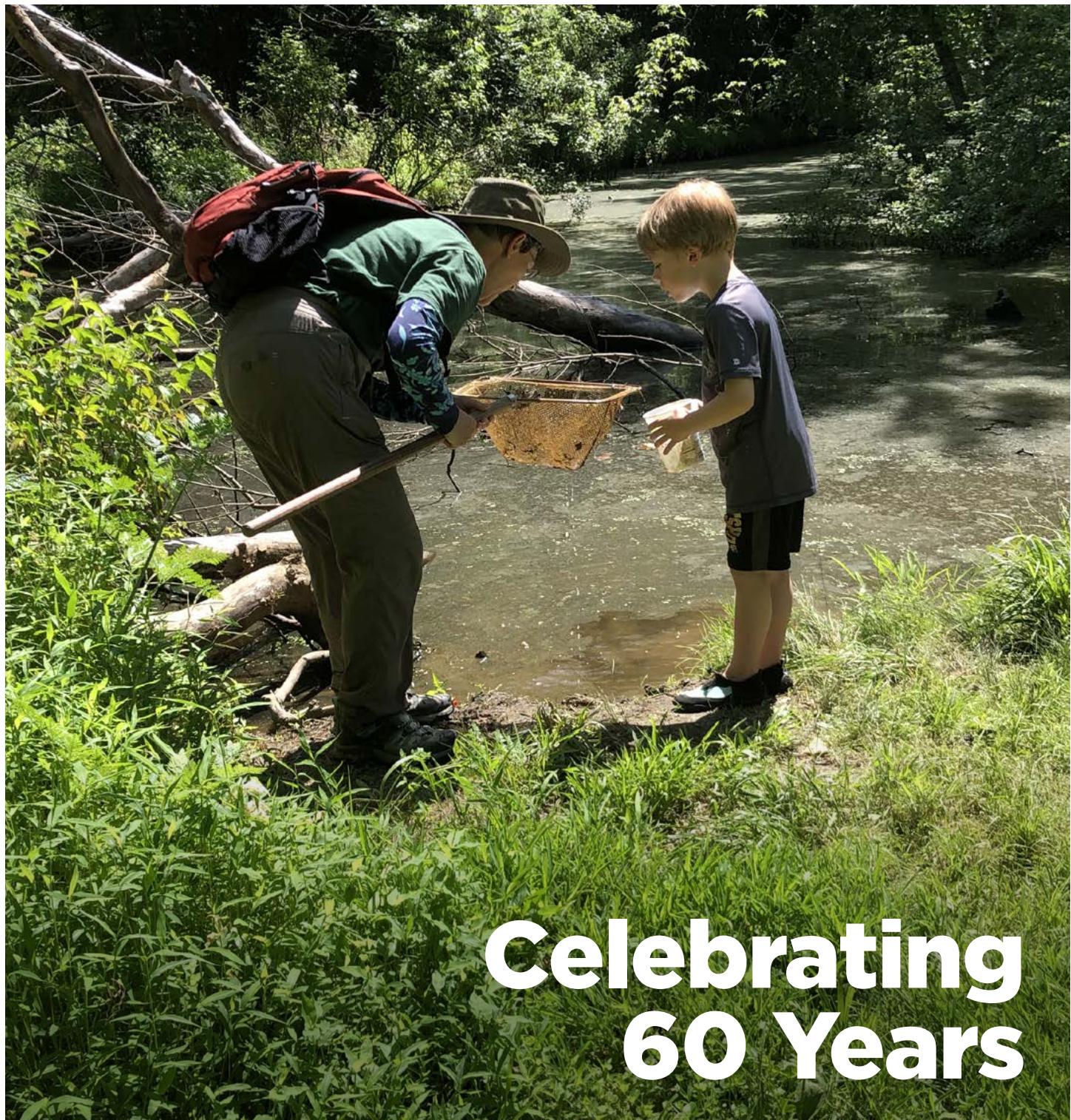




Annual Report 2024



Celebrating
60 Years

From the Executive Director

Dear Members, Volunteers, and Friends,

I'm pleased to share our Annual Report for 2024, a landmark year for Delaware Nature Society. Last year, we released our Strategic Plan entitled *Life Depends on Us* after engaging hundreds of stakeholders through retreats, surveys, interviews and meetings to provide us with guidance and direction for the future.

Throughout 2024, we also celebrated our 60th Anniversary by pairing accomplishments from the past with aspirations for the future. Every two months we highlighted a new theme with special anniversary events and programs.



Jen on location during the DelNature Scotland Eco-Tour.

- **Grow With It** celebrated plants and biodiversity with our spring Native Plant Sale at Coverdale Farm and a new mini-sale and open house at Abbotts Mill Nature Center.
- **Water Is Life** recognized our Clean Water for Delaware successes with special events stressing the importance of water resources like the wetlands of the Christina River and floodplains of the Red Clay Creek.
- **All Things Winged** raised awareness about bird conservation and pollinator habitat with an “On a Wing and a Beer” collaboration and events in Rehoboth, and the Monarch Migration Celebration in Wilmington.
- **Food for Thought** kicked off with “A Taste of Coverdale” highlighting the special places and food of Coverdale Farm Preserve.
- **Back to the Land** closed the year with a Hollyday Wreath Celebration at Abbotts Mill Nature Center and Community Science Symposium at Ashland Nature Center.

Thanks to these themes and events and the support of members and donors like you throughout the year, 2024 gave us a renewed sense of the impact of our work and direction for the future.

We also made impressive progress on the initiatives in our new strategic plan in 2024 – and were recognized as a *Superstar in Business* by the Delaware Chamber of Commerce! We expanded programming for early learning at Coverdale and Ashland and paddling opportunities at the DuPont Environmental Education Center. We worked up and down the state, renovating the Nature Center at Abbotts Mill, growing the network of pollinator habitats across the City of Wilmington, and talking to people about renewable energy and other climate solutions. **In 2024, DelNature sites and programs reached over 132,500 people, including over 35,000 participants in school and group programs.**

Thank you for your support and partnership making these accomplishments possible. Together we can make the next 60 years as impactful as the first!

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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Tyler Conover
Katherine Fisher
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THANK YOU!

Our Seasonal and Part-Time Staff played a key role in advancing our mission this year.
Thank you for your time, energy, and dedication to connecting people and nature.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR MEMBERS AND DONORS!

Our Members are a strong and beautiful force - coming together to protect nature and create lasting change. With your support, we advance education, conservation, and advocacy efforts that connect people with the natural world and build a healthier environment for all.

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 2024 (January 1 through December 31, 2024). 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, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

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 Suzanne Geouque at 302.239.2334 or Suzanne.Geouque@DelNature.org.

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60th Anniversary Sponsorships
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Corteva AgriScience
Dogfish Head Craft Brewed Ales
Exelon Power
ForeSite Associates
Harvest Market
National Wildlife Federation (NWF)
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
Veolia North America, Inc.
Anonymous Donor

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

Bill and Melinda Hardie
Charitable Fund
DuPont Corporation
June J. Peterson

2024 Gifts, Grants & Contributions

Gifts received during FY 2024, January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

The Guardians

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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Office of Controller General
State of Delaware
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Guardians \$50,000-99,999

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

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Gifts to the Mike Riska Education Intern Scholarship Fund

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In Kind

Non-cash contributions

Coventry
Dogfish Head Craft Brewed Ales
Wild Birds Unlimited
Dennis Williams

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Contributing 20+ hours

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Daniel Barbato
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Walt Blackwell
Mary Boeni
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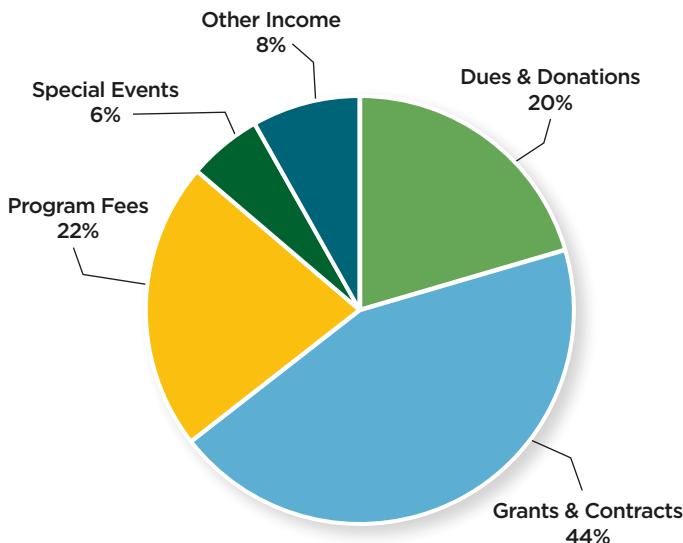
THANK YOU!



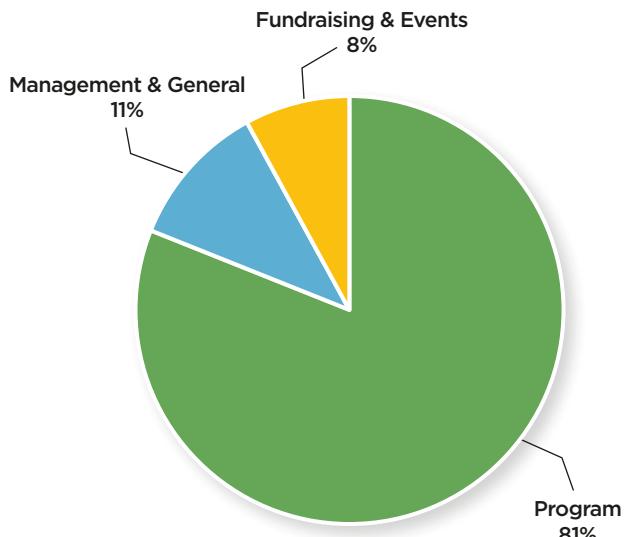
2024 Financial Summary

Income

(excluding Investment Income)



Expenses



SUPPORT & REVENUE

	2024	2023	2022
Dues & Donations	640,431	748,259	526,637
Grants & Contracts	1,376,696	2,189,304	1,413,956
Program Fees	681,388	734,426	752,863
Special Events	174,332	189,397	139,034
Other Income	256,269	190,959	210,563
Investment Income (Includes Unrealized Gains/Losses)	2,847,592	3,383,572	(4,096,392)
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	5,976,708	7,435,917	(1,053,339)

EXPENSES

	2024	2023	2022
Program	4,232,665	4,126,241	3,545,912
Management & General	573,388	362,790	423,578
Fundraising & Events	415,997	447,709	279,103
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,222,050	4,936,740	4,248,593
Surplus/(Deficit)	754,658	2,499,177	(5,301,932)

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, & NET ASSET SUMMARY

	2024	2023	2022
Cash & cash equivalents	1,084,180	1,387,330	1,902,736
Marketable securities	25,837,319	24,250,532	21,650,675
Accounts & grants receivable	717,717	1,228,582	636,344
Prepaid expenses	60,997	52,169	44,226
Property & equipment, net	24,192,690	24,228,880	24,331,769
TOTAL ASSETS	51,892,903	51,147,493	48,565,750
Total Liabilities	300,025	309,273	226,707
Total Net Assets	51,592,878	50,838,220	48,339,043
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	51,892,903	51,147,493	48,565,750
Operating Revenue	4,355,396	4,269,210	4,002,585
Operating Expenses	4,694,561	4,478,185	3,819,993
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(339,165)	(208,975)	182,5926

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY THAT BENEFITS THE ENVIRONMENT

When you include DeINature 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 also 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 DeINature.org/donate



PHOTO BY TYLER CONOVER



Your Support at Work

Our mission is to connect people and nature to create a healthy environment for all through education, conservation, and advocacy.

Highlights from 2024

In 2024, we celebrated our **60th Anniversary** with a new strategic plan, a *Superstars in Business* award from the Delaware Chamber of Commerce, and a series of programs and events celebrating the past and highlighting priorities for the future on five key themes: *Grow With It*, *Water is Life*, *All Things Winged*, *Food for Thought*, and *Back to the Land*.



Partnerships in 2024 included a beer collaboration with Dogfish Head Brewery's Beer and Benevolence program promoting bird and pollinator conservation. We worked together to create **On A Wing and A Beer**, a limited-edition brew featuring bird-friendly coffee and pollinator-friendly bee balm from Coverdale Farm Preserve.

Early Learning blossomed in 2024, with an expansion of Knee-High Naturalist programs at Coverdale Farm Preserve, Ashland Nature Center, and Abbotts Mill Nature Center, and Wilmington preschools by DuPont Environmental Education Center staff. Lessons and experiences in nature set young learners up for a lifetime of learning and exploration.



With the support of corporate, community, and government partners, we added almost 20,000 **Native Plants** to yards, urban gardens, and natural areas across Delaware in 2024. We expanded our network of community garden partnerships in Wilmington, our native plant sale to include Abbotts Mill Nature Center, and had 128 people register new Certified Wildlife Habitats.



Started in 2024, the **Wood Thrush Conservation** Initiative seeks to understand the threats faced by this species of conservation concern and to engage more people in its conservation. Over the year, 26 birds were radio tracked to monitor migratory patterns and identify critical habitats utilizing the MOTUS network that includes towers at Bucktoe Creek Preserve, the DuPont Environmental Education Center, and Abbotts Mill Nature Preserve.



Prescribed burns are an important part of our **active ecological management** of forests and meadows. Our trained staff are part of a broader collaborative partnership to restore habitats regionally through controlled burns, including the meadows at Coverdale Farm Preserve and forests at Flint Woods Preserve in 2024.



Our top advocacy successes in 2024 were on **climate action**. Passage of the Energy Solutions for Delaware Act (SB 265) requires the State Energy Office to play a more proactive role in determining how wind power is developed off our coast, and passage of Senate Bill 237 requires local governments to consider climate effects in planning decisions.



In 2024, we expanded **work-to-learn** opportunities, hosting our first official cohort of farm apprentices – paid positions at Coverdale Farm Preserve that provide training on regenerative farming through work experience. We also supported the University of Delaware in training the largest cohort yet of Master Naturalists, who gain skills through hands-on projects at our sites and elsewhere.

Strength In Numbers

Our vital work continues thanks to your ongoing support. Please consider giving generously today at DelNature.org/Donate.



132,000+
people reached annually

2,800+
youth through RENEW

1,800+
summer campers

35,000+
program & event participants

9,000+
volunteer hours

4,100+
members

575,000+
vegetables, flowers & herbs grown
at Coverdale Farm Preserve

1,100+
trees planted at Coverdale,
Ashland, and Middle Run

2,000+
acres of land under protection
by DelNature

120,000+
acres protected since 1964

19,500+
native plants distributed to backyard
habitats, urban gardens, natural areas



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Abbott's Mill Nature Center
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Hockessin, DE 19707

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543 Way Road
Greenville, DE 19807

DuPont Environmental Education Center
1400 Delmarva Lane
Wilmington, DE 19801



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THANK YOU!