

Sherri

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"I felt like I was home. I was so happy and I still am. I love it. I'm running the County Open Space program. I'm doing the grant distribution like I always loved. That's one thing I truly, truly loved and missed because I . . . always provided technical assistance and I was missing it. I truly cherish that."

Capturing Moments

Sherry has gone through a variety of experiences during her education and career. And one thing has stayed the same – Sherry always had a camera.

Her mother was an amateur photographer, so like the outdoors, Sherry grew up with it. Photography was a method she used not only to save memories, but also to explore her creativity and express her love for the beauty around her.

At Wildlands, Sherry met her first real mentor, Tom Gettings. He had been a professional photographer for the Rodale Institute and was still using film at the time. Light tables and magnifying glasses, slides and contact sheets – Sherry was able to work with materials she'd never had access to. As encouragement, he even bought Sherry her first professional camera.

Sherry's next big step would be during her time at DLNHC. Elissa Garofalo, the late former Executive Director of DLNHC, had been the one to encourage Sherry to set up a facebook page – called Sherry Acevedo Nature Photography – for her photos.

Over the years, Sherry's images would be used for her jobs. Promotional materials like power points, brochures, flyers, rack cards were just some of the locations Sherry's photos could be found. The rest would be placed on Facebook or hard drives for safe keeping. Sherry hadn't intended to do anything major with her pictures, she just loved the craft of it all.

In 2022, when Sherry was informed that she was a recipient of a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts grant to set up an exhibition at Nature Nurture Center, several doors and opportunities she had never considered were suddenly possible.

Sherry's exhibition ran from September 10 through November 4, 2022. Since then, she has started her own woman-owned small business named Sherry Acevedo Nature Photography LLC. It's mainly run through her Facebook page, but she's happy knowing there are people out there that see value in her work – so much they want to decorate their bathrooms and even offices with her prints!

Hopes for the Future

Sherry doesn't see herself retiring any time soon. She loves her job and the people she works with, and there are projects that she wants to see completed.

"I would like to continue to oversee the open space program and our trail networks or regional networks, especially Greenway plans. I would love to see the completion of these projects. I would love to see the Bushkill, the Two Rivers Area Greenway, Two Rivers Area Trailway being fully connected from the Appalachian Trail in Wind Gap and Plainfield Township to the city of Easton at the confluence of the Bushkill Creek and the Delaware River. That to me is a huge legacy that that was one of the major projects that we were part of."

A Friend to the Corridor

Even though Sherry no longer works at

DLNHC, she is still a friend of the organization, assisting as a volunteer and a partner to many of our projects and programs. There are plenty of things that can't be covered in a single blog post, but Sherry has done amazing work protecting natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities and continues to do so every day.

"Sherry truly has a lifetime of knowledge about conservation and outdoor recreation in the Lehigh Valley," says Claire Sadler, DLNHC Executive Director and Sherry's successor as DLNHC Conservation Coordinator in 2014 when she moved on in jobs. Although we were never coworkers, I have worked with Sherry in trail summit planning and when I was on the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board. Her passion for the region is evident and we're lucky to have people like Sherry protecting and promoting the Corridor."



Sherry presenting about the Minsi Lake Corridor Greenway & Stewardship Plan with Northampton County Parks & Recreation to a group from the LVG partnership.



Image of a D&L Trail Tender event at Lock 28 in Lehigh Gorge State Park, one of Sherry's proudest achievements. TL Gettings



Sherry presenting at the Bangor Area School District's Outdoor Classroom as part of her student teaching experience to gain her master's. This was funded through an LVG mini-grant.