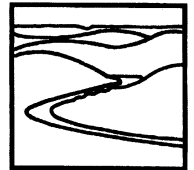


FALL
2003

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



AT THE BUTTERFLY BARN

On November 3, Leonard and Avis Rolston of Milanville released the last adult monarchs reared in our Butterfly Barn nature center, including a small female named "Lucky." En route to Florida, they parked at a rest stop near Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina and freed nine winged passengers. This has become a yearly ritual. Every summer, with the help of local children, we rescue monarch eggs and larvae from threatened habitats and rear them in individual containers in the Butterfly Barn near Milanville. Our work, sponsored by the Conservancy, generally involves rearing and releasing about 400 butterflies.

We not only feed each caterpillar fresh milkweed leaves and clean its cage when needed, but we keep records of each individual. That way we can identify "hot spots" for egg deposition, and trace "hot spots" of viral and bacterial infections. We also discover the locales and times of year that monarch caterpillars are parasitized by tachinid flies.

"Tachinids" are a large family that parasitizes caterpillar pests, but also contains species that lay eggs on

monarch caterpillars. We've learned, for example, that a "hot spot" for tachinids that attack monarchs is a hillside farm about two miles from the Butterfly Barn.

In general, we hold back and feed monarchs that hatch after mid-October until we can ship them south with the Rolstons during the first week of November. This year the Rolstons ferried their passengers until "it was 78 degrees, and they were ready to go. Seven took off and two took their time."

"Lucky," one of the nine, had disappeared into thick grass in mid-September when her container was knocked over. Just a 3/16" long caterpillar, she miraculously turned up the next morning on a discarded milkweed leaf.

To learn more about work of the nature center, we invite readers to visit our new website, www.butterflybarn.org, which has a "children's corner," a program schedule, and much more, including pages that track this year's monarch migration in our region.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Our Annual General Meeting for all members was held on October 25th at the Settlers Inn in Hawley. Special thanks to the sixty members who returned their proxies and those who attended – even with a growing membership base we easily established a quorum.

The vote for Directors went smoothly, with Don Downs, Lothar Holbert, Clint Rodell, Cindy Wildermuth, David Tolson and Gail Lowden all being elected to three year terms. Grant Genzlinger was also re-elected for a one year term, bringing the total number of Directors on the Board to fourteen.

Grant presented his President's report, summarizing the accomplishments year to date and the areas of focus for 2004. Highlights of his report were captured in the year end appeal and will also be in the 2003 Annual Report. Watch for the Annual Report in the Spring.



Ed Wesely examines a monarch wing under a microscope, one of several donated to the Butterfly Barn by Fred Studer of Clarks Summit

Delaware Highlands Conservancy

Officers:

Grant Genzlinger, President
Lothar Holbert, Vice President
Gail Lowden, Treasurer
Carson Helfrich, Secretary

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Helle Henriksen
Peter Pinchot
Adam Rodell
Clint Rodell
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Barbara Yeaman

Land Protection Chair:

Barbara Yeaman

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Editor: Don Downs

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Upcoming Meetings:

Board Meeting December 13
Land Protection January 10

INTRODUCING DAVID TOLSON

David Tolson is one of our members who joined the Delaware Highlands Conservancy Board within the past year. With family still in Wayne County, David often returns to the Upper Delaware Valley to visit his parents and sister and to enjoy this special area. He was born in Honesdale and grew up in Fallsdale, PA. David has lived on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC since graduating from George Washington University with a degree in International Economics.

In 1989, David started his own development business, DBT Development Group LLC that specializes in acquiring "rundown" historic inner-city apartment properties and developing them into high-end condominiums. He calls those properties "recycled housing". In addition to environmental issues, his interests include fly-fishing, travel and restoration of his historic farmhouse in Antietam, MD.

David is helping Delaware Highlands Conservancy with our fundraising program.

RECYCLE YOUR INK CARTRIDGES

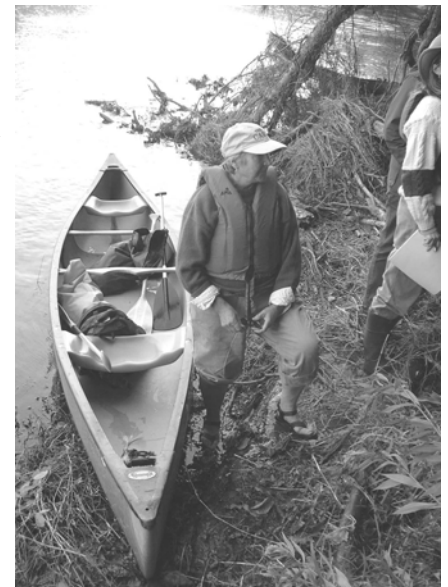
Recycle your ink cartridges with us - and win twice. Your cartridges will be recycled and we earn money to help us continue our land conservation efforts. Call the office at 570-226-3164 to find out where you can drop off your cartridges or arrange for pick up.

BARABARA YEAMAN WINS PARTNERSHIP AWARD

On October 29th, Barbara Yeaman was recognized at the 13th annual evening for Northeast Pennsylvania's Environment with an Environmental Partnership Award. Barbara has long been a catalyst for land and water conservation in the Delaware Highlands region. Her nomination came with a flood of endorsement from others who partnered with her over the past 20 years. Through her work, she brought together people from organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Wildlands Conservancy, and the Morris Arboretum as well as local organizations and citizens into a concerted conservation activity in the region. As one of the founding members of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Barbara helped define our mission and craft our success. As Land Protection Chair, Barbara is often out in the field - meeting with new landowners to explain the benefits of Conservation Easements, gathering baseline data on the flora and fauna on new Easements, or monitoring existing Easements for compliance.

Barbara is a model for community activism and volunteerism, inspiring others to become involved in natural resource conservation.

We are proud of Barbara's accomplishments, and glad she remains a dedicated and valued member of our Board of Directors.



Barbara on a cold fall canoe expedition to monitor endangered plants during flood conditions

MORSCH PROPERTY: PRESERVING WILDLIFE HABITAT



As soon as Roy Morsch bought his new property in 1990 he tore the house down. No, he didn't want to make room for a new one. He simply didn't want any houses! Most unusual for a new property owner.

Roy and Joann are indeed unusual landowners. Both are creative professional photographers and share a love of the natural world. Three years ago they bought a 154 acre property, adjacent to their home, that included most of a lake that they already treasured. Their property is protected by a Conservation Easement, put in place by the previous owner. Roy tore the cottage down to improve the natural scene.

The Morschs always planned to give similar protection to their original 40 acres, and this is the year to do it. They recently sold a property in a distant city – one that had greatly appreciated over the years. The IRS will expect a big capital gains tax payment. To help offset some of this tax, Roy and Joann worked with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to draft a Conservation Easement, similar to the one already in place on the 154 acre tract, to forever protect their original 40 acres from subdivision or development. By donating this easement to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy they meet two goals: 1) once recorded, this new easement completes the protection of their entire 194 acres forever; and 2) the value of the easement is fully deductible from their income taxes this year, and if necessary for up to five more years. This means they can significantly reduce their capital gains tax.

Like the older easement on the 154 acres (which brought significant income tax deductions to the owner when it was donated to Delaware Highlands Conservancy) the greatest benefit is not so tangible. Both easements ensure the protection of native wildlife habitat for plants and animals, secure water quality protection, and preserve an area of extraordinary beauty, far into the future.



*Roy Morsch and
Barbara Yeaman at play*

MEADOW PARTY SUCCESSFUL DESPITE WEATHER CHALLENGES



The rainy weather this year proved just how loyal and faithful participants and volunteers for the Meadow Party are. As noon approached and the field was abuzz with sound checks and people putting the finishing touches on their booths, we were wondering: will people come out in the rain? To our delight they did. While attendance was lower than last year, the number of participants was more than one could hope for on a rainy day, proving that people in our area are committed to supporting the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the protection of our natural resources.

Those who came were generous. The Meadow Party and kayak raffle together netted almost \$4,200, a return on par with last year.

This year, more than any, we want to thank and honor our volunteers. As anyone who has taken part in putting on a sizeable event knows, it takes months of work and careful planning, but no amount of work and planning will make it successful unless you have a dedicated crew the day of the event itself. This year was especially challenging for the almost forty volunteers who came early, left late, walked countless trips between the barn and the field, got wet shoes, wet hair, set up a dozen tents, put up signs, served food, minded booths, took down a dozen tents, cleaned up, and much, much more. Thank you to you all.

The day ended on a high note. The weather eased up, and people had been treated to a remarkable array of entertainment and education, including a live bear, amazing bugs, literary readings, terrific music, puppet theater, kids crafts and bird house building, and the opportunity to talk with knowledgeable people about a wide scope of environmental topics. The latter is in large part due to all the organizations who came out and supported our event by having a booth at the Meadow Party. They helped make it a richer experience for all of us and we thank them as well.



Silent Auction

Thank you! We extend a hearty welcome to our new members: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barreiro, Mr. and Mrs. David L. Boyce, Erick Derkatsch, James and Bernice Diamond, Peter Filoso, Kenneth Frampton and Silvia Kolbowski, Arnold and Cecily Friedman, Denise Frangipane, Wes Gillingham, Jan Goodwin, Wes and Daphne Green, Barbara Hahl, Nancy Johnson, Janet Newberg, Pam Perkins, Terry Greyeagle Quinn, Nina Regevik and Julie Weisberg, Charles V. Runge, Patricia and James Sanders, Lee Scribner, Bernard and Sara Simasek, Paul and Rebekah Simpson, Walter J. Symczyk, Sally Thomson, Wilma and Stretch Vonderhorst, and Gordon Wildermuth.

A GIGANTIC THANK YOU!

Delaware Highlands Conservancy thanks all the businesses, who in various ways, sponsored our Meadow Party. **Please support them.**

Kayak Raffle Sponsors

Castello Del Rio B&B • Catskill Mountain Canoes • Cedar Rapids Canoes • Gander Mountain • Indian Springs Flyfishing Camp • Kittatinny Canoes • Sandercock House B&B • Western Hotel

Food Tent Donors

Beach Lake Bread • Beach Lake Café • Beach Lake Inn • Buster's BBQ • Carini Pizza • Dave's Big Eddy Diner • Day's Bakery • Dianna's Place • Ehrhardt's Lakeside Restaurant • Elegante Restaurant • Falls Dale Farm • Jill's Kitchen • Lackawaxen House • Lake Region Supermarket • Matthew's on Main • Nature's Grace • Peck's Market • Pete's Pub and Restaurant • The Central House • The Dimmick Inn • The Front Porch Café • The Settlers Inn • The Whistle Stop • Three Wishes • Weis Markets • Woodloch Pines • The 1906 Restaurant

Silent Auction Donors

Thank you to all individuals and organizations who donated to our silent auction.

Meadow Party Program

The River Reporter

Meadow Party Entertainment

The Dime Bank

Door Prize Donors

National Park Service • Delaware River Foundation

Presenters & Entertainment

Thank you to all participating individuals and organizations.

Thank you to the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce for the loan of their tents.

A Special Thanks to Our Dedicated Volunteers

Delaware Highlands extends a hearty thank you to all the volunteers who gave hours of labor, creativity and inspiration that make this annual event a success.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

On September 13, a dripping wet Annual Meadow Party closed with drawings for prize winners of the kayak raffle and door prizes for those attending the event. The winner of the eleven foot Old Town Loon kayak was Jean Kammer of Hawley, PA. Second prize, a \$100 gift card to Gander Mountain Outfitters Store in Scranton went to Kathy Dodge and Pete Snyder of Lake Ariel, PA. Juanita Copeland of Riverdale, NY won a stainless steel thermos.

This reliable fundraiser for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy is always generously supported by our members and friends as well as members of the public who purchased tickets from members and from the Milanville General Store, Dave's Big Eddy Restaurant in Narrowsburg NY, and the Settlers Inn in Hawley, PA.

Thank you one and all!

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 Delaware Highlands 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Magic of Maple Syrup. March 20 at 1:00 pm. Join us for a members-only visit to Journey's End Farm to witness the transformation of sticky sap to golden, tasty syrup. Syrup will be available for sale. Space is limited so please call the office at 570-226-3164 or email info@delawarehighlands.org to reserve your spot.

OFFICE WISH LIST:

- cork board
- bookcase or display table for the lobby
- 4 AA rechargeable batteries and charger
- filing cabinet

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

We now accept payment online through PayPal, the Internet's secure payment system. Simply go to our website at www.delawarehighlands.org and click on Donation.

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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



Education: Butterfly Barn