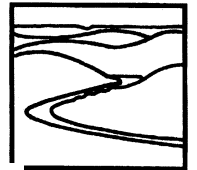


FALL
2002

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



GPS TECHNOLOGY USED IN MONITORING EASEMENTS

BY CLINT RODELL



Delaware Highlands uses a state of the art Global Positioning System (GPS) in monitoring easements, and in evaluating conservation values of potential easements.



What is GPS? Basically it is same as the guidance systems that can be installed in cars. Twenty-four satellites circle the earth twice each day in precise orbits transmitting information of their positions to the earth. The GPS receiver (GPS unit) is a hand held device powered by batteries, with a timetable of these satellites stored in its memory.

When the GPS unit receives the transmissions from three or more of the satellites, it uses its stored timetables to calculate their positions. With this information the GPS unit computes its own location. Any location (waypoint) can be recorded and stored in the GPS unit. GPS is accurate to within sixteen feet.

The Conservancy uses the GPS unit in the field to record waypoints of interest. Later the waypoints are entered into a software map program in the DHC computer. The computer shows the waypoints on a map. Notes, boundaries and other features can be added to the map, which is adjusted to a convenient scale. The maps are printed and used by Delaware Highlands to manage monitoring of its easements.

When monitoring an easement as required periodically by DHC guidelines, the GPS unit is used to note the location of any conditions caused by the use of the land, or misuse of the land. For example, many easements prohibit use of off the road vehicles. If the DHC monitor sees tire tracks, the location can be noted with the GPS unit along with a photo of this misuse.

Recording waypoints also makes a kind of "breadcrumb trail". Last fall a team of monitors including Barbara Yeaman, Peter Wulforth and Clint Rodell, met with Tom Hoff of the Twin Lakes Conservancy to monitor the easement that DHC holds on the Brown tract. The monitors had planned to walk a large circle to see all of the property- and they thought that they had, stumbling over glacial rock fields, bending under hemlocks and spruce while trying to avoid getting wet feet. Surprise! The breadcrumb trail showed that the monitors had covered only a third of the tract. Using this information the monitors now know what area of the tract to inspect this fall.

At Crooked Creek Farm the Conservancy is currently in the process of recording baseline data, documenting the existing natural and manmade features of the property. The GPS unit is being used to draw the lines between forested areas and present hay fields. The easement here prohibits expansion of the fields. In other areas of the property un-worked fields are naturally reverting to forest. The GPS unit was used to record waypoints along with photos of birch and alders. Waypoints and photos were taken of beautiful evergreen shrub, which was unknown to the monitors and was uneaten by deer. Close by, a waypoint was recorded at a patch of closed gentian, a flower that is uncommon in this area. Use of the GPS is helping DHC to establish a complete compilation of the existing features of the property.

Use of the GPS unit also provides safety feature for DHC monitors. If a monitor is injured in the field, the exact coordinates could be telephoned to a rescue team. Also one of the monitors could go for help and

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Delaware Highlands Conservancy

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Upcoming Meetings:

Board Meeting	December 14
Land Protection	January 11
Board Meeting	February 8

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



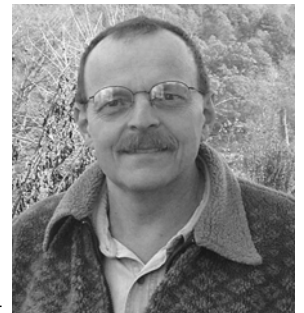
As president for another year, I wanted to take a moment to outline some important issues in regard to you board of directors. Our first 8 years has been very exciting. We have seen strong growth in our membership, a rapidly increasing pace of inquiries to preserve our regions open space by private individuals, and a tremendous maturation and increased professionalism of the board of directors. As the focus of our mission has sharpened, so has the realization that we need to increase the board in numbers and diver-

sity of talent. This year we fortunately are welcoming the return of two board members from a year absence, attorney Greg Belcamino and our founding board member Barbara Yeaman. We also welcome a new addition, Peter Pinchot, a dedicated spokesman for the environment. Long time board member Helle Henrickson returns for another three year term. That brings our current board to 11. We know that is not enough to fulfill our strategic goals. We have set a target of fifteen members. We know we have dedicated members who would make great contributors to the board or know someone who would. Please consider joining the board or passing the name of a potential addition to us. We particularly need representation in Sullivan and Delaware Counties in New York. The inquiries for our assistance there is exploding because of the new development pressures. Those who step forward will not be disappointed. The current board is active, diverse and fun, and we get a lot done. In addition, the cause you would be joining is, as is obvious when you look around our region, a worthy one.



DHC BOARD MEMBER, HELFRICH, SPEAKS AT UPPER DELAWARE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

The River Reporter recently conducted the second in a series of forums to discuss growth and development issues in Pike and Wayne Counties, Pennsylvania and Sullivan County, New York. Some sixty elected officials and community leaders discussed with several speakers issues of local concern including community planning, open space, affordable housing and economic development. DHC Board Member Carson Helfrich, a local planning consultant and owner of Community Planning and Management Associates, discussed the importance of preserving agricultural land, forest land, and other open space, and summarized the planning process undertaken by Monroe County, Pennsylvania, where a \$25 million bond issue was approved by the electorate for open space planning and acquisition. Conservation subdivision design, where individual lots are reduced in size and large blocks of open land are preserved, was highlighted by Helfrich as a valuable land use management tool for land conservation available to local municipalities through zoning.

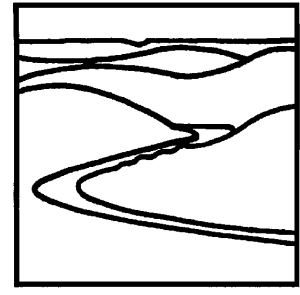


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return by using the breadcrumb trail to the injured party.

The number of easements managed by Delaware Highlands is growing exponentially. To keep up, DHC will need more GPS equipment and more volunteers willing to join a team to help gather required field data for new easements or to monitor existing properties. Call the office at 570-226-3164 to become a member of our Land protection Committee.

The GPS unit and the MapSource software program were donated by the Norcross Foundation.



CONSIDER A GIFT TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN

The beautiful land at our doorsteps, its soaring eagles and trout in the streams, is a gift we can still share with our grandchildren: IF WE ACT NOW.

That's why the Delaware Highlands Conservancy is assisting landowners who share our vision for the Upper Delaware region. As a not-for-profit charitable land trust we can accept conservation easements from land owners who want to limit future development of their properties, while earning significant tax credits.

We can also accept gifts of cash, stock or real estate to implement land protection strategies in the area. For example:

GIFTS OF CASH are fully deductible. IRS allows you to spread such deductions (up to 50% of your adjusted gross income/year) over a 6-year period.

GIFTS OF STOCK earn a federal income tax deduction equal to the fair-market-value of the stock. If your stock has appreciated, you avoid paying capital gains taxes on the appreciated value. The Conservancy can put the full market value of your gift to work preserving land.

OTHER PLANNED GIVING STRATEGIES are available that allow you the lifetime use of your property, or provide you with an annuity. The directors of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy will be pleased to explain such gifts to you, your lawyer or your accountant.

A GIFT OF REAL ESTATE allows you to avoid federal taxes on the appreciated value of your property. If your land meets the Conservancy's land protection criteria, you and the Conservancy can provide for appropriate protections through a conservation easement. If not, Delaware Highlands can put the full value of your property to work toward protecting plant and wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and watersheds elsewhere within the Delaware River region.

6TH ANNUAL MEADOW PARTY TOPS PREVIOUS YEARS

by HELLE HENRIKSEN



This year's Meadow Party had the highest attendance and was the most successful fundraiser we have ever had. Over \$4300 was raised to help protect land in our four county area of the Delaware Highlands. This was in part due to sponsorships or donations by many area businesses (see sidebar) and in part due to the generosity of all the people who bought raffle tickets and/or attended the event.

Accentuating the beautiful setting and warm sunshine, Rebecca Frezza and Big Truck set the mood for the day with their bubbly and upbeat children's songs, which were enjoyed by both young and old. Another hit was the food tent, which was bursting with delicious food. We thank the area chefs, who really outdid themselves this year, as was evident by the many, many compliments we received.

After a busy day with wildlife presentations, puppet shows, environmental booths, building mobiles and birdhouses, and listening to terrific bluegrass music by the Linemen, the day closed, as always, with the raffle drawing. This year's lucky winners are: 1st Prize Kayak went to Donna Rodell, Montclair, NJ; 2nd Prize \$50 Gift Cards to Gander Mountain Store went to Dick and Margaret Hunter of Tafton, PA ; and 3rd Prize Maglite went to Jim Curry of Philadelphia. Thanks to all our members who so generously supported this raffle and to our business sponsors who made possible the purchase of all prizes and printing, thus allowing *all* proceeds to go to our land trust work.

A big thank you to the nearly thirty volunteers who gave time, muscles, sweat, good ideas, invaluable expertise and much more to ensure that the Meadow Party got up and running and kept running smoothly for the whole day. This investment of time as well as all the other support the Meadow party received will pay dividends down the road when we and future generations enjoy the many benefits of the natural heritage we presently work to preserve.

Many thanks to ...

Equinunk Emporium
Sandercock House B&B
Nicolina Country Place
Eagle Institute
Gardner Alison Smith
Jill's Kitchen
The River Reporter
Martin Guitar Company
Rolling Marble Guest House
Castello del Rio
Lackawaxen House
Milanville House
Western Hotel
Catskill Mountain Canoes
Cedar Rapids Canoes
Kittatinny Canoes
Lou's Tubes
Silver Canoe Rentals
Gander Mountain Store
Indian Springs Fly Fishing Camp
Pocono Joe's Guide Service
River Essentials on the Delaware
Two-River Junction
Spencer Printery
1906 Restaurant
Beach Lake Café
The Bridge Restaurant
Arlene Lawrence
Beach Lake Inn
Carini Pizzeria
The Central House
Dave's Big Eddy Diner
Day's Bakery
Dianna's Place
Ehrhardt's Restaurant
Elegante's Restaurant
The Front Porch
Michele's Restaurant
The Narrowsburg Inn
Peck's Market
Pete's Pub
The Settler's Inn
Three Wishes
Tick Tocks
Tre Alberi
Tyler Hill Farm Country Inn
The Waterwheel Café
The Whistle Stop
Woodloch Pines

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Bob and Priscilla Bauer, the Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club, Graham and Lorna Brown, Paul Bunnell, Jim and Sally Cochrane, Linda Corshen and Ronnie Morganstein, Tim Erson, Walter and Helen Hauck, Judith Heath, Gerald and Germar Heitmann, Marcia Mac Lean, Jane Moritz, Jim and Sue Powell, Arlene Regan, Ken and Lillian Russell, Tony Staffieri, Mike Uretsky, Robert and Joanne Wasserman, and Karl and April Weber

PENNSYLVANIA FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

BY BARBARA YEAMAN

"Forestry is a traditional industry in Pike County. Timbers from Pike County fitted some of our earliest sailing vessels with masts, and provided lumber for some of PA's earliest cities. Today, Pike County is growing faster than any other PA county. Yet, with 288,400 acres of forested lands, and over 8,000 private land owners, timber continues as a valuable resource. Our forests provide building materials, recreational amenities and wildlife habitat, and maintain the high water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries. However, projected growth threatens to destroy many of these fine timber lands."

So reads our application for sponsorship in the PA Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in Pike County. What is this program all about? And why do we seek to become a sponsor?

The Forest Legacy Program was established by the U.S. Congress in the 1990 Farm Bill. It provides federal funds to qualifying states to purchase development rights (in the form of Conservation Easements) from forest landowners whose lands meet certain criteria.

In August 2000, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge designated the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) as the lead agency to administer the FLP in PA. The overall purpose in Pennsylvania is to

help protect and conserve working forests while maintaining private ownership of the land. This will be achieved with funding from the federal program to purchase the easements, and with a working partnership with local land trusts to publicize the program and to assist the landowners through the easement process.

By working with DCNR as a sponsor of this program, we will be able to conserve large tracts of working forests by helping landowners access the money available for forest preservation, and will not have to depend on the generosity of a donated easement. And forest landowners as well as others will learn about DHC and the Forest Legacy Program when we hold public meetings about FLP.

To qualify, the forest owners must show that they grow and harvest timber according to a Forest Stewardship (read sustainable) Plan; that their lands are threatened with subdivision; that their forest is valuable in conserving water quality and wildlife habitat; or that it is restoring a degraded forested ecosystem.

We plan to submit our application to DCNR this month or next. If accepted we may be able to begin working with forest landowners sometime in 2004. Wish us well.

DHC CANOE TRIP



Don Hamilton, naturalist with the National Park Service, explaining the natural history of the Eastern Elliptio Mussel found in the clean waters of Upper Delaware River



Dr. Bob Titus, geology professor at Hartwick College, taking his canoeing audience back to the time of encroaching glaciers and other ecological upheavals that shaped the land in the Delaware River valley

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.

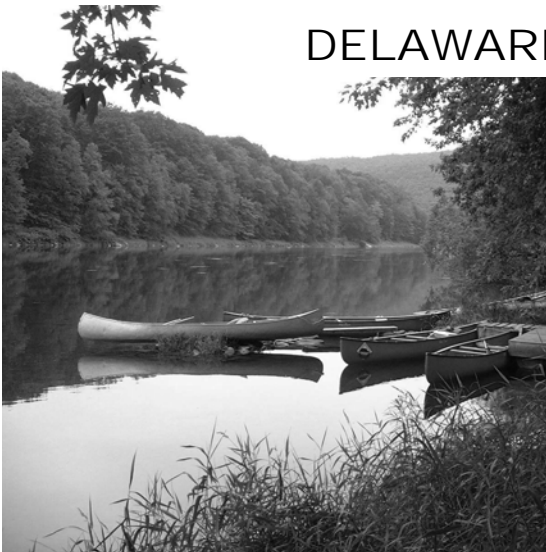


STEERING THE SPEEDING TRAIN

Three of our directors participated in a roundtable discussion about the issues of water, beauty and space. See the Current issue of **Milford Magazine** for the transcript.

STUFF NEEDED FOR THE OFFICE: postal scale

Thanks to Paul Letendre for his donation of a great office chair and paper cutter.



DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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