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## Delaware Center for Horticulture seeks Executive Director

With deep appreciation for her 20 years of dedicated service, the Delaware Center for Horticulture Board of Directors is saying goodbye to Executive Director Pamela Sapko, effective May 29.

“It is with sadness that we accept Pam’s resignation,” said Board President David Brownlee. “She has expressed her desire to explore new challenges, but it is hard to imagine this organization without her strong but gentle leadership.”

When Sapko joined TheDCH as Executive Director in 1994, there were five employees and the operating budget was \$300,000. Under her tenure, the organization grew to a staff of 17, more than 500 volunteers, and a \$1.5 million budget. Her final years at TheDCH included green renovations and expansion of the Trolley Square facility, and a supporting \$3.5 million capital campaign.

“Through Pam’s guidance and vision, TheDCH has become an organization that is – as the recent Capital Campaign tagline states – ‘Changing Landscapes, Changing Lives,’” said Board Vice President Ann Wick.

Sapko said she is excited about this new career direction, and to be joining The Nature Conservancy, a large international nonprofit, and helping its ecosystem-wide conservation efforts in Delaware.

“It has been an honor to work with tremendous donors, Board members, staff, volunteers and constituents,” Sapko Said. “Programs have grown, and TheDCH’s impact has increased many times over. Yet its mission has remained constant, which is a great tribute to our visionary founders.”

The Board is preparing to launch a national search for the next Executive Director, and hopes to have a new leader in place by this fall. Interested parties should visit [TheDCH.org](http://TheDCH.org) in June for more information.

Mike Riska, retired Executive Director of Delaware Nature Society and former Board member of TheDCH, will advise staff during the transition. Under Riska’s leadership at DNS, the organization solidified its national reputation as an outstanding center for environmental education, conservation and advocacy. After 28 years as Executive Director there, Riska retired and went on to serve as honorary co-chair of the Delaware Children in Nature Task Force with Delaware’s First Lady, Carla Markell.

“We are extremely grateful to Mike for accepting this role. His advisory capacity acknowledges the Board’s confidence in the outstanding staff in place at TheDCH,” Brownlee said.

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*The Delaware Center for Horticulture cultivates a greener community; inspiring appreciation and improvement of our environment through horticulture, education and conservation. We create neighborhoods that are healthier, more attractive and ecologically sustainable. Our work includes community gardens, public landscapes, road-side beautification, tree programs, educational programs and community and membership events.*