

LandHeath Institute



LandHeath's Nursery : PhilaFlora Photo:
Steve Jones



Plants growing at the Nursery. Photo: Steve
Jones

Nursery Updates

Now is the perfect time to focus on your garden. Due to Covid-19, many of the nurseries in the Philadelphia area have been closed. LandHeath's nursery, PhilaFlora, is an exception. We are currently OPEN in full operation and offer contact-less delivery as well as curbside pickup. We have a wide selection of plants that are native to the Philadelphia area such as the New England Aster, Foxglove, Red Columbine and more! Visit [our nursery page](#) to find more information about our nursery as well as why native plants could be the right choice for you!

Philadelphia Watershed Stewardship (PWS) Program 2020 Updates

PWS is a unique field-based environmental leadership program and paid opportunity for high school students in Philadelphia. Please join us for a PWS Info Session **Th 5/28 4:00-5:00**. Send an email to info@landhealthinstitute.org and we will share the Zoom link.

We are currently working on creating new and engaging content that the students who were selected to be a part of the PWS program can enjoy! If you know anyone who is interested in the program, we encourage you to send us any information to info@landhealthinstitute.org before the official start date of the program on May 31st (APPLY HERE)



American brown snakes (Storeria) Photo:
Steve Jones

New partnerships

LandHeath is proud to announce that we are completing our order for one of our biggest client yet, the Philadelphia Zoo! This large order of plants has been moved out of the nursery greenhouse and is ready to be transported! LandHeath has also been pleased to announce that it has been featured in an article on the website of the Drexel Charles D. Close school of entrepreneurship [click here](#) to read the article and learn more about LandHeath.

Feature -Nursery Wildlife, by Steve Jones

"Our native plant nursery, PhilaFlora, is a major part of LandHealth's mission to "put nature back." Our greenhouses and beds sit on formerly unused land in Parkside, West Philadelphia. For a long part of its history this land was the site of Pennsylvania Railroad yards, with soils made up of rubble and fill. Nature, in the form of plant and animal life, has been slowly coming back on this site for years, and our work to create a native plant nursery has assisted the process. We use a light touch on the land, without pesticides and herbicides, and remove invasive or problematic plants by hand, to prevent them from dominating the site. Native and exotic grasses, as well as flowering plants and trees, provide the broad base for an expanding food web. The grasses support seed-eaters like song sparrows and white-footed mice, and bug-eaters like rough-winged swallows. The site supports animals a little higher up on the food chain, from worm-eating brown snakes to raptors like red-tailed and sharp-shinned hawks. The nursery helps restore the urban landscape, and in turn the land restores the people who use it." Learn more about how you can help restore the local Philadelphia wildlife by visiting the nursery tab on our website!



Plants for the Philadelphia Zoo are being ready to be delivered. Photo : Steve Jones



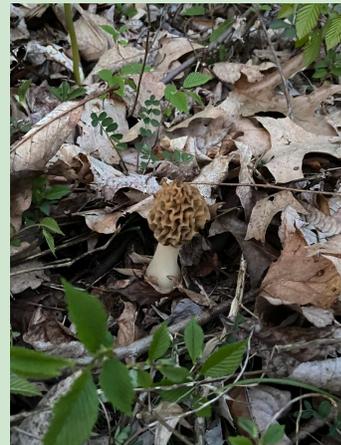
Song-sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) nest at the nursery. Photo : Steve Jones

Upcoming Events and Programs

Memorial Day - May 25th

Philadelphia Watershed Stewardship Program - begins [May 31st! \(APPLY HERE\)](#)

SpArc Volunteer Program - still on hold



Yellow Morel mushroom (*Morchella esculenta*) Photo : Taisia Osipova

Website Design Updates

We are pleased to announce that with the help of our latest team member, Amartya Jha, we have made a lot of new updates to our website in order to make it easier to navigate, as well as adding new content a lot of our pages. Please visit our [new and improved website](#) and let us know what you think! Also check out the blogs which are being published weekly on the website, read our mini newsletter coming up for more information!

How to Propagate Plants in Water

What You Need:

- Plant
- Jar or vase
- Scissors
- Clean water

Choose Your Plant

Choosing the right plant is important. Some options are: Philodendron, Tradescantia, and Pothos.



Cut at the Right Spot

Remove all leaves too close to the node of the plant. Look for the tiny bump below the leaves, this is the node. Cut off a couple inches below the node, including a couple extra nodes on the remaining stem.

Time for Water

Put the cut plant into a jar or vase filled with water. Be sure to put your plant in an area that receives indirect sunlight. Tip: do not place the plant in an area of strong, direct light or too low of light.



Watch the Roots

Grow

Keep a close eye on your plants! Check your plant's root growth weekly, and be sure to top off the water when it appears too low. Make sure you change the water when it is too murky to keep your plants roots nice and healthy. After about 4-6 weeks, or when the roots are 1 inch or longer, you can transport your plant into fresh soil into a planter.



Message from our founder, Scott Quitel

Last month, we at LandHealth resumed publishing our monthly newsletter, and we proudly did so on April 22 - Earth Day. Fifty years ago, the concept of an "earth day" was very progressive. According to earthday.org,

Earth Day was a unified response to an environment in crisis - oil spills, smog, rivers so polluted they literally caught fire. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans - 10% of the US population at the time - took to the streets, college campuses and hundreds of cities to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet.

The first Earth Day is often viewed as the start of the modern environmental movement. Soon after the monumental demonstration of environmental awareness on behalf of so many US citizens, the EPA was created. Major laws enacted soon after 1970 include the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act. Results were palpable: Waters got cleaner, our air got cleaner, and some species on the verge of extinction, like the bald eagle, actually were saved. The first Earth Day had a profound

impact upon the planet. And today, 50 years later, the Earth Day movement continues.

The problem with the concept of an annual Earth Day is that there are 364 other days of the year typically not treated as “earth days.” In spite of all of the positive occurrences that trace back to the early days of the environmental movement, our Earth is still ailing gravely. Water ecosystems, such as estuaries and coral reefs, are dying, air quality is poor, and extinction of species is in a freefall. To reverse the downward trajectory of planetary ecological health, more than a movement is needed. A new mindset, accompanied by major action, is essential. And that mindset needs to be “Every Day Is Earth Day,” or EDED.

In a symbolic show of respect for the philosophical importance of Earth Day, LandHealth’s monthly newsletter heretofore will be released on the 22nd of each month. In practice, our efforts to heal our Earth will continue to be exerted daily. In fact, starting this spring, we have already begun increasing and expanding our efforts. To see the results of our efforts, continue to read our monthly letters. Check out our increasing array of events and programs in our weekly updates. Note how our educational activities radiate more and more throughout the city and school district. Be on the lookout for our new membership program, to be launched very soon. Watch the progress of our community land restoration projects unfold in North, West, and Southwest Philly.

In short, observe how we practice the mantra “Every Day Is Earth Day.” Then, join us....Happy daily Earth Day.

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