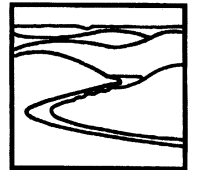


WINTER
2004

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



ANOTHER NEW EASEMENT, 508 ACRES PROTECTED

by Barbara Yeaman

The PA Game Commission stoutly denies the presence of mountain lions in NE PA. David Schrenk knows otherwise. He swears he has seen two of the big cats within the 508-acre Green Valley forest preserve that he owns with his brother, C. W. "Mickey" Schrenk.

The first day Gail Lowden and I visited David and his wife at his hunting preserve, we criss-crossed the forest on two ATV's (surprisingly quiet!). As we followed the narrow trails through the woods, he pulled to a stop before a large tree. He looked overhead, pointed and said, "He was 30 feet up when I saw him, and he leapt to the ground in one bound. Shortly after that I saw the female nearby!" Of course, he didn't have a camera, but he swears there was no mistaking what he had seen.

When you understand where the Green Valley Preserve is located you will understand why it is suitable habitat for catamounts (another name for these great cats). The Schrenk's 508 acres in Porter Township, Pike County, border PA's Delaware State Forest on the east and north with extensive state lands nearby to the south and west. There are very few roads or cabins, just trees, swamps, streams, and more trees. It is about as wild as any land you will find in northeast Pennsylvania.

The Schrenk brothers are successful builders in Bucks County, PA. They bought the hunting land in 1976, built one small cabin and later enlarged it to sleep 16. It has no electricity, no plumbing, and water is drawn from a shallow well. Firewood provides all heat. An elevated walkway connects the cabin to a "luxurious" outhouse. For over 25 years they have enjoyed this get-away from civilization, and have shared the preserve with their employees.

In 2002 they decided to ensure the preservation of this splendid forest by working with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to draft a conservation easement that will guarantee its future as undivided forest. After a year of negotiation, the easement was signed and donated to the Conservancy in December 2003.

Like our other Conservation Easements, the terms of this agreement restricts future development. It does permit one additional residence within a ten-acre



Gail Lowden touring the property with Peg Schrenk

building site and expansion of the current cabin.

The owners maintain the right to use the land for non-commercial recreational purposes including hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, trapping and target shooting.

Unlike most of our easements, this one allows the use of motorized vehicles for maintenance, recreation, hunting, and emergency purposes. In short, ATV's, snowmobiles, etc. are allowed on the existing trails, however, if we see signs of erosion or damage to vegetation caused by these vehicles, further use can be prohibited.

The *Green Valley Preserve* brings our total of protected acreage to almost 3,000. We are delighted to welcome the Schrenk brothers and their employees to our growing list of conservation landowners, and thank them for their generous donation to our Monitoring Endowment Fund.

Delaware Highlands Conservancy

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Upcoming Meetings:

Land Protection	March 13
Board Meeting	April 17
Land Protection	May 15

INTRODUCING GAIL LOWDEN



It is hard to imagine a more enthusiastic supporter of Delaware Highlands Conservancy than Gail Lowden. She first served as a welcome volunteer, next as Office Manager and now as a dedicated Board member. Gail is currently treasurer, keeps our books and coordinates the membership database. She also helps to put this newsletter together.

Raised in Bergen County, New Jersey, Gail eventually settled in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania (outside of Philadelphia) where she and Bob, her teacher husband, spent most of their working lives. She is a graduate of Douglass College (mathematics) and Villanova University (applied statistics). Many of her computer skills are a result of working for Merck, a large pharmaceutical company, as a systems analyst. She retired in 1993 and moved to her summer house on Fairview Lake near Hawley. Gail and Bob recently moved to Honesdale.

Gail was President of the Fairview Lake Association, on the Board of Mill Pond Preserve Inc., and has been a member of the American Association of University Women. For the past twenty years she has been taking an annual winter vacation to cross-country ski in a variety of interesting places in North America and Europe. Gail has competed nationally in sailing class races in her O'Day Javelin, a 14 foot, sloop-rigged day-sailer, and she has recently acquired a kayak for exploring the Delaware River.

Having lived in the rapidly expanding suburbs of New Jersey and Philadelphia, Gail has watched with dismay the unchecked urbanization and loss of open space. This concern brings her to this area and Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

SUE CURRIER SPEAKS TO FOREST LANDOWNERS

The Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners Association met in February and heard Sue Currier discuss the process of conserving land in exchange for tax abatements. She explained how a conservation easement with a land trust such as Delaware Highlands Conservancy would preserve some or all of a property's natural value. Our Executive Director will also speak at the Northeast Pennsylvania Forest Landowners Conference on March 27, 2004 on the topic "How to Leave a Legacy of Forest for the Future". Call (570) 825-1701 for information on this conference.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

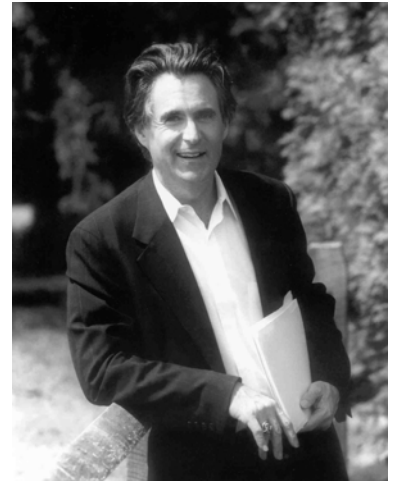
- ♦ Upper Delaware Unitarian Fellowship – donation from funds raised by annual Bud Rue Walk
- ♦ Pennstar Bank – donation to Scholarship Fund
- ♦ Rodgers – Olver – Polley, Inc. – Corporate Sponsor
- ♦ Our members for their substantial response to our Year End Appeal

PRESERVING FAMILY LANDS

– a workshop with Stephen Small

Delaware Highlands Conservancy is pleased to offer two educational sessions on May 4th and 5th with Stephen J. Small, a nationally prominent lawyer and author specializing in conservation easement and estate planning law. Both Programs will be held at the Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center on Route 6, just east of Hawley, PA.

Stephen J. Small, J.D., LL.M, is recognized as the leading authority private land protection and income and estate tax strategies for landowners. Steve is the author of a series of three books on Preserving Family Lands. Before going into private practice, Steve was an attorney-advisor in the Office of Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C., where he wrote the federal income tax regulations on conservation easements.



An Introduction to Preserving Family Lands

May 4th from 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Informational displays by regional land trusts and other sponsor organizations will provide landowners with an excellent opportunity to learn more about the local resources available. At 6:30pm, renowned expert Stephen Small will talk about the options available to keep cherished lands in the family, while minimizing income and estate taxes.

Each attendee will receive a copy of “Preserving Family Lands, Book 1” by Stephen Small. Cost for attendees is \$10 for members of any Partnering Sponsor organization, \$15 for non-members.

Preserving Family Lands – a Professional workshop with Stephen Small

May 5th from 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

Designed for professionals who are faced daily with complex tax issues for land-owning clients. Clients who want to minimize estate taxes, keep their cherished lands in their family, and perhaps preserve the farm, forest or wild lands in perpetuity. If you are an Attorney, Certified Public Accountant, Estate Planner, Tax Advisor, Financial Planner, Real Estate Professional or landowner who wants to learn more, this session is for you.

Each workshop attendee will receive a copy of “Preserving Family Lands” by Stephen Small, along with course materials. CLE and CEU credits have been requested. Cost for attendees will be \$50 without credit, \$65 with credits.

Partnering Sponsors:

Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
Countryside Conservancy
Delaware Highlands Conservancy
Lacawac Sanctuary
North Branch Land Trust
Orange County Land Trust
Pocono Heritage Land Trust
Wildlands Conservancy

**Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities Exist. Space is limited.
Call the Office to reserve your spot.**

MAR 13 VOLUNTEER TRAINING 1:00PM

Want to learn more about the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and how you can help conserve the natural and cultural Heritage of the Upper Delaware River Region? Please plan to attend a Volunteer Training Day at the Public Library on Route 6 in Hawley, PA on **Saturday March 13th at 1:00 pm**. This two hour program will include an overview of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy along with an introduction to Conservation Easements, Baseline Documentation, and Annual Monitoring.

Opportunities abound to help. Project based, short-term, or long-term, your support helps us carry out our work. If you would like to organize outings, monitor easements, help with our annual Meadow Party, write articles for our newsletters, or provide general office support, we would appreciate your help.

Please call the office at 570-226-3164 or email us on info@delawarehighlands.org to reserve your space. If you are interested in volunteering, but are unable to attend the program, please call the office and ask how you can learn more.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT JILL PADUA

What would the Meadow Party be without the famous food buffet? Jill Padua has been involved in the gourmet food service since the Meadow Party began. For the past three years she has coordinated the food donations from local restaurants. The work and planning for this fall event begins in April. When asked why she became involved with Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Jill responded that she wished to help preserve "this incredibly beautiful area." Jill is the owner of Jill's Kitchen in Narrowsburg.



DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY SCHOLARSHIPS



Rebecca Steele, winner of the Yeaman scholarship for 2003 in New York.

year, has a scholarship program designed to assist selected high school seniors in completing a college program in the field of natural sciences. Two \$1,000 scholarships are being offered in honor of Barbara Yeaman, one of our founders. One scholarship will be awarded in Pennsylvania and one in New York within the school districts bordering the Upper Delaware River. The New York school districts are: Hancock, Sullivan West and Eldred; the Pennsylvania school districts are Wayne Highlands, Delaware Valley and Wallenpaupack. Last spring the Conservancy awarded scholarships to Sara Wicksnes of Wallenpaupack and Rebecca Steele of Sullivan West.

Corporate donors and our membership support the scholarship fund, making these awards possible.

Applications for these scholarships must be submitted through the school's guidance counselor for transmittal to the Delaware Highlands Scholarship Committee by March 30, 2004. For any questions regarding this scholarship call the Conservancy office at 570-226-3164.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy, for the second

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 20 Magic of Maple Syrup 1:00pm

Join us for a **members-only** visit to the Journey's End Farm to witness the transformation of sticky sap into golden maple syrup. This working farm is protected for future generations by a Conservation Easement with Delaware Highlands Conservancy. 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.

April 17 Get Energized at Earth Day 10:00am to 4:00pm

Join us at the Pike and Wayne County Earth Day celebration at the PPL Environmental Learning Center on Route 6 in Hawley, PA. Watch for more details in the coming months.

May 1 Wildflower Walk 10:00am

Search for May wildflowers and other signs of Spring on this May Day walk. Watch for more details in the coming weeks, or call the office.

May 14 Spring Skies Star Watch 9:00pm

Local astronomers will share their telescopes and sky charts. Observe deep sky objects and how to locate the constellations. This program will last about two hours. Bring binoculars and folding chairs if you have them.

May 15 Spring Garden Show

Start planning your summer garden. Join us and the Butterfly Barn at the Master Gardeners Annual Garden show at Lakeside School in Honesdale, PA.

May 23 Hike to "The Ledges", Long Eddy, NY 10:30 am

Follow a NY State Forest trail uphill to a magnificent view of the Delaware River and the valley beyond. Bring your lunch and eat by a waterfall. End up in Long Eddy with a stop at the Basket Historical Society to hear about bluestone quarrying. Call the office for further details.



View from the Ledges

May 29 Spring Bird Walk 7:00 am

Join naturalist Peter Wulforth for a two hour early morning walk. Bring your binoculars and learn to identify birds and their songs.

June 5 Native Plants Walk 10:00 am

Dr. Ann Rhodes, Director of Botany at the Morris Arboretum will conduct a native plant identification walk. Watch for more details.

July 24-25 Audubon Art and Craft Festival 10:00am to 5:00 pm

Join the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the Butterfly Barn at this annual Festival in the Wallenpaupack Middle and North Intermediate school in Hawley, PA. Puppet shows, monarch butterfly displays and more.

Aug 21 Monarch Butterflies 10:00am at the Butterfly Barn

Since 1996 Ed Wesely and Barbara Yeaman have rescued Monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars from threatened habitats and reared them in the Butterfly Barn. With the help of local school children, they've nurtured and released over 2,500 adult monarchs. Come and learn about the monarch life cycle and help to tag early migrants.

Sept 18 Annual Meadow Party

Join us on September 18th for our 8th annual Meadow Party. Watch for details in the coming months.

More events are being planned. Check www.delawarehighlands.org or call Sue at the office 570-226-3164.

2969 ACRES UNDER CONSERVATION EASEMENT

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.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

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

OFFICE WISH LIST

- bookcase or display table for the office lobby
- 4 AA rechargeable batteries and charger
- straight chairs

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome to our new members:
Lawrence Grosberg, Susan Rosenthal, Peter Van Slyke,
Laurie Stuart and James Sartori.

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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

