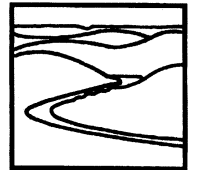


Highlands Journal



SUMMER
2002

Quarterly newsletter of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy
dedicated to preservation of open space and environmental quality in Wayne
and Pike counties, PA & Sullivan and Delaware counties, NY



6TH ANNUAL MEADOW PARTY The fields come alive with ecology, people and music

What kind of important function do snakes and other reptiles serve in our ecosystem, and why should we embrace these animals rather than be afraid of them or harm them? Why is mussel species all over United States declining, including the fresh water mussels in our local Rivers? How long does it take for a Monarch Butterfly to make the miraculous transformation from a tiny egg to a beautiful orange and black butterfly, and is it true that this delicate and fragile looking creature makes the journey all the way to Central Mexico and back every year?

The answer to these and many other questions can be found at DHC's 6th Annual Meadow Party held September 14th, from Noon – 5 PM (rain date September 15th). Barbara Yeaman has once again graciously allowed the Conservancy to use her beautiful property on the Delaware River to set the stage for an afternoon of ecology, live music, food and fun for the whole family.

Jungle Love Reptiles will be bringing live snakes and other reptiles to the Meadow for an informative talk on these animals. Don Hamilton, Natural Resource Specialist for the National Park Service, will give a guided walk along and in the river (bring your water

shoes) discussing fresh water mussels. Our local Monarch Butterfly expert, Ed Wesely, along with his assistants will give a lively and informative performance on the life cycle of the Monarch.

In keeping with tradition the Silent Auction tent will be open and awaiting your bids throughout the day. Check our web site for a list of auction items and pictures of some of our big-ticket items. We will have a fabulous children's tent with projects for kids of all ages, environmental exhibits, fly fishing lessons, a puppet theater, door prizes and, of-course, great food. The high energy children's band, Rebecca Frezza and Big Truck, will be starting off the day, and closing out the day will be the bluegrass band The Linemen.

So, join us in the fields on River Road, one mile south of Milanville, PA. Bring your friends and family. This is our only fund-raiser of the year and a terrific way to spend an afternoon, while at the same time helping to preserve our region's natural heritage. For more information, call our office in Hawley or Helle Henriksen at (845) 252-7546.

DHC SPONSORS FOREST PLANNING WORKSHOP

PLANNING FOR YOUR FOREST FUTURE: UNDERSTANDING FOREST ECOLOGY



Carl Beidleman

Dr. Jim Finley

Note measuring stick for calculating value of trees.

Forest owners (potential easement donors) have important choices to make relative to timber management of their property. Should they opt for maximum income today and potentially destroy future value? How are forests managed for wildlife benefits? Can selective cutting actually enhance the value of the forest? Regeneration: how do overpopulation of deer and the presence of hay-scented ferns affect seedling growth? What about efforts to control the woolly adelgid that is threatening our hemlock stands – introduce a predatory ladybug? A well-managed forest contributes significantly to our environmental well being and quality of place.

(Continued on page 2)

Delaware Highlands Conservancy

Officers:

Grant Genzlinger, President
Lothar Holbert, Vice President
Donald Downs, Treasurer
Clint Rodell, Secretary

Board Members:

Carl Beidleman
Carson Helfrich
Helle Henriksen
Adam Rodell
Tony W
aldron

Land Protection Chair:

Barbara Yeaman

Office Manager:

Gail Lowden

Editor:

Don Downs

P.O. Box 218
Hawley, PA 18428-0218
phone (570) 226-3164
fax (570) 226-3166
www.delawarehighlands.org
email: dhc@ezaccess.net

Upcoming Meetings:

Board Meeting Oct. 12th
Land Protection Sept. 21st

DAMASCUS FOREST GETS HELPING HAND

Saturday afternoon, July 13, a dusty white van pulled into the Damascus Township Forest parking lot after a four-hour drive on unfamiliar back roads. The passengers, all from Philadelphia's W. B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences, downed a quick sandwich and then prepared for an afternoon's labor. Soon the eight coed teen-agers hoisted rakes, shovels and hoes, and began to install a rail fence. Their job was a community service project, to be followed by a weekend of camping in the meadow at Barbara Yeaman's Milanville farm near the Delaware Highland's Conservancy's (DHC) Nature Center. A cook out, then canoeing and tubing on the Delaware River would cap their weekend.

The Damascus Town Forest is valued and cared for by local friends, including the DHC and the Damascus Township Parks Committee. This summer the Wayne County Conservation District purchased additional posts and rails to complete the fencing project -- with the Philadelphia teens supplying labor, and Township Supervisor Stan Kuta manning a backhoe to open the rocky soil.

These young men and women are part of the Urban Youth Partnership program supported by DHC and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). For one week they work and learn at the Long Pond office of TNC, helping with various outdoor projects. The intermediate weekend they spend at the DHC Nature Center in Milanville, completing community service projects and camping before returning to Long Pond for a second week of TNC jobs.

Many of these kids have never camped out, or been far from Philadelphia. All enjoy the cool fresh pools and gravelly riffles of the Upper Delaware River. And now the Damascus Forest "enjoys" the fruits of their labor.



Stan Kuta supervises students from Philadelphia

In 1998, a parcel of land containing wetlands adjacent to the Damascus Forest was donated to DHC. The Conservancy in turn transferred the property to Damascus Township thus becoming an extension of the park. DHC conducts several nature oriented walks each year in the park. Previously DHC has worked with campers from Camp Ramah to blaze trails.

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Jim Finley, from the Penn State School of Forestry Resources, led compelling sessions addressing these and other forest issues. We left the classroom and ventured into the woods surrounding Grey Towers measured trees, and calculated "board feet" of lumber in order to view the forest from the sawmill's point of view (not necessarily the best way). We gazed into the forest canopy with its competition for sunlight and observed that the elimination of certain trees would help. It was obvious that good professional advice in forest management would be a sound investment. Four DHC Directors joined approximately 50 others for this full-day seminar.

The USDA Forest Service now administers Grey Towers, a National Historic Landmark and former home of Gifford Pinchot, in Milford, PA. Walks and guided tours are available -- call 570-296-9630.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Karen J. Corsi, Dan Liola, Kip and Andrea Odell, Chris and Apsie Coccia, Robert Kramer, Bethany Children's House, Reuel and Barbara Kaighn, Frank and Luz Ottens, Yvonne I. Arch, Betsy Lyman, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Letendre

THE MEADOW PARTY



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

12:00 Silent Auction Opens

12:30 Children's Music

Rebecca Franks and Big Truck

1:00 Snakes and Amphibians

Jungle Love Reptiles

2:00 Talk on the Benefits of
Conservation Easements

Roy and Joann Morsch

2:20 Fresh Water Mussel River Walk

Don Hamilton

2:30 Children's Music

Rebecca Franks and Big Truck

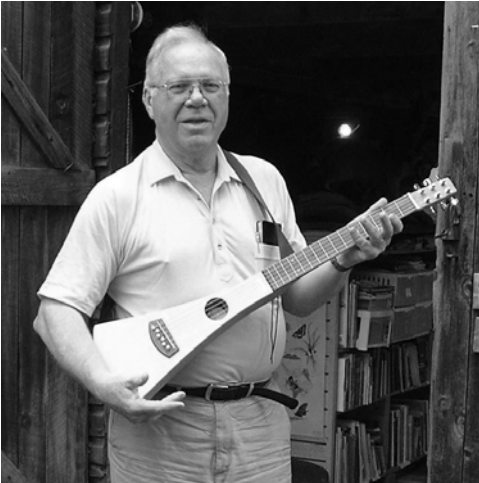
3:00 Life Cycle of the Monarch Butterfly

Ed Wesely

3:30 Bluegrass Music *The Linemen*



MEADOW PARTY SILENT AUCTION



BACKPACKERS GUITAR

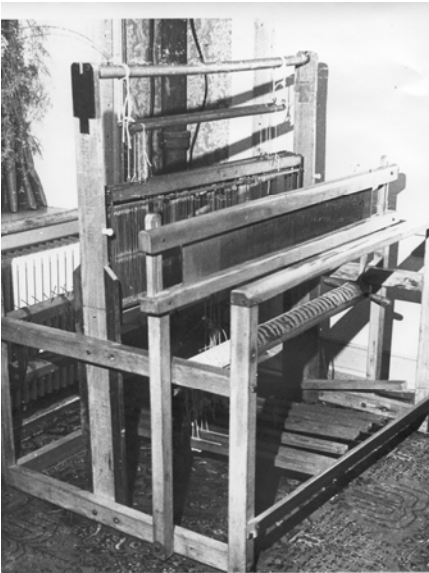
Donated by the Martin Guitar Co.
One neat little package (35 inches) gives the guitarist portability, playability, intonation and durability. It is all solid wood but light – in the special gig bag it fits in aircraft overhead bins. This special steel-string guitar is signed by Chris Martin IV.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE EAGLE INSTITUTE

The Eagle Institute is a not-for-profit volunteer citizen's group located in Lackawaxen, PA. The Institute is dedicated to protecting the bald eagle and promoting habitat conservation. Your membership will help support these causes and gives you a subscription to the Institute's newsletter and discount offers on programs.

LOOM

Four harness counter-balanced floor loom with 40 inch reed, spool rack, warping board and shuttles.



SIX HOURS OF GARDENING BY GARDENER ALISON SMITH

Alison will consult with you on gardening issues such as how to keep you garden flowering all summer long, what plants do well in the shade, what plants are drought resistant, and how to minimize deer and small critter damage in your garden. She will dig, weed, rake, plant, sow, shape, and talk lovingly to your garden. Her green fingers are magic! Good between April 1st and September 1st, 2003.

FLY FISHING LESSON WITH DON HAMILTON

Learn casting skills, insect identification, selecting artificial flies appropriate to natural hatches, aquatic tactics – in short, how to think like a fish. Don is an old pro who has been fishing in the area for many years. He will supply poles and flies, or bring your own.



CANOE TRIP/DINNER FOR FOUR

Two canoes await you for a 3-4 hour trip through one of the most beautiful stretches of the Delaware River. Stop along the way and open your basket – wine, cheese, and fruit. Arrive, refresh yourself, and relax as you are served hors 'd oeuvres and dinner at a stone table by the river. Afterwards enjoy dessert by the bon-fire. Trip can guided if desired.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Subscription to the River Reporter
- Overnight stay at the Sandercock B&B in Equinunk
- Small drafting board with parallel rule
- NATURE'S BASKET from NICOLINA COUNTRY PLACE
- Mr. Peanut Bank – cast iron replica
- Coleman Lanterns (2) – two mantle, propane
- Projection Screen
- Baseball Mitts
- Small One Person Trampoline
- Ceiling Fan
- Various Art

We are still looking for items in good condition for the silent auction. If you are unable to attend the Meadow Party and wish to bid on an item, please contact Don Downs at 845-887-4493.

UPDATE ON OUR KAYAK RAFFLE

Members are responding generously to our annual kayak raffle. In addition, many who attended the Audubon Craft Fair contributed, as did customers of the Settlers Inn Shop, Dave's Big Eddy Restaurant, Milanville General Store, and members of the Scranton area Sierra Club. We thank them one and all for their support. If any of you would like to sell more call Barbara Yeaman 570-729-7053 and she will mail tickets to you.

Meanwhile, our sponsors generously donated money to cover our expenses. Every cent raised goes directly to support our land protection efforts. Please support their businesses when you need to rent a boat, put guests up for an overnight, buy fishing tackle, etc. Here is a list of their names and services:

Bed and Breakfasts -

Castello del Rio, Milanville, PA 570-729-0112
Lackawaxen House, Lackawaxen, PA 570-685-7061
Milanville House, Milanville, PA 570-729-8236
Sandercock House, Equinunk, PA 570-224-8302
Western Hotel, Callicoon, NY 845-887-9871

Boat Rentals -

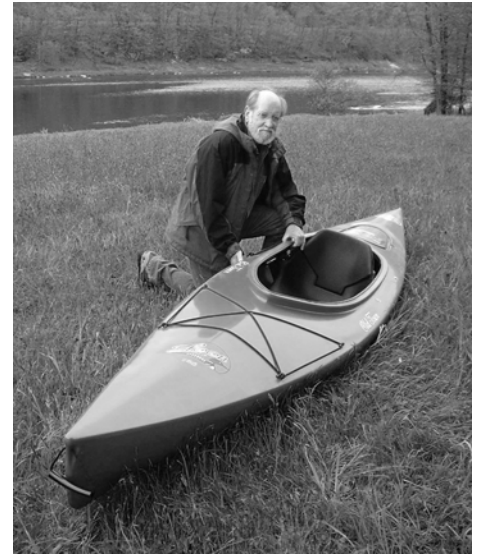
Catskill Mountain Canoes, Hankins, NY 845-887-5570
Cedar Rapids Canoes, Barryville, NY 845-557-6158
Kittatinny Canoes, Barryville, NY 845-557-8611
Lou's Tubes, Skinners Falls, NY 845-252-3593
Silver Canoe Rentals, Pond Eddy, NY 845-856-7055

Guides & Outfitters

Gander Mountain Store, Scranton, PA
Indian Springs Flyfishing Camp, Lordville, NY 215-679-5022
Pocono Joe's Guide Service, Shohola, PA 570-685-2835
River Essentials on the Delaware, Shehawken, PA 570-635-5900
Two-River Junction, Lackawaxen, PA 570-685-2010

Printers

Spencer Printery, Honesdale, PA 570-253-2001



The 2002 raffle prize:
a blue Old Town Loon 136 kayak.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Delaware Highlands Conservancy has been so successful in its work in the Upper Delaware River region that we are beginning to seriously drain our volunteer pool. With 2100 acres under conservation easement and over 1000 acres more currently in the works, our board members and loyal volunteers are hard pressed to keep our heads above water. We need help in just about all of our activities but especially in the following:



Gail Lowden, Office manager

Monitoring: Once the easement is established, DHC is required to make an "on the ground" (and sometimes from the air) assessment of the property to insure that the terms of the conservation easement are being upheld. Join a leader and enjoy time in the outdoors - taking pictures, following the GPS maps and making field notes for the office files. You could become a member of our Land Protection Committee.

Promotion: As the only organization providing broad based land protection and conservation services in the Upper Delaware Region, Delaware Highlands Conservancy should be a "household word" in our area. To be

known now is especially important since casinos, performing arts centers and housing expansion are planned for our region. This means exploding development and increased population. This means that our open space and natural heritage is in jeopardy. This *means* we need assistance in developing a promotional policy that would increase the effectiveness of our press releases, advertising and other public relations opportunities. Are you out there?

Office Stuff Wanted: Paper cutter and a desk chair with wheels.

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP FORM

I want to conserve natural open space and support the Conservancy with my tax-deductible membership donation of:

___ \$25 Student; ___ \$35 Basic; ___ \$60 Sponsor; ___ \$100 Protector; ___ \$250 Sustainer; ___ \$500 Conservator; ___ Other

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

NAME: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

I would like to volunteer to help the Conservancy with _____

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.

2002 FALL PROGRAMS

STAR WATCHING

November 1, 7 pm Friday evening. Meet at the Butterfly Barn. Our intrepid star gazing trio Al Schultheis, Norm Sullivan, and Bill Yeaman invite you to brave the chill night air and peer into deep space with their telescopes. Galaxies, red giants, white dwarfs, and early winter constellations await our curious gaze. Dress for cold weather. Warm refreshments in the barn. Rain date is Saturday, Nov. 2.



DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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

MEADOW PARTY

September 14, 2002 Noon to 5 p.m.

Silent Auction items are displayed at
www.delawarehighlands.org

