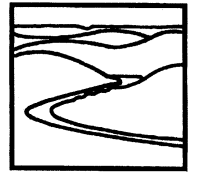


Highlands Journal



WINTER
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



TOTAL LAND CONSERVED BY DHC TOPS 2,000 ACRES!

By Barbara Yeaman and Lothar Holbert

Two new conservation easements completed in the last half of 2001 bring the total acres protected by the Conservancy's easements to 2,115! In this issue we describe the first of the two new easements. Next issue will chronicle the story of the second.

CROOKED CREEK FARM

A turn off of a northern Wayne County country lane into the driveway marked "Crooked Creek Farm" brings the driver into an exotic world. An 8-foot wire fence, invisible because of judicial plantings, keeps out deer and other voracious predators. As a result, Don Pfeufer, a meticulous gardener (every plant is labeled), was able to plan and care for a garden seldom seen anywhere in Wayne County. Don's garden is so exceptional that it was selected by the Wayne County Historical Society as one of the stops in their 2001 Spring Garden Tour. The honor is well deserved. To see the garden and hear him talk about its many unusual plants makes it clear that the garden is like a family to him.

Donald Pfeufer and his mother bought this 312-acre farm 35 years ago. Crooked Creek meanders diagonally across the fields and wetlands before joining Equinunk Creek to reach the Delaware River, hence the name of the farm. Over the years Don planted more than 22,000 trees, built two ponds, and generally encouraged the diverse wildlife now found there. He has seen bobcat, mink, ermine, otter, bear, grouse,



Donald Pfeufer with Dr. Ann Rhoads

meadow lark, kill-deer, and countless other birds and animals.

Dr. Ann Rhoads of the Morris Arboretum visited the farm's wetland last August. She chronicled "a central core of alder - sphagnum wetland surrounded by a zone of highbush blueberry - meadow-sweet wetland. A hemlock palustrine forest occupies low areas adjacent to the shrub wetland and stream. Forested uplands contain northern hardwood forest." She documented 115 plant species in the wetland and immediate surrounding area alone, a very rich diversity.

It is clear that Don's love for this land runs deep. Which is why he reached out to the Conservancy. His mother had passed away several years ago, and he had no direct heirs. Now he was battling cancer, and wanted assurance that his beloved land would never be subdivided. DHC Director Lothar Holbert helped him draft a conservation easement that would permit continued farming, but no subdivision.

Sadly, on October 13, 2001 Don Pfeufer passed away, just three weeks after he signed the completed

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Upcoming Meetings:

Land Protection	March 10
Development	March 26
Board Meeting	April 13

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the year begins, I would like to begin by saying to all of our membership that our board is continuing its work earnestly and diligently. This year brings a change in our board makeup. First, our long time board members, founder Barbara Yeaman and board member attorney Greg Belcamino are taking a year leave from the board as is required by our by-laws. They of course will be sorely missed, and I know I speak for every member of our organization

when I say we owe them a deep debt of thanks. Greg has agreed to continue to advise us on legal matters in regard to our work in New York State, and Barbara has graciously agreed to continue as the chair of our land protection committee.

Our current board members and officers new and old have stepped forward to fill our committee positions and to take on new responsibilities. You will find our complete board list and their positions in the sidebar on this page.

The year 2002 is also bringing more exciting changes to our organization. In addition to adding new completed conservation easements, which now total 16 easements totaling over 2100 acres, our land protection committee is negotiating with additional property owners.

Also, we have several other new initiatives in development. We have begun the work to establish a scholarship/internship program. We also are planning a major appreciation and fundraising event to launch a major new Land protection initiative. Our priority identification process for important properties is actively in motion. We are establishing an educational outreach group to begin going into the community to speak directly to groups to inform them of who we are and what we do and to answer questions related to the important issues of land conservation.

As you can see, our board continues to set ambitious goals and work hard to achieve them. I hope that all of our members get an opportunity to meet our board members during the year. If you do get to know them and speak to them you will see that there is a lot of energy being put to use on your behalf.



LISTEN TO WJFF—90.5 FM ON SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH AT 4:30

Delaware Highlands Conservancy will be featured on Community Voices. Barbara Yeaman, Land Protection Committee Chair, and Margaret Hunter, Pike County land owner will discuss Delaware Highlands Conservancy and conservation easements. Delaware Highlands Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the Hunter property.

(Continued from page 1)

conservation easement. Fortunately for all of us, his generosity and foresight made possible the protection in perpetuity of a large, diverse and scenic area in Northern Wayne County. The easement prohibits sub-division and restricts the use of the property, prohibiting activities which are inimical to good conservation and wildlife practices. We are deeply grateful to Don, and will miss his dry wit, and objective observations about life in general and his farm in particular. Now it is up to us to insure that his wishes for "Crooked Creek Farm" endure.



5TH ANNUAL MEADOW PARTY

After struggling with the decision of whether to go ahead with the Meadow Party just four days after September 11th, we decided to hold the event and were glad we did. The Meadow Party seemed to strengthen the feeling of community and of coming together at a time when people were shell-shocked from the recent tragic events. And, many people expressed appreciation for being able to participate in something purposeful that gave them a sense of connection to the land and their fellow human beings.

The day began with beautiful sunshine that lasted all day and, although attendance was down slightly from past years, the crowd kept on growing as the day wore on. Many people stayed right to the end, closing out the day with the talented young fiddler Erin Slaver accompanied by her dad, John Slaver on Guitar. The winner of the Old Town kayak was Emily Kovats of Cedar Grove, NJ. The book, "Land of Little Rivers", was won by Nicole Gonsalves of Narrowsburg, NY; the folding camp chairs were won by Suzanne Yeaman of Charlottesville, VA.

Many, many dedicated volunteers helped plan the event and ensured that the day ran smoothly. Without the help of these volunteers, the Meadow Party would not be possible and we are thankful for their efforts, as well as their expertise. A special thanks to Zoot Finamore, who was stranded in Florida on 9/11 and drove all the way back home in time to provide us with both an excellent sound system and some great background music. We are also most grateful to all the members, area restaurants and businesses who made our delicious food buffet possible and to those who donated to the silent auction and kayak raffle (see sidebar). This wonderful support by members and local residents and businesses raised more than \$3400.

A date for next year's Meadow Party has already been set for Saturday, September 14, 2002. So, mark your calendar and come out with your fellow human beings and connect to the land. Hope to see you there!

These restaurants and businesses donated to our Meadow Party. Please support them with your business.

The Narrowsburg Inn
 Dave's Big Eddy Diner
 The Whistle Stop Café
 Three Wishes
 Beach Lake Inn
 Beach Lake Café
 Day's Bakery
 The Alpine Meat & Wurst House
 Woodloch Pines
 The 1906 Restaurant
 Pete's Pub & Restaurant
 Central House
 The Bridge Restaurant
 Tyler Hill Country Farm
 The Settler's Inn
 Beach Lake Bread
 Peck's Market
 Sweetwater Guide Service
 The River Reporter
 The Eagle Institute
 Nicolina's Country Store
 Dancing Dog Antiques
 The Equinunk Emporium
 Adrian LaSorte Guide Service
 Cedar Rapids Canoes
 Kittatinny Canoes
 Northeastern Flyfishing
 Pocono Joe's Guide Service
 River Essentials on the Delaware
 Silver Canoe Rentals
 Indian Springs Flyfishing Camp
 Two River Junction
 Spencer Printery



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: B. Gastavek * Joe Hook * Marion Terwilliger * Bonnie Shuman * John Darazsdi * Nick and Maggie Niles * Calvin and Kuni Holbert * John Niflot * Paul Ludick * Francis Cape and Liza Phillips * Joseph Schwarz * Richard Crandall

2002 SPRING PROGRAMS

WILDFLOWER WALK, Saturday, May 4th, 10 am. Meet at the DHC Butterfly Barn Nature Center, along the Delaware River on the PA River Road, 1 mile south of Milanville, PA and the Skinner's Falls Bridge. Walk with naturalist Ed Wesely along the Calkins Creek in Milanville. This remote area hosts many spring wildflowers including painted trilliums, wind flower, spring beauties, and marsh marigolds. Bring your cameras and binoculars. Wear comfortable clothes for this two-hour walk.

SPRING STARS AND PLANETS, Friday evening, May 10th, 8 pm. Meet at the Butterfly Barn. Amateur astronomers Al Scheltheis, Norman Sullivan, and Bill Yeaman will bring their telescopes and sky charts. Observe deep sky objects and learn the legends and how to locate the constellations. This program will last about two hours. Bring binoculars if you have them and dress for cool weather. Rain date is May 11th.

EARLY MORNING BIRD WALK, Saturday morning, May 18th 7am. Meet at the Butterfly Barn. Explore several habitats including meadow, river front, forest and edges between with expert birder Peter Wulfhorst. Learn to identify songs and habitats of the smallest warbler to the great American bald eagle. Bring binoculars and wear comfortable clothing and shoes. This walk lasts about three hours. Refreshments after the walk.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
QUESTIONS? CALL 570-729-7053 or 570-226-3164

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE RALLY 2001

"We share with countless others an unshakable resolve that the world we live in and leave for the future will be one in which all people can know the timeless order of natural systems," Jean Hocker, LTA President, speaking at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Baltimore in September, 2001. Tony Waldron, Barbara Yeaman, and Gail Lowden were among the 1600 land conservationists from 48 states and 18 countries who attended. the LTA Rally .

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.