

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!





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

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

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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Alexandra White

Katherine Fisher

Tyler Conover

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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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 DuPont Corporation Nyssa Foundation

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

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Helen McArdle Stewart & Calvin Stewart

In Honor of Doug Lloyd

Susan Lloyd

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Mason Barnett

In Honor of Gina Zarrilli

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Gifts to the Mike Riska Education Intern Scholarship Fund

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Gifts to the Mary Fey Jenkins Scholarship Fund

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In Kind

Tim Smith

Non-cash contributions

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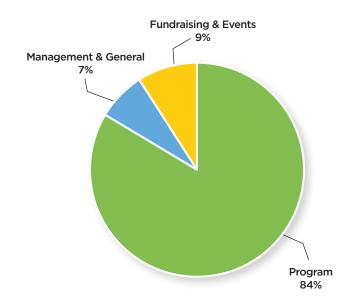
2023 Financial Summary

Income

(excluding Investment Income)

Other Income 5% Dues & Donations 18% Program Fees 18% Grants & Contracts 54%

Expenses



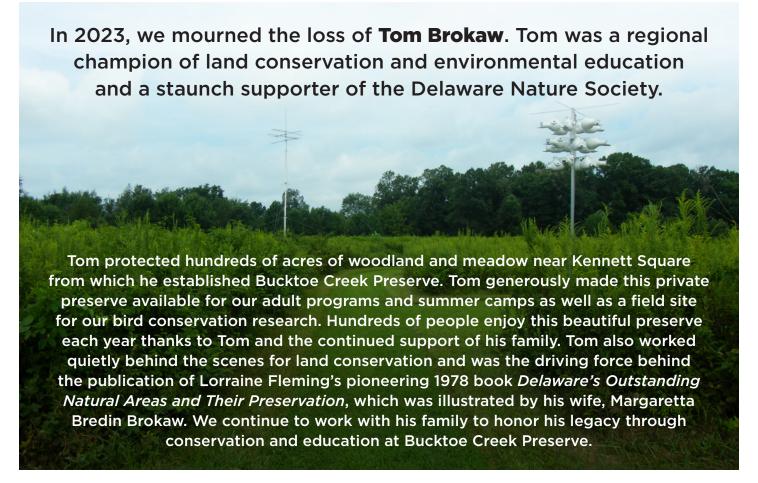
	2023	2022	2021
SUPPORT & REVENUE			
Dues & Donations	748,259	526,637	2,273,161
Grants & Contracts	2,189,304	1,413,956	2,568,603
Program Fees	734,426	752,863	599,309
Special Events	189,397	139,034	139,635
Other Income	190,959	210,563	159,229
Investment Income	3,383,572	(4,096,392)	2,929,794
(Includes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















Abbott's Mill Nature Center 15411 Abbott's Pond Road Milford, DE 19963 **Ashland Nature Center** 3511 Barley Mill Road Hockessin, DE 19707

Coverdale Farm Preserve 543 Way Road Greenville, DE 19807 **DuPont Environmental Education Center** 1400 Delmarva Lane Wilmington, DE 19801

DelNature.org

THANK YOU!