



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DELAWARE NATIVE SPECIES
COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED UNDER SENATE BILL NO. 153 OF THE
149TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE AND SPEAKER
OF THE HOUSE

DECEMBER 30, 2020

**REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM THE DELAWARE NATIVE SPECIES
COMMISSION**

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Members of the Commission

	Member	Organization
1	James White, Chair	Delaware Nature Society
2	Robert Thornton, Vice Chair	Home Builders Association/Silverstock Developers
3	Darin Callaway	Department of Transportation
4	Michael Costello	Sussex County, County Administrator Appointee
5	Jessica Inhof	Department of Agriculture
6	Michael Petit de Mange	Kent County, County Administrator Appointee
7	Matthew Sarver	Botanist
8	David Saveikis	DNREC, Division of Fish & Wildlife
9	Tracy Surles	New Castle County, County Executive Appointee
10	Susan Barton	University of Delaware
11	Sarah Cooksey	Delaware Audubon
12	Jeffrey Downing	Mt. Cuba Center
13	Christopher Heckscher	Delaware State University
14	Shelia Smith	Delaware Ornithological Society
15	Lorene Athey	Guided Path, LLC
16	Valann Budischak	Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association
17	Katherine Holtz	Delaware Farm Bureau
18	James McCulley	Watershed Eco, LLC
19	Janice Truitt	Delaware African American Farmers Association



**DELAWARE
NATURALLY**

DELAWARE NATIVE SPECIES COMMISSION

Introduction

The Delaware Native Species Commission (“the Commission”) was formed by an action of Delaware’s 149th General Assembly, Senate Bill 153, to implement the recommendations of the Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force (formed and authorized under Senate Concurrent Resolution 20) and report back to the General Assembly on a yearly basis. The membership reflects a balance of interests between environmental, professionals, government, and other stakeholders, and meets six times annually as determined by the Commission. The Commission will sunset ten (10) years after enactment, in 2027, unless reauthorized by the General Assembly.

The overall goals of the Commission are to:

- Reverse the decline and extinction of native plant and animal species within Delaware;
- Implement the actions outlined in the Final Report of the Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force;
- Provide expertise and assistance to all stakeholders;
- Educate the general public, industry professionals, state and local government decision makers, and educators on issues concerning the conservation of Delaware’s native species and their habitats.

Commission Activities

The Commission, through its subcommittees, worked diligently throughout 2020 despite the restrictions of the global pandemic caused by Covid-19. The Commission continued to meet virtual, two additional subcommittees were established, and education initiatives focused on virtual outreach. Below are highlights from the subcommittees.

Law and Regulations Subcommittee:

- Continued research of existing local government laws and regulations in Delaware to determine the extent to which regulatory mechanisms exist or have been implemented that support native species or that control, limit, or eradicate invasive species at the local and county levels of government.
- Discussed revising Comprehensive Plans to incorporate specific land use goals to support of protecting native populations and identify invasive species as problems that need to be addressed.

Education Subcommittee

- Prepared and considered a variety of logo ideas for our Delaware Naturally outreach campaign identity. Artwork was created by Sheila Smith and Division of Fish & Wildlife staff. The image and the typeface work together well, and the resulting logo was approved by the full commission.

- A summit meeting of conservation professionals and conservation-minded community members was developed and scheduled to raise awareness of the Delaware Native Species Commission and its goals, identify and coalesce around ways to improve species conservation efforts through collaboration, and launch the Delaware Naturally education and outreach campaign. After COVID-19 forced the cancelation of the summit, the Education Subcommittee pivoted to reimagine the summit as a series of virtual events, which are now tentatively scheduled for March 2021.

Conservation Science Subcommittee

- Established June 2020
- Developed mission, goals, and procedures document.
- Initiated project to inventory and create a list all flora and fauna that are considered in need of conservation concern.

Financial Management Subcommittee

- Established October 2020 to manage fundraising, donations and state allocated funds coming into the commission and to budget and spend funds as necessary for commission activities.

Overview of Meetings

February 19, 2020

- The Environmental Summit was scheduled for March 24, 2020.
- Senate Bill SB207 passed the Senate and moved to the House.
- A new logo for the commission was approved.

April 15, 2020

- The global pandemic and DE State of Emergency forced the cancellation of the March Environmental Summit and put SB207 in a holding pattern.
- Discussion led to the creation of a new subcommittee.

June 17, 2020

- Commission begins to discuss new ideas for raising funds.
- Members with expiring terms recommit to staying on for another term.
- Land Preservation Subcommittee formally created.

August 19, 2020

- Discussion on a virtual summit to replace the canceled March event.
- Land Preservation Subcommittee renamed to Conservation Science Subcommittee.

October 21, 2020

- Commission informed that they could partner with a 501c3 organization to raise, administer and expend funds.
- Fiscal Management Subcommittee created.

December 16, 2020

- New draft schedule and possible March 2021 dates selected for virtual summit.
- Commission adding statement to Department of Agriculture's notice to industries that will be affected by SB207 (the invasive plant bill).

Goals for 2021

The 2021 goals of the Commission are as follows:

1. Encourage government to lead by example

- Encourage state, county and local governments to use native plants in landscaping of all new facilities, including parks and open spaces. Meet with city, county and state government leader to discuss the issue.
- Work with ≥ 1 state agencies to identify a minimum of five priority species (both plant and animal) of high conservation concern that are listed as Tier 1, S1 in the State's Wildlife Action Plan, that are in need of immediate inventory and management. Work with agencies to identify a source of funding to identify and support the necessary management needs for these endangered populations to persist.

2. Create educational opportunities that support Delaware's native biodiversity

- Schedule and facilitate a Native Species Conservation "Summit" to kick off the *Delaware, Naturally!* public education campaign and align efforts of Delaware conservation organizations, practitioners, and interested citizens to conserve native species.
- Flesh-out and pilot *Delaware, Naturally!* outreach programs, to promote and explain the benefits of native species and associated conservation-minded practices, as well as the negative effects of invasive species proliferation on native species. (Develop a branded public relations educational/awareness campaign to promote native species and practices.)
- Develop and launch the *Delaware, Naturally!* website in conjunction with a public education campaign.
- Explore opportunities to enhance environmental literacy in Delaware K-12 education
- Develop a "Certified Native Plant Garden Center" program for nurseries and garden centers that are trained and in the business of promoting native plant selections, along with qualifying criteria for attaining certification.

3. Support existing programs that assist the Commission in reaching its overall goals

- Advocate for adequate funding of State agencies and programs that work to conserve native species biodiversity in Delaware.
- Advocate to increase and sustain DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife's capacity to monitor, manage, and conserve rare plant and animal species in Delaware.
- Encourage the use of Open Space Program funds for purchasing high-quality native species habitats, especially those habitats required for species of special concern, Work to get Delaware Native Species Commission representation at the Open Space Program “table”.
- Support the Master Naturalist (MN) Program through publicity and providing instructors (council members) to help with invasive plant removal in Delaware’s parks and natural areas as well as other MN projects.
- Actively work with state agencies, NGOs, and other conservation partners to promote the use of the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan which provides a template for the conservation of native animal species in the state.

4. Create and implement a three-year strategic plan for the Commission.

5. Promote the development and enactment of legislation, policy or regulatory changes affecting biodiversity conservation.

- Make the sale of selected invasive plants illegal in Delaware, allowing an appropriate phase-out period after legislation passes.
- Address weaknesses in our current state endangered species law; strengthen protection and/or conservation of the species on the list including addressing the possibility of adding plant species.
- Identify ways that the Delaware Native Species Commission can encourage protection of Delaware’s rarest plant communities such as Atlantic White Cedar Swamps, Bald Cypress Swamps, Coastal Plain Ponds, Interdunal Swales, Sea-level Fens, Piedmont Streamside Seepage Wetlands, and Piedmont Tuliptree Rich Woods.
- Develop a “Model Ordinance” for consideration of adoption by the Native Species Commission that would serve as a guide for local governments that would establish regulatory supports for promoting and protecting native plant species and their habitats and establishing criteria for eradication of invasive species as part of the Development Plan Review and Approval Process.
- Research native and invasive species Best Management Practices (BMPs) and develop or identify a topical BMP Guide Documents for consideration of adoption by the Commission that would provide quick reference technical assistance for permitting agencies, the development community, and the general public.

Appendix A: Senate House Bill 153



SPONSOR: Sen. Hansen & Rep. Heffernan
Sens. Ennis, Henry, McDowell,
Sokola, Townsend; Reps.
Baumbach, Gray, Hudson,
Kenton, Mitchell, Osienski,
M. Smith, Viola

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE BILL NO. 153
AS AMENDED BY
SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 2

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE
DELAWARE NATIVE SPECIES COMMISSION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20 passed by the 149th General Assembly created the bi-partisan Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force (“Task Force”); and

WHEREAS, the Task Force was charged with studying the extinction of local plant and animal species in Delaware and reporting its findings and recommendations for action to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for distribution to the members of the General Assembly, with a copy to the Governor and others by December 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force was comprised of environmental experts with an understanding of species extinction, stakeholders in land development, local government officials from all 3 counties, the agricultural community, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force heard testimony from experts and developed findings and recommendations for action in order to reverse the trend of extinction and extirpation of our local plant and animal native species; and

WHEREAS, the findings and recommendations for action were numerous and wide ranging; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force issued the “Final Report of the Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force” on December 1, 2017, incorporating its findings and recommendations for action; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force recommended the creation of the Delaware Native Species Commission reflecting a balance of interests between environmental professionals, government, and other stakeholders in order to implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend Chapter 80, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

Subchapter III. Delaware Native Species Commission.

§ 8071. Purpose.

The Delaware Native Species Commission is created to do all of the following:

- (1) Reverse the trend of decline and extinction of our local plant and animal native species.
- (2) Diligently pursue and perform those things necessary and proper in order that the recommendations in the Final Report of the Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force be fully implemented.
- (3) Provide state and local lawmakers, policy makers, educators, and other stakeholders with expertise and assistance in projects meeting the goals and purposes of this subchapter.
- (4) Report back to the General Assembly on a yearly basis regarding the implementation of the Task Force recommendations.

§ 8072. Definitions.

For purposes of this subchapter:

- (1) “Appointed member” means an individual appointed by the Governor under § 8073(a)(2) of this subchapter.
- (2) “Commission” means the Delaware Native Species Commission.
- (3) “DNREC” means the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.
- (4) “Task Force recommendations” means the recommendations in the Final Report of the Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force established by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20 of the 149th General Assembly.

§ 8073. Commission membership; qualifications; term of office.

(a) The Commission is composed of 15 members, as follows:

- (1) Five members serving by virtue of position, or a designee appointed by the member, as follows:
 - a. The Secretary of the DNREC.
 - b. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.
 - c. The County Executive of New Castle County.
 - d. The County Administrator for Kent County.
 - e. The County Administrator for Sussex County.
- (2) Ten members who are citizens of the State and appointed by the Governor, as follows:
 - a. Five individuals who represent environmental organizations or Delaware institutions of higher education, with expertise regarding Delaware plant or animal species.
 - b. Five individuals who represent stakeholder commercial interests, such as

land development, farming, and business.

- (b) An appointed member serves for a term of up to 3 years and is eligible for reappointment. The Governor shall appoint members for staggered terms so that no more than 5 members' terms expire in any 1 calendar year.
- (c) If an appointed member fails to attend 3 successive meetings of the Commission without just cause, that member's position may be deemed vacant and the Governor may appoint a replacement.
- (d) Members of the Commission serve without compensation, except that the Commission may reimburse members for reasonable and necessary mileage and tolls incident to duties as members of the Commission.

§ 8074. Authority; staffing.

- (a) The Commission shall be placed within DNREC and shall have such powers, duties, and functions as described in this subchapter and such other duties and functions as may be referred to it by the Governor, the Secretary of DNREC, or the General Assembly.
- (b) The Secretary of DNREC shall provide staff support to the Commission.

§ 8075. Chair and Vice Chair; selection and duties.

- (a) The Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair at its first meeting and the Chair and Vice Chair shall serve until a replacement is elected. If the Chair becomes vacant, the Vice Chair shall fulfill the duties of the Chair contained in subsection (b) of this section until a replacement is elected at its next meeting.
- (b) The Chair of the Commission shall do all of the following:
 - (1) Set a date, time, and place for the meetings of the Commission.
 - (2) Supervise the preparation and distribution of meeting notices, agendas, minutes, and other documents prepared by or on behalf of the Commission.

§ 8076. Quorum and conduct of business.

- (a) A majority of the membership of the Commission constitutes a quorum to conduct official business. Official action by the Commission, including making findings and recommendations, requires the approval of a majority of the members of the

Commission present at a meeting with quorum.

- (b) The Commission may adopt rules necessary for its operation.
- (c) The Commission may undertake the following functions to implement the Task Force recommendations and to further the goals and purposes of the Commission:
- (1) Establish subcommittees.
 - (2) Engage with other organizations to exchange ideas and information and to provide those other organizations with the opportunity to engage with the Commission.
 - (3) Study, research, plan, and make advisory recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of DNREC, the Department of Agriculture, or the General Assembly.
- (d) In carrying out the Commission's duties under this subchapter, the Commission shall consider any related plans and programs developed by other organizations with expertise in native species conservation or protection, or in the eradication of invasive species, and may designate representatives to serve on special committees, organizations, or other entities to plan, develop, and coordinate specific activities.

§ 8077. Annual Report.

On or before December 31, 2018, and on or before every December 31 thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for distribution to the members of the General Assembly, an annual report of the Commission's activities for the previous year and goals for the upcoming year. The report may also include proposals for legislation, administrative action, or other policy changes the Commission considers necessary to carry out its implementation of the Task Force recommendations or further the goals and purposes of this subchapter.

Section 2. The Secretary of DNREC shall set the date, time, and place for the initial organizational meeting and the Commission shall hold its first meeting no later than August 1, 2018.

Section 3. This Act expires 10 years after its enactment into law, unless otherwise provided by a subsequent act of the General Assembly.

Appendix B: Senate House Bill 84



SPONSOR: Sen. Hansen & Rep. Lynn
Sens. Paradee, Richardson,
Sokola, Townsend

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE BILL NO. 84
AS AMENDED BY
SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 2

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE
DELAWARE NATIVE SPECIES COMMISSION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend § 8073, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 8073. Commission membership; qualifications; term of office [Expires June 7, 2028, pursuant to 81 Del. Laws, c. 256, § 3]

(a) The Commission is composed of ~~15~~ 19 members, as follows:

(1) ~~Five~~ Six members serving by virtue of position, or a designee appointed by the member, as follows:

- a. The Secretary of the DNREC.
- b. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.
- c. The County Executive of New Castle County.

d. The County Administrator for Kent County.

e. The County Administrator for Sussex County.

f. The Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

(2) ~~Ten members who are citizens of the State and~~ Thirteen members, appointed by the Governor, as follows:

a. ~~Five~~ Six individuals who represent environmental organizations or Delaware institutions of higher education, with expertise regarding Delaware plant or animal species.

b. ~~Five~~ Six individuals who represent stakeholder commercial interests in Delaware , such as land development, farming, and business.

c. One member who is a current or retired botanist or similar professional with expertise in Delaware plant species.

Appendix C: Composition of Commission and Member Biographies

The Commission is composed of nineteen (19) members: six members serving by virtue of position, or an appointed designee; six members who represent environmental organizations or Delaware institutions of higher education, with expertise regarding Delaware plant or animal species; six members who represent stakeholder commercial interests, such as land development, farming and business; and one member who is a current or retired botanist or similar professional with expertise in Delaware plant species.

By Virtue of Position or designee:

I. Darin Callaway- designee for the Delaware Department of Transportation

Darin Callaway worked as an Environmental Scientist with the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife for over 9 years until he accepted the Supervisor position within the Delaware Department of Transportation's Roadside Environmental Program in 2008. In April of 2016, Darin was promoted to the position of Roadside Environmental Program Administrator where he currently serves. Darin graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor's degree in Entomology with a concentration in Wildlife Conservation.

II. Michael Costello- designee for County Administrator for Sussex County

Michael Costello worked at the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control in the Environmental Crimes Unit until joining Sussex County Government as the Chief Code Enforcement Officer in 2014. In October of 2016, Mike moved to the position of Government Affairs Manager where he currently serves. Mike has degrees in Emergency Management and Organizational Management.

III. Jessica Inhof- Environmental Program Administrator, Plant Industries Section, designee for Secretary of Department of Agriculture

Jessica Inhof serves as the Environmental Program Administrator for the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Plant Industries section. In her role as Administrator, Ms. Inhof is the State Plant Regulatory Official as well as a member of the Eastern Plant Board and the National Plant Board. The mission of the Plant Industries Section is to prevent the introduction, establishment, or spread of plant and honeybee pests, and suppress, control abate, or eradicate those pests that are dangerously injurious to the agricultural, horticultural, and forestry interests of the state. The Section also enforces the Plant Pest Law, the

Nurseries and Nursery Stock Law, the Noxious Weeds Law, the Beekeeping Law, the Seed Law, and the Grain Testing Devices Law.

Holding a degree in Agricultural Science with an emphasis in Soils and Agronomy from Penn State University, Ms. Inhof worked with the farming community on the Delmarva Peninsula for over 22 years as a Senior Agronomist and part owner of a consulting company before taking her position at DDA. She is a Certified Crop Advisor, a Nutrient Management Planner in Delaware and Maryland, and a former member of the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission.

IV. Michael Petit de Mange- County Administrator for Kent County

Michael J. Petit de Mange, AICP, became the County Administrator for Kent County, Delaware on April 8, 2007 after serving as the County's Planning Director for nearly 5 years. Prior to joining Kent County, he served as Director of Planning & Inspections for the City of Dover, Delaware and as an Associate/Branch Manager for Landmark Engineering, Incorporated. While with the City of Dover, Mr. Petit de Mange also served a four (4) year term on the Kent County Regional Planning Commission. He has over 29 years of experience in municipal management and regional planning.

V. David Saveikis- Director, Division of Fish & Wildlife, designee for Secretary of DNREC

David (Dave) Saveikis currently serves as the Director of the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, having been appointed to the position on February 1, 2011. He has worked in natural resource management since 1978 in both the public and private sectors, holding positions with the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware Division of Water Resources and Maryland Department of Agriculture, and as a private environmental consultant. Mr. Saveikis has held biologist, environmental scientist and management positions involving fish and wildlife research, habitat restoration, aquatic resource monitoring, wetlands regulation and policy and water resources policy.

Dave received a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Salisbury University, Salisbury Maryland. He is an avid angler, waterfowl enthusiast and naturalist, with a passion for tidal river largemouth bass fishing and light tackle saltwater fishing.

VI. Tracey Surles- designee for County Executive of New Castle County

Tracy Surles is the General Manager of New Castle County's Department of Public Works. As the General Manager, Ms. Surles oversees the planning, design construction and maintenance of over 6,000 acres of County parkland and open space, the sanitary sewer system, the storm sewer system, over 60 county buildings and the County's fleet. Ms. Surles has served the County for almost twenty years in various roles prior to her current position including serving as an Assistant County Attorney, Senior Manager for Public Works, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Administrative Officer. Ms. Surles has a B.S. in Civil Engineering and is also a member of the Delaware Bar. Prior to working for the County, she practiced environmental law in Wilmington and in Washington DC.

Representing environmental organizations or Delaware institutions of higher education

VII. Susan Barton- University of Delaware

Susan Barton, Ph.D. is an extension specialist and professor in the Plant and Soil Sciences Department at the University of Delaware. She has worked closely for the past 20 years with DelDOT to research and implement new roadside vegetation management strategies. She has also worked with partners to develop the Plants for a Livable Delaware Program, designed to provide alternatives to known invasive plants species and to promote sustainable landscaping. She teaches Plants and Human Culture, Farm to Table, Landscape Architecture Symposium, Representation I: Landscape Drawing and coordinates the Landscape Horticulture Internship. She also works closely with the nursery and landscape industry, writing newsletters, organizing short courses and conducting horticulture industry expos with the Delaware Nursery and Landscape Association. Susan received the Nursery Extension Award in 1995 from the American Nursery and Landscape Association and the Ratledge Award for service from the University of Delaware in 2007. Susan received her SITES AP certification in summer 2017.

VIII. Sarah Cooksey- Delaware Audubon

Sarah Cooksey serves on the Board of Delaware Audubon, resides in Sussex County and has been active in conservation matters since receiving her Master of Science degree in Biology from Towson University. She is past Director of Conservation for the Delaware Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, where she defined and managed implementation of the strategic priorities and strategies for the Chapter's conservation work, providing leadership and oversight of

land, water oceans and climate initiatives. Ms. Cooksey is past Administrator of the Delaware Coastal Programs where she was responsible for both the coastal zone management program and the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve. She coordinated with federal, state and local governments on coastal resource issues such as tidal and freshwater wetlands, energy policy, non-point source pollution, coastal hazards, essential fish habitat, ocean planning, biodiversity, sustainable development, and dredging issues. She is past President of the Coastal States Stewardship Foundation, a 501(3) (c) formed to assist state governments with pressing coastal management issues and past Chair of MARCO – the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of the Ocean – a five state initiative to focus on offshore issues related to renewable energy, water quality, habitat protection and climate change adaptation. Prior to her work in The Nature Conservancy and the State of Delaware she spent several years in EPA's Office of Water in Washington DC working with states on water issues. Sarah is an active gardener and birdwatcher and spends time restoring Delaware's native habitat.

IX. Jeffery Downing- Mt. Cuba Center

Jeffery (Jeff) Downing is executive director of Mt. Cuba Center, a botanical garden in Hockessin, Delaware that inspires an appreciation of the beauty and value of native plants, and a commitment to conserve the habitats that sustain them. Prior to his arrival at Mt. Cuba Center in 2012, Jeff spent thirteen years at The New York Botanical Garden working in education as a manager, director, and finally as Vice President for Education from 2007 to 2012. Jeff earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics at Trinity College in Hartford, CT and a Master of Arts in Religion at Yale University in New Haven, CT.

X. Christopher Heckscher- Delaware State University

Christopher (Kitt) Heckscher earned a Ph.D. and M.S. in Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, from the University of Delaware. He also holds a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University. He was the Delaware state Zoologist for the The Nature Conservancy and the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife's Delaware Natural Heritage Program from 1993 to 2008 where he was responsible for developing and maintaining the state's zoological database. Currently, he is a Professor of Environmental Science at Delaware State University (DSU). Prior to 1993, he worked as a Preserve Manager for The Nature Conservancy and a Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Forest Service. His research at DSU primarily focuses on the ecology of migratory forest songbirds. Dr. Heckscher also has extensive expertise in the inventory and conservation needs of rare invertebrate species of high conservation concern.

He has 30 years of professional experience in the collection of rare species information for the purposes of informing wise land management decisions for both private landowners and public agencies.

XI. Shelia Smith- Delaware Ornithological Society

Sheila Smith is a former Science educator, working for 19 years in the Red Clay School District and 7 years in private education, with a long-time interest in public education around the use of native plants. She graduated from the University of Delaware with a BFA and earned an MEd from Wilmington College. Sheila worked as a teacher/naturalist for Delaware Nature Society and was given a DNS Outstanding Environmental Educator Award for her work in school. She is member of the Delaware Ornithological Society and currently serves on the DOS Conservation Committee. Sheila is a Backyard Habitat Steward, assisting homeowners with the use of native plants for the past 8 years. She cares for her own habitat landscape, in development for 14 years, and was the co-creator and organizer for the 2013 and 2014 Newark Habitat Garden Tour. Sheila served on the Newark Sustainability Plan steering committee. She is currently serving her 5th term on the City of Newark Conservation Advisory Commission.

Sheila is also enrolled in the inaugural class of the Delaware Master Naturalist Program.

XII. James White- Delaware Nature Society

James (Jim) White has worked at Delaware Nature Society since 1982. In his role, he oversees Delaware Nature Society's land. A native Delawarean, he graduated from the Salesianum High School and the University of Delaware. Jim's natural history interests include birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles. He teaches herpetology at University of Delaware and with his wife has published a field guide to the amphibians and reptiles of the Delmarva Peninsula. Jim also leads natural history trips to many natural areas in the US and in Central and South America.

Representing stakeholder commercial interests, such as land development, farming and business

XIII. Lorene Athey- Guided Path LLC

Lorene (Lori) Athey is a registered Landscape Architect in Delaware and a Certified National Wildlife Federation Host. During her career as a planner and landscape architect, she has worked with or for a variety of organizations and

homeowners throughout Delaware including: Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, Delaware Department of Transportation, New Castle County Land Use, City of Wilmington Public Works, City of Lewes, Delaware Nature Society, Delaware Center for Horticulture, University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration, Irwin Landscaping, and the Delaware Agricultural Museum. In addition to design and planning, she monitors conservation easements, and is a teacher and speaker on native plants and gardening for wildlife topics. Ms. Athey is former President of the Delaware Board of Landscape Architects and former Chair of the New Castle County Resource Protection Area Technical Advisory Committee. She earned a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Virginia. A native Delawarean, she grew up in Smyrna, and currently gardens in the City of Newark.

XIV. Valann Budischak- Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association

Valann has served as the Executive Director of the Delaware & Nursery Landscape Association (DNLA) since 1998. In 2003 she became a UD Extension Agent in Ornamental Horticulture in addition to DNLA. In that role she also served as State Master Gardener Coordinator. In 2007 she also joined the ranks of the UD Botanic Gardens as Volunteer & Education Coordinator. In July she took off her extension hat to become the interim director of the UD Botanic Gardens. Valann works in numerous professional capacities as project administrator for Delaware Livable Lawns, Plants for a Livable Delaware and Enhancing Delaware Highways. She also serves on the board of the Urban Community Forestry Council, and an appointee to the Governor's Water Supply Coordinating Council.

XV. Katherine Holtz- Delaware Farm Bureau

Katherine (Kitty) and her husband, Dave Holtz, have owned and operated Holtz Farms since 1969 and expanded the operation to include their youngest son, Brent, in 2013 as Holtz Farms, LLC. Dave and Kitty have three children and two grandchildren. Their home farm of 250 acres is located near Clayton and Kenton Delaware. They grow corn, soybeans and wheat. Holtz Farms, LLC farm approximately 1,800 acres within Kent County.

Kitty also worked for the State of Delaware for twenty years and was active with 4-H for ten years. She has been a member of Delaware Farm Bureau since 1976 and took a more active role within the organization in 2003, serving on the state and county boards for eleven years. She was president of Kent County

Farm Bureau for two years before being elected the State Farm Bureau President in 2014, serving two terms.

XVI. James McCulley- Watershed Eco. LLC

James (Jim) McCulley is the immediate past president of the Builders and Remodelers Association of Delaware (BRAD, previously known as the Home Builders Association of Delaware). He also serves as Life Director of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and BRAD. He is an Environmental Scientist with over 30 years of experience performing natural resource studies in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Ohio and Indiana. He previously served on the National Academy of Sciences, Wetlands Advisory Committee which authored "Wetlands: Characteristics and Boundaries". He has served on numerous local, State and National committees involved in Natural Resource Policy. Jim is a certified Senior Professional Wetland Scientist #000471 under the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program.

XVII. Robert Thornton- Home Builders Association

Robert Thornton serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Home Builders and is the State Director for the Home Builders Association of Delaware. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Home Innovation Research Labs, which wrote and developed the National Green Building Standard (NGBS). He has the first certified Green Home in the nation under the NGBS in 2009, and in 2010 was the state of Delaware's "Builder of the Year." Thornton is frequently a guest speaker at the International Builders Show (IBS) in Las Vegas and Orlando on the topic of green sustainable building.

XVIII. Janice Truitt- Delaware African American Farmers Association, Delaware
Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation

Ms. Truitt resides in the hamlet of Hartly, as a local organic produce farmer. She is the Founding Director of Delaware African American Farmers Association and the first African American ever to be appointed as a Trustee to Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation Board. Currently, Ms. Truitt serves as a Governor's appointee to the Delaware State Medical Licensure and Disciplinary Board. Ms. Truitt has worked and visited seventy-two (72) countries world-wide including thirty-two (32) nations in Africa. She is a graduate of Delaware State University and is a current professor there, teaching Global Societies.

Beginning in 1991, Delaware farmland preservation program has two major components, agriculture preservation districts and agricultural conservation easements, in addition to a Young Farmers Program to assist the next generation of farmers. Agricultural easements are purchases of development rights by the foundation, placing a permanent agriculture conservation easement on the farm or forest land. To date, the foundation has preserved approximately 124,784 acres of farmland.

Current or retired botanist or similar professional with expertise in Delaware plant species

XIX. Matthew Sarver- Botanist

Matt is an expert field ecologist with a broad range of knowledge in a variety of taxonomic groups (plants, birds, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles) and over 20 years of field experience identifying and studying the ecological communities, flora, and fauna of the eastern United States. He is an Ecological Society of America Certified Senior Ecologist and a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner by the Society for Ecological Restoration.

Matt is principal of Sarver Ecological, LLC, which provides conservation planning, ecological assessment, and restoration services in Delaware and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic. He has special expertise in pollinator conservation, invasive plant species, field botany, and native plant community ecology, and has worked extensively on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Matt is a board member of the Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council, President of the Society for Ecological Restoration Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Conservation Chair and Past President of the Delaware Ornithological Society, and a board member of the Christina Conservancy.

In the past, Matt has worked as a botanist, community ecologist, and invertebrate ecologist for state Natural Heritage programs in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and as an avian field biologist in Arkansas. He has field experience in numerous other states, as well as Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, India, Oman, and Borneo.

Mr. Sarver possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree, *cum laude* from Cornell University in Biological Sciences.

Appendix D: Minutes from Task Force Meetings

Meeting Minutes
Delaware Native Species Commission
February 19, 2020 at 10 am
Kent County Administrative Building, 555 Bay Road, Dover, Delaware
Room 220

Minutes approved on: April 15, 2020

Members Present

James White, Chair
Lori Athey
Susan Barton
Valann Budischak
Darin Callaway
Sarah Cooksey
Jeffery Downing

Jessica Inhof
Ashley Kennedy
Matthew Sarver (via phone)
David Saveikis
Tracy Surles (via phone)
Janice Truitt

Members Absent

Robert Thornton, Vice-Chair
Michael Costello
Christopher Heckscher

Katherine Holtz
James McCulley
Michael Petit de Mange

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Childears, Administrative Specialist III

Public Present

Senator Stephanie Hansen
Linda Newsome
Jeff Brothers
Bill McAvoy

Sheila Smith
Gretchen Klein
Flavia Rutkosky
Steve Cottrell

Call to Order

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the December 18, 2019 meeting. Dr. Kennedy requested that “Ms.” be replaced with “Dr.” in occurrence with her name. Mr. Saveikis noted the motion made by Dr. Barton concerning the species listed on the invasive plants ban bill was not clear and requested permission to edit it. Dr. Barton approved. Mr. McAvoy, member of the public, had concerns about what species were added to the bill and what were left out. Ms. Cooksey noted

her name was misspelled in one instance and there were a few more minor edits to correct typos. However, there was not a quorum of eligible commission members that had attended the December meeting to approve the meeting minutes, so no motion was made or approved.

Unfinished Business

Summit Update (formally known as symposium)

The summit is set for March 24, 2020 and registration is open. Mr. Downing encouraged everyone to share the invitation flyer. Ms. Cooksey asked where things stand with the budget and Mr. Downing replied that they are within the \$20,000 range approved at the December meeting.

There was discussion about sponsorships for the summit and for the Commission in general and how best to manage them. If the Commission used sponsorship money for the summit, the Grant-in-Aid money given by the General Assembly would not be spent and that money runs out on June 20, 2020 with no roll-over into the next fiscal year. Senator Hansen noted that no money was requested for the upcoming fiscal year budget.

General consensus was to use the Grant-in-Aid money first and keep sponsorship money for other needs. The best course of action is to make clear to the public what purposes their donations are going towards. Mr. Downing talked about having different levels of sponsorship to for the public to choose from. Mr. Sarver asked if there was a sponsorship option on the summit's website and Mr. Downing replied that he was waiting until discussion at this meeting to add it, which he will now do. All monetary donations should come to DNREC and DNREC will administer funds as needed.

Legislation

Senator Hansen informed the Commission that SB207 has passed the Senate and was moving to the House. She saw no reasons why the bill would not pass the house also and the Commission discussed where a signing ceremony could be held. Possible locations include a nursery, plant retailer or a wildlife area. Dr. Barton discussed how a large public media event could really help the bill be understood by the public.

Mr. McAvoy noted that the species list in the bill was not consistent with the Delaware Invasive Species Council's list. Mr. White noted that the list for the bill can be modified and species can be added to a Watch List maintained by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Reed Canary Grass was removed from the list on the bill and those agencies that have reed canary grass fields will work to find alternatives.

Subcommittee Guidelines

Senator Hansen shared a document created by another task force she chairs that has several large subcommittees. The document outlines the process for holding subcommittee meetings so as to follow the state laws regarding public meetings. The Senator thought the Commission could adopt

the guidelines for their use. The Commission agreed and Mr. Saveikis stated he would edit the document so that the information was applicable to the Commission and DNREC staff that provide the administrative support of the Commission.

How to address Frenchtown Woods request and similar inquiries

The Commission has received several requests for help or support from the public since being created, Frenchtown Woods being the latest. The Commission discussed how much involvement they should or could have in the development process and what support would look like, whether it would be a letter written to regulatory groups, developers and so on or would it be monetary support to preservation groups. The Commission should decide what role they would play as matters concerning native species arose. As the Commission has no policy or procedure in place for responding to these requests, it was determined that a subcommittee should be formed to create a way to best manage requests. Ms. Athey noted that the Commission was not set up to get involved in development but to be involved with legislation and funding at a higher level. Dr. Barton countered that it could be in the realm of the Commission to offer expertise to groups, by perhaps doing site visits and then commenting. Mr. Saveikis informed the Commission that the Division of Fish & Wildlife has staff that do environmental reviews on areas that are focused on the habitat and species and Senator Hansen mentioned that the State Planning website has environmental reports available. Mr. Sarver noted that the public may not know where to find these reports. Mr. White mentioned that it might be best to express the facts and reasons why to protect an area without noting opposition or support. Dr. Kennedy, Ms. Cooksey and Mr. White volunteered to be on the subcommittee and Mr. White will talk with some of the people who were not in attendance about joining. Ms. Athey suggested that at least one member representing a government entity be on the subcommittee and Mr. Saveikis will appoint an environmental review staff person to join. The subcommittee will form and meet after the Summit is completed.

Commission Logo review

Mr. Downing presented three options that Mt. Cuba's graphic team designed for the Commission to review. The option the Commission decided upon contained a representation of the paw paw plant and a butterfly to the left of the slogan with the Commission name underneath. After discussing the need for accuracy, it was decided that better imagery was needed. Mr. Downing noted that Mt. Cuba's graphic design team had exhausted their pro bono work, so Mr. Saveikis volunteered his staff to continue the refinement of the logo. Mr. McAvoy would submit to Ms. Childers photographs of the paw paw plant; Mr. White would submit imagery of a zebra butterfly and Mr. Downing would submit the graphic files. As the Commission wants to logo ready for the March 24th summit, Dr. Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Saveikis to allow Mr. White to make the final decision on the logo. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Law and Regulations Subcommittee Report

Mr. Petit De Mange was not in attendance. There was no report.

Education Subcommittee Report

Mr. Downing reported that the subcommittee was nearing completion of their tabletop display and working on their goals, which include creating a website for the Commission.

Other Business

Top Ten Tasks

No updates at this meeting.

Goals for 2020

No updates at this meeting.

Ms. Childears discussed an invitation from the Division of Watershed Stewardship to their annual Water Family Fest on Saturday June 13, 2020. The Commission is invited to exhibit at this event. Ms. Childears shared the invite via email before the meeting and provided a hard copy of the flyer to Mr. Downing at the meeting for discussion in the Education Subcommittee.

Ms. Cooksey asked Mr. Saveikis if DNREC had requested any funding for the DNSC from the Joint Finance Committee. Mr. Saveikis indicated they had not.

Public Comment

Ms. Smith suggested the Commission members create an email list from the Summit registrants. She also suggested emailing the invitation to member's groups and invite the local governments and keep talking with them about this.

Ms. Klein urged to Commission to look into changing laws as the rule of law has power. Sussex County developers are over taking the county and foliage is being lost. Ms. Klein felt that a law would go much further than a letter of support. She also mentioned she had been to the Office of State Planning Coordination's Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) webpage and found it impressive. Finally, Ms. Klein asked the Commission to include tribal people in land discussions.

Ms. Truitt asked if there was a way to provide the public with a list of invasive plants and alternatives that also had photographs of the plants. This would be a great tool in educating the public and would be nice to have at the Summit. Ms. Rutkosky mentioned she could send copies of what the USFWS National Parks published in their pamphlet of Invasive Plants of the Northeast.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2020, in Room 220 at 10:00 am.

Adjournment

There being no further business or time, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 am.

Meeting Minutes
Delaware Native Species Commission
April 15, 2020 at 10 am
Virtual Meeting- Video Conference through WebEx

Minutes approved on: June 17, 2020

Members Present

James White, Chair
Lori Athey
Susan Barton
Valann Budischak
Darin Callaway
Sarah Cooksey
Michael Costello
Jeffery Downing

Jessica Inhof
Ashley Kennedy
James McCulley
Michael Petit de Mange
Matthew Sarver
Tracy Surles
Christopher Heckscher
Katherine Holtz

Members Absent

David Saveikis
Robert Thornton, Vice-Chair
Janice Truitt

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Childears, Administrative Specialist III

Public Present

Senator Stephanie Hansen
Bill McAvoy
Sheila Smith
Steve Cottrell
James Coulson
Karen Wilkens

Steven Dietrich
Rick Mickowski
Helen Fischel
Dee Duhram
Bernie August
Wini Walton

Call to Order

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the December 18, 2019 meeting. All eligible commission members approved the minutes. This being the first order of business in the first virtual meeting of the commission, the motion to approve was overlooked.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting. Ms. Athey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petit de Mange to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously by commission members present at that meeting.

Unfinished Business

Legislation

Senator Hansen informed the Commission that SB207 has passed the Senate and was moving to the House. It has not gone through the house committee and with the current shutdown due to the global pandemic, Senator Hansen was not sure what bills would be passed through. The General Assembly has to meet to vote on the state budget so it's possible that smaller, non-controversial bills could be voted on also during this time. Senator Hansen will keep pushing for it to be voted on this session.

New Business

Summit Reschedule

Due to the global pandemic of Coronavirus 19, the Summit scheduled for March 24th had to be cancelled. Mr. Downing reported that they will regroup and start over, looking at a date in the fall. Mr. White pointed out that the foundation has been created so things might go forward easier. Ms. Cooksey asked about the budget. As Mr. Saveikis was absent from the meeting, Ms. Childears relayed information pertaining to the budget of the Commission. The Commission was awarded Grant-in-Aid money from the general assembly for the fiscal year that runs July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Grant-in-Aid money does not follow through fiscal years so if the money is not spent by June 30, 2020, it is lost. However, because of the unique circumstance that occurred (coronavirus 19, global pandemic), Mr. Saveikis was researching if the money could be moved to the new fiscal year as an exception. Senator Hansen requested to be looped in on the research to help follow up. If the money does not go through to the next fiscal year, the Commission will need to find another way to fund the Summit.

Formation of Request for Support Subcommittee

The Commission receives requests for support from various stakeholders. It was decided that at the February meeting that a subcommittee be formed to review requests. Mr. White will set up the first meeting of the subcommittee. Members of the committee will include Ms. Cooksey, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Heckscher, Ms. Surles, Mr. McAvoy and a DNREC staff member to be named later.

Law and Regulations Subcommittee Report

Mr. Petit de Mange experienced audio issues during the meeting and was unable to communicate with the commission. However, he was able to convey that a meeting of the subcommittee has not occurred but the goal of developing a Model Ordinance for local governments that would establish a template for native plant and invasives land use regulations for inclusion in land development codes is still being pursued.

Education Subcommittee Report

Mr. Downing reviewed the subcommittee's goals and thoughts on what to do moving forward.

Other Business

Top Ten Tasks

No updates for this meeting.

Goals for 2020

No updates for this meeting.

Mr. White opened a discussion about pesticide certification which was brought to his attention by Mr. Cottrell. There is an opinion that the certification program does not mention invasive plant protocols and that it is hard to find information on how to remove invasive while leaving non-invasives in place. Mr. Cottrell would like the commission to look into ways to make the program better. Ms. Inhof noted that the Department of Agriculture has programs and plans in place to address this.

Ms. Inhof mentioned that April is Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month and she would send a link to the USDA site that has planned some education sites in regard to this topic.

Mr. Cottrell again led the discussion back to pesticide certification and the need for in-depth training on invasive control. Ms. Budischak noted that training manuals were currently being reviewed and updated. Mr. Sarver also agreed that the training need review as some aspects of the training were confusing. Discussions covered landscape architects, landscapers and general lawn maintenance businesses and the differences between each type. The overall themes were that more education was needed; there should be a push to involve homeowner associations; and there needs to be a tie in between native plants and the wildlife aspect- what native wildlife are drawn in by which native plant species.

Ms. Smith mentioned that #16 on the Commission's recommendations address this topic and perhaps it should be moved into the Top Ten list (The educational material should be distributed to homeowner associations and property management associations. This will not only inform those organizations, but this should be encouraged as one method of subsequent distribution to the individual homeowners).

Public Comment

Senator Hansen showed the Commission the updated pollinator plate that is currently going through legislation. The money raised will go to DelDOT to help provide pollinator habitat along roadways.

Mr. Mikkelsen noted that the Delaware Native Plant Society has updated their publication, Delaware Native Plants for Landscaping and Restoration, and it is available for \$5.00

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2020 in Room 220 at 10:00 am, unless otherwise noticed.

Adjournment

There being no further business or time, the meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Meeting Minutes
Delaware Native Species Commission
June 17, 2020 at 10 am
Virtual Meeting- Video Conference through WebEx

Minutes approved on: August 19, 2020

Members Present

James White, Chair
Lori Athey
Susan Barton
Valann Budischak
Darin Callaway
Sarah Cooksey
Michael Costello
Jeffery Downing
Jessica Inhof

James McCulley
Michael Petit de Mange
Matthew Sarver
David Saveikis
Tracy Surles
Janice Truitt
Christopher Heckscher
Katherine Holtz

Members Absent

Robert Thornton, Vice-Chair

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Childears, Administrative Specialist III

Public Present

Senator Stephanie Hansen
Bill McAvoy
Sheila Smith
Steve Cottrell
Flavia Rutkosky

Steven Dietrich
Rick Mickowski
Helen Fischel
A. Highland
Ashley Kennedy

Call to Order

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the April 15, 2020 meeting. Ms. Cooksey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Athey to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously by commission members present at that meeting.

Unfinished Business

Legislation

Senator Hansen informed the Commission that SB207 might not be considered during this session due to the coronavirus pandemic. Senator Hansen is pushing for it but there is not much time left.

However, SB243 which allows boards and commission to allow meeting participation using remote video outside pandemic times, has been introduced and has a good chance of moving through both Houses.

Summit Reschedule

Due to the global pandemic of Coronavirus 19, the Summit scheduled for March 24th had to be cancelled. Mr. Downing reported that there have been discussions in the subcommittee on creating a virtual series of smaller events or possibly having a virtual summit. Discussion followed in support of virtual events due to the increase ability of participation from public that wouldn't normally travel to an in-person event. The Commission would want to move quickly as interest in gardening and home improvements are on the rise due to the pandemic. Mr. Downing pointed out that because there is no budget for FY2021, whatever is done would either have to cost very little or pay for itself through registration fees.

Mr. Saveikis stated that the Grant-in-Aide money the Commission had received for FY2020 that is set to expire on June 30th was approved by the General Assembly to extend into FY2021 due to the pandemic. There is \$10,000.00 available to the Commission for FY2021. However, the money is encumbered on a purchase order with the Delaware Center for Horticulture that was created for the original Summit. Any expenditure of money would have to come through the DCH.

Mr. Downing noted that the subcommittee will meet and look into utilizing the funding and moving forward with virtual educational sessions.

New Business

Budget/Fundraising

The Commission discussed several ideas to raise funding. Ms. Cooksey asked about the Nation Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Mr. White suggested asking organizations for donations and Mr. Downing mentioned an idea the subcommittee worked on in relation to the summit which involved creating a "sponsorship menu" for individuals to pick levels of donations for certain aspects of running the Commission. Mr. Downing will bring this to the next meeting for further discussion.

Commission Member Updates

Ms. Childears informed the Commission that Dr. Kennedy has been hired as an Environmental Scientist for DNREC which means she is unable to serve on the Commission. Her position is currently vacant, and the Governor's Office has been notified.

Mr. Downing, Mr. McCulley and Mr. Thornton's terms were set to expire on July 30th. Ms. Athey and Ms. Truitt's terms were set to expire on August 10th. All 5 members have agreed to stay on for another term. The Governor's Office has been notified.

Mr. White asked about term limits for the Chair position. Ms. Childears read over the creation bill and determined the Chair serves until replaced. Mr. White said he can stay on as Chair but believes in change so if anyone else wanted to take over, he would be open to that. Ms. Childears asked that anyone interested contact her.

Creating resources/clearinghouse for removing invasive and planting natives

Dr. Barton had received a request for help which led to a discussion on how the Commission can help educate the public and support them. The Commission thought creating a referral list of experts that could be shared with the public would be a good start. All members were encouraged to submit contact information for subject matter experts to Ms. Childears.

Law and Regulations Subcommittee Report

Mr. Petit de Mange stated that it has been difficult to meet with the restrictions in place but knowing that subcommittees can meet virtually will help. The subcommittee needs more members, so anyone interested, please contact Mr. Petit de Mange or Mr. Childears. The subcommittee is working on creating a model ordinance and other ways to support local governments in using native or non-invasive species in landscape design.

Mr. Saveikis reminded Mr. Petit de Mange about the FOIA requirements of posting meeting notices at least 7 days prior to meeting.

Before moving to the Education Subcommittee report, Mr. White mentioned that he had been interviewed for an article and noted that he was chair of the Commission. He wondered if that was an acceptable thing to do. Ms. Cooksey noted that as a member, you took an Oath to protect natural heritage and so if asked about it, you should speak on behalf of the Commission.

Senator Hansen then mentioned SB233 was introduced into session. SB233 aims to amend Title 7 of the Delaware Code relating to the protection of wetlands. It's not going to pass this year, but she wanted to have it on the list to get it started. This bill ties into recommendation number 66 of the Commission's recommendations: Encourage the re-visitation of wetlands regulations to ensure protection of freshwater non-tidal wetlands via regulation and incentives.

Education Subcommittee Report

The subcommittee has put some of its initiatives on hold but is still working on how to create and maintain a web portal for the Commission and the Delaware Naturally! brand.

Land Preservation Subcommittee creation update

Discussion from the April meeting centered around the creation of a subcommittee to handle requests from the public for the Commission to help, support or take action in a matter related to preservation issues. However, there was no formal vote to create the subcommittee. Dr. Heckscher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Petit de Mange to create a Land Preservation Subcommittee. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. White will head the subcommittee and work to set an initial meeting date.

Mr. Saveikis reminded the Commission of the Open Space Council and to be aware of their initiatives so there is not redundancy. Mr. White stated he wants to work with Open Space on issues of biodiversity and is lobbying to get Open Space to allow a member of the Delaware Native Species Commission to have a seat on the Council.

Other Business

Top Ten Tasks

Mr. White reviewed the list with the Commission. Task one is on the web, just not the Delaware Native Species Commission website. Task two is on its way- the bill being delayed by the coronavirus 19 pandemic. Task three has started but it's a big task to gather all the educational material available and the Commission needs to be a curator to assist with this task Task four is being looked at. Tasks five, six, seven and nine are along the same vein and things are moving slowly. New Castle County has done a lot of work to put native species first in their codes and public space landscaping designs. Task eight will be helped by the new land preservation subcommittee and SB233. Task ten was funded but not sure what monies will be available for 2021. Ms. Cooksey mentioned that she'd like to see more education for the private landowners of large parcels so they can work to preserve their land.

Senator Hanson inquired about how number eight would overlap with SB233 and who she could talk with about that. Mr. White suggested any number of biologists within Fish & Wildlife, especially Bill McAvoy. The Senator noted she would reach out after the meeting.

Dr. Heckscher spoke about the lack of specific language for animal species in the top ten. There are several native species not being managed that need attention. Mr. White noted that the new Land Preservation subcommittee, even though title land preservation, should incorporate discussions about animal species.

Goals for 2020

Mr. White reviewed the list with the Commission. Goal one is going well with New Castle County taking the lead and the Law subcommittee working on their model ordinance. Goal two would have been partially completed if not for coronavirus, but the education subcommittee is working diligently on creating education materials. Goal three is being met when commission members speak at other events. Mr. White mentioned he was speaking at a Master Naturalist program that evening. Goal four has not started but Ms. Cooksey will work on starting a strategic plan and

bring that to the next meeting. Goal five is also moving forward with having the senate bill on invasive species ban in the general assembly. Dr. Heckscher mentioned he was been promoting the Wildlife Action Plan. The biggest strides have been in education.

Public Comment

Mr. Dietrich had requested some help through the chat function of the virtual meeting platform about removing Bradford pear trees which Mr. Mickowski answered, also in chat.

Mr. Cottrell asked where he could see Dr. Barton’s presentation mentioned during the meeting. It is available on the Preservation Delaware webpage.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2020 in Room 220 at 10:00 am, unless otherwise noticed.

Adjournment

There being no further business or time, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Meeting Minutes
Delaware Native Species Commission
August 19, 2020 at 10 am
Virtual Meeting- Video Conference through WebEx

Minutes approved on: October 21, 2020

Members Present

James White, Chair
Lori Athey
Valann Budischak
Darin Callaway
Sarah Cooksey
Michael Costello
Jeffery Downing
Jessica Inhof

James McCulley
Matthew Sarver
David Saveikis
Sheila Smith
Tracy Surles
Janice Truitt
Christopher Heckscher
Katherine Holtz

Members Absent

Susan Barton
Michael Petit de Mange
Robert Thornton, Vice-Chair

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Childears, Administrative Specialist III

Public Present- some public attendees may not be listed due to limitations of virtual meeting

Senator Stephanie Hansen
Steve Cottrell
Helen Fischel
Roger Craig
Jeff Brothers
Blake Moore

Call to Order

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed new commission member Shelia Smith. Ms. Smith has attended all meetings of the commission as a public attendee since it began and is looking forward to assisting the commission to meet its goals.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting. Ms. Cooksey requested a word change to statement made about oaths of office from biodiversity to natural heritage. Ms.

Truitt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Budischak to accept the minutes with the correction. The motion carried unanimously by commission members present at that meeting.

Unfinished Business

Legislation

Senator Hansen informed the Commission that she will bring SB207, the invasive plant bill, back up in January and is planning on getting it approved.

Senate Bill 243, which allows boards and commission to allow meeting participation using remote video outside pandemic times, did pass and was signed into law. This law will have logistical implications on future commission meetings once the commission is able to meet in person.

New Business

Presentation on New Castle County Draft Ordinance

Dee Durham, New Castle County Councilwoman, was to present a draft of the New Castle County Native Plant Ordinance she has been working on. Ms. Durham was unable to make the meeting, but Ms. Surles did speak to the commission on Ms. Durham's behalf.

Ms. Durham had two major questions she wanted the commission's input on. One pertained to which list of invasive plants was the best list to use and the other was a request for assistance on a technical aspects of planting natives in parking areas.

After discussion, the Commission decided to refer this topic to the Land Preservation Subcommittee for a more detailed look. Ms. Athey requested to be added to the subcommittee at this time.

Strategic Plan

Ms. Cooksey provided a strategic plan hand-out and noted that there is a lot of time needed up front to get started and the commission has done some of the work already.

The discussion, which is summarized below, centered around budgetary needs and it was ultimately decided that the commission would first seek advice from a DNREC Deputy Attorney General (DAG) regarding the best way to receive funding outside of state-provided funds.

Funding for the Commission is a frequent topic of the educational subcommittee meetings. Besides administrative costs, the Commission would like to have funds to start and complete many initiatives, including an inclusive and interactive web portal. There are several factors that could restrict how the Commission receives and spends money, the first of which is that funds received and spent must follow state accounting laws. Senator Hansen mentioned that she spoke with the controller general's office about ways to mix state money with publicly raised money. The Commission cannot do that so it must look for ways to raise money without relying on

government funding, which is unreliable. There are three scenarios that could work for the Commission: 1. Creating a 501c3 within the commission; 2. Partnering with an existing 501c3 organization; 3. Changing the law to set a fiscal note for the commission. The easiest path would be to partner with another 501c3 organization and form a mutual agreement.

Mr. Saveikis will prepare a legal referral for the DAG's office and report back to the Commission no later than the October meeting. The legal referral will primarily address the question of how partnering with a 501c3 organization would work and if the Commission could still receive state funding if they were in an agreement with a 501c3.

Law and Regulations Subcommittee Report

The subcommittee has not meet recently. There is no report.

Education Subcommittee Report

Mr. Downing reported that the subcommittee is discussing how to present the information and goals of the canceled March Summit in a virtual format. The Commission discussed several aspects of a virtual event including creating a website and having the event available for viewing after its completion. There is budgeted money available and the Delaware Center for Horticultural is still committed to assisting with the effort. However, there may be a need to provide a change to the Scope of Work that was submitted with the original contract prepared for DCH.

Land Preservation Subcommittee Report

Mr. White reported that the subcommittee met in which they drafted a mission statement, discussed how requests would be received and decided on a different name for the subcommittee. The proposed name is Conservation Science Subcommittee. Ms. Cooksey made a motion, seconded by Dr. Heckscher to approve the name of the subcommittee as Conservation Science subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White will provide a copy of the mission statement to the commission members for review and approval at the October meeting. The draft mission statements is: The Conservation Science Subcommittee advises the Delaware Native Species Commission on technical aspects of the status, ecology, protection, and conservation of native species and habitats in Delaware.

Other Business

Top Ten Tasks

Mr. White acknowledged public attendee Steve Cottrell for his work with the University of Delaware in replacing Gingko trees around campus. This work helps promote number five of the top ten tasks which reads: All Delaware state facilities and departments should set the example, reducing lawn and replacing with native plants or pollinator gardens, and revising land management practices to be more pollinator friendly.

Ms. Smith noted that she has been working with Ms. Durham and Ms. Surles in New Castle County and request that when the Commission decides on a list of native plants and trees to distribute to the public, that they follow the format being used currently in New Castle County documents. This is in line with number one on the top ten tasks which reads: Recommend the Task force promote the distribution of a list of native plants and trees that are easy to grow in our area.

New Castle County is also making strides in number nine on the list, Encourage all counties to adopt environmental design standards for development projects in order to protect key wildlife habitats and species of greatest conservation need, per Mr. Sarver.

Dr. Heckscher asked which of the top ten are not being worked on. He pointed to number eight, Encourage protection of Delaware's rarest plant communities such as Atlantic White Cedar Swamps, Coastal Plain Ponds, Interdunal Swales, Sea-level Fens, Piedmont Streamside Seepage Wetland, and Piedmont Tuliptree Rich Woods. Senator Hansen is working on new legislation for non-tidal wetlands and she noted she could explore including this task into that legislation.

Goals for 2020

Mr. White noted that it is time to start thinking ahead to 2021 and what the goals should be. The annual report to the General Assembly is due in December and there are two Commission meetings left. Mr. White requested Ms. Childers email the current goals to the members so they can edit or suggest new ones ahead of the October meeting for review during that meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Cottrell started a discussion on the spotted lantern fly invasion and wondered if the commission could do anything to assist efforts. Ms. Inhoff has been working with the spotted lantern fly for several months through the Department of Agriculture but has been facing several challenges. Mr. Cottrell noted that Pennsylvania has placed the Tree of Heaven on the noxious weed list and perhaps Delaware could do that also.

Mr. Moore mentioned that the Delaware Invasive Specials Council has completed the updated of their invasive plants lists.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2020 in Room 220 at 10:00 am, unless otherwise noticed. Mr. White suggested that the meeting would most likely be over WebEx given we are still in the pandemic.

Adjournment

There being no further business or time, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Meeting Minutes
Delaware Native Species Commission
October 21, 2020 at 10 am
Virtual Meeting- Video Conference through WebEx

Minutes approved on: December 16, 2020

Members Present

James White, Chair	James McCulley
Robert Thornton, Vice-Chair	Michael Petit de Mange
Lori Athey	Matthew Sarver
Susan Barton	David Saveikis
Valann Budischak	Sheila Smith
Darin Callaway	Tracy Surles
Sarah Cooksey	Janice Truitt
Michael Costello	Christopher Heckscher
Jeffery Downing	Katherine Holtz
Jessica Inhof	

Members Absent

None

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Childears, Administrative Specialist III

Public Present- some public attendees may not be listed due to limitations of virtual meeting

Senator Stephanie Hansen	Lori Brown
Steve Cottrell	Tyler Monteith
Helen Fischel	Elaine Schmerling
Jeff Brothers	Dee Duhram
Rick Mickowski	A. Highland
Flavia Rutkosky	Savannah Sipes

Call to Order

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the August 19, 2020 meeting. Ms. Cooksey noted a typo where instead of “tidal” it was “title.” Mr. Petit de Mange made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cooksey to accept the minutes with the correction. The motion carried unanimously by commission members present at that meeting.

Unfinished Business

Legal Referral regarding fundraising

Mr. Saveikis sent a legal referral to the DNREC Deputy Attorney General (DAG) on behalf of the commission asking if the commission can: partner with a 501(c)(3) organization that would raise, administer and expend private or governmental funds on behalf of and in support of the DNSC; directly hold and expend such funds raised and transferred by a 501(c)(3) organization; and directly apply for, receive, administer and expend grant and other funds from private or federal, state or local government sources.

The DAG responded that the commission is considered part of DNREC and can work with a 501c3 organization. It can also apply for grants and receive money in accordance with the Budget, Fiscal, Procurement and Contract Regulations outlined in Delaware Code, Title 29, chapter 76, with such funds held and expended in accordance with DNREC fiscal procedures and policies.

Discussions about managing funds ended with the suggestion of putting it with the Education Subcommittee.

New Business

Annual Report to the General Assembly/Goals for 2021

Ms. Childears presented the draft report for 2020 to the commission. Discussions centered around the Goals for 2021 section of the report. Dr. Heckscher, Ms. Athey, Mr. Sarver and Mr. Downing all had suggestions to enhance the current goals in terms of education, adding wildlife needs and securing state employees in key conservation roles. The goals will be updated and sent for review to be completed by the Thanksgiving holiday.

Law and Regulations Subcommittee Report

Time constraints have kept the subcommittee from meeting regularly but the goal to create a model ordinance is still viable and there are plans to meet within the next two months.

Education Subcommittee Report

Work continues with the virtual summit and stand-alone website. Now that the issue with funding has been clarified, planning can begin. Ms. Fischel and staff at the DCH will meet to get started.

Mr. Downing felt that moving fiscal management of the commission to the subcommittee would be too much and would like to see a separate subcommittee created to manage the funding of the commission. Ms. Athey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cooksey, to create a Fiscal Management Subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. White will follow up with a call to join the subcommittee.

Conservation Science Subcommittee Report

Mr. White presented the commission with a draft document containing a mission statement, goals, methods and procedures for the subcommittee. Comments suggesting edits and additions were made. Mr. White will incorporate.

The subcommittee reviewed a New Castle County draft ordinance change to encourage planting native species in new development. The discussion centered on what invasive species list to use and identifying allowable plants in environmentally sensitive areas. The decision was made to use the same invasive species list as the current senate bill regarding invasive species prohibitions.

Other Business

Top Ten Tasks

No discussion.

Goals for 2020

Discussed earlier when reviewing the annual report.

Mr. Sarver made a comment to the commission regarding a news item he came across that discussed the Allegheny Land Trust awarding a \$1 million grant to the PA Department of Natural Resources to purchase land. Mr. Sarver brought this up to say that there are other ways to find funding outside of the State or the Open Space Council.

Public Comment

Mr. Cottrell reported that the University of Delaware is not interested in removing the Ginkgo Trees planted last summer. Mr. White suggested working with the university to plant native species in new areas of development occurring on campus. Ms. Smith mentioned she works with the city of Newark and developers to plant natives in the city.

Ms. Sipes introduced herself to the commission. Ms. Sipes is a graduate student at the University of Delaware and is part of several student groups that are willing to partner with the commission in any way that would be helpful. Senator Hansen thanked Ms. Sipes for her willingness to assist the commission.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2020. Virtual meeting information will be provided.

Adjournment

There being no further business or time, the meeting adjourned at 11:28 am.

Meeting Minutes
Delaware Native Species Commission
December 16, 2020 at 10 am

DRAFT

Virtual Meeting- Video Conference through WebEx

Minutes approved on:

Members Present

James White, Chair
Lori Athey
Susan Barton
Valann Budischak
Darin Callaway
Jeffery Downing
Jessica Inhof

James McCulley
Matthew Sarver
David Saveikis
Sheila Smith
Christopher Heckscher
Katherine Holtz

Members Absent

Robert Thornton, Vice-Chair
Sarah Cooksey
Michael Costello
Michael Petit de Mange
Janice Truitt
Tracy Surles

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Childears, Administrative Specialist III

Public Present

Senator Stephanie Hansen
Steve Cottrell
Helen Fischel
Rick Mickowski
Rebecca Gartley
Ashley Kennedy
Bill McAvoy

Call to Order

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting. Ms. Athey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Smith to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously by commission members present at that meeting.

Unfinished Business

Annual Report to the General Assembly/Goals for 2021

Ms. Childears presented the draft report for 2020 to the commission. Discussions centered around final additions to the report. Mr. White and Mr. Downing will provide highlights for their respective subcommittees. Mr. White may also add an additional goal. Next steps involved the commission reviewing the final draft and then Mr. White will email the required recipients.

New Business

Law and Regulations Subcommittee Report

No lead members of the subcommittee were present at this meeting.

Education Subcommittee Report

Mr. Downing presented a draft schedule for a possible virtual summit. Mr. Saveikis noted that no billable work can be done on the summit by the Delaware Horticulture Center (DHC) until there is a signed contract with DNREC, to which Mr. Downing responded that final details on the scope of work for the contract were being completed soon. Ms. Smith asked if the summit would include panel discussions, how the public would interact during sessions and if the commission recommendations were incorporated into the sessions. Mr. Downing noted that several sessions were slated to be roundtable discussions with prompts to facilitate interaction and that the recommendation would be included as topics.

Mr. Downing also mentioned DHC was thinking of partnering with the commission to be a conduit for fundraising and spending but there are more details to research before committing.

It is not currently feasible, with limited funding and even more limited time, to create a fully functional, quality website for the commission. However, Mt. Cuba did purchase the domain names for two possible sites and will hold them until such time as they can be transferred, when there is money, time and a dedicated person to manage the site. DHC also considered housing the Commission's website but further investigating revealed that doing so would make it appear that the Commission was a subgroup and affiliated with the DHC.

Conservation Science Subcommittee Report

Mr. White reported that the subcommittee was still working on fleshing out wording for goals and procedures, but they have identified two tasks they would like to start working on. The first task is to work with the Division of Fish & Wildlife on updates to the list of species of conservation concern. The other task is to develop a process for evaluating conservation opportunities that might occur in Delaware.

The subcommittee is still looking for a chairperson.

Fiscal Management Subcommittee Report

Ms. Cooksey will chair this subcommittee. As it was just established at the October meeting and Ms. Cooksey was not present today, there is no report.

Other Business

2021 Meeting Dates

Ms. Childears displayed the meeting dates for 2021 as Feb 17, April 21, June 16, August 18, Oct 20, Dec 15. The Commission hopes to meet in person as early as April, but that ability will not be known until that time.

Top Ten Tasks

No discussion.

Goals for 2021

No discussion.

Ms. Inhof mentioned her staff at the Department of Agriculture (DDA) has questions regarding communication surrounding the Invasive species bill that will be part of the General Assembly this January. DDA and Delaware Nursery and Landscape Association (DNLA) are working on a notice to share with the industries affected by the bill. The questions are: does the commission want to have a statement in the notice and who should be the point of contact for industry members that have questions regarding the bill. The commission does wish to have a statement included and since Ms. Inhof is part of the commission, it was suggested by Mr. White that she add a statement on behalf of the commission. The point of contact for questions will be Ms. Inhoff and Ms. Budischak. For questions they cannot answer, they will bring before the commission.

It was decided that a notice of future communication concerning the bill will be included in the virtual DE Horticulture Industry Expo this January.

Senator Hansen mentioned she agreed with the discussion points and that any questions should be directed to the experts on the commission such as Ms. Inhof and Ms. Budischak and others. If, later, there needs to be clarifying regulations added to the bill, that can be done.

Public Comment

Mr. Cottrell stated the need to create a public relations campaign for the bill prior to it being signed by the Governor. As Delaware will be the first of the surrounding states to have this type of ban bill, it is a big deal and communicating with the public, in the addition to the industries, is paramount. Ms. Smith mentioned talking about it at the virtual summit. Ms. Childears said she would add it to future agendas when the bill is back before the General Assembly.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021. Virtual meeting information will be provided.

Adjournment

There being no further business or time, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.

Appendix E: Delaware Native Species Commission Top Ten List and Recommendations

The Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force (Task Force) identified a series of recommendations to be considered by the Delaware Native Species Commission. The Commission is tasked with completing or assisting with the completion of all recommendations. To provide a focal point, the Commission, over the course of 5 months, created a “top ten” list of recommendations to start working on. The list below reflects the Commission’s “top ten” with the remaining recommendations listed in no particular order. Bold text following recommendation refers to the Task Force’s original categorizing of the recommendations.

Top Ten

1. Recommend the Task force promote the distribution of a list of native plants and trees that are easy to grow in our area. *(Please note that the Commission assumes this recommendation should read Recommend the Commission promote..)* **Education**
2. Make the sale of invasive plants illegal in Delaware, allowing an appropriate phase-out period after legislation passes. (A) Invasive species are those on the Delaware Invasive Species Council plant list, as periodically amended. (B) The Delaware Invasive Species Council plant list must be reviewed and amended if necessary on a regular basis. **Legislation to Prohibit the Sale of Invasive Species**
3. Educational material should be developed, tailored to the specific target audience, which will explain the benefit of native species as well as the effect of non-native and invasive species proliferation, and their contribution to the decline of our local species. **Education**
4. Encourage the preservation of the remaining intact forest habitat (largest tracts should receive highest priority). **Incentivizing Private Landowners**
5. All Delaware state facilities and departments should set the example, reducing lawn and replacing with native plants or pollinator gardens, and revising land management practices to be more pollinator friendly. **Government Leads by Example**
6. Encourage municipalities to adopt native landscaping in their codes. **Government Leads by Example**
7. Encourage new public facilities to use native plants in landscaping. **Government Leads by Example**
8. Encourage protection of Delaware’s rarest plant communities such as Atlantic White Cedar Swamps, Coastal Plain Ponds, Interdunal Swales, Sea-level Fens, Piedmont Streamside Seepage Wetland, and Piedmont Tuliptree Rich Woods. **Legislation Affecting Development**
9. Encourage all counties to adopt environmental design standards for development projects in order to protect key wildlife habitats and species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). **Legislation Affecting Development**

10. Fund the Delaware Open Space Program at the level required by statute. **Funding Open Space Program at Statutory Level**

Education

11. Educational material should be developed, tailored to the specific audience, on the preservation and management of open spaces within communities, on private property, and on public property.
12. Educational material should be developed to specifically guide property owners on the identification of non-native and invasive species, the native species alternatives, and proper management of property landscaping.
13. A curriculum should be developed to bring the educational material into our children's classrooms and various outreach programs.
14. The educational material should be distributed to professional organizations having responsibility in property development such as engineers, landscape design professionals, landscape contractors, and professional builders.
15. Encourage incorporating the educational material in obtaining or maintaining professional licensing.
16. The educational material should be distributed to homeowner associations and property management associations. This will not only inform those organizations, but this should be encouraged as one method of subsequent distribution to the individual homeowners.
17. (A) The educational material should be available to individual property owners through home and garden centers, state and local government, and other organizations as available.
(B) Recommend to the Delaware Real Estate Commission to add a line on the Sellers Disclosure forms directing homeowners to a webpage of educational material.
18. The educational material should form the basis of training seminars and trade symposiums geared toward local government officials involved in land use planning.
19. Education through media outlets should be investigated and implemented. Examples include advertising and discussion on social media, radio and television (including local cable television and New Castle County's television station).
20. Education through demonstration projects by local government, business owners, non-profits and others should be encouraged and properly recognized. Signage associated with the project is critical and should be encouraged.
21. Education through public presentations to interested groups and organizations should be encouraged.
22. Methods of funding centered on implementing the educational initiatives recommended by the Task Force should be explored, including public/private arrangements.
23. Educational campaigns centered around informing the public on the value of wildlife and how wildlife and their native habitats benefit humans including how all three are interconnected should be encouraged.

24. A program to either educate landowners on living/green shoreline options and their benefits and/or a program to train engineers in living/green shoreline construction including the pros and cons of various options to minimize shoreline erosion should be encouraged.
25. Encourage landscape contractors to remove, manage, and control invasive plants and replant with native species.
26. Promote/follow Delaware Livable Lawns practices on lawns in Delaware. (<https://www.delawarelivablelawns.org/>).
27. Recommend that education and incentives be used to encourage property owners to plant and or convert to native plants and trees on their properties.
28. Prepare several examples of single family home landscape plans that use native trees and plants (+ or - 75% of those chosen) to show how native plants and trees may provide an aesthetically pleasing yard and one that is easy to maintain.
29. Encourage the development of a training course and/or seminar that developers, landscape professionals, and others may attend to provide education and a forum for collaboration of ideas to promote the planting of native trees and plants.
30. Governmental, educational, and environmental organizations should work together to develop a comprehensive, environmental education program regarding using native species versus non-native and invasive species.

Incentivizing Private Landowners

31. Method of Incentivizing: Establish incentives such as expedited permitting and density bonuses for environmentally sensitive landscape design practices such as those included in Sustainable Sites, the National Green Building Standard, Energy Star, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, or green technology best management practices.
32. Incentivize land development applicants to incorporate DNREC's PLUS recommendations regarding specific potential impacts to state rare and federally listed species and their habitats into their development plans.
33. Create incentives for reducing lawn area and replacing it with native plants.
34. Encourage the incorporation of pollinator and other insect habitat into incentive programs.
35. Provide incentives for home buyers with native landscaping such as the Green4Green program.
36. Seek funding to cost share native habitat improvements on private lands.
37. Incentivize homeowners and developers to retain tree species of high wildlife value (e.g. oaks, hickories).
38. Encourage the funding of the Forestland Preservation easement program.
39. Explore opportunities to provide state-level add-on incentives and best management practices to targeted species via NRCS and FSA programs.
40. Explore opportunities to provide state income tax exemptions for state or federal conservation incentive payments.

41. Encourage tax ditch associations to implement BMPs that minimize impacts to key habitats.
42. Encourage the development of and/or marketing of biodiversity certification programs for private forestland and farmland.
43. Encourage enrollment in the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification Program.
44. Increase access to prescribed fire as a management tool.
45. Encourage support of the Landowner Incentives Program.
46. Preserve or otherwise conserve and manage as much of the remaining (*non-tidal*) freshwater wetlands as possible – e.g. Delmarva Bays (Coastal Plain Ponds).

Government Leads by Example

47. Create incentives for using native plants on public property.
48. Provide funding/incentives for the removal of invasive plants on public property and, where appropriate, replant with native species.
49. Provide incentives/requirements for reduced lawn areas in passive open space public landscapes.
50. Provide funding/incentives for demonstration landscapes on public land to demonstrate sustainable landscape practices including reduced lawn, use of native plants, reduced mulch, etc.
51. On all highway medians, mow a strip of grass adjacent to the roadway (beauty strip) and allow the rest of the vegetation to grow. Mow median once or twice a year in late fall or early spring.*
52. On all highway roadsides, mow one mower pass above the ditch line to allow for designed drainage function. Mow the rest of the right of way once or twice a year in early Spring or late Fall as needed to control invasive species. Woody vegetation may be allowed to grow on some rights of way if invasives are controlled.*
53. On highway cloverleaves created by on/off ramps, mow one mower pass adjacent to the ramp/roadway. Mow the rest of the cloverleaf one or two times a year as needed to control height, visibility and invasive species. Woody vegetation may be allowed to grow on some rights of way if invasive species are controlled.
54. On secondary roads, apply reduced mowing standards whenever feasible.
55. Encourage the removal and stump treatment of woody invasive plants on DelDOT rights of way.
56. On new highway projects that involve landscaping, plant predominantly native species.
57. Develop model legislation or policy to make it easier for state or local government to make changes, such as adopting legislation or policy requiring native species of new government buildings and parks.

* Ideally, if mowing once per year, mowing should take place in early spring, with late fall being a less desirable alternative. The second mowing, if desired, should occur in late June. (Technical clarification provided by Susan Barton, Delaware Landscape and Nursery Association)

58. Encourage state and local governments to make better use of existing land by creating better habitats on available land. Examples could include creating native meadows, creation of wetlands, reforestation, etc.
59. Review DelDOT's policies and work collaboratively to enhance the role of DelDOT in species conservation, without reducing highway safety, by: (A) designating reduced salt use in environmentally sensitive areas (B) native plantings (C) increased collaborative management of ROWs and water control structures (D) Coordinate timing of mowing and construction to minimize impacts (E) Integrate key habitat and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) conservation into long-range transportation planning.
60. Given the State of Delaware owns a large percentage of land in the state, we recommend increasing funding, staffing, and better management practices of state owned lands.
61. Work with DNREC and the individual Tax Ditch Organizations to explore the feasibility of establishing landscape buffers along tax ditches in order to reduce erosion along ditch banks, reduce maintenance requirements, and improve water quality.

Legislation Affecting Development

62. Review existing regulations to determine their effectiveness in protecting state-endangered species.
63. Look for linkages and connectivity between native habitats in existing and new development to connect native habitat in subdivision site plans.
64. Encourage drafting of legislation for use by local governments that would provide exemptions for common areas, buffer zones, and open space areas from tall weeds/grass property code violations, when maintained in accordance with an approved plan.
65. Encourage Kent and Sussex Counties to adopt overlay zoning ordinances incorporating sensitive natural resources.
66. Encourage the revisitation of wetlands regulations to ensure protection of freshwater non-tidal wetlands via regulation and incentives.
67. Ensure that all State, County, and local codes allow for managed meadow areas as defined by neatly mowed edges, mowed paths, and management plans.

Funding Open Space Program at Statutory Level

68. Open Space Program funds should be used for purchasing high-quality habitats with native plants and trees, especially those habitats required for species of special concern and those that connect existing protected lands.
69. Continue dedicating funds toward the Agricultural Land Preservation Program as finances permit.

Deer Management

70. Encourage the review of county code or local ordinances that may be inhibiting adequate deer harvest.
71. Encourage land owners and land managers to increase deer harvest as necessary to reduce impacts to key habitats.
72. Promote the availability of deer damage permits to non-agricultural land owners.
73. Encourage farmers to utilize their crop damage tags by allowing hunting on their property.
74. The sign-up process for the DE Severe Damage Program should be streamlined and more user-friendly.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

75. By offering support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, the Delaware Ecological Extinction Task Force supports the efforts of the Blue Ribbon Panel to identify an adequate and sustainable source of money dedicated to the conservation of species in greatest conservation need in an effort to prevent further population declines in some species of wildlife thus reducing the risk of more species becoming endangered.
76. The Delaware Ecological Extinction Task Force supports the efforts of the Blue Ribbon Panel to identify an adequate and sustainable source of money dedicated to the conservation of species in greatest conservation need and offers support of this effort by joining the Recovering America's Wildlife Sign-On Letter which can be found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvMgnygWgk_nLeygYJ4tTVpX4bCDpFG_cbbZ_tOPA_JRwUlg/viewform
77. Following the introduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act a letter on behalf of the Delaware Ecological Extinction Task Force shall be sent to Representative Lisa Blunt-Rochester and Senators Thomas R. Carper and Christopher A. Coons requesting their support for the legislation.

Formation of the Delaware Native Species Commission **COMPLETE**

78. The Delaware Native Species Commission should be formed by an action of the General Assembly to implement the recommendations of the Task Force and report back to the General Assembly on a yearly basis. Its membership should reflect a balance of interests between environmental professionals, government, and other stakeholders, and meet on a regular basis to be determined by the Commission. The Commission will sunset ten (10) years after enactment unless reauthorized by the General Assembly.