

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

PROTECTING QUALITY
OF LIFE IN THE
UPPER
DELAWARE
RIVER REGION



The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to working with landowners, other conservation organizations and local governments to conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Upper Delaware River region.

Still a predominately volunteer organization, we rely on active Board members and numerous volunteers to run our programs, work with landowners and monitor the easements we hold. In 2006 our full-time staff consisted of our Executive Director, Sue Currier, and Land Protection Coordinator, Helle Henriksen, hired in March. A small team of part-time and temporary employees rounded out our team in 2006 with Ann Marie Drake as educational coordinator; and Kelly Beliveau and Claire Wildermuth as interns.

This dedicated team of employees and volunteers turned your support into tremendous accomplishments for 2006.

LAND CONSERVATION

In 1999 with less than 500 acres protected, the Conservancy's Board of Directors set the aggressive goal of protecting 10,000 acres by the end of 2007.

In 2006, we made significant strides towards that goal protecting 2,700 acres across 7 properties. As of the end of December 2006 we helped protect over 9,600 acres.

Looking ahead, our staff and volunteers are actively working with over 30 different landowners across four

counties representing over 10,000 acres in various stages of consideration. With new tax law incentives for conservation easements placed in 2007 we anticipate an especially busy year.



We are now the official sponsor for the Federally-funded Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in Wayne County as well Pike County. In 2006 we successfully completed a complex easement to provide forest research, conservation education and a public trail on the 1,200 acre Milford Experimental Forest. This deal involved significant funding from both the FLP and Pennsylvania's Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources, and the support of The Conservation Fund, and other organizations. We worked with more landowners to submit applications for 2008. These applicants were ranked first, second and third in Pennsylvania and we hope they will make the National list and receive further funding.

Working with Sullivan County's Ag and Markets Board, the Sullivan Planning Office and Cornell Cooperative Extension, a 230-acre farm in Jeffersonville was awarded a grant of \$836,000 for the purchase of development rights. We are working with the Open Space Institute on the easement now and hope to have it completed by the end of 2007.



Delaware Highlands Conservancy *Works with willing landowners*

PARTNERSHIPS

We expanded our network of potential partners, including other land trusts, in the Catskills and across Northeast Pennsylvania. We also continue to participate in the Upper Delaware Visioning Committee, the Route 97 Scenic Byway Committee and more.

Signing a treaty at the conclusion of the Lenape Rising Nation's canoe journey, we began a new partnership for education in the Upper Delaware. The Lenape are custodians of Jane Quick's farm (protected by an easement) that they will use for conservation education. During the treaty ceremony, the sacred Lenape Wampum was entrusted to Sue Currier to hold for the next 4 years.

We continue to work with the Alliance to Keep Pike Green, leveraging a \$10,000 grant to continue our educational outreach. We remain active in the Pike County

Partnership, working with the Pike County Planning Office, the Pike County Conservation District, and other Conservation organizations, improving our collective efficiency and providing a more comprehensive suite of educational programs.

EDUCATION

Working with our partners, we hosted or participated in over 30 interesting and informative events during 2006. Topics ranged from forest landowner tips, to economic benefits of conservation to butterfly gardening to activities like wildflower and bird walks, canoe trips, hikes, and star watches with local astronomers. A small Environmental Education grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection allowed Ed Wesely to devise and deliver a Monarch Butterfly program designed for first grade students and teachers.

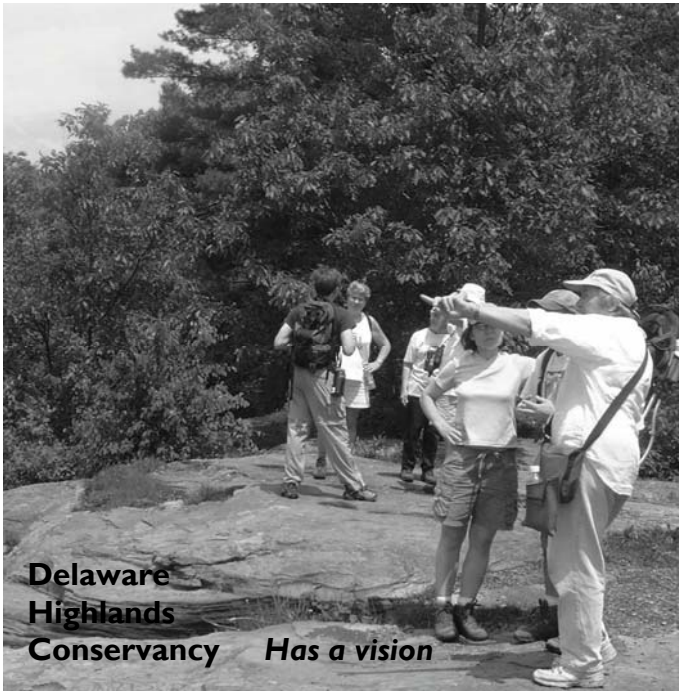
To further our education efforts, our annual scholarship in honor of Barbara Yeaman was awarded to Kristin Krejmas, a senior at Delaware Valley High School, for studies in the natural sciences at the College of William and Mary.

The Conservancy became the fiscal sponsor of the Public Television documentary "Nature's Keepers". The film focuses on the people of Pike County who are working to educate and mobilize their community toward action on behalf of the land and the place they love. Nature's Keepers will air on more than 150 public television stations, sharing a powerful message about Pike County's experience, one that can be a model for other communities struggling with similar issues.



Delaware Highlands Conservancy

Gets involved with maple syrup



**Delaware
Highlands
Conservancy** *Has a vision*

FUNDRAISING

Over 300 people attended the 10th annual Meadow Party in September. While the focus of the party is a celebration of our land protection work, the proceeds from our raffle, auction, and food are welcomed. Our sponsors included Dime Bank, Henkelman Real Estate, Russ Dimmig Real Estate and the Norcross Foundation. Over 60 restaurants and individuals donated food for our buffet and for our silent auction.

We received restricted grants to purchase conservation easements at bargain prices through the PA DCNR, the federal Forest Legacy Program and the Landowner Incentive Program (administered through the PA Game Commission).

As a non-profit we continue to rely on the generous donations of our members to support our work as well as grant funding for our programs. In 2006 we secured several smaller donations from private individuals for everything from an upgrade to our office computers, to salary for our land protection coordinator to payment of a low-income owner's easement expenses. We also received funding from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation for operational support and from the PA Department of Environmental Protection and an anonymous donor for our program work. These funds ensure we are able to continue our work. Saving land takes people.

With the help of our members, donors and supporters, 2006 was a banner year! **Thank you.**

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Executive Director
Sue Carrier

**Land Protection
Coordinator**
Helle Henriksen

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Become a member
- Volunteer your time
- Give a membership as a gift or remembrance
- Donate from your IRA distributions
- Agree to cover expenses for a worthy landowner who is donating an easement
- Donate land or appreciated securities
- Place a donated conservation easement on your property
- Establish a charitable remainder trust
- Establish a bequest from your will or estate

Call 570-226-3164 for details on these opportunities

2006 FINANCIAL SUMMARY - UNAUDITED

Operating Income *

Donations	52,425
Membership	37,287
Other Income	1,525
Fundraising Events	7,967
Conservation Campaign	53,906
Total Income	\$153,110

Operating Expense *

Program Expenses	92,686
Management and General	25,754
Total Expenses	\$118,440

Total Assets as of 12/31/06

Cash	45,484
Monitoring Fund	164,574
Operating Reserve	142,613
Equipment	1,500
Total Assets	\$354,171

* Restricted donations and dividends not included

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