



December 2010

Highlands Journal

Newsletter of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy

...a land trust dedicated to working with landowners to conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Upper Delaware River region in Pennsylvania and New York.

NEIGHBORS PROTECT SCENIC BY-WAY

By Barbara Yeaman

Wetlands and a long stretch of Dingman's Creek and Nichecronk Brook flow through the parcel. Together, it protects a half mile of forested scenery along Silver Lake Road. Small wonder then that when this 56-acre property came on the market in 2007, the neighbors were concerned. An adjacent neighbor, Alan Dolge, had experience with conservation easements and their role in protecting environmental quality. Other neighbors, members of the Lake Lattimore and Woodpecker Lake communities, valued their lands and vistas enough to ante-up the funds to purchase the 56 acres.

In all, six adjacent landowners each contributed enough to raise the necessary money to purchase the land. In the process they formed a Partnership. The Partnership, represented by Alan Dolge and Jim Doyle an environmental attorney, approached the Delaware Highlands Conservancy seeking a conservation easement that would provide permanent protection for this land.

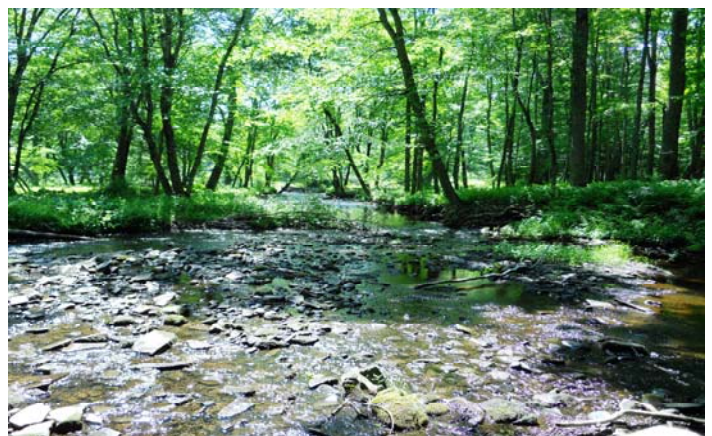
The 56 acres is bisected by Silver Lake Road, a Pike County Scenic Byway, and is adjacent to an 85-acre property, the Lake Lattimore I conservation easement project, already protected by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. The final conservation easement is actually two easements, Lake Lattimore II and Lake Lattimore III, with one to the north of Silver lake Road and one to the south of Silver Lake Road.

The 20 acre easement north of the main road is a "forever wild" easement that does not permit residential or commercial buildings. The easement covering the 36.5 acres south of Silver Lake Road (about half are wetlands) will permit a residence and ancillary structures that will

permit limited agriculture use. Combined, the Lake Lattimore conservation easements protect 141 acres along Silver Lake Road.

The Conservancy working on behalf of the Partnership sought funding for incidental costs (including items like survey, title report, baseline data, and legal fees) from the Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation (SRCP) program through the donated easement program. The SRCP donated easement program encourages landowners to voluntarily protect their property with a Conservation Easement by covering many of the associated costs. This became the first project for this SRCP program.

It was a win-win proposition for all involved. The estate of the original owner received its price thus protecting the heirs' interest. The six Partnership members will be able to recoup some of their costs when the protected parcels are sold. The Partnership and the Conservancy were able to protect the property for little cost thanks to the SRCP program. And best of all, the entire Pike County community will benefit by the conservation of the scenic beauty, protection of wildlife habitat and the water quality of Dingmans Creek and Nichecronk Brook. And that after all is the goal of the Pike County Scenic and Rural Character Preservation Program, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the Partnership.



This publication is printed on recycled paper.

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NEW OFFICERS, NEW BY-LAWS and ACCREDITATION SOUGHT

The members voted overwhelmingly to approve the new by-laws at the Annual General meeting in October. The new by-laws formalize standing committees composed of volunteer members who will work in clearly defined roles to advise the Board and facilitate organizational operations. The Conservancy is now recruiting volunteers for the Governance, Land Protection, Outreach and Development, and Finance committees. Call the office to learn how you can be involved.

October also brought the election of new officers for the Conservancy's Board (see sidebar to left) and the acceptance of a new Strategic Plan. The strategic plan clearly articulates the goals and actions for the Conservancy Board, committees and staff over the next three to five years. Coupled with our work over the past few years to up-date our policies, procedures and practices, the strategic plan will ensure we are serving the Upper Delaware River region to the best of our ability. We have laid the groundwork for increased success in the coming years.

That groundwork also provides the basis for our application for accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC). During the accreditation process, the LTAC will conduct an extensive review of the Conservancy's policies and programs to determine their compliance with best standards and practices.

As part of this review process, the Commission invites public comment on the Conservancy's application. If you wish to submit a comment electronically, please visit <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/current-applicants/action-public-comment>. Should you desire to send hard copy correspondence, please mail to: Land Trust Accreditation Commission at 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

The Conservancy looks forward to a successful accreditation application, and we appreciate any comments submitted. We thank you as always for your support and invaluable contributions to our success.

WELCOMING MICHAEL GEITZ

Michael and his family have owned property in Pike county for over 30 years. His parents first came to the area in the late 70's and he and his wife, Elizabeth, are now permanent residents. Their farm consists of 1,400 acres in Shohola Township, a portion of which is protected with an easement. He retired to PA following a 30 year career on Wall Street as an investment banker. He most recently served as Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Merrill Lynch Investment Banking and as Chairman of the firm's Financial Institutions Group. He holds a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University

and both an MBA and a JD from the University of South Carolina. Elizabeth is also involved in stewardship activities through her position as an Episcopal priest and her love of the outdoors. Michael is keenly interested in conservancy issues. He has long been involved in the Conservancy, serving on the Outreach and Development Committee, co-chair of the Annual April Gala dinner, and most recently on the Finance Committee. We look forward to his continued work on behalf of the Conservancy.



2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 24 - Volunteer Training, TBD, NY 7-9 pm

Mar. 26 - Volunteer Training, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Hawley, PA 9-11 am

Come join the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to learn about the important roles and responsibilities of our volunteer "stewards of the land". New and old volunteers, will learn the technical experience necessary to monitor properties, as well as the policies and procedures of the Conservancy.



Mar. 30 - Financial Benefits of Land Conservation, PPL Learning Center, Hawley, PA, 7-9pm

Landowners will learn how to keep cherished lands in the family and protect the landscape in perpetuity.

Mar. 31 - Realtors Workshop PPL Environmental Learning Center 8 am - 12 noon

Real estate professionals will learn about the impact of land development on water resources, protecting drinking water and planning initiatives that are ongoing in Pike and Wayne counties. Sponsored by Northampton Community College, Pike County Conservation District, Wayne Conservation District, and Penn State Cooperative Extension. Northampton Community College will be offering Continuing Education Credits for \$59 but the program is free. To register call 570-251-9335 or 570-296-4042.

Mar. 31 - Financial Benefits of Land Conservation, Sullivan County NY, 7-9pm

Landowners will learn how to keep cherished lands in the family and protect the landscape in perpetuity.

Apr. 2 - Emily Dickinson's Garden, PPL Learning Center, Hawley, PA 1:00 - 2:30 pm

The great poet Emily Dickinson loved wildflowers, especially the delicate blooms of March and April. Join

naturalist Ed Wesely for a virtual tour of the fields and streams that Emily Dickinson knew and of the spring wildflowers that inspired her.

Apr 30 - Foods of the Delaware Highlands, The Settlers Inn, Hawley, PA 6pm

Join us for the Annual Foods of the Delaware Highlands wine & food pairing dinner at The Settlers Inn to celebrate accomplishments in the Upper Delaware River region. The event will feature delicious cuisine prepared with locally grown and produced organic ingredients, paired with appropriate fine wines. **This dinner sells out annually, so reserve your place early.**

May 6 - Spring Skies Star Watch, Butterfly Barn, PA 8:30pm

Join local astronomers who will share their telescopes and sky charts to observe deep sky objects and locate the constellations. This program will last about two hours. Bring binoculars and folding chairs, if you have them, and dress for cool weather. Rain Date is May 7th.



May 28 - Bird Walk with Barbara Yeaman and Peter Wulfhorst, 7am

Join us for a two-hour early morning walk. Bring your binoculars and learn to identify birds and their songs. Call the Conservancy office at 570-226-3164 or Barbara at 570-729-7053 for more details.

June 18 - Canoe Trip on the Delaware River

Take a trip down the Delaware River. **Registration required.** Call the Conservancy to reserve your space.





Annual Property Monitoring

Monitoring is a great opportunity to get outdoors, meet new people and experience the lands that the Conservancy has protected with conservation easements.

The Conservancy would like to thank the following volunteers for monitoring over **60** properties this year:

Francis Cope, John Crerand, Don Downs, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Keith Fitzpatrick, Josh Flad, Denise Frangipane, Jack Gearhart, Paul Hiler, Jamie Knecht, Laurie Kilgore, Marty Kunstmann, Kenneth Myett, Liza Phillips, Sharon Subjin, Mike Uretsky, Jon Villaume, Denise Watts, Peter Wulfhorst and Barbara Yeaman

We'd also like to thank:

Mike Lovelace (Pilot and President of TML Aircraft) and
Dave Soete (for his photography)

To become a volunteer monitor

please contact Amanda Subjin at
conserve@delawarehighlands.org



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KEN MYETT

My wife and I support the Delaware Highlands Conservancy because we want to help them in their mission of preserving the Rural and Scenic character of our region while helping to develop and promote a sustainable local economy.

Ken Myett

Ken and Kathleen Myett live in Sparrowsbush, NY

SHOP LOCAL SAVE LAND GOES LIVE

You've seen the *Guide to Farms and Farm Markets* and the *Guide to Wood Products, Professionals and Resources*, now the Conservancy welcomes you to visit the newly launched Shop Local Save Land website!

The Shop Local Save Land website further develops the Conservancy's initiative to connect consumers to local farm and forest products by providing access to information from the comfort of your own computer.

A visit to the newly created Shop Local Save Land website will provide you with:

- a searchable listing of farm and forest product providers
- a calendar of events
- links to educational resources
- articles & videos
- *Fresh from the Land* blog

Supporting the working farm and forest lands in our region protects our scenic rural character, cultural heritage and quality of life.

The creation of the website has been supported by conservation and natural resource organizations and professionals from the Upper Delaware River region. Financial support has been provided by the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Development Program, the Pocono Forest and Waters Conservation Landscape Initiative, the Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program, the Forest Service at Grey Towers, Wayne County Tourism, Monroe County Conservation District and Monroe County Open Space.

Visit www.shoplocalsaveland.com
to shop for local products
for your upcoming holiday gifts.



GIVING THANKS

She is just learning how to cast.
With your help we will keep our waters clean
for her, her children, and their children to fish.
But we can't do it alone.

Please send as generous a donation as you can
afford this holiday season.

**Every cent will work to
protect forests, farms and all of our waters.**

With thanks,

Barbara Yeaman

Delaware Highlands Conservancy founder

JOEL SALATIN INSPIRES NEW FARMING EFFORTS



“We’ve got to get back to having the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker in one place,” said Joel Salatin during his presentation to a sold out crowd of over 150 people in Liberty, NY on November 6.

Salatin, a third generation farmer in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley was in Sullivan County to speak with farmers, producers and consumers with a new twist on an old adage “You are

What you Eat” and a focus on the connection between local food production and consumption and the health of the environment and the economy.

The program was presented by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy in partnership with Sullivan Renaissance, the Sullivan County Division of Planning, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Northeast SARE, Pure Catskills, the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development, Sullivan County Visitor’s Association, Apple Pond Farm and Renewable Energy Education Center and the O’Connor Foundation.

“The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is very pleased with the conference. Mr. Salatin received rave reviews with 100% of those surveyed rating him “excellent,” said Sue Currier, the Conservancy’s Executive Director.

Comments from participants included: “We are very glad that we came. We are just starting out with a farm transition and are trying to decide where to go from here;” “Thank you for supporting student scholarships and allowing us to attend such a great event;” and “Great presentation by Joel. Good tie in to preserving local farmland.”

Greg Swartz, farmer and owner of Willow Wisp Organic Farm, noted the age of conference attendees and the presence of a next generation of farmers in the room.

In keeping with the message of the day, the conference included a breakfast catered by Catskill Harvest Market and lunch by Early Bird Cookery which offered all local products.

Salatin’s program kicks off a series of ag-related programs that are scheduled to take place throughout Sullivan County in the coming months. These events range from agri-tourism and marketing, to community supported agriculture and production on the farm (see sidebar).

Upcoming Agricultural Workshops

Agri-Tourism Workshop: Is agri-tourism for your business? A panel of farmers, local agencies, businesses and insurance agents will discuss how to start an agri-tourism business on the farm.

Sullivan Renaissance Winter Conference and Expo: Learn about grant opportunities and how to get involved with community beautification, community gardens and community supported agriculture.

Watershed Agricultural Council – Pure Catskills Annual Marketing Event: Learn more about marketing opportunities and make connections with area farmers, businesses and organizations.

Growing Poultry – Learn about how to start up a small scale poultry operation or how to raise poultry for personal use.



Conservancy staff take a snap shot with Joel Salatin

Thanks to all the Sponsors:



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Cornell University
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Sullivan County





KAYAK RAFFLE WINNER

By Barbara Yeaman

Rosanne Cotreau and her daughter Becky picked up their first prize Old Town Loon kayak courtesy of Alice's Wonderland (www.aliceswonderland.com). Rosanne was delighted with her prize, but I have a hunch it will be used a lot by Becky. Becky's eyes sparkled as she tied the new boat down to the roof of Mom's car.

"I was driving up to visit a friend at the Forest Lake Club," Rosanne told me, "when I stopped at the **Roasters** coffee shop in Narrowsburg, NY. I got a sandwich and some coffee and noticed a poster for the Raffle on the counter. When I got my change, I bought a raffle ticket. I never dreamed I would be the winner."

LEGACY LEADER SPOTLIGHT: MARY EVANS

Why Should I Become A Legacy Leader?

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy has a special group of people called **Legacy Leaders**. These are people who leave a charitable bequest or an estate gift in their will to the Conservancy. These bequests may consist of a monetary donation, donating property to the Conservancy or donating a Conservation Easement to protect property forever. By becoming a **Legacy Leader** you are giving an exceptional gift back to the Conservancy and the environment and you have the satisfaction of knowing that **you** contributed to protecting the **special places** of the Upper Delaware River region.

One special person that has given back to the Conservancy is: **Mary Evans**

Mary Evans decided to leave a bequest in her will to the Conservancy because the "Delaware Highlands Conservancy is a good steward on preserving the land and protecting it from urban sprawl... I trust that my wishes (will be) carried out."

Mary also encourages others to work with the Conservancy. "We need to keep the Delaware Valley and surrounding areas as scenic and attractive as we can. My father taught me the management and preservation and conservation for future generations of all of our property. Farmlands and woodlands are disappearing too quickly." By working with the Conservancy, Mary is taking steps to protect her farm and forest for future generations.



The Delaware Highlands Conservancy would be happy to work with you to ensure that your property is protected for the future too. Please contact the Conservancy to find out **how you can become a Legacy Leader and make a lasting difference**.

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES! I want to conserve natural open space and support the Conservancy with my tax-deductible membership donation of:
 \$35-\$59 Friend; \$60-\$99 Supporter; \$100-\$249 Protector; \$250-\$499 Sustainer; \$500 Conservator; Other

NAME: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

My check made payable to Delaware Highlands Conservancy is enclosed
 I prefer to pay by credit card: Mastercard Visa American Express Amount: \$ _____
Account #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

Mail this form and donation payment to: **Delaware Highlands Conservancy, P.O. Box 218, Hawley, PA 18428-0218**

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OFFICE WISH LIST

- Videocam—microphone for webinars/conferences
- Rug (max 48" x 56")
- Boot tray

INSIDE
Calendar of Events
Welcome Michael Getz
Accreditation Sought
Upcoming Events
Member Spotlight
Shop Local Save Land Goes Live



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