

# Highlands Journal



SPRING  
2003

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

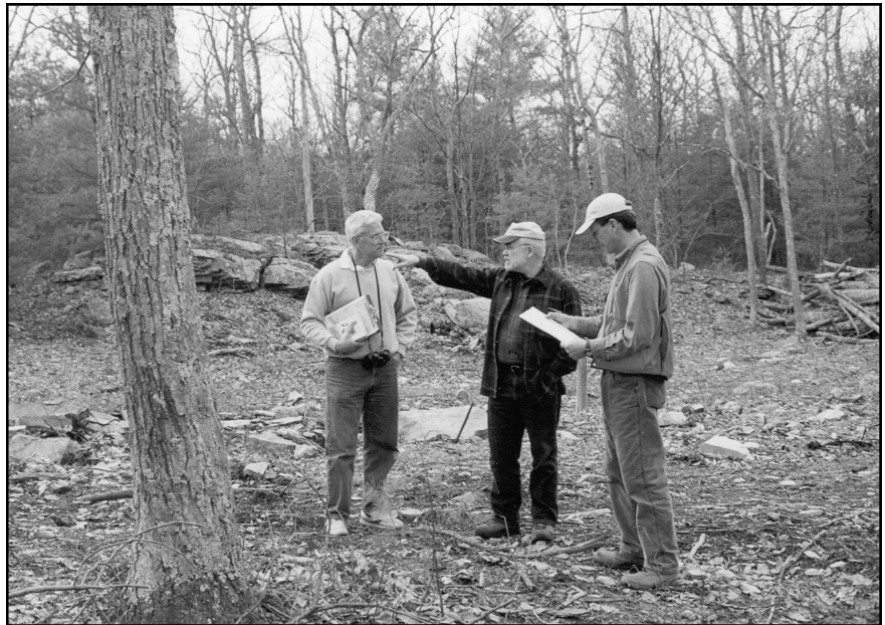


## NEW 85 ACRE EASEMENT IN PIKE COUNTY

The Traces of Lattimore community is a neighborhood of upscale homes on generous lots surrounding Lake Lattimore (Nyce Lake) along Silver Lake Road in Delaware Township south of Milford, PA.

Over 50 years ago this was farmland. Purchased by the Girl Scouts in the 1950's it then became a summer camp. A developer bought the land from the Scouts, subdivided it and sold lots before going bankrupt. In an effort to preserve the community, residents of the Traces of Lattimore community pooled resources, formed Lakeside Investors, and bought the common areas, covenants and remaining lots at a U.S. Bankruptcy Court auction in 1999.

At that time, Alan Dolge was one of the Lakeside Investors. He and the other seven managers were particularly concerned about the future of an 85-acre tract across Silver Lake Road to the south of Lake Lattimore. On paper, this tract was subdivided into 33 lots which would have consumed the last major open space in the Traces of Lattimore community and overwhelmed the existing facilities.



*Alan Dolge, center, points out woodland features surrounding Macyn Bolt's building site to Bill Yeaman, left, and Robin Wildermuth, right. Wildermuth and Yeaman visited the property last April to inventory plant and animal communities for a Baseline Data Report on the newly conserved "Lake Lattimore Preserve" owned by Dolge and Bolt.*

Dolge valued the land as it was: wild habitat for bear, fox, o'possum, porcupine, owls, turkey, hawks, fish and amphibians, bald eagles and song birds. His goal was to keep the tract open as an area for the use of Traces of Lattimore Community residents. (The public has historically fished the wetland stream that crosses the property.)

Things didn't exactly work out as planned. The Lakeside Investors managers applied for and received *Clean and Green* status; interested parties opted out; and finally, Dolge and another of the original Lakeside Investors, Macyn Bolt, purchased the 85 acres, contacted Delaware Highlands Conservancy and negotiated a conservation easement. The recorded easement protects the land while permitting future subdivision into no more than two 42.5-acre lots, with one residence permitted on a two-acre building site in each parcel.

And so, this land has come full cycle. What was once farmland and before that wilderness, will revert to a new kind of wild land. Macyn and Carolyn Bolt will build a new home on their portion now called Lake Lattimore Preserve. Alan and Patricia Dolge may build in the future. The remaining land will revert to natural habitat and this time will remain so in perpetuity. We are especially grateful for the foresight of Macyn and Carolyn Bolt and especially to Alan and Patricia Dolge for caring enough to protect this land as open space for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

## Delaware Highlands Conservancy

### Officers:

Grant Genzlinger, President  
Lothar Holbert, Vice President  
Donald Downs, Treasurer  
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### Board Members:

Carl Beidleman  
Greg Belcamino  
Helle Henriksen  
Peter Pinchot  
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Clint Rodell  
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Cindy Wildermuth  
Barbara Yeaman

### Land Protection Chair

Barbara Yeaman,

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**Editor:** Don Downs

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### Upcoming Meetings:

Land Protection July 12  
Board Meeting August 9

## SUE CURRIER NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Conservancy welcomes Sue Currier to our land protection team as the new Executive Director. Sue is a communications and business professional with a Masters of Business Administration and a Bachelor in Economics. She has over 12 years experience "getting the message out" to diverse audiences around the world. Having reached a senior level in corporate marketing, Sue is now eager to combine her business skills with her passion for the environment.



Sue loves to travel. Her adventures have taken her around the world – she's hiked on all continents except Antarctica. This past summer Sue spent five months traveling in France and learning French. Yet it is the rugged forests, mountains, and river of this area that she looks forward to calling home.

Sue is excited about building on her volunteer experience and recent training. With the Martine Resources Council in Florida, she wrote grant proposals (including land acquisition), worked on property management plans, and went out onto the Indian River Lagoon to collect water quality samples. As a volunteer ranger with an island nature park in the Lagoon, Sue had the enjoyable task of taking others out into the woods to remove invasive species to further protect the natural vegetation as well as conducting tours. With the Sierra Club she trained for fundraising, became certified to lead outings with the local chapter, and provided marketing support.

Sue is a Canadian and lived near Ottawa before moving to the US. The land around the Ottawa River valley is reminiscent to her of the land in Pike County. Now a permanent US resident, she has lived in Boston, MA and most recently in Florida.

## INTRODUCING PETER PINCHOT

Peter Pinchot joined the Delaware Highlands Conservancy Board last year, bringing with him valuable insight and experience to our Board deliberations. He is the Director of the Milford Experimental Forest on 1,400 acres adjacent to the Grey Towers National Historic Landmark in Milford, Pennsylvania. This research forest was established in 1901 and now serves as a regional research facility focused on community deer management, land conservation in the Delaware Highlands region and rural economic development through sustainable forestry. The Milford Experimental Forest is a project of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, located in Washington, DC and Milford, PA. Peter is a founding board member and the current board chairman of the Pinchot Institute.



Peter also heads up two other Pinchot Institute programs. In Ecuador, the Institute is working with poor rural communities in high biodiversity coastal forests to make the transition from forest exploitation to economically viable sustainable forestry. In Pennsylvania, he is working with the Grey Towers staff to establish a conservation retreat in Gifford Pinchot's former home. The Pinchot Institute runs programs to bring together policy makers, conservationists, industry representatives and scientists to brainstorm new approaches to difficult conservation problems. Peter Pinchot has a Masters degree in Environmental Studies from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. DHC is fortunate to have Peter as a Board member.

**Thank you!** We extend a hearty welcome to our new members: Bob and Priscilla Bauer, Sue Currier, Mark and Laurie McEvoy, Marlena Rosnel and Deborah Rubin. We also thank our current members for renewing. Special thanks to those who increased their giving level this year.

# WINNERS OF DHC/YEAMAN SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

In keeping with our educational mission, DHC has awarded two scholarships to area high school seniors to assist them in completing a college program in the natural sciences. These scholarships were established to honor Barbara Yeaman, founding member of DHC.



*Rebecca Steele*

The New York recipient of one scholarship is Rebecca Steele, a senior at Sullivan West, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Steele of Roscoe, NY. Rebecca plans to study environmental chemistry/science at SUNY Oneonta. One to pick-up trash where she sees it, including Crystal Lake near her home, she feels that "understanding the environment is essential for our

survival". This summer Rebecca plans to "job shadow" a cousin who works as a hydrologist. Rebecca is Vice-President of the Student Government, President and member of the National Honor Society and participates in soccer and basketball as extra curricular activities.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wicksnes of Rowland, PA have every right to be proud of their daughter, Sarah, a senior at Wallenpaupack High School and the Pennsylvania recipient of the Yeaman Scholarship. The

Wicksneses live on the Laxawaxen, 4 miles above the confluence with the Delaware River, so Sarah has many opportunities to canoe, fish and watch for eagles. She has helped the Game Commission with their fish releases. Sarah is on the high honor roll, a member of "Who's Who", the Honor Society and the United States Achievement Academy. She will be attending Juniata College in the fall to study environmental science.



*Sarah Wicksnes*

Selecting the recipients for the scholarship awards is always a difficult and time-consuming task. We thank Greg Belcamino, Pat Bradt and Ann Rhoads for their efforts.

These annual scholarships are made possible through the generosity of the First Union Foundation, our membership and individual donors. Others are invited to support this scholarship effort by making a tax-deductible donation to the DHC/Yeaman Scholarship Fund. It is hoped that these \$1,000 scholarships will stimulate interest in careers related to land stewardship and environmental sciences applicable to the needs of the Upper Delaware valley.

## 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEADOW PARTY SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003

It may seem too early to begin thinking about the end of Summer, but that's just what the Meadow Party committee did when it had its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in the middle of April. Getting a head start can mean the difference between a good event and a great event and we plan to make this year a truly jubilant Meadow Party.

We have much to celebrate. Delaware Highlands is growing in so many positive directions. We have hired our first executive director, our membership is steadily increasing, the board of directors is now 13 members strong, and the number of acres protected keeps multiplying, with new requests coming in almost every week. With the organization growing the way it is, we also have much to support and the Meadow Party is our biggest yearly fundraising event. The money raised will be an integral part of helping the organization grow in the coming year.

The committee is hoping that you, our members, will catch the fever of excitement and jump in with your support. We are looking for people to serve on the committee and help out with practical matters before the event. We are also looking for people who will help solicit services for the Silent Auction, or who can help out on the day of the Meadow Party. No prior experience is necessary and even a few hours of your time is greatly appreciated. Come and have some fun, and help make a difference.

Sign up to help by either calling the office at (570) 226 - 3164 or Helle Henriksen at (845) 252 - 7546.

### Silent Auction

We have changed the format a bit for our **Silent Auction**. This year we are looking for the donation of services only.

Services could be house cleaning, gardening, haircuts, a massage, odd jobs/repairs, dinner for two, stay at B&B, guided fishing/canoe trips, or other professional services.

To donate call: the office at 570-226-3164

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Creating a wetland on your property.** Saturday, June 28 - Wetlands are rich with life - sustaining an impressive number of animals, birds, plants, fish and more. In fact 40% of the world's species call wetlands home. Wetlands also provide tremendous value as water purifiers, groundwater recharge and flood water storage. Yet they are rapidly disappearing. Join us to learn how two individuals, Roy Morsch and Ed Zygmunt, each created wetlands on their property. From plans to earth sculpting to fully functioning wetlands - Roy and Ed will explain what they did and how you can too. Come prepared with your questions! The session will be at 10:00 am at the Butterfly Barn.

**Visit our website** at [www.delawarehighlands.org](http://www.delawarehighlands.org) for more events coming in **July and August**. Questions or suggestions for events? Contact the office at (570) 226-3164.

### WISH LIST/WANTED ITEMS:

- 4 AA rechargeable batteries and charger for our GPS device
- bookcase or display table for the office lobby (good opportunity to clean out your attic)

## DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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



*Education, a Conservancy priority.*