



June 2011

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.

Two Couples, One Goal

By Barbara Yeaman

The odds on a story like this ever happening are pretty wild. Can you imagine two different Sullivan County families who left for the open spaces of Alaska? And who, while living there returned a couple of times each year to look after the ancestral properties? And who both learned about our Conservancy and protected their properties at the same time? Yet it wasn't until May of 2011 when Lou and Nancy Barr finally met Michael and Linda Smith in Sullivan County NY to share some interesting experiences.

Lou Barr is a Marine Fisheries Biologist living near Juneau, Alaska. As Lou Barr tells his story: "I grew up here (in Sullivan County) and this land made me what I am." After earning a degree from Cornell University in marine fisheries biology he answered a job description from the federal Fish and Wildlife people who were offering good jobs in Alaska. "So I went, and never looked back."

After his move to Alaska he returned each year to watch over his mother, still living in Bethel, and to care for the land where he grew up. When his mother died three years ago at age 98, Lou inherited the land with his two daughters. They both knew and loved the place as he did. So Lou worked with Melinda Meddaugh, our New York land protection specialist, to protect the property.

Michael and Linda Smith, own 105 acres of land in Glen Spey, New York. They also attended Cornell where Michael earned a degree in wildlife management, completing a masters degree in the same field at University of Alaska, and a Phd in natural resources management back at Cornell. He built a successful business in Alaska as a natural resources consultant, and is a permanent resident of Anchorage. Yet, like Lou Barr, Smith's love of his ancestral land in New York remains strong.

Smith's family land dates back to 1851. His grandfather built the present farmhouse in 1921, followed shortly by a large garage and barn. His father moved to New Jersey during the depression, where Smith was born and raised, but the connection to Sullivan County always remained strong.

When Smith inherited the Glen Spey property (like Barr) he too worked with the Conservancy to protect the 101 acres of land.

The Barrs and the Smiths were finally introduced early in the morning of May 6th when the two couples met at the Barr's farm. Dr. Ann Rhoads, Senior botanist of the Morris Arboretum, had come to inventory plants on the Barr's 119 acres. Both families walked over forest, meadow, hillside and swamp with Dr. Rhoads as she identified the trees and native plants on the Barr's land. Her inventory will become a part of the baseline data for the Barr's "Lemon Brook Farm" conservation easement. Both families love Alaska too much to ever leave.

Meanwhile, both of their places in Sullivan County will benefit from the protective care provided by conservation easements and annual monitoring by the Conservancy.



Left to Right: Lou Barr, Dr Ann Rhoads, Nancy Barr, Melinda Meddaugh, Michael and Linda Smith.

(Continued on page 3)



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DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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Call us:

Main phone: 570-226-3164
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Online:

www.delawarehighlands.org
info@delawarehighlands.org

Upcoming Meetings:

Jun 13 – Board
Jun 16 Outreach & Development
July 21 Outreach & Development
July 23 – Land Protection
Aug 9 Finance
Aug 18 Outreach & Development

Nicole Zanes Wins Scholarship

Nicole Zanes, this year's Yeaman/Delaware Highlands Conservancy Scholarship recipient, has lived in Shohola, Pennsylvania her entire life. She is a graduate of Delaware Valley High School, and this fall she will be attending Princeton University.



As an avid hunter and fisher, Nicole has gained a healthy respect for nature and the importance of protecting the environment.

In her teens, she was an active participant in local Watershed Snapshots, Adopt-a-Highway roadside clean-ups and the Annual Delaware River Clean-up for which she is an eleven year veteran. Recently she has helped in training volunteers to do baseline water tests in areas where there is drilling for gas in the Marcellus shale.

“Preserving the pristine nature of this area is something of great importance to me. These days many people no longer have an appreciation for nature nor are they aware of how important it is to our continual survival on the planet” says Nickie.

She is a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta and has made the high honor role every marking period. In addition to excelling in academics (she is graduating this year second in her class) she also participates in track and cross country.

Volunteer Spotlight: Tracy Simpson

Tracy Simpson believes she **“should not live on the earth without giving back”**. She heeded Scott VanGorder's call at our March 26th Open House and has become a regular volunteer at the office. Tracy comes to the office in Hawley once a week to do **“whatever needs to be done”**. She doesn't mind getting dirty as she organizes the storage area upstairs.

Tracy recently purchased a parcel adjacent to hers in Dingmans Ferry to keep it from being developed. Now she can watch birds and butterflies that are attracted to the native plants that she planted. Tracy also volunteers and hikes at the Bashkill where she takes her turn watching an eagle nest with a telescope.



Jamie Bartholomew will be joining the staff as our Monitoring Coordinator for the summer months.

She will be conducting annual monitoring visits of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's easement properties and coordinating volunteers.

Jamie's background is in Natural Resources and Secondary Education. She currently teaches in the Delaware Valley and Wallenpaupack School Districts. If you would like to volunteer to monitor properties with Jamie this summer, please email her at conserve@delawarehighlands.org.

We regret the use of a photograph in the 2010 Annual Report of a donkey in distress. The Delaware Highlands Conservancy does not condone mistreatment of animals.

Women's Woodland Retreat Offered

Throughout our region, women are increasingly responsible for the care and stewardship of private forestlands. Faced with the need to make decisions about their lands, these women are seeking information on how to care for and manage their forests. A desire to be more connected and learn with and from other women in similar land management roles has led a group of women forest landowners in northeast Pennsylvania to form *Women and their Woods*.

Women and their Woods is not a new concept. Women landowner groups across the country are becoming more and more active, including the *Women Owning Woodlands Network* in Oregon and the *Women's Woodland Network* in Minnesota.



A workshop focused on sustainable forestry.



Women forest owners explore a certified family tree farm.

The increasing interest in these women's groups has led the Conservancy, with the financial support of the US Forest Service at Grey Towers and PA DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, to partner with Penn State Natural Resources Extension to offer outreach and education to women forest landowners.

During each meeting, women gather, share information, ask questions, meet professionals, and enjoy a hearty potluck lunch. Everyone walks away from the event with more confidence and ideas on how to better care for their land. In addition to providing information, the *Women and their Woods* program seeks to instill a sense

of stewardship and knowledge about the value of forest land.

New this year: an educational retreat for 30 women from October 13-16 to be held at Camp Susque in Lycoming County, PA.

Drawing from across the area, **attendees will share their knowledge about the *Women and their Woods* program in their communities.**

If you are interested in being involved with planning for the *Women and their Woods* group or have ideas or stories of your own to share about being a forest land owner, please contact Amanda Subjin at the office (570-226-3164 or email conserve@delawarehighlands.org).

**Women and Their Woods Retreat
October 13 – 16, 2011
Camp Susque**

Applications are due by July 1, 2011.

Notification of acceptance: August 2011.

Cost per attendee: \$130 includes 3 nights lodging, meals and meeting materials.

Two Couples, One Goal continued from page 1

Both the Barr and Smith property were protected with help from the New York State Conservation Partnership grant program. This leading edge conservation grant program is coordinated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). The funds enable local land trusts (like the Conservancy) to increase the pace, improve the quality and ensure the permanence of voluntary conservation of private lands by helping to cover the associated costs of protection. The end result is significant environmental and economic benefits to the community. To learn more, contact the Conservancy office.

Getting Involved

Current volunteers and potential volunteers gathered at the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's office in Hawley on March 26th to discuss volunteer opportunities and to enjoy great food from the Settler's Inn.

Board of Director, **Scott VanGorder**, kicked off the event by talking about the Conservancy and why he volunteers. **Barbara Yeaman**, Founder of the Conservancy, shared her thoughts on why she started the Conservancy and how she continues to volunteer.

Ken Myett, a Delaware Highlands Conservancy monitoring volunteer, spoke about the properties he monitors every and showed potential volunteers what it takes to monitor a property (He is even brave enough to sign up to do aerial monitoring this year!) **Don Downs**, a member of our Land Protection Committee, shared with volunteers his experience serving on our Land Protection Committee.



Board of Director Scott VanGorder speaks to new volunteers

Overall the event was a great opportunity for volunteers to tell other volunteers why they help.

If you were not able to attend the Open House and you are interested in volunteering for the Conservancy, we still have many opportunities to get involved, ranging from monitoring properties and serving on either our Land Protection Committee or Outreach and Development Committee, to Administrative work or volunteering for our events. Please contact the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or email info@delawarehighlands.org to learn more.

Thank you to all our volunteers.



Eager volunteers learn how they can help



Win this KAYAK!

Raffle supports the
DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

FIRST PRIZE Old Town Otter 9.5' Kayak & paddle
(courtesy of Alice's Wonderland, Greeley, PA)

SECOND PRIZE One night mid-week stays at the Settlers Inn and the Ledges Hotel in Hawley, PA

THIRD PRIZE \$50 Gift Certificate from Alice's Wonderland

Drawing Sept. 18, 2011

EARLY BIRD DRAW Photo Courtesy of Dave Soete to be drawn August 1, 2011



Early Bird Prize

GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

Thank you to all our sponsors and golfers who made the day a success. Thank you to Joe Adams, Ken Myett, Krista Gromalski, Bob Keisendahl and John Pillar for organizing a great event.



Scott VanGorder lines up his putt.



Right to left: Joe Adams, Bob Keisendahl, Sue Currier, Ken Myett



Happy Golfers at the Bar post Tournament



Ann Rhoads' enthusiasm captures everyone

EXPLORING NATIVE PLANTS

Eager individuals joined Dr. Ann Rhoads, Senior Botanist with the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, on a walk lakeside at Akenac Park.

In addition to the walk, attendees learned about the proposed Master Plan for Akenac Park and the Dingmans Ferry Town Center, the 5 year anniversary of the Pike County Open Space bond referendum and the SRCP donated conservation easement program.

The Conservancy currently holds conservation easements on the Lake Lattimore II and III properties which were the first easements donated through the SRCP donated easement program. Other partners including Delaware Township and the DCNR Bureau of Forestry were on hand to offer information.



Barbara Yeaman



Ed Wesely snaps a photo

Dr. Rhoads, author of several books including "The Plants of Pennsylvania," "The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania" and "Trees of Pennsylvania", has been a supporter of the Conservancy since its founding and each year shows her support by leading a Native Plants Walk.

Celebration: April 30, 2011

It was a fabulous evening – so don't miss out next time – book early and remember: sponsorship ensures you get tickets to the dinner!

A Phenomenal Auction and raffle. By far our largest and best auction ever, with 14 phenomenal prizes – from vacation stays to personal chefs, all sold by the exuberant auctioneer extraordinaire: Sean Strub. Thanks to our donors for the auction and raffle: David Tolson, Justin Genzlinger, Marcia Dunsmore, Grant & Jeanne Genzlinger, Paul Fitzpatrick & Chef Peter Schott from the Lodge at Woodloch, Bethel Woods, Peters Valley Craft Center, Greg Belcamino, Michael Geitz, David Campiche, Amy and Bob Litzenberger, David and Jenny Nichols, and Brenda and Sam Ruello. Thanks to Charlotte Geitz, Piper Seifert and Barbara Yeaman for selling lots of tickets.

Congratulations to all our lucky auction winners!

The Perfect Venue. Thanks to The Settlers Inn once again for providing an excellent farm-to-table experience in a warm, welcoming environment with exceptional grace in service.

**Join us next year:
April 28, 2012**



Auctioneer Sean Strub



*Michael Geitz,
Brenda Ruello,
Amy Litzenberger*



Justin Genzlinger, Nick Niles, Bob Keisendahl



*Clement Price,
Conservancy Angel,
with Barbara Yeaman*

A gigantic thank you to our committee

Brenda Ruello, Auction Chair
Amy Litzenberger, Sponsor Chair
Michael Geitz, Dinner Chair
Grant Genzlinger, Food & Wine
Jeanne Genzlinger, Live Auction
Krista Gromalski, Outreach
Sandy Long, Photography
Barbara Yeaman, Graphic Design

Upcoming Events

June 14 – 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.

June 18 - Annual canoe trip

Take a trip down the Delaware River. Join the Conservancy and the Chief Planner for Sullivan Planning, Ethan Cohen for a discussion of county planning in the river corridor and a grant for “Local Waterfront Revitalization”. Bring a lunch for our river stop. Enjoy our area’s wonderful resource and end the trip with refreshments in Long Eddy. **Registration required.** Call for details and to reserve your space.



July 15 — Canoe the Rio Reservoir Join the Delaware Highlands Conservancy July 15 for a moonlight paddle on Rio Reservoir. This outing is perfect for people who love the out of doors and are not afraid of paddling in the dark under full moon. To join us you must have your own canoe and or kayak, possess a certified PFD, and be a capable swimmer. Reservations are limited

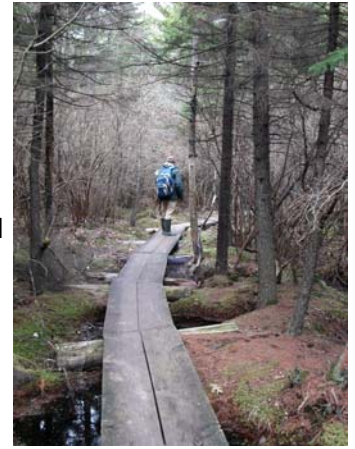
August 27 – Monarch Program with Ed Wesely, Butterfly Barn, PA 10am

Since 1996 Ed Wesely and Barbara Yeaman have rescued Monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars from threatened habitats and reared them in the Butterfly Barn. With the help of local school children, they’ve nurtured and released almost 3,000 adult monarchs. Come and learn about the monarch life cycle and help to tag early migrants. For more information check out the website: www.butterflybarn.org



Sept. 18 –Earth Day in Autumn at Bethel Woods

Stop by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy booth at Earth Day in autumn at Bethel Woods on the site of the famous Woodstock Festival. For more information visit: www.sullivanrenaissance.org.



Sept. 25 – Neversink Unique Area Hike, Rock Hill, NY, 10am-12pm

Hike down to the Neversink River and learn about the history of the area. **Registration Required.**

Sept. 28 – 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.

Sept. 30– Autumn Skies Star Watch, Butterfly Barn, PA 8:30pm

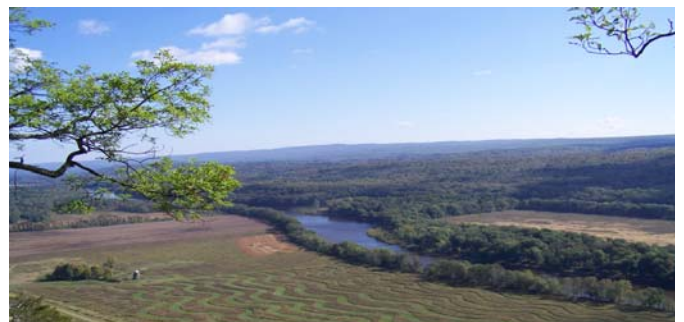
Local astronomers will share their telescopes and sky charts. Observe deep sky objects and how to locate the constellations. This program will last about two hours. Bring binoculars, and folding chairs, if you have them and dress for cool weather. **Rain Date: Oct. 1**



Oct 27 – 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. Town officials will learn about conservation easements and more.

Visit www.delawarehighlands.org for details.



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**

Delaware Highlands Conservancy is a tax-exempt organization as provided by IRS regulations. The official registration and financial information of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

OFFICE WISH LIST

- Perennials for our front garden (and a little good compost too)
- Hanging baskets for plants
- Clipboards
- Flower watering can

INSIDE
Legacy Left in Sullivan County
Scholarship Winner
Women and their Woods
Upcoming Events
Kayak Raffle



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