

Natural Lands' Force of Nature® volunteer program is a way to support land conservation and connect people to the outdoors through strong dedication to Natural Lands. Force of Nature volunteers participate in comprehensive training and commit to serving at least 20 hours per year.

Force of Nature volunteers learn about Natural Lands conservation strategies, land stewardship activities, leadership opportunities, and outreach to connect people to the outdoors and each other. Volunteers gain valuable information and insights from Natural Lands staff, hone skills, and give back to a great cause and community. Force of Nature volunteers become important Natural Lands representatives.

The **Force of Nature Class of 2023 training runs February 25 through April 29, 2023**. Nine (9) total sessions are scheduled on Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings, held in-person or virtually via Zoom. Volunteers must attend the minimum required sessions as indicated to graduate the program.

Saturdays, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm, in-person at various preserve locations:

Must attend at least 3 of 4 Saturday sessions, including the first one.

- **February 25** – *in-person* at Crow's Nest Preserve, Elverson
Introduction; biodiverse eco-systems; invasive plants removal.
- **March 11** – *in-person* at ChesLen Preserve, Coatesville
Habitat restoration; Leave No Trace; land stewardship.
- **March 25** – *in-person* at Gwynedd Preserve, North Wales
Tree planting and tree tube maintenance.
- **April 8** – *in-person* at Stoneleigh: *a natural garden*, Villanova
Ecologically-sustainable gardening.

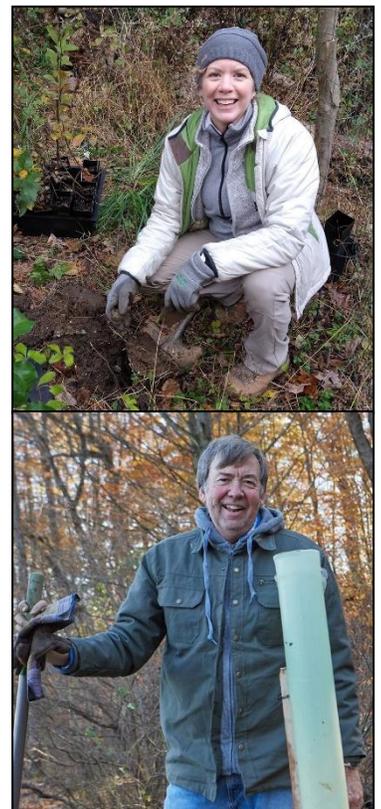
Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, virtual via Zoom, except one in-person session:

Must participate in at least 3 of 5 evening sessions, including the first one.

- **March 2** – *in-person* at Hildacy Preserve, Media
Mission and messaging; conservation strategies.
- **March 16** – *virtual* – Climate adaptability; wildlife management and nestboxes.
- **March 30** – *virtual* – Events; trail & garden tenders; community science.
- **April 13** – *virtual* – Leadership: Preserve Peer Leaders.
- **April 20** – *virtual* – Leadership: Preserve Ambassadors and outreach.

Saturday, April 29, 1:00-3:00 pm, in-person at ChesLen Preserve

Graduation and Spring Celebration – all Force of Nature volunteers invited.



Photos by Ed Cunicelli (top), Debbie Beer

In-person sessions will be held indoors and outdoors. The health and safety of Natural Lands' staff, volunteers, and visitors remains our top priority. Currently, Natural Lands is not requiring masks or proof of vaccination to participate in the Force of Nature program. We will continue to monitor the situation and adhere to CDC and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania COVID-19 safety guidelines and will update our policies as needed, which may include wearing masks if recommended by the CDC. If you are sick, please stay home.

Training includes hands-on service-learning outdoors. Prepare to trek rugged terrain, handle small tools, and get hands dirty. Wear seasonally-appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear.