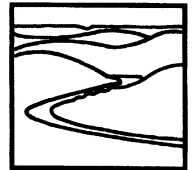


SPRING  
2002

# Highlands Journal

*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



## CONSERVANCY'S WORK REWARDED BY PENNSYLVANIA

by Barbara Yeaman

When the phone rang in early April, it was a reporter from a local TV news station. "We just received a press release from the Governor," he informed me. "It says that your Conservancy just got a \$450,000 grant award. Tell me about it." That is how we learned the big news.

A few days later we met with the same TV reporter to explain the goals of our grant. Standing by a small lake with Bob Vail, president of the Ozark Hunt Club, we told the story of why and how, with financial help from the Pennsylvania Keystone Grant Program, we will preserve three valuable properties including the Club's land.

In October 2001 we filed the grant application requesting funds to purchase the development rights (in the form of conservation easements) on three tracts of Pike County PA land totaling 771 acres. Each property joins two others already protected to create what is called a "Conservation Greenway."

Over the years we have learned that it is not enough to protect "islands" of land. If we can connect some of these isolated protected tracts with even a narrow strip of land, wildlife is free to move over a larger area with minimum risk. Gov. Tom Ridge set this goal for creating PA "greenways" in his "2001 Action Plan for Creating Connections." According to Sec. John Oliver of PA DCNR, "Greenways can provide a strategic approach for our municipalities and regions to plan for 'smarter' growth, enhance community character, ... and provide educational opportunities in conservation, ecology, and history." Creating greenways is the goal of this DHC grant application.

Two of our grant properties (a 564 acre forest and an adjacent 103-acre farm/forest/wetland connect to 4,500 acres protected by a Pike County private club and 2,700 acres of Game Commission land which border the Upper Delaware River. A third property, owned by the Ozark Hunt Club, will connect the 564-acre Mill Pond Preserve and PA State Forest lands.



Our grant application requested \$900,000, or one-half of the appraised value of the conservation easements we propose to purchase (the maximum the state will award). The land owners will donate the rest of the value in a "bargain sale" to our conservancy. But, our grant award is just *one-half* the amount we requested. Our job now is to raise more money and work with the land owners to resolve the shortfall. The primary goal of each landowner and DHC is the conservation of these lands, and we will work together to solve this.

In addition to the honor of being entrusted with \$450,000 of public monies, I am especially pleased that the work of DHC is recognized by Pennsylvania. We received the third largest PA land trust grant in 2002.

We learned a lot applying for this grant. In the process, we obtained local governments' support, obtained endorsements from national environmental organizations, and worked with three landowners to draft the easements. Thanks to Dennis DeMara, PA DCNR in Scranton, our job was painless as possible. Now our work is cut out for us. But we can't move on without recognizing the importance of our membership support. We couldn't have done any of this without your enthusiastic encouragement and financial help.

## Delaware Highlands Conservancy

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### Upcoming Meetings:

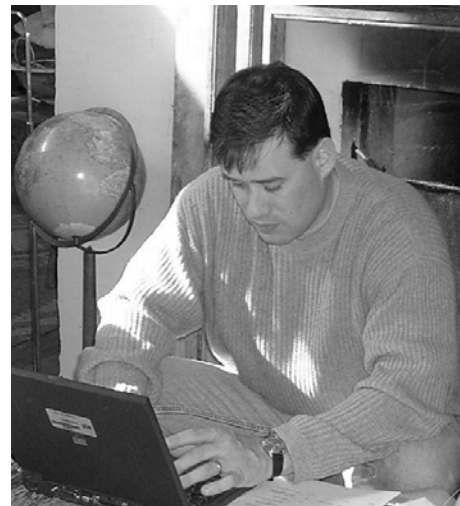
Board Meeting June 8  
Land Protection July 13

## DIRECTOR PROFILE – ADAM RODELL

Having spent his early summers in the Catskills, Adam Rodell was early on imprinted with a love for the Upper Delaware region. He and his cousins enjoyed the beauty and recreation at the family retreat on Perch Lake near Andes, Delaware County, NY. Canoeing, hiking and fishing became his tickets to experiencing the outdoors. Today he sometimes fishes with his father, Clint, a long time Board member, at Clint's second (maybe first) home adjacent to the Delaware River.

Adam is a sales director for a technology firm that is responsible for providing enterprise-wide computer systems for large global corporations. He lives in Morris County, New Jersey with his wife Marisa and their 18 month old son, Hunter. By the way – one of Adam's most endearing qualities is provided by Marisa; she has helped DHC tremendously with her irresistible and winning sales approach – T-shirts and memberships, anyone?

Adam's work week is long and strenuous and he confesses that he needs the outdoors to offset his fast paced work life. He is an admitted technophile and is most at home working with DHC's GPS (Global Positioning System) documenting baseline data on properties being considered for conservation easements. Adam is a graduate of the University of Mass. and has a masters degree in Intellectual History, Formation of Modern Thought and Culture from Drew University. With that background, Adam certainly gives depth to the DHC Board. As busy as he is, he rarely fails to make the trek to the Upper Delaware for Board and Land Protection meetings. The most important thing for Adam is to be able to provide the same opportunities for his son that he had, enjoying open space and learning from nature.



## TWO STATES, THREE COUNTIES, FIFTEEN COMMUNITIES, ONE RIVER VISIONING THE UPPER DELAWARE RIVER CORRIDOR

Barbara Yeaman and Don Downs recently attended a forum concerning the economic development of the Upper Delaware River area. Focus was placed upon cooperation between New York and Pennsylvania and other governmental jurisdictions, on future jobs, growth, zoning and master planning. As a land trust DHC needs to be aware of important influences upon land development as a result of possible casinos in NY, performing arts centers in both states and general industrial and residential growth. Proper land use must be encouraged in order to maintain the special quality of our area.

## INVASIVE PLANT PARTNERSHIP

DHC was represented on April 30, 2002 by Director Don Downs at the Nature Conservancy sponsored 'New Partner Meeting' held at the Mashipacong Bog Preserve in Montague, NJ. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm about invasive plant management in the Delaware River watershed and to share information and resources. Awareness of invasive plants will help DHC's survey teams in formulating our baseline data survey for new conservation easements.

# A CREATIVE NEW DELAWARE HIGHLANDS EASEMENT

by Barbara Yeaman

In December 2001 we signed and recorded a new conservation easement protecting 364-acres of forested land in Dingman Township, Pike County, PA. We call it the Dwarfskill Preserve after the stream that runs through it. This easement was donated to us by the landowner, and it will forever protect a major portion of the property.

The story of this easement illustrates how land use restrictions do not have to encompass the entire property to protect its conservation values ... how combined with careful design, an easement may enhance an entire tract while still allowing for development that creates economic value. Here we have an example of a creative land use solution that combines business opportunity and conservation.

Those familiar with the Milford, PA region will recognize the landowner's name. A creative entrepreneur, Sean Strub has a keen eye for business opportunities.

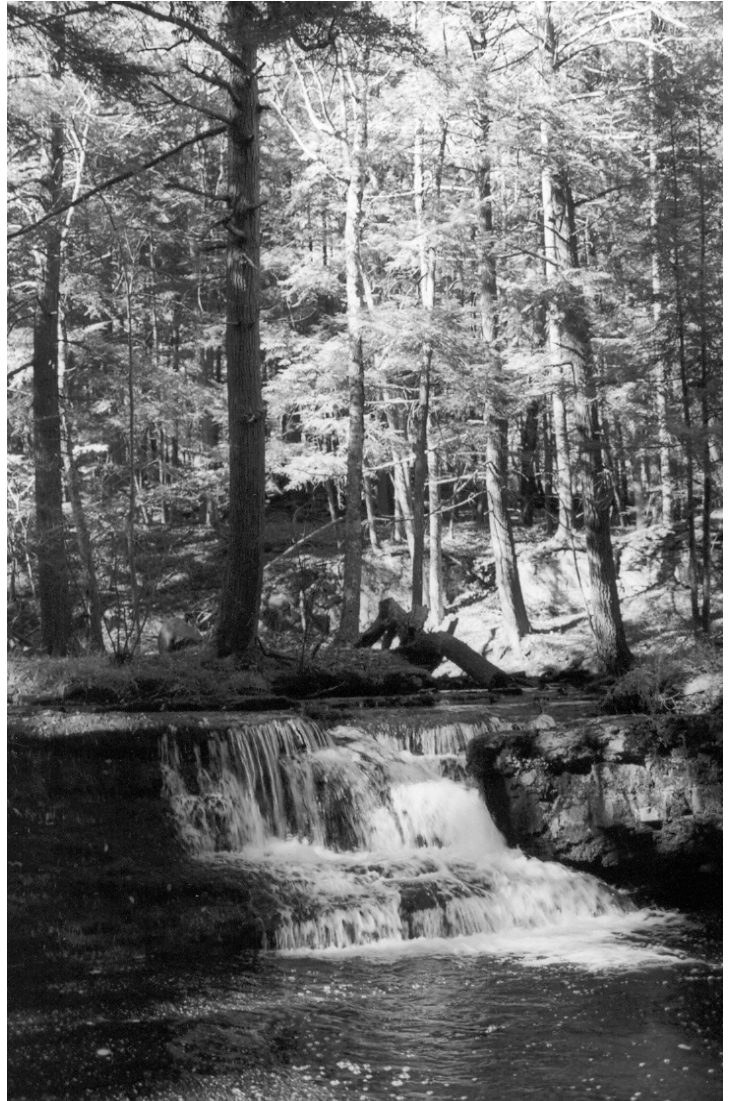
The property was purchased because of its inherent beauty, and the waters of the Dwarfskill stream that cascade over rocks and mosses through this land toward Raymondskill Creek and thence to the Delaware River. A rustic house and some outbuildings were clustered in one section of the property, and this was chosen to become part a future homestead. But the total tract was 607-acres, and only a portion of it was needed for a residential area. His love for this place and his innate business sense prompted Strub to hire the planning firm "*Conservation Development Partnership*", to plan the future of this land. A future that would provide a home, and an income.

After much thought, this irregularly shaped property was divided into five parcels. Still one owner, but five separate uses. The result: one 56-acre parcel, an elongated triangle jutting into an existing subdivision, will eventually be absorbed into that subdivision. Another parcel encompasses the 116-acre homestead. Two other parcels totaling 60-acres fronting a road are slated for subdivision into ten five to seven acre lots. The remaining parcel of 364 acres (the Dwarfskill Preserve) is now protected by a conservation easement and will remain forever undivided forest, thus enhancing native plants and wildlife, waters of the Dwarfskill, and, not coincidentally, the value of the other parcels surrounding it.

The public will benefit from the conservation of the natural scene and protection of the water quality. Conservation of the bulk of this land, and the ensuing tax benefits and enhancement of the scene benefit the landowner. And a generous donation to the DHC Monitoring Endowment Fund benefits the future of all of our easements.

Run the numbers. This project makes all kinds of sense, proving that with creative planning conservation *can* pay.

Hopefully, Dwarfskill Preserve 's example will spur similar creative conservation efforts in the Delaware Highlands region.



**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** John and Julia Gushue \* David and Deborah Pursch \* Robert Beilman \* Doug Guyer, Wilderness Management, LLP \* Pat and Walter South \* Lorraine Broder

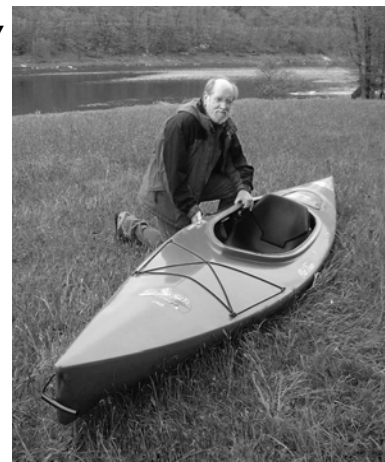
## YOUR HELP NEEDED AT 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEADOW PARTY

Once again we have begun planning for this year's Meadow Party, held **September 14, 2002**, and as usual we are reaching out to our members and the community at large for help and donations.

For the **Silent Auction** we are looking for new and used items of good quality, such as ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, ART, CRAFTS, FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS (please, no clothing, flea market stuff or country kitch). We also welcome donated SERVICES like haircuts, manicures, dinner for two, gardening, handyman jobs, overnight stay at B & B, guided fishing/canoe trips, etc.

If you could spare a few hours or maybe the whole day, we could use your help **on the day of the Meadow Party** with setting up, parking cars, serving food, manning a booth or helping with kids games and crafts. Your ideas on an activity you would like to organize that day, are also welcome. And, if you are feeling ambitious we still have empty seats left on the Meadow Party Committee and could use assistance with planning and implementing the whole affair.

To donate to the auction contact Don Downs at (845) 887-493 or ediedon@catskill.net. To sign up to help contact Helle Henriksen at (845) 252-7546 or helleh@citlink.net. Hope to see you there!



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

## DHC DIRECTORS VISIT WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY



Carl Beidleman, DHC Director with Tom Gettings  
and Dennis Collins of Wildlands Conservancy.

On April 9, 2002, five Directors drove to Emmaus, PA to meet with the president of Wildlands Conservancy, Tom Kerr, Director of land protection, Dennis Collins, Director of advancement, Tom Gettings, and Director of membership and annual giving, Shirley Klein. In 1995 Wildlands Conservancy provided much of the help and support needed during the formation of DHC. As a land trust of 30 years, Wildlands has been able to offer valuable advice to DHC regarding hiring an executive director and staff, relationship to corporations and funding sources and innovative outreach programs. We thank them for their candid response to our probing questions. Be on the lookout for new programs and initiatives in the near future, thanks to our friends at Wildlands Conservancy.

## SPRING STARS AND PLANETS

The night was cool and clear. The Butterfly Barn smelled of cookies and hot tea; everything was in alignment. Seventy-five people gathered next to the Delaware River to watch as Mercury slipped below the tree line in the twilight. The remaining four planets, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter and Venus remained in precise formation, an occurrence that will not be repeated until 2040. Al Schultheis and Norman Sullivan, both local amateur astronomers, and Bill Yeaman from the Rock Creek Park Planetarium in Washington, DC brought their telescopes, sky charts and enthusiasm. For the third year, this team has come to the meadow to locate constellations and observe the deep sky. A good turn out!



# SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED TO HONOR BARBARA YEAMAN

Barbara Yeaman was a founding member of DHC in 1994 and though the years has earned the respect and admiration of those associated with the conservancy as well as the entire upper Delaware River community. She has served as president, vice-president and even as secretary and treasurer, sometimes all at the same time. Her home until recently served as the Conservancy office: the first floor filled with files, copiers, and computers. Her barn housed our meeting room. She has given a great deal of herself to this organization and continues to shape the future of our growing land trust. The DHC Board wishes to express its appreciation to Barbara Yeaman for her years of service as a leader, educator, and friend.

By a unanimous decision, the Board of Directors has established a fund that will bestow a \$1000 scholarship upon a graduating high school senior starting in the Spring of 2003. Six high schools in PA or NY, all of which have districts which border the Delaware River, will form the pool of students to be considered for this award. To be eligible the student must pursue college studies relating to land stewardship and environmental concerns of the upper Delaware River valley. Details of the selection process and funding sources are currently being formulated. Contributions can be sent to the DHC office earmarked for the DHC/Yeaman Scholarship Fund.



## WORKSHOP: PLANNING FOR YOUR FORESTS' FUTURE

Forest management is an important (and sometimes controversial) consideration in developing conservation easements with landowners. DHC is cooperating with other land trusts and organizations to sponsor a one-day workshop focusing on planning for your forest's future and understanding forest ecology. The symposium will be held on **Friday, June 28, 2002** at Grey Towers, the home of Gifford Pinchot in Milford, PA. Dr. Jim Finley of the Penn State School of Forest Resources will speak. The day's activities begin with a tour of Grey Towers and continue with both indoor and field sessions relating to the development of a forest stewardship plan. For further information call the DHC office or 570-825-1701. Registration deadline is June 14, 2002. The fifteen dollar registration fee includes lunch and materials.

## 2002 SUMMER PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EXCEPT WHERE NOTED.

### UNDERSTANDING FOREST ECOLOGY

**Saturday morning, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 am.** Meet at the Damascus Township's Forest between Narrowsburg, NY and Milanville, PA. Walk the 1.5 mile forest trail with PA Service Forester Jack Gearhart through upland oak-hickory forest, around the wetland, and through the ancient hemlock grove. Learn basic ecology, forest succession, tree identification and the perennial forest problem of deer browse. **DIRECTIONS:** From Narrowsburg, drive north along the PA River Rd. to MacCubbin Road. From Milanville, drive south along the PA River Rd. to MacCubbin Road. Turn up MacCubbin Rd. for one-half mile to the Damascus Township Forest entrance and parking area on your right. Questions? Call 570-729-7053 or 570-226-3164.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## 2002 SUMMER PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 5)

### POND PLANTS: THE RARE, THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY:

#### How to know the difference and what to do about it.

**August 10<sup>th</sup> 10 am Saturday morning.** (Location to be announced.) Dr. Ann Rhoads, Director of Botany at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia, will talk about the benefits of aquatic plants, and describe those that are rare or endangered in this NE PA region. She will show examples of each and also specimens of exotic aggressive plants that can threaten the habitat of other useful plants. No need to get your feet wet. Dr. Rhoads will have collected examples of local plants and have them in trays for our close examination. Watch this web page or call for location directions: 570-729-7053 or 570-226-3164.

### GET THE SCOOP ON SNAKES AND TURTLES

**August 17<sup>th</sup> 10 am Saturday morning.** Learn about the lives of snakes and turtles at the DHC Butterfly Barn Nature Center in Milanville, PA. Kathy Michell, reptile rehabilitator, from Narrowsburg, NY will bring rattlesnakes, other reptiles, and turtles for all to see and handle (but not the rattlesnakes). Kathy will talk about where they live, what they eat, why they are valuable animals to have around, and why they are at risk.

### CANOE WITH GEOLOGIST BOB TITUS

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> 11 am Friday morning.** Dr. Bob Titus, geology professor at Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, will lead another day-long canoe trip down the Upper Delaware River. This trip is limited to 15 boats (30 people). Be sure to sign up early. Bring your own boat or rent from a local livery (to be announced). Watch our web page for logistics or call 570-729-7053 or 570-226-3164. Bring a lunch, camera, and binoculars. Wear old canoeing clothes, hat and sunglasses. This year we request a \$5 registration donation from each paddler to cover our costs.

### MONARCH BUTTERFLIES AND THEIR LIFE CYCLES

**August 24<sup>th</sup> 10 am Saturday morning,** DHC Butterfly Barn in Milanville, PA. This ever popular program features Ed Wesely and live examples of every stage in the lifecycle of the Monarch butterfly. Ed will describe their care, potential disasters to their livelihood, and how to attract them to your yard. The vital link of the milkweed plant to all stages of this amazing butterfly will be described as well as how to raise your own milkweed plants. Bring other butterfly larva or adults to share at this program and for identification.

#### 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.