

June 2005 HIGHLANDS JOURNAL

newsletter of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy

Dedicated to conserving the natural and cultural heritage of the
Upper Delaware River region in New York and Pennsylvania

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE TOWARD AN EARTHLY GOAL

or *"How We Monitor Easement Properties by Air"*
By Barbara Yeaman

It all starts with a phone call to Rolin Edwards, our pilot. He is joint owner of a single-engine Cherokee 160 housed at Wayne County's Cherry Ridge Airport, and he flies two of us once a year at little cost beyond that of the fuel. In this way we can inspect about half of our current easement properties in one day. If Rolin can spare the time he gives us an "OK, watch the weather." For the best photographs we need clear high pressure weather over the targeted region, with little or no wind. When the weather is right we get going.

We list the easement properties, and lay out a circular route that includes each of them. Using our mapping software we locate coordinates (latitude and longitude) and key landmarks for each. We print topographic maps, draw in boundaries, and locate adjacent lands, nearby

lakes, cemeteries, power lines, schools or shopping centers, etc. Since orientation is a lot harder from the air all visual landmarks are helpful.



Once we are airborne we locate the properties one by one and Rolin guides the plane in an ever tightening circle as we aim the camera to fire off a series of photo shots. After two full circuits we continue on to the next tract. When we monitor by air, we often fly near other properties of interest. If we are negotiating with a landowner to draft an easement, we take an aerial photo for the base data report.

After two hours of flight we reluctantly turn back to the Cherry Ridge Airport. Rolin loves to fly, and we give him a good excuse to go up. Our bonus is an eagle's eye view of the beautiful Delaware Highlands region. We would stay up for hours more if the plane were willing.



LACAWAC RIBBON CUTTING

Board members and staff from the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Lacawac Sanctuary look on as Arthur Watres cuts the ribbon to open Partner Ridge – a 10-acre parcel of land purchased and protected with a Conservation Easement.

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Upcoming Meetings:

Board Meeting June 18
Land Protection July 9

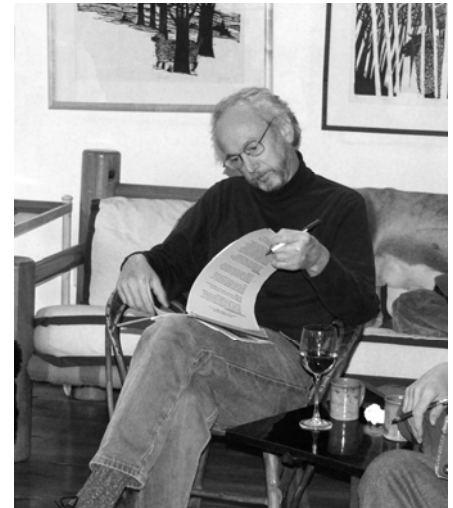
INTRODUCING JEFFREY MOORE

Jeffrey Moore joined the Board of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and has become involved in our much needed development and fund-raising programs. He is active in many local issues that affect our general community well being and belongs to several environmental groups such as the Bashakill Association.

Jeff grew up in Roslyn, New York and attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, with a year spent abroad at City College of London. He received a graduate MBA from Wisconsin and later added a JD degree from New York Law School.

In 1980 Jeff moved to Sullivan County bringing with him his electronic components manufacturing company which he had incorporated in 1976. He sold his working interest in the company in 1997 and considers himself now semi-retired although he continues to manage investment portfolios.

His farm in the town of Fremont, Sullivan County, boasts both llamas and horses. His pottery studio provides space for clay sculpture as well as his potter's wheel. He plays and teaches the Appalachian Mountain dulcimer.



(Continued from page 1)

LACAWAC

The land will be forever protected creating a natural greenway, preserving the view boaters on Lake Wallenpaupack enjoy and adding to the total natural resource area protected by Lacawac.

Partial funding was possible through a PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant to Delaware Highland Conservancy. This grant was made possible with Growing Greener funds. Growing Greener 2, recently passed by Pennsylvania voters on May 17 brings the promise of more funding for the conservation of natural

A GREEN LANDSLIDE

From a Special Edition of PennFuture: May 18, 2005

The May 17th 2005 Primary ballot question asked:

"Do you favor authorizing the Commonwealth to borrow up to \$625,000,000 for the maintenance and protection of the environment, open space and farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other environmental initiatives?"

Pennsylvania added a new page to its conservation history ... when voters approved the Growing Greener 2 bond by a healthy 60 percent majority. That is a robust majority by any political calculation, and it shows how deeply Pennsylvanians value their natural heritage.

Governor Rendell and legislators from both parties who supported the bond question were told by the voters, "Good job!" The voters also made it plain to all legislators that they expect them to implement immediately what the voters mandated. The voters want the Commonwealth to spend \$625 million to preserve farmland and natural areas, clean up the damage left behind by unregulated coal mining, and restore polluted streams. And they want the details worked out before the legislature takes its summer break.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy Board of Directors is pleased to announce that they have awarded two one-thousand dollar scholarships. These scholarships are awarded in honor of Barbara Yeaman, a founder of Delaware Highlands Conservancy, to students who plan to major in an environmentally related field. Contributions from many of our members and from Wachovia made these scholarships possible.

Joseph Winski, Jr., a senior at Sullivan West, plans to major in fisheries and wildlife management at SUNY Cobleskill. Delaware Highlands Conservancy has awarded Joe a Yeaman Scholarship to help him achieve his goals. Joe fondly recalls how his grandfather instilled in him a love for the upper Delaware River Valley, taught him to fly-fish, and swim in the river.

"His lessons focused not only on technique, but about conservation and the need to respect the power of nature. My time with him and my love for the outdoors has inspired me to pursue a career related to land stewardship and environmental concerns."



At Sullivan West, Joseph is a starter on the basketball team, and plays golf as well as soccer. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Science Club and the Student Council. He has received awards in both math and science. Joe also loves to fish and hunt. He can often be found kayaking on the Upper Delaware River. He is involved with a deer management program and volunteers at Catskill Regional Medical Center.

Joe further states that he "wants to make sure that the opportunities that I have been given to fish, swim and hunt and simply enjoy the outdoors will be guaranteed for future generations."

Ryan Miller plays with model cars. For a senior project at Honesdale High School, he built a solar vehicle which



was part of a demonstration highlighting alternative energy sources. Delaware Highlands Conservancy has recognized Ryan's many achievements by awarding him a Yeaman Scholarship. Ryan plans to attend Dickinson College in Pennsylvania to study physics and environmental science, with an emphasis on alternative energy.

On a recent trip to Costa Rica, along with fourteen Spanish class classmates, he performed educational and service work, lived with a local family, climbed a volcano and hiked in the rainforest. He is a member of several honor societies, serves as a peer-tutor for math, science and Spanish and organized the Ultimate Frisbee and Ping-Pong Clubs.

Ryan is active in numerous organizations including the Audubon Society, Waynepeace, Methodist Church Jazz Band (plays saxophone) and volunteers for the Sierra Club, Dorflinger Wildflower Music Festival and the Adopt a Highway Program. He also loves kayaking, snowboarding, golf, soccer and baseball. He has helped install solar panels and has designed his own website. "My future path will combine my interests into a career that will be beneficial to the environment."

WE REMEMBER

Phil Fitzpatrick, dedicated member and volunteer, died late last year. We miss Phil's enthusiasm, dedication and love for the community. We thank the many individuals who made memorial donations in his memory and extend our appreciation and our sympathy to his family. Helen Hauck, who donated an easement last year on property she owned with her husband, passed away this spring. We will miss her passion and concern for the area's wildlife.

HONOR A LOVED ONE

MAKE A GIFT TO DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A memorial gift to Delaware Highlands Conservancy provides a meaningful way to express your sympathy. Gifts can also be made to commemorate a special event — a birth, wedding, birthday, or any holiday. Your tribute will be acknowledged with your choice of message on an appropriate card. Contact the office for details. Your donation is tax-deductible.

TOUR MARKS FUTURE OF FORESTRY IN PIKE

Pike County is the fastest growing county in Pennsylvania. If the present rate of growth continues, the population could surge by over 400% in the next 20 years, and will change a largely rural area to a very populous one. Recent public opinion polls show that this is an issue of concern to the majority of the county residents. Pike County's economy is, and historically has been, tourism based and largely dependent on our natural resources. We must conserve some of our best natural resources as we accommodate new growth. The federally funded Forest Legacy Program will help us to protect some of these critical natural areas.

We are proud to be ranked first in Pennsylvania, and sixth on the President's National Ranking of 2005 Forest Legacy Program applicants. Our "**History of Forestry**" application includes three properties that total 2,500 acres.

On May 6 we hosted a tour of the properties with Congressman Don Sherwood, an instrumental supporter of the Forest Legacy Program in the House. Key Bureau of Forestry personnel including the Assistant State Forester were also present. All three Pike County Commissioners joined us as well to demonstrate their support. Representatives of the three property owners, provided an overview of the properties history, forest management plans and answered questions.



On Tour: Congressman Don Sherwood and Peter Pinchot

WISH LIST

- Chairs (for the office and lawn chairs for programs)
- Bookcase
- AA rechargeable batteries (for GPS and camera)

Thank you to: Irma Beckley for walkie-talkies, Cindy Wildermuth for DSL service, Carson Helfrich for his 'previously owned' laser printer.

WE GO GLOBAL

On May 21, the United Nations Forum on Forests took a break from a two week conference in New York City to visit Grey Towers in Milford and hear about local projects and concerns. The audience of 125 diplomats involved in forestry from countries around the world heard from two of the Conservancy's own. Director Peter Pinchot spoke on his work with the Pinchot Institute in Ecuador. Sue Currier spoke on the Conservancy's work as well as that of other land trusts. Several individuals followed up afterward asking for more information. Maybe there will be an increase in the global land trust movement now?

WRITERS VISIT THE BUTTERFLY BARN

By Ed Wesely

In early April *Highlights for Children* Magazine hosted a four-day writing workshop at its nearby conference center, attended by 14 writers from around the U.S. *Writing from Nature* prescribed two trips to our Butterfly Nature Center — one, on a wet evening that lured dozens of frogs and salamanders to our vernal pond, and the second on a morning when the alchemy of April was abroad.

The workshop produced delightful and often amusing sketches of the farm — from a story of a 4500 year-old spear point dug up by "Lumpy," our pet hen, to an analysis of a 150 year-old farm's dump site with "brown beer bottles, over-sized green wine jugs, and at least a dozen blue Milk of Magnesia bottles" — near the Delaware River.

And best of all, Julie Hiller wrote recently that her carefully polished story, "Lumpy and the Snook Kill Point," has been accepted for publication by the *Highlights Science* Editor.



Authors from all over the US visit the Butterfly Barn

PENN WOODS: FOREVER WILD

The Penn Woods Home Owners Association received a generous donation of approximately 25 acres of land from the Penn Woods Trust. The presentation was made by George Coutts on behalf of his family and the Penn Woods Trust. George and his nine siblings worked with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to create a conservation easement which will keep the land safe from logging and further development, while allowing passive recreation for the community. Protected this way, Penn Woods Forest will also help ensure water quality and improve ground water recharge for the surrounding community.

In the late 1940's George and Anna Coutts, parents of George Coutts, purchased a large parcel along the shore of Lake Wallenpaupack as an investment. The land was then developed as the Penn Woods community. The family reserved some pieces of land from being developed including a half-mile lake access which allows every person who owns a home in the Penn Woods community access to the lake without cluttering the shore with numerous docks.



George Coutts signs the Conservation Easement while his wife and Carson Helfrich look on.

George wanted to forever protect the property after he heard about conservation easements from a neighbor. It was the ideal choice because it means that the land can be enjoyed, shared, and protected.

A plaque will be placed at the entrance to the Penn Woods Forest in memory of George's parents, George E. Coutts and Anna K. Coutts.

WELCOME BACK KELLY

Former volunteer Kelly Beliveau joins us for the summer as our Land Protection intern. Thanks to a generous grant from the John and Helen Villaume Foundation, Kelly will help with our baseline documentation, conservation easement preparation and coordination of monitoring. Kelly just completed her first year of university Drew in NJ, and is now home for the summer with her family. She graduated from Wallenpaupack Area High School last year. While a student at WAHS, she participated in the environmental club, and volunteered with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy both during the school term and through the summer before she left for university.



Accepting the Villaume Foundation check

DID YOU KNOW?

Our land protection committee and staff are very busy. The Conservancy is currently working with landowners on donated conservation easements that may protect over 1,500 acres of property in the Delaware highlands. If funded, our Forest Legacy Program applicants in Pike County represent another 2,500 acres.

With **your** membership support, we continue to work towards our goal of conserving 10,000 acres by 2007.

Thank you!

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Tom and Jean Hoff, Ann and Ed Nocera, Ann Louise Ferreira, Joseph Preate, Denise and Charles Bauer, Kenneth Myett, Joanne Troy, Greg Kopich, David Westphal, Barbara Leo, Thomas Soja, Jeffrey Kroutil, Daniel and Kathleen Allen, Grady Avant and Rip Bodman.

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ **YES!** 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

NAME: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE _____ **EMAIL:** _____

☐ My check made payable to Delaware Highlands Conservancy is enclosed

☐ I prefer to pay by credit card: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa Amount: \$ _____

Account #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Phone #: _____

Mail this form and donation payment to: **Delaware Highlands Conservancy, P.O. Box 218, Hawley, PA 18428-0218**

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

June 25 Explore the Bashakill 10:30am

Join nature photographer Scott Graber for a canoe/kayak trip through the Bashakill, an important bird area. Call 570-226-3164 to reserve your spot.

June 28 Sound Land Use Strategies 12:30 - 4 pm

Learn about the tools available for your municipality to shape its future including transfer of development rights, conservation design, and more. Call for details.

July 16 Explorations along the River 9:00am

Join renowned author and Botanist Dr. Ann Rhoads for a canoe trip to explore the aquatic plants, shore plants, and wildlife along the Upper Delaware River.

July 27 Financial Benefit of Conservation 6:30 pm

Conservation Easements not only help conserve the working forests, active farms and wildlife habitat, they can also provide the landowner with income tax and estate tax relief. Program to be held at the PPL Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center, Hawley.

Aug 20 Monarch Butterflies 10:00 am

Ed Wesely will explain the Monarch lifecycle from egg to caterpillar to migrating adult at the Butterfly Barn.

Aug 20 Moonlight Madness Part 2 6:00 pm

Enjoy the magic of nighttime canoeing on a dusk canoe trip from Lordville to Long Eddy. Call the office at 570-226-3164 to reserve your spot.

For more events visit: www.delawarehighlands.org

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

serving New York and Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 218 Hawley, PA 18428-0218



*Land Protection Committee meets at home
along the Delaware River*

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