie Graham, Development Manager, 302.413.5066, Marie.Graham@DelNature.org Frank Levy & Rawnie Paradis Charles Ganter Christine Hansen Suzanne Seubert Susan Welles Neenah & William Newell Kris Arcuri David Camp Sue Schaefer & Paul Dennison Girl Scout Troop #537 Marv Kav & Dick Haden Stephanie Jaynes Dale Kendall Debby Kern Charles & Susan Salkin Karen Satterthwaite Peter Shields Val & Bob Suter Wynne & Sam Wharry Wendy & Bill Schickler Bruce & Jennifer Vrana Gary Martin Virginia Schiavelli Mary & Louis Aviola Mary MaloneyHuss & S. Benjamin Goldstein Joanne McGeoch & Steve Needs

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Gifts received during FY 2021, January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

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– Thank you – Tree Planting Volunteers

500 volunteers 2,400 trees planted

as part of the Middle Run Valley **Reforestation Project 2020-2021**



Kathryn & Peter Scudera Roland Wall & Kate Tyler Wall Julius Meisel & Nancy Devine Commonwealth Trust Company Dr. & Mrs. John L. W. Jones Peter Horty & Susan Knoll Horty Peter Jernakoff & Kathervn Warren Swigg Real Wine, Craft Beer & Spirits First Unitarian Church Marv Malonev Huss & S. Benjamin Goldstein Mary & Phil Duncan Thomas & Elizabeth Scott University of Delaware -Water Quality Improvement Investment Project Vanessa Downing & Tim Sheppard Jennifer & Michael Steiner Cathleen & Peter Wilder Harvey & Janet Manchester Angelia Seyfferth & Rodrigo Vargas Garrett & Christine Moritz Austin Okie Adam & Jaime Morgan The Goddard School of Newark Charles & Renee Anderson Debra Buczik & Jay Muller **DE Invasive Species Council** Joan Bolling Ray Mortenson & Jean Wardle James & Kathleen Patton Bruce & Jennifer Vrana Lindsay & Jonathan Romak Dale Kendall Hillary & Jed Patterson Barbara & Francis Dinsmore Dr. & Mrs. Edward J. Ledden Rhonda & Jason Normore Lisa Brubaker Mayura & Geoffrey Simon Jerry & Judith VanderWerff Protectors \$150-\$499 Anonymous Donors Christopher & Ann Coons Carol Dickerson Pauline & Jim Eversmann James Fraley & Theresa McGinn Nathan & Marilyn Hayward Randy & Linda Marvel Michael & Maria McCabe Kim Overby Andrea & Rodney Scott Patt Olesky Jeff & Lynn Pantazes Gail Gormley Jim E. Malin's Plumbing & Heating Dan Greenberg Clifford & Janice Smith Jean Faddis Daniel & Shelby French Frederick & Elly Alexander Leonard Avdev William F. & Linda O. Brizendine Ellen Covle William Farnham & Karen Sperle Megan & Bill Goeller Bob & Toni Newton Fritz Schumann Molly & Fli Sharp Starkey & Company, P.A. Gordon Manin & Margot Waitz John Strange

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Holly Lissner & Richard Angiullo Harold & Jean White Cynthia & Gabriel Bonnes

Tribute Gifts

Memorial gifts are generous gifts received in memory of a loved one and are allocated towards Delaware Nature Society's endowment fund (unless otherwise noted)

In Honor of Aaron Sharp Michael & Kathryn Brickner

In Honor of Alice Mohrman Gary Zylkuski

In Honor of Anne Harper Ellen Kohler

In Honor of Carter VanDusen Cathy & Mart Amick

In Honor of Chervl & Steve Halev

Anonymous In Honor of Chris Kane

& Rachel Sweigart Lu & Andy Johnston Andrew Nitschke

In Honor of Dr. Debra Mangino Barbara & Jeffrey Garland

In Honor of Dr. James Bouzoukis Preeti Dalawari

In Honor of Eliza Barnett Suzanne & Carl Gomolka

In Honor of Eric J. Brinsfield Marion Brinsfield

In Honor of Frances Bavard Emily W B Southgate Samuel & Rena Barnett

In Honor of George & Carol Fox Nancy Wedeking

In Honor of lan Stewart Diane & Robert McGovern Dale Kendall

In Honor of Jessi Walsh Laurie McGuire

In Honor of Jim White Hank & Marv Davis

In Honor of Joe Sebastiani Courtney & Allan McKinley

Hank & Mary Davis Jean & Frank Hilfike

In Honor of Larry Lanolotte Wyatt Everhart

In Honor of Michele Wales Hank & Mary Davis

In Honor of Priscilla & David Lee Cynthia Campbell

In Honor of Roberta Goff Lisabeth Moore & Andrew Homsey

In Honor of Shannon Modla Meghann Matwichuk & Chad Fahs

In Honor of Sharon Keeler Timothy Keeler

In Honor of Si & Alyssa Highland Mountain Laurel Foundation

In Honor of Suzanne Smith Randall Smith Julie Wona

In Honor of the Stanford Talisman Neenah & William Newell

In Honor of Tina Rydgren Andrea Youndt, Chester County Food Bank In Honor of

Willa Rowan Andrea Lehman

In Memory of Ashle Wilson Bailey Edward Beacom

In Memory of Bernard S. Dempsev Polly Coxe

In Memorv of Bonnie Jean Greenberg Dan Greenberg

In Memory of Catherine J. Schwab Julia & John Trout

In Memory of Charles "Chip" Porter Schutt Jr. Edward Beacom

In Memorv of Dale Edward Wolf Barbara & Jeffrey Garland

In Memory of David L. Markell Barbara & Jeffrey Garland

In Memory of David Sterling Dean Shelagh & Stephen Munroe

In Memory of Dr. Henry Karl Seiler Judith Dragotta Susan Benson Alan Bleier Dolores Kmiecik-Graham Susan Kittle Cynthia Peluso Carol Hutelmyer W. Eric & Judith Roberson Hampton Pointe Service Corporation Joyce & William Speri

In Memory of Marg Ann "Meg" Richar Sonia Cheng & Christopher Richardsor

Annual Meeting Awardees

Environmental Steward Award

In recognition of leadership shown in the responsible use and protection of the natural environment. 2020: Connie Holland & Senator Harris McDowell 2021: Rep. Val Longhurst



In Memory of Dr. John T. Oglesby, II, M.D. Cynthia Jeanfreau In Memory of Edna Bente Rita Schnedler Peter Bente	In Memory of Margaret Kruesi Carol Kendall In Memory of Matthew Bailey Nancy & Blair McCoy	Gifts to the Michael Riska Educational Intern Scholarship Fund Emil & Phyllis Mikity 2020-2021 In Kind
In Memory of Floyd "Wayne" Pritchett Michael Skelly Anthony Wilson	In Memory of Miguel Jose C. Valencia Barbara & Jeffrey Garland	<i>Non-cash contributions.</i> Crisp & Co. DBA Wild Birds Unlimited Delaware Mineralogical
In Memory of George Mifflin Fisher, IV Cover & Rossiter Dale Stratton	In Memory of Raimon L. BeardSociety Girl ScoutPatrick & Carol IrelandGolden DrIn Memory of Sam TonelliHarvest MiGloria & William CookeCrynthia O.In Memory of Thalia C. PutneyHank & MaJay & Max	-
Alison Cox Ellicott In Memory of Gerry Steinberg Barbara & Jeff Garland		Cynthia O. Jeanfreau Greg Smith Hank & Mary Davis Jay & Maxine Rosenthal John & Suzanne Gaadt John Frink & Erica Miller Jerry & Judith VanderWerff Rachel Bleshman & Michael Rivera
In Memory of John F. "Jack" Spence, Sr. Lynne & Michael Betts	Eleanor Williams In Memory of Vera Booth Brett Cherry	
In Memory of John Kane Schmitt Family Charitable Fund	<i>Jim's Butterfly Garden</i> Robert & Diane McGovern Leonard Avdey	Nancy Steckel & Mark Caraccia Pamela Stephani & Richard
In Memory of Judith Stallkamp Susan Kelley William & Mary Lee Stallkamp	Gifts to the Mary Fey Jenkins Scholarship Fund Moonflower Garden Club	Morelli Sarah R. Oberle Stephen & Susan Herrmann Sir Speedy
In Memory of Margaret Ann "Meg" Richardson Sonia Cheng	Kathryn D. Szerlag Matthew Fischel Helen & Brian Fischel	



Jeffrey & Barbara Garland

Outstanding Environmental Educator Award

In recognition of her commitment to advancing environmental education and inspiring future environmental leaders.

2020: Melissa Tracy 2021: Kerry Wilson & Katie Pollock

Volunteers with 20+ hours

Linda Adamson Michele Alexander William Altman Angie Barbato Daniel Barbato David Beattie Paul Beckman Ian Bennett Katie Bird Joseph Blake Isabel Bostick Bill Bowden Donna Braden James Bretzgei Riley Brinsfield Eric J. Brinsfield Leah Brooks Barbara Cairns Elizabeth Cairns Adriana Cairns Rachel Cameron Adam Caraccia Eloise Carson Tyler Chambers Jeffrev Chambers April Chestnut Nora Childers Nathan Cho lennifer M Cool Edward Crew Curt Davis Gabrielle DeAngelis Emma DeGarbolewski Marina DeLeeuw Sandy Dennison-James Kensho Dey Nina DiPinto Thuy Dong Kevin Donnelly Amelia Drushle Suzzane DuBois Thomas Ellis Samantha Ellis Sharyn Fagone Roan Farnum Corv Feaster John Ferrell Pamela Finkelman Marie Fletcher Joseph Francis Veronica Gates Lana Glass Frederick Greenewalt Gary Grulich Vienna E. Gurev Kate Hamlet Oliver Hansen Melinda Hardie Leonard Harrison Lilly Hebert Ron Heringslack Holly Heverly Larry R. Hess Donna Hoyt

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Lily Reardon Michael Rice Jennifer Rippon Ernie Ritchey Dawn Rittenhouse Edward Rohrbach Joyce Romans Cvrus Rosen Ava Rubano Flavia Rutkosky David Schultz Brenda Sharp Anne Shehab Barbara Shuster James Sidlowski Suzanne D. Smith Neil Sorenson Carol Spease Nancy Steckel Kim Steininger Pamela Stephani **Carol Stephens** Rick A. Stuckey Caroline Sweeney Joe Swertinski

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(as of 9/7/2022)

Nathan Nazdrowicz Johnathan Ray Clarence Workman David Raughley Margaret Nelson Eileen Campbell Cherish Warner **Riley Brinsfield** Jacob Fav Lindsay Ball Kevin Brown Anne Stecke Allison Harten David Brown Veronica Gates Kathryn Chambers Jessica Rodriguez Haley Jordan

James Bretzger Reuben Becker-Klein Christian Holloman Nicholas Vermialio Jamie Summerfield

Matthew Renzull Corv Feaster Lilv Reardon Kensho Dey Connor Breslin Asher Timmons Dillon Cody Nelson Hernandez Iii Nathaniel Gerstenschlage Charles Barilo Lucien Mckean Olivia Lane Matthew Baker Sarah Bett Andrew Overman



The Market at Coverdale

Shop our market for farm fresh produce and eggs, holiday fare, and local products. Market is open through December 5 Fridays 2 pm - 7 pm Saturdays 10 am - 5 pm Sundays 11 am - 3 pm

Learn more at DelNature.org/Coverdale

Thanksgiving Turkeys

Coverdale Thanksgiving turkeys are pasture-raised, on lush fields with fresh air. We offer a limited run of **Orlopp Mammoth Bronze Turkeys.** Pre-order November 1 - 18 Pickup November 22





Memorial Gift Story

One significant event in Margaret Kruesi's 95 years, was serving as a volunteer at Ashland Nature Center of Delaware Nature Society. Margaret volunteered in the early 1980s, before she and her husband, Frank Kruesi, retired in Boise, Idaho.

A legacy gift has been made in Margaret's memory to support the work she so valued; that of educating school children about nature and the diverse human populations in this area throughout time. The covered bridge and Red Clay Creek added to this tranquil natural area that she chose to share with others.

Margaret's enthusiasm was expressed through engaging school groups in the discovery of stream life, in finding fish, tadpoles and dragon fly nymphs.

What are up in the tree branches? Birds were often seen and Kingfishers would dive into the water for a meal. Margaret was especially interested in seeds. Helping children gain an understanding of seed transportation and germination gave her great satisfaction. Another tree activity she enjoyed was the maple syrup program.

How many ways can you think of for seeds to travel? Margaret came up with at least five; gravity, wind, water, by animals and through the digestive system of animals.

How does seed design play a role in this process? With the drop of a maple seed, children took delight, tried it themselves and earnest discussions began.

Throughout Margaret's life, she so enjoyed trees, plants, and nature. Even at age 90, she talked about Ashland Nature Center and Delaware Nature Society. She fondly mentioned that volunteering here gave her satisfaction in knowing that she was helping others. Also, this was a win-win combination as she was able to be outside in an idyllic setting! It is with gratitude that her children and families present this gift to touch the future and extend the work and experiences that enriched the life of Margaret Kruesi.

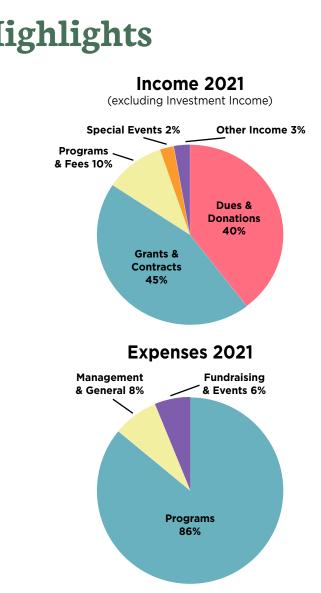
We'd love to hear from you!

Your stories inspire others. If you have a special story to share, please contact Marie.Graham@DelNature.org. Thank you for your support!

Financial Highlights

2021	2020
Support & Revenue	
Dues & Donations	570,422
Grants & Contracts	1,499,740
Program Fees	407,184
Special Events	89,663
Other Income	73,138
Investment Income	2,888,534
(Includes Unrealized Gains/Losses)	
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	5,528,681
Expenses	
Program	3,345,204
Management & General	321,263
Fundraising & Events	258,700
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,925,167
Change in Net Assets	1,603,514
Net Assets, beginning of year	47,423,873
Net Assets, end of year	49,027,387
Assets, Liabilities & Net Asset Summary	
Cash & cash equivalents	888,605
Marketable securities	23,638,233
Accounts & grants receivable	287,295
Prepaid expenses	48,028
Property & equipment, net	24,382,220
TOTAL ASSETS	49,244,381
Total Liabilities	216,994
Total Net Assets	49,027,387
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	49,244,381





Delaware Nature Society P.O. Box 700 Hockessin, DE 19707

THANK YOU TEACHER NATURALISTS

Our specialized educators have been the core of our programs since 1964. TNs, we are thankful for the enthusiasm and experience you bring to our programs, inspiring the next generation.

