



# Autumn Lights

NOVEMBER 22, 2025



## HIGHLIGHTS



"Grateful for this incredible community!  
What a happy evening- well done to  
everyone involved."

**Rebecca Henson**  
Autumn Lights Guest

## Together for nature, together for the holidays!

Nature Forward's annual Autumn Lights party is a cherished tradition celebrating community and nature. This year's event, held November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Woodend Mansion, brought together our most dedicated members and donors with new friends, all in support of our nature education, restoration, and conservation programs.

Events like Autumn Lights help ensure that Nature Forward can continue its vital work connecting people of all ages and backgrounds to the natural world.



# Event milestones

## ATTENDEES

125

## SPONSORS

21

## TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

\$23,000+

TICKETS, SPONSORSHIP, DONATIONS  
& SILENT AUCTION PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
NATURE FORWARD EDUCATION,  
CONSERVATION & RESTORATION PROGRAMS

# Caring stakeholders, new supporters, and generous sponsors!

Autumn Lights showcases the dedication, passion, and giving spirit of our Nature Forward community. Every attendee, every bidder for our sold-out silent auction items, and every supporting sponsor contributed to this magical evening. These contributions not only made for a successful fundraiser, but also contributed to a wonderful atmosphere of fun and fellowship.

"I think it's important that I gather with other nature supporters because it helps me know the community, especially at an event that is fun and leisurely."

**Gianni Voytilla**  
Autumn Lights Guest



Special thanks to Junior Jazz Lab, led by composer and educator Nii Akwei Adoteye, for providing outstanding live music throughout this special evening!





Participants purchased 40 bottles of wine in our first Wine Pull game. 10 prize bottles were included, with the top bottle valued at \$300.



# Auction milestones

## AUCTION ITEMS SOLD

**32** BIDDERS PURCHASED ALL OF OUR SILENT AUCTION ITEMS!

**8** AUCTION ITEMS SOLD ABOVE MARKET VALUE

## AUCTION PROCEEDS

**\$10,825**

**40** SOLD AT OUR FIRST-EVER WINE PULL GAME

## WINE PULL PROCEEDS

**\$1,260**

## Silent Auction Magic: Fun For a Cause!

The Silent Auction is a favorite Autumn Lights tradition. From thoughtfully-crafted gift baskets to fine-dining opportunities to nature experiences, and much more, the auction offers a fun way to support Nature Forward, whether you are an auction bidder or item donor.

"Donating our vacation rental was the perfect way to raise money for a wonderful organization while sharing our nature-filled getaway with a lucky winner," said Nature Forward staffer Renee Grebe, who contributed a stay at Raven's Ridge Cabin to the silent auction.

"Thank you for thinking of us as a partner," said Maya Douglas of Ace Hardware, a Silent Auction sponsor. "We wish you the best!"

"I am thrilled to contribute!

Thank you for all of the good work that Nature Forward does for the community!"

**Alexandra Swezey**  
Patagonia



nature forward

# Autumn Lights



[Click Here to Purchase Your Tickets](#)

Come ring in the holiday season at Woodend!

Saturday, November 22  
6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Woodend Nature  
Sanctuary  
8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase,  
MD

Join us for an evening of food, fun,  
and fellowship at beautiful Woodend  
Sanctuary & Mansion - the perfect  
place to kick off the holidays with our  
community of nature champions!

This enchanting cocktail party event  
will include food, drinks, music, and  
our popular silent auction featuring  
wonderful treasures like nature  
experiences, getaways, themed gift  
baskets, and much more.



\$75 per person - Limited tickets available!

## Beyond the Event: A Legacy of Impact

Digital media, including our website, social media platforms, and email messaging, help build awareness of Nature Forward's fundraising events like Autumn Lights. These resources also allow us to showcase the generosity and support of our sponsors.

"We were so happy to be part of this."  
**Ellie Toomey**  
Purple Onion Catering



# 643 WEB PAGE VISITS

### EMAIL MARKETING

**8** PROMOTIONAL MESSAGES

**3,995** ADDRESSES EMAILED

**6,156** REACHED VIA eNEWS

**19%** AVERAGE OPEN RATE

"It has been a pleasure working with Nature Forward. We are grateful for the opportunity to support such meaningful work on behalf of the natural world."

**Breanna Kemmerer**  
Fresh Baguette

### SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

**24** FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, LINKEDIN, BLUESKY

**9.5 K+** TOTAL REACH

 Autumn Lights



Recognizing our sponsors is a top priority. We appreciate their generosity and community leadership on behalf of our 40,000 members, supporters and other stakeholders.

# THANK YOU, *Autumn Lights* SPONSORS!

Catering Sponsor



Decorations Sponsor



Sustainability Sponsor



Silent Auction Sponsors



# Your support of **Autumn Lights** as an attendee, donor or sponsor helps Nature Forward...



**Educate thousands of children about the natural world and foster a lifelong love of nature**



**Raise awareness about the threat of climate change and ways to mitigate it**



**Advocate for green energy and green infrastructure policies**



**Protect and restore biodiversity and habitats for people and wildlife**



# We value your input and feedback!

*Your ideas and recommendations help us improve and grow in our mission*

Let's strengthen our relationship!

If you have questions about your generous gift or sponsorship, please contact:

**Talissa Bavaresco, Special Event & Sponsorship Manager**

**[talissa.bavaresco@natureforward.org](mailto:talissa.bavaresco@natureforward.org)**

301-450-1381



**nature  
forward**

Nature Forward earns top ratings from independent non-profit evaluators for accountability, transparency, and financial best practices.



Donations to Nature Forward are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.