Important Dates

A Timeline Connecting Longwood Gardens, Aldo Leopold, and Chester County

King Charles II gives a large piece	1870 Pierre S. du Pont is born in Wilmington, Delaware.	1908 President Theodore Roosevelt establishes the National Conservation Commission. At the end of his presidency, he had set aside over 230 million acres of land for conservation, including 150 national forests, 51 federal bird refuges, 18 national monuments, and 5 national parks.		1964 Delaware Nature Society is founded to foster understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural world through education; to preserve ecologically significant areas; and to advocate stewardship and conservation of natural resources.	2004 Governor James Doyle signs legislation making the first weekend in March Aldo Leopold Weekend across Wisconsin.
1705 First recorded mention of Kennett Township, part of a 30,000 acre tract of land given by William Penn to his children.	1906 Aldo Leopold begins coursework at Yale Forest School (Master of Forestry, 1909).	1917 Pierre S. du Pont purchases several adjoining farms that would later become the Meadow area of Longwood Gardens.	1948 Aldo Leopold dies while helping to fight a grass fire on a neighbor's farm near the Shack.	1967 A group of local residents buys endangered land and founds the Brandywine Conservancy. Today, the Conservancy holds more than 440 conservation easements and has protected more than 45,000 acres in Chester and Delaware counties, Pennsylvania, and in New Castle County, Delaware.	2014 Longwood Gardens Meadow and natural lands area is expanded to provide more learning opportunities.

1798

George Peirce's twin greatgrandsons, Samuel and Joshua, actively pursue an interest in natural history and begin planting an arboretum that eventually covers 15 acres.

1700

Quaker farmer George Peirce purchases 402 acres of land from William Penn's commissioners.

1906

Pierre S. du Pont buys 200 acres of what had been the Peirce family's land to save the historic Arboretum.

1887

Aldo Leopold is born in Burlington, Iowa.

1935

Aldo Leopold acquires the worn-out Wisconsin River farm (the Shack) that became his family's own ecological restoration experiment.

1909 Aldo Leopold joins U.S. Forest Service (est. 1905).

1954

Pierre S. du Pont dies. He ensures that Longwood Gardens continues as a public garden "for the sole use of the public for purposes of exhibition, instruction, education and enjoyment."

1949

Aldo Leopold's book, A Sand County Almanac, is published posthumously. It becomes one of the cornerstones for modern conservation science, policy, and ethics.

1970s

The Land Conservancy of Southern Chester County is founded by a group of concerned citizens to ensure the perpetual preservation and stewardship of open space, natural resources, historic sites, and working agricultural lands throughout Southern Chester County.

2001

Mt. Cuba Center opens as a public

native plants and ecosystems in 50

acres of display gardens and over

500 acres of natural lands.

botanical garden with a focus on





