

June 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.

## Fishing Club Protects Wildlife Habitat

by Barbara Lewis

To observe Russ Fairlie's reverence for the land, it's hard to believe he's not the owner of the Mink Pond Club, its beautiful 40-acre lake and its beaver-dammed bait pond. Actually, he is one of 60 members who co-own this pristine piece of nature that has a feeling of timelessness; its 100-year-old lodge, with original beams and fieldstone fireplace, a rustic screened-in porch and modest boarding-house style rooms speak of a bygone era that many of us yearn to recapture from our childhoods.

Russ loves to come here from his home in Berks County, to immerse himself in the natural surroundings, and most of all to watch his favorite pair of eagles, the same ones he's been observing for the past 13 years; carefully raising chicks every year until all of them fledge by mid-summer. Russ loves to bring his family to the club, where he and his wife take their grandchildren out in a boat to watch the golden-eyed and bufflehead ducks skim the water. As the boat heads into the lodge for the night, they hope to catch a glimpse of an elusive nocturnal



Russ Fairlie on the look out

resident of the bait pond and are delighted when they hear the slap of the beaver's tail on the water. In fact, the beavers have built the dam that turned this former swamp into the huge pond that now attracts otters, migrating

ducks, songbirds, and of course, the precious pair of eagles.

In recent years, as development encroached on two sides of the club, and the township tried to build a road through the middle of it, Russ and some of the other members began to realize the fragility of their precious acreage.



Photos courtesy of Barbara Lewis.

Four generations of families have belonged to the club, but how many more would get to enjoy it, unless steps were taken to assure its protection? Russ got the members together and got their agreement to put part of the club's land into a conservation easement. While working with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and two neighboring clubs on a federal Forest Legacy grant that would help offset the loss of value from giving up their development rights, the Conservancy discovered a Game Commission Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) designed to protect and support wildlife "species of concern." With its eagle's nest and habitat for migrating ducks, turkeys, grouse, otters and rattlesnakes, the Conservancy felt that the Mink Pond Club was a perfect fit.

By protecting 500 acres, including the bait pond, with a conservation easement in December 2009, the Mink Pond owners have assured that future generations of both current and future club members can continue to enjoy fishing, bird-watching, and hunting in the same unspoiled environment, just as their forebears have for over a century. Due to the dedication of Russ Fairlie and his fellow members of the Mink Pond Club, a very special piece of Pike County forest and wetlands have been protected from development and preserved for posterity.



## Delaware Highlands Conservancy

### Officers:

Don Downs, President  
Greg Belcamino, Vice President  
Mike Uretsky, Treasurer  
Scott VanGorder, Secretary

### Board Members:

Joe Fowler  
Denise Frangipane  
Grant Genzlinger  
Krista Gromalski  
Greg Swartz  
Barbara Yeaman

### Executive Director:

Sue Currier

### Land Protection:

Julia Horrocks  
Melinda Ketcham  
Amanda Subjin

### Mail us:

P.O. Box 218  
Hawley, PA 18428-0218

P.O. Box 219  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

### Visit us:

508 River Street  
Hawley, PA

### Sullivan County

Government Center  
100 North Street  
Monticello, NY

### Call us:

Main phone: 570-226-3164  
Also: 845-807-0535 (NY)

### Online:

[www.delawarehighlands.org](http://www.delawarehighlands.org)  
[info@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:info@delawarehighlands.org)

### Upcoming Meetings:

June 11 Finance Committee  
June 12 Board Meeting  
June 17 Outreach & Development

July 10 Land Protection  
July 15 Outreach & Development

Aug 13 Finance Committee  
Aug 14 Board Meeting  
Aug 19 Outreach & Development

## Upcoming Events

### June 13 — Delaware River Canoe Trip 9:30 am - 2 pm

Join the Conservancy for our annual canoe/kayak trip from the Buckingham, PA boat access to Long Eddy, NY. This is one of the most beautiful and unspoiled sections of the river. Eagle sightings are almost guaranteed. We will stop for lunch in a shady spot along the river so bring your lunch. Kids of all ages are welcome. In Long Eddy we will have refreshments to enjoy while waiting for the shuttle. Spots will fill up quickly so call the Conservancy soon to reserve your space (or



email [info@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:info@delawarehighlands.org)). We hope to see you at the river!

### June 26 — Open House & Botany Walk 9am - 12pm

Dr. Ann Rhoads will lead a walk through the newly acquired tract of the Delaware State Forest in Westfall Township, Pike County, PA. The 708-acre tract was acquired through funding provided by the Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board, PA DCNR and private funding sources. Learn about the property and meet the staff, volunteers and landowners of the Conservancy. Call the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or 845-807-0535 to register.



### Aug 7—Woodland Owner Education Tract Workshop

*Festival of Wood, Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford, PA*

Learn more about your forestlands through a series of workshops designed for private forest landowners. Participants can attend the half day workshops and also explore the festivities of the annual Festival of Wood. Please call the Conservancy to register and receive additional information.

### Aug 8—Woodland Owner Education Tract Workshop

*Festival of Wood, Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford, PA*

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate? - A Guide to Passing on Personal Possessions. This program will be offered as an educational session during the Festival of Wood. Admission is free, participants are asked to register by contacting the Conservancy. Women and their Woods group hold 3-5 meetings per year and is open to all women who own forestlands.

### Aug 13— Star Watch, Butterfly Barn, Milanville, PA 9:30pm

See the stars, planets, and galaxies that share our universe. Bring binoculars if you have them, chairs will be provided. (Rain Date: Aug 14)

### Aug 21— Monarch Program, Butterfly Barn, 10am

Since 1996 Ed Wesely and Barbara Yeaman have rescued Monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars from threatened habitats and reared them in the Butterfly Barn. Come learn about the monarch lifecycle and help to tag early migrants.  
[www.butterflybarn.org](http://www.butterflybarn.org)

## Be Green: Buy a Rain Barrel

Join the art students in Liberty, NY, the conservation students at Tri-Valley and the folks at Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Sullivan Renaissance and Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management and purchase a **rain barrel** during a **silent auction** at the **Trout Parade** on Main Street, **Livingston Manor, NY** on **Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** from **11:00 am – 3:30pm**.

The beautifully painted rain barrels will be on display **May 18 – June 5** at area businesses and town facilities. The barrels will then be at an art show at the Liberty Museum, **June 6 from 12-2pm** and then on display at the **Trout Parade**.

**You can visit** the following Sullivan County locations to pick out your favorite rain barrel, which you can then bid on during a silent auction by emailing **[lambertkat@libertyk12.org](mailto:lambertkat@libertyk12.org)** or by attending the Trout Parade:

- Bashakill Vineyard (Wurtsboro)
- Cable Vision Industries Building (Liberty)
- Catskill Hudson Bank (Liberty, Neversink)
- David Sager Chiropractic (Jeffersonville)
- Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (Narrowsburg)
- Dutch's Tavern and Restaurant (Rock Hill)
- Ethelbert B. Crawford Library (Monticello)
- Fosterdale Motor Lodge (Cochecton)
- Friends of Sullivan County Airport (White Lake)
- Liberty High School
- Livingston Manor Free Library
- Morgan Outdoors (Livingston Manor)
- Pecks Market (Callicoon, Eldred, Jeffersonville, Livingston Manor, Narrowsburg)
- Rock Hill Pharmacy (sponsored by Dutch's Tavern)
- Roscoe Renaissance
- Sullivan County Government Center
- Thompson Sanitation (Rock Hill, sponsored by Dutch's)
- Tri-Valley High School (Neversink)

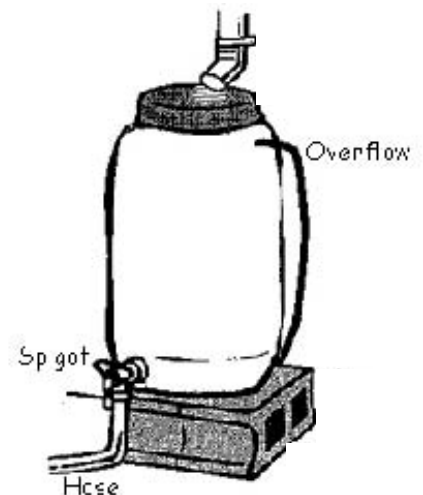
### We would like to thank the following businesses for helping support the Rain Barrel program:

Bashakill Vineyard, Catskill Hudson Bank, David Sager Chiropractic, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Dutch's Tavern and Restaurant, Ethelbert B. Crawford Library in Monticello, Fosterdale Motor Lodge ("A Green Facility"), Friends of Sullivan County Airport, and Morgan Outdoors. The Rain Barrel Connection was also sponsored by Sullivan Renaissance, through the Environmental Demonstration Grant.



### What is a rain barrel?

Rain barrels are used to collect rainwater from rooftops. The water can then be used for lawn and garden.



Diverting the water and using it during drier times helps save homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during the summer months, **which saves money and energy** and helps **protect the environment**.

## Scholarship Winner – Leah Grosso

One of Leah Grosso's teachers characterized Leah as "an honor student, an artist, a varsity athlete and a scholar. She is a young woman of great honesty and integrity." This is just one of the accolades that convinced the Selection Committee to unanimously select Leah for the 2010 Yeaman/Conservancy Scholarship award.

Leah lives in Shohola, Pennsylvania, with her parents, where they have a wonderful vegetable garden (her father is famous for his delicious tomatoes), which Leah helps tend with pride; and which may have influenced her to study Landscape Architecture at Penn State University, Main Campus. She attends Delaware Valley High school and lists numerous extra-curricular activities, including four years playing varsity lacrosse, student council delegate, and Peer Mediation. Peer Mediation involves talking to and advising a fellow student who are in trouble (i.e. violence, drugs, relationships, etc.). She participates in a program which benefits the Pike County Humane Society called "Dollars for Dogs." For the American Cancer Society, she runs in the "Relay for Life" and helps with Daffodil Day.



When asked about why Leah is interested in the environment, she says, "I grew up near Milford, where much of the area's heritage is owed to the famous conservationist Gifford Pinchot. This early introduction to land stewardship first sparked my interest in the environment." Leah, a gardener, an artist, an environmental enthusiast and a leader is obviously a multi-faceted young woman and the Delaware Highlands Conservancy is proud to recognize her accomplishments and great potential.



## Women and Their Wooded Wetlands

May 1, 2010 found women landowners exploring the critters in their woods before enjoying a potluck lunch.

The Women and their Woods group holds 3-5 meetings per year and is open to all women who own forestlands. The next event for this group will be August 8th at the Festival of Wood at Grey Towers, the discussion will be about passing on personal possessions. Call the Conservancy to receive information regarding upcoming activities. Support for the Women and their Woods program is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Federal Forest Service at Grey Towers.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Foods of the Delaware Highlands Gala Raises Funds to Protect Land

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Foods of the Delaware Highlands gala was held on **Saturday, April 24** at The Settlers Inn in Hawley, PA, and it was a huge success. The event, which has **sold out** every year, **doubled its profits** from the 2009 event; these profits directly benefit the Conservancy's land protection work.

The Conservancy thanks all sponsors, contributors and volunteers who helped to make this year's gala a success. Sponsors include: Albert & Bonnie Albinson, Joseph & Sari Biondo, Peter & Marsha Comstock, Ken & Amy Ferris, Michael & Elizabeth Geitz, Jean & Tom Hoff, Peter Kellogg, Marty & Hedy Kunstmann, Rebecca & Richard Lindsey, Bob & Amy Litzenberger, Michael & Eileen Normile, Robert O'Hara, Brenda & Sam Ruello, Richard Snyder, Michael Trenner & Maleyne Syracuse, Mike Uretsky, Janine Vernon, Jon Villaume & Linda Gambone, Sigrid Wilshinsky, and Barbara Yeaman.

Under the guidance of auctioneer, Bob Mermell, the proceeds from the live auction also contributed to the event's success. A one-week stay in a privately owned lodge in the Elk River Valley of Colorado (donated by David Tolson); one-week stay in a condominium in Newport, Rhode Island (donated by Justin & Dr. Michele Genzlinger) were won by two lucky gala attendees. Also up for auction was a CSA share from The Willow Wisp Organic Farm, donated by owners Greg Swartz & Tannis Kowlachuk. Four local chefs, Michael Bel, Marcia Dunsmore, Grant Genzlinger, and Alan Kehoe will be cooking personal meals in the homes of four gala guests who won these dinners accompanied by two bottles of wine that Sommelier Leslie Chappel-Britt (Settlers Inn) selected.

The Conservancy would like to thank The Settlers Inn and all their staff for providing an excellent farm-to-table experience in a warm, welcoming environment with exceptional grace in service.

The host committee included Don Downs, Michael Geitz, Grant Genzlinger, Jeanne Genzlinger, Krista Gromalski, and Barbara Yeaman. The event would not have been possible without support from the committee or the Conservancy staff.

# Save the Date

Next year's event—planned for **April 30, 2011**

—promises to be better than ever, so if you're interested in attending check back to the Conservancy's website [www.delawarehighlands.org](http://www.delawarehighlands.org)

More photos from this year's event can be found on Facebook. Become a fan of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy Group.



## Long Swamp Celebrates

Camp Speers-Eljabar is an independent YMCA Camp located in Dingman and Delaware Townships, Pike County. It was established in 1948 to bring together boys from upper-class Caucasian families and low-income African American families, making it the first inter-racial overnight camp for boys. Today, kids (girls are included since 1960) come from around the world for a unique camping experience.

The conservation easement protects 458 acres, including the jewel of the property: Long Swamp, a unique and threatened bog left over from the last glacial retreat. When visiting the bog, you will notice a significant decrease in temperature despite no change in elevation, and a thick “carpet” of beautiful green moss as far as you can see. Walking across the suspended wooden trail, you might notice unique species like pitcher plants, and a rare breed of albino mosquitoes that feed off these plants instead of blood. It feels like walking through a miniature rainforest thousands of miles away from the forests we commonly see. The Camp uses the bog as a resource to teach campers about the local ecosystem and importance of protecting the environment.

John Jengo (former staff and current board member at the Camp) initiated efforts to protect the property 20 years ago when he anticipated increasing development pressure. John made protecting this property his priority and worked tirelessly to see it finished. With help from the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, the Camp was able to secure funding from DCNR, the Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board, and generous private donors.

Cherie Hammond, CEO, says “when the opportunity (for an easement) presented itself, it was a no-brainer,” explaining that the Camp felt an obligation on behalf of the kids and the community to do what they could to protect this important property for future generations. If you are interested in learning more, call Cherie at 570-828-2329.



## On the Course for Conservation

Mother Nature cooperated, delivering sunshine for the second annual Conservancy Golf Tournament. Fun was had by one and all. Battling gusting winds, the Dime Bank Team, hustled in a final score of 60 — winning the captain and crew format event. Robin Wildermuth took home a new golf bag, courtesy of Nike, for the longest drive on the 9th.

A special thanks to our sponsors: The Dime Bank, Russ Dimmig Real Estate, Woodloch Springs, Paupack Hills Golf and Country Club, Clemleddy Construction, The River Reporter and L&K Home Improvements.

Thanks also to the Golf Committee: Bob Kiesendahl, Craig Smyth, Candy Watson, Cindy and Robin Wildermuth, Scott VanGorder, Kelly Koch and Linda Monahan.

## Legacy Leader Spotlight: Sally and Enrico Moretti

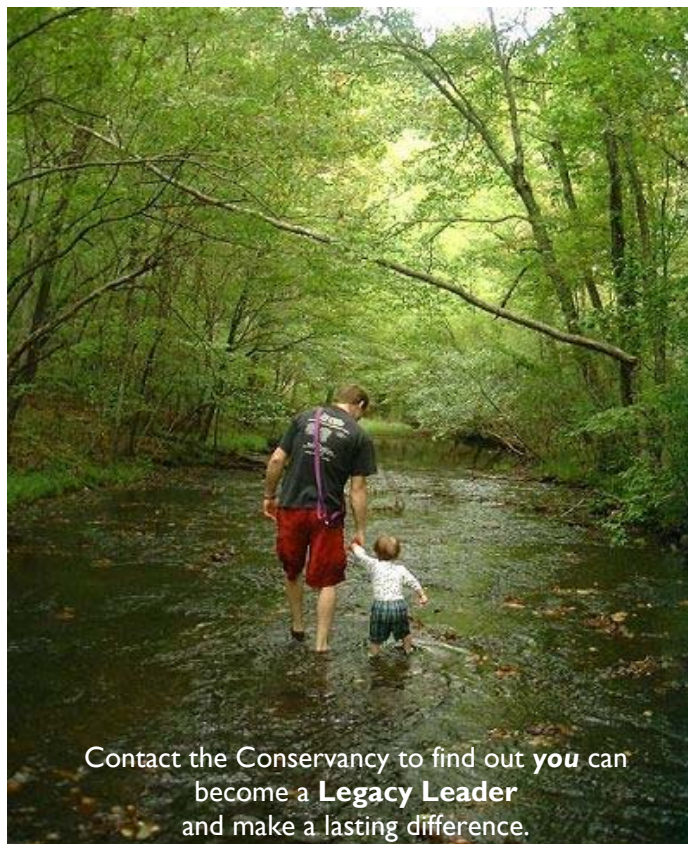
### Why Should I Become A Legacy Leader?

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 the Conservancy. 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.

Two special people that have given back to the Conservancy are **Sally and Enrico Moretti**.

As Sally describes, “My husband and I love all the mysterious nooks and crannies of this remarkable old farmstead. It includes magnificent waterfalls and an array of habitats, such as fields for ground nesting birds, a beaver pond, wetlands, antique orchards and ridges that seep with vernal springs. Since we became owners and stewards of this piece of land we have longed to protect it as wildlife habitat. Through estate planning we have been able to ensure that the property will be protected and that the Delaware Highlands Conservancy will receive a bequest to help continue their important work.”

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy would be happy to work with you to ensure that your desires are adequately documented in your will. For more information please contact the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to find out **how you can become a Legacy Leader and make a lasting difference.**



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## Member Spotlight

“I grew up on a cranberry farm, but the natural beauty of that area has largely been lost to inappropriate development. I want to make sure that the same thing doesn't happen to my home here in Sullivan County.”

Delaware Highlands Conservancy helps show landowners that they have choices. We can have development that **ALSO** protects our views and our environment.

We value the Conservancy's work to keep this area a place we will want to stay.”

— Heather Jacksy

## 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

- Computer speakers and microphone for webinars/conferences
- Volunteer gardeners needed to plan, plant and/or maintain our garden. Perennials also wanted
  - Silk plants/flowers for inside
- Volunteer assistance with Access and Database development
  - Rug (max 48" x 56")
  - Boot tray

**INSIDE**  
 Rain Barrel Parade Begins  
 Calendar of Events  
 Scholarship Winner  
 Foods of the Delaware Gala  
 Long Swamp Celebrates  
 Leaving a Legacy  
 Member Spotlight



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 P.O. Box 218 Hawley, PA 18428-0218

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