

NATURE

**PENNSYLVANIA
DELAWARE**

Fall 2023 • nature.org



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Great Escapes

Choose your own adventure at a TNC preserve this fall

Mountain Biking

Dick & Nancy Eales Preserve at Moosic Mountain (Pennsylvania)

Explore more than 16 miles of singletrack along one of the best and largest ridgetop heath barrens in Pennsylvania, a mosaic of stunted pine and oak forest dominated by huckleberry, blueberry, rhodora and other low-lying shrubs that attract a broad array of birds and butterflies.

Snowshoeing

Long Pond Preserve (Pennsylvania)

When the snow falls, start your journey from the Hauser Nature Center and explore a 1.7-mile woodland loop along Cathy's Trail, where you'll encounter a unique mixture of northern hardwood forest and boreal coniferous swamp, both with beautiful evergreens. Make your way to the Boulderfields, which feature rocky remnants from the last glacial age, before heading back for hot chocolate.

Kayaking

Edward H. McCabe Preserve (Delaware)

Drop your kayak into the Broadkill River in the historic town of Milton and enjoy a 2-mile paddle eastward to the dock at the McCabe Preserve, where you can stop to enjoy a waterfront picnic in an area known to provide habitat for more than 100 native and migratory bird species.

Flora

Tannersville Cranberry Bog (Pennsylvania)

In the autumn months, the insect-eating pitcher plants along the Tannersville Bog boardwalk turn a vibrant shade of red to complement the rest of the region's fall foliage. Catch a view of them during our guided walks on September 10 and October 14. Reservations are required; call 570-629-3061 for details.

Autumn Leaves

Hamer Woodlands at Cove Mountain (Pennsylvania)

The slopes of Cove Mountain will be awash in fall colors as you traverse a key Kittatinny Ridge stopover for migratory birds including hawks, eagles and falcons. The ridge is one of the most important landscapes in the Appalachians, and protecting it will help safeguard biodiversity now and in the future.

Trail Running

Ponders Tract at Pemberton Forest Preserve (Delaware)

The flat, sandy trails at Ponders Tract are enjoyed by trail runners and families year-round. You'll see the results of in-progress forest restoration and catch rare plants and lizards basking in the sun. Close to the beaches—but without the crowds—this is a hidden gem.

Visit nature.org/PAevents and nature.org/DEevents for details on upcoming public events at our preserves.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make a donation at nature.org/PAgiving and nature.org/DEgiving

Director's Note

If you're looking for an opportunity to get outside and explore nature this fall, look no further than The Nature Conservancy's public preserves in Pennsylvania and Delaware (see "Great Escapes," reverse). When TNC acquires a parcel, we commit—both legally and ethically—to steward that land in perpetuity for both people and nature.

Our dedicated stewardship team works year-round to protect these critical connected ecosystems. Whether it's prescribed burning at Ponders Tract or clearing out overgrown vegetation to restore rare flora at the Tannersville Cranberry Bog (a favorite annual fieldwork project for the staff and me), TNC is committed to making our public preserves into places that deepen and diversify support for our mission to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends.

And the best part is: These beautiful natural spaces are right here in our backyard. See you out there!



© TNC

Lori Brennan
Executive Director,
Pennsylvania and Delaware

Volunteer Spotlight

Longtime TNC volunteer Jason Peters finds creative ways to combine his love of carpentry and nature. At the Hauser Nature Center in northeastern Pennsylvania, visitors can see his life-size model scaling bird wingspans to a human's outstretched arms. Last summer, Jason built several wood duck and bat boxes to install at the stream restoration site at our Blakeslee Preserve. Along the way, he also mentored young conservationists honing their own carpentry skills. Thank you, Jason—we're grateful for all that you do!



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To find volunteer opportunities near you, visit nature.org/PAvolunteer and nature.org/DEvolunteer

PENNSYLVANIA DELAWARE



© JOHN HINKSON / TNC

7.5-acre acquisition expands Ponders Tract at Pemberton Forest

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Pennsylvania and Delaware has closed on the purchase of 7.5 acres to expand Ponders Tract at its Pemberton Forest preserve in Sussex County, Delaware. TNC will retain ownership of the new parcel, and the acquisition marks its first new land purchase in Delaware since 2004.

Located within the Broadkill River headwaters, Ponders Tract serves as an important biodiversity refuge within the Delaware Bayshore landscape. The new addition—made possible through the generosity of Bayard R. and Violet "Cis" Horn, the Welfare Foundation and the Red Wagon Calagione Family Foundation—consists of three forested parcels near the Route 16 access road entrance.

The acquisition will protect the land from future development, allowing for continued ease of access for both the public and TNC conservation staff as they work to protect and restore the Ponders ecosystem using prescribed fire and other management strategies.

Find maps, wildlife guides, and more Ponders Tract resources at nature.org/Ponders