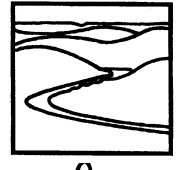


SUMMER
2004

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



FARM, FOREST, AND WETLANDS PROTECTED

by Barbara Yeaman

In December 1999 Jane Quick sought help from us to protect her farm and forest from subdivision. Four years later we signed the Conservation Easement that will achieve her goal. The years between were tangled and complicated. It involved the trust of the landowner and the expertise of our Conservancy together with the knowledge and programs of township, county, and state players, all assisting to complete this easement.



*Great Blue Herons nest
high over the wetlands.*



Jane Quick's 107-acre farm in Lackawaxen Township, Pike County, fronts on PA route 590 and extends north to the outlet of Lake Teedyuskung. This is a rapidly growing area of upscale residences and resorts. Development opportunities and pressures are great, yet Jane so loved her farm that she chose to give up her development rights for a fraction of their appraised value.

Before her mother's death, Jane promised that she would never allow the farm to be subdivided. She has kept her promise and has given Pike County residents and visitors the treasure of a rural scene that will remain unchanged.

"Forever wild" protection covers the extensive forest and very valuable wetlands that host diverse plants and animals including a great blue heron rookery. This portion of the easement was purchased with funds from a "Keystone Grant" from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and this segment is open for educational purposes by appointment through the Conservancy. The prime farmland will continue in agricultural use. This portion of the easement was donated to the Conservancy by Ms. Quick, a gift that ensures farming will continue in the future.

Like so many farmers in Northeast Pennsylvania, Jane Quick is not wealthy. In giving up the right to subdivide her land, she gave up a great deal of the land's value, and so we are particularly pleased that we could purchase this easement with funds from the PA "Keystone Grant" program. Because it protects working farmland, some of the costs of developing the Easement were reimbursed by the PA Department of Agriculture. Finally, with the assistance of Lackawaxen Township, Pike County, and Palmyra Township Wayne County officials, we were able to register Jane's farm in an Agriculture Security Area that offers still more protection.

As I stand in the meadow and watch the young great blue herons standing high up in their nests in Jane's wetland, it is easy to imagine primeval times in a forest far from civilization. I feel a great satisfaction from enabling its future protection, a satisfaction that I hope all of our associates and members will share.

Each landowner and each tract of land has different needs and requirements. Your membership donations and other contributions cover the many costs entailed (administrative costs, appraisals, surveys, settlement costs, and legal fees). *As such, all the members of Delaware Highlands Conservancy should take credit for a job well done: a job that forever preserves some of our region's finest scenes, working lands and wildlife habitats.*

Delaware Highlands Conservancy

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Upcoming Meetings:

Land Protection July 10
Board Meeting August 14

TWILIGHT OF THE MONARCHS?

By Ed Wesely

Monarch update. Monarch Watch, at the University of Kansas, paints a bleak picture about the future prospects of this amazing butterfly. Rain coupled with freezing weather in its wintering grounds – in mountains west of Mexico City – inflicted "catastrophic winter mortality in three of the last four years, with the last two events being extreme in their severity." Winters in central Mexico, have become increasingly wet, and "with climate change a reality," says Monarch Watch, "in the case of central Mexico, models predict increasing winter rainfall." Because monarchs aren't freeze tolerant, rainfall in their mountain sanctuaries, followed by falling temperatures, is especially lethal. "Should this pattern continue, the monarch could become a poster symbol for the effects of global warming," Monarch Watch concludes.



Our monarch network. Last autumn, local volunteers helped us to monitor the monarch migration to Mexico. With a feeble monarch migration from Mexico this spring, it will be just as vital to collect data about summer populations in 2004. We invite all Delaware Highlands Conservancy members to note the dates and places you observe monarchs and/or their caterpillars – especially the first ones – and notify us at the Butterfly Barn. Please use the Butterfly Barn website, or call or send a note to the Conservancy office.

Butterfly Barn website. The website (www.butterflybarn.org) has a "To Reach Us" page for quick communication, and each week we add a "Field Note," with articles and pictures about local plants and animals. By the end of June, a "Monarch Butterfly" section, which tracks last autumn's migration, will also have monarch identification data.

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY VOLUNTEERS

In March, a group of new volunteers met to learn more about opportunities to work with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. Since then a number of new volunteers are now writing Baseline Documentation, getting ready for this season of monitoring, preparing for our 8th annual Meadow Party, taking photos, and helping in the Hawley, PA office. We thank everyone who generously gives their time to make it all possible. We couldn't accomplish it all without you.

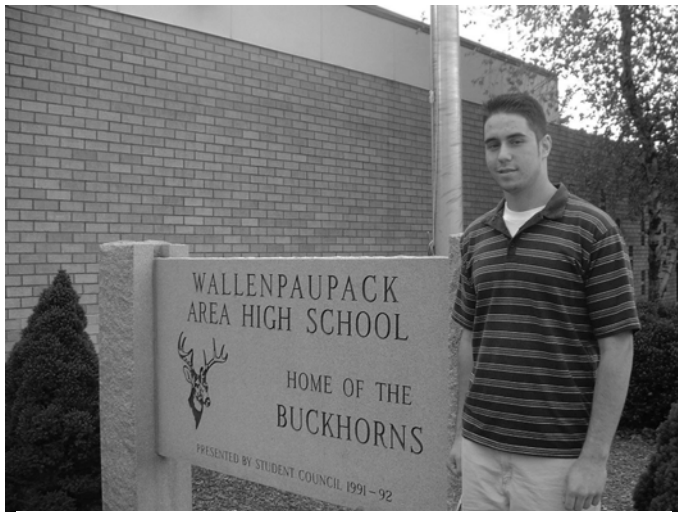
If you have an hour, a day, or a week and want to help too – call the office at 570-226-3164 or send us a note at info@delawarehighlands.org.



3109 ACRES NOW UNDER CONSERVATION EASEMENT

INTRODUCING OUR 2004 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy Board of Directors is pleased to announce that they have awarded two one thousand dollar scholarships to two exceptional young men in the Upper Delaware Valley. This is our second year of awarding these scholarships in honor of Barbara Yeaman, a founder of Delaware Highlands Conservancy and a dedicated conservationist. These scholarships were made possible through the generosity of Pennstar Bank and our members.



Matthew Gentoso

Matthew Gentoso, a senior at Wallenpaupack High School, plans to major in Geology at Penn State University located in State College, PA. His special interest is Geophysics. Geophysics is the study of plate tectonics, earthquakes, magnetic fields and volcanoes. "I want to learn more about the earth I live on, what is exactly under my feet and makes the heart beat from way down under" says Matthew. He is a member of the National Honor Society and works with the WAHS Today school television station. His athletic accomplishments include being on the golf team (awarded the Wayne Co. Commissioners Cup for "Outstanding Junior Golfer") as well as being Basketball and Baseball Assistant Coach. Matthew also runs with the Wallenpaupack triathlon team, skis on both water and snow and likes to split wood for relaxation. Matthew is active in community service projects and has worked in the family business since he was twelve years old. He lives in Greentown, PA with his parents and brother.

John Gorzynski, while officially a senior at Sullivan West High School, actually attends the Health Academy in Liberty through a program with Syracuse University where he will receive seventeen credits to jump-start

his college career. He will be a biology major at St. Johns University in Queens, New York City in the fall. Having become a New York state champion in Health Knowledge, a "final jeopardy" type contest, John will soon go to Kansas City to compete in the Nationals. "Growing up and working on the family farm exposed me to the different living aspects of the world. I always enjoyed different science classes, but biology was by far my favorite." The Gorzynski farm in Cochection Center cultivates over twenty acres of crops, some of which find their way to the Union Square Green Market in Manhattan. John will be able to see his family on Saturday, market days, when he attends St. Johns University. John was Student Council treasurer last year, is Vice-President of the National Honor Society and worked with the Drama Club as a Stage Director. He teaches snow-boarding (students as young as two) at Big Bear, Masthope, PA, plays varsity soccer and is a lifeguard in the summer. John lives in Cochection Center, NY with his parents, a sister (now in college) and a brother.

Greg Belcamino, Ann Rhoads, and Pat Bradt again



John Gorzynski

served as our scholarship awards committee and made the tough decisions from a strong field of applicants.

OFFICE WISH LIST

- bookcase or display table for the office lobby
- 4 AA rechargeable batteries and charger
- straight chairs for our meeting room
- paper shredder

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF LAND CONSERVATION

It was standing room only on the evening of May 4th, when renowned expert and author of Preserving Family Lands, Stephen J. Small came to talk about the Financial Benefits of Land Conservation. Stephen talked about the income and estate tax benefits of using a Conservation Easement. Attendees listened in rapt attention, and held Stephen long after his presentation to answer questions.

"NICE WORK IN PROVIDING A LEARNING FORUM FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN PROTECTING OUR LANDS"

The following morning, 64 people with a keen interest attended a three hour program to explore the topic in depth. Stephen equally impressed this audience of attorneys, accountants, landowners, realtors and land conservation professionals, with 100% rating the program as good or excellent!

"EXCELLENT PROGRAM! WE NEED MORE IN THIS AREA"

We thank all the partners who worked with us to design the program as well as all the wonderful sponsors, whose contributions made it all possible. The program was a success — raising awareness among landowners, and the professionals who support them — that land conservation is not only protects our quality of life for future generations, it can make financial sense.

"AS GOOD AS IT GETS"

On behalf of our partners, we thank the sponsors: Anonymous; Arthur Watres; Anthony Waldron, Es-



quire;
Henkelman Real Estate/Appraisal; Lackawanna Heritage Valley; Pennsylvania Land Trust Association; Rodgers, Olver and Polley; Open Space Institute; The Nature Conservancy; The Trust for Public Land; The Settlers Inn; Pike County Conservation District; PPL Corporation; Oliver, Price & Rhodes; and the Wallenpaupack Community Association.

NO EXIT



Seeking nectar, this small insect was lured inside the pouch of a lady's slipper orchid and lacked the wit to escape — which requires venturing into a funnel-like structure that causes insects to pollinate each flower. During our Hike to the Ledges, Ed Wesley explained this little insect's predicament.

SWEET SUCCESS



Kristen Curtis helps Nick Mower tap a sugar maple tree at our 'Magic of Maple Syrup' program at Journeys End Farm in March.

JOIN OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

July 17 Hiking the Basha Kill 10:00 am

Join Basha Kill Area Association naturalist Gary Keeten for a walk on the D&H Canal trail overlooking the Basha Kill Wetlands. Located on the Orange/Sullivan county boarder, the Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area consists of 3000 acres of wetlands and uplands, and is the largest freshwater wetland in south east NY.

July 21 Managing Growth in Watersheds 7:30 pm

Gil Hirschel Environmental Outreach Coordinator, Susquehanna River Basin Commission will discuss current growth trends in Pennsylvania and their potential impacts on watersheds; planning codes; land management issues; municipal land use controls; and overall growth and watershed management goals. Program is run in partnership with the Lacawac Sanctuary at the Lacawac Carriage House.

July 24-25 Audubon Art and Craft Festival 10:00 am 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 10:00 am 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.

Aug 22 Canoe Trip: The Patience of Rivers

Join Joseph Freda, author of the book *The Patience of Rivers* for a canoe trip down the Upper Delaware River. Joe's book, set in 1969 is "*An irresistible novel about an upstate New York river community and a never-to-be-forgotten summer of change.*" Explore the river, talk with the author, and discuss the history of recreation on the river. Space is limited. Please call to reserve.

Sept 18 Annual Meadow Party noon to 5:00 pm

Join us on September 18th for our 8th annual Meadow Party. Our annual event promises fun for everyone with live entertainment - including music, wildlife presentations, and puppet shows. Displays from regional groups provide information on environmental stewardship, local flora and native birds, fish and animals. Come and enjoy our fabulous food buffet, participate in the silent auction, take a fly fishing lesson, visit the kid's activity tent or just enjoy an afternoon along the river.

Oct 9 Exploring the Autumn Forest 10:00 am

Join naturalist Ed Wesely on an autumn walk to discover how plants and animals prepare for winter.

Oct 15 Autumn Skies Star Watch 8:00 pm at the Butterfly Barn

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 and dress for cool weather.

Oct 16 Annual General Meeting

We invite all Delaware Highlands Conservancy members to attend our Annual General Meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about our progress; to vote for members of the Board of Directors; to ask questions of the Treasurer; to learn about our future plans; and to meet your fellow members, new and old.

Check www.delawarehighlands.org or call Sue at the office 570-226-3164 for more information and directions for any event.



DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP FORM

I want to conserve natural open space and support the Conservancy with my tax-deductible membership donation of:

___ \$35-\$59 Friend; ___ \$60-\$99 Supporter; ___ \$100-\$249 Protector; ___ \$250-\$499 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.



DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY **KAYAK RAFFLE**

DONATION: \$2 EACH or 3 FOR \$5 • Drawing Sept 18, 2004

1st PRIZE (\$400 Value)

Perception Swift 9.5
Kayak courtesy of
Alice's Wonderland

2nd PRIZE (\$75 Value)

Canoe Trip for Two
with Cedar Rapids Canoes

3rd PRIZE (\$25 Value)

Gift Certificate
for Alice's Wonderland

All proceeds go to land protection efforts of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy

Thanks to our
sponsors:



and
Cedar Rapids
Kayak & Canoe
Outfitters

BONUS EARLY BIRD DRAWING: Tickets purchased before August 1, 2004 will be eligible for a trip for two with Kittatinny Canoes — an \$80 value. Many thanks to Kittatinny Canoes for donating this prize.

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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

