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A Generational Legacy of Conservation

For Ted Daeschler, a love of nature has always run in the family.

“My grandmother, Helen Hauser, loved to watch birds at the bird feeder and get us to learn the species names,” he says, recalling his childhood spending summers in northeast Pennsylvania’s Pocono Mountains. “When we would go fishing, we would keep a record of what we caught. My grandmother would actually give us a nickel or a dime if we saw certain kinds of birds or found certain flowers. It taught me to observe the world around me in a new way.”

An accomplished naturalist and a lifelong advocate for conservation, Helen Hauser spent summers at Pocono Lake Preserve in Pennsylvania and was an early supporter of The Nature Conservancy.

“In the 1980s, TNC was part of purchasing an adjacent wetland ecosystem, and my grandmother and others in my family spoke to people in the community to help raise those funds. TNC still stewards that property,” Daeschler says. “That was my first connection to TNC and understanding the importance of conservation.”

In 2002, TNC completed the reconstruction of the barn at our Long Pond Preserve and dedicated it as the Hauser Nature Center in recognition of the generous contributions of the Hauser family.

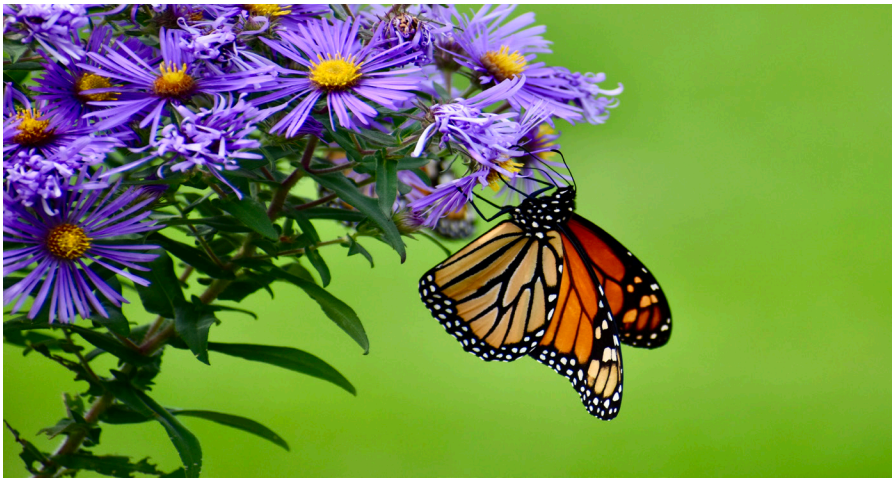
Daeschler has had a distinguished career as a geologist and paleontologist. He has been a scientist at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia since 1987, and a member of the Drexel University faculty since 2011. After he earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, his vertebrate paleontology (*continued, over*)



Left to right: Ted Hauser (son of Helen Hauser); Lynn Magrane (granddaughter of Helen Hauser); and Ted Daeschler (grandson of Helen Hauser). Courtesy Ted Hauser

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A Monarch butterfly at TNC's Hauser Nature Center © Matt Kane / TNC

(continued from front) research took him to far-flung locales such as the Canadian Arctic and Antarctica. But closer to home, he and his family have always remained involved with TNC.

“When my grandmother passed, my mother, Joan Hauser Daeschler, continued to support improvements and maintenance at the nature center. My sister, Lynn Daeschler Magrane, was actually on the TNC Pennsylvania Board of Trustees for some time,” says Daeschler, who is currently a Pennsylvania/Delaware Trustee. “We all care deeply about the organization and its mission, and now I’m continuing that tradition.”

Daeschler notes that as a geologist, he naturally thinks across very lengthy time scales. In his travels around the world, he’s observed the rate and scale at which humans are affecting the planet. And that, he says, is one reason why he chose to become a member of TNC’s Legacy Club: to ensure that nature is protected long into the future.

TNC’s Legacy Club, now in its 30th year, offers supporters several flexible options for including TNC in their estate planning to support conservation programs. Daeschler and his family, for example, have chosen to structure their gift as a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, which offers tax savings and income benefits.

Bequests from Legacy Club members allow TNC to continue our long-standing work in regions like the Poconos by acquiring property, completing an ecological management plan and establishing a prescribed fire program for this unique landscape, restoring more than 2,000 acres to date in the area’s unique till barrens ecosystem. Today, TNC continues to work with local government and other partners to acquire and manage additional lands and provide public access to outdoor recreation.

“Legacy really is the right word for it, because there are so many different meanings within that. Ultimately, it’s about building for the future,” Daeschler says. “What’s really nice about family members sharing a love of nature is building intergenerational connections—it allows you to connect with those that are older or younger than you and you learn from them. That’s such an invaluable part of society, and it’s what we want to be remembered for.”

To learn more about joining the Legacy Club, please email us at PADE@tnc.org.

PENNSYLVANIA DELAWARE



Eastern Bluebirds © Steve Byland

Summer Birding Guide

Bring your binoculars: More than 100 bird species have been observed at TNC’s Edward H. McCabe Preserve in southern Delaware, including a pair of bald eagles that have become a common sight from the dock. You’ll spy osprey hunting for fish and wood thrushes hopping around the forest floor searching for insects under the gaze of eastern bluebirds perched on tree branches along the edge of the fields.

The McCabe preserve offers a wide variety of hiking trails and habitats, including woodlands (TNC has reforested the preserve since 1993), tidal marshes and riverine ecosystems. Visitors may access this preserve on foot or set out by kayak from the town of Milton via the Broadkill River. No matter which you choose, an outdoor adventure awaits you.

Want to find even more great birdwatching spots in Pennsylvania and Delaware? Visit our all-season guide for photos, tips, helpful resources, local events and more: nature.org/PADEbirding