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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

NEW EASEMENT PUTS PROTECTED TOTAL OVER 5,000 ACRES

With the addition of a land protection agreement on Sigrid Wilshinsky's 57 acre property in Wayne County, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy now holds Conservation Easements on more than 5,000 acres.



Animal and wildlife protection are very important to Sigrid. Her land, which includes forested areas, meadows, and a pond, is perfectly suited for a wide variety of animals. Birds, deer, and bears can often be seen roaming her property. To ensure the perpetual safekeeping of this diverse wildlife habitat, Sigrid decided to protect her property with a conservation easement. Under the terms of the Easement, future landowners will be held to the same stewardship standards that she practices. The wildlife that frequents her property is now guaranteed a place to live for years to come.

For the Conservancy, Sigrid's easement is also an important benchmark in our conservation efforts. We helped protect a total of over 7,000 acres in the Upper Delaware

River Region (and are responsible for monitoring and enforcing the easements on 5,000 of those acres). We are well on our way toward our goal of protecting 10,000 acres by 2007. Our team of dedicated volunteers and small staff is currently working with numerous landowners with holdings of over 12,000 acres across our four counties.

We thank Sigrid for her stewardship, and for planning for the future protection of her land by donating an easement on her property. With each new property protected, we are taking steps to protect our region's scenic, rural character and wildlife habitat for future generations.

SAVING LAND TAKES PEOPLE

It takes literally hundreds of hours of effort for the Conservancy to complete and maintain each Conservation Easement. Staff

support is necessary to provide continuity and complete numerous, complex legal transactions. Your membership ensures we can complete and maintain each easement. Thank you.

With demand for our services at an all time high, we've expanded our office team, to provide the much needed support for each landowner requesting land protection assistance from the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.



Helle Henriksen

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Delaware Highlands Conservancy

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Upcoming Meetings:

Land Protection July 8
Board Meeting Aug 12

2006 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Kristin Krejmas is a passionate environmentalist. Her primary concern is the effect of global warming and the prospect of it causing an increasing number of national disasters. "Many people do not realize the full implication of global warming," she says. "My goal is to spread awareness of the detrimental effects and make every effort to reverse the process and preserve our planet for future generations." Kristin also lists the control of invasive species and the prevention of premature extinction as important issues.



Kristin is a recognized athlete, excelling in varsity track and field and cross-country. As a senior at Delaware Valley High School, she helped win the league championship in track and field. Her high school honors include class treasurer, National Honor Society, and the National Society of High School Scholars. She is a member of her church choir and active in the community working with United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and the Adopt a Highway program. She ran in the "Relay for Life" benefiting the American Cancer Society.

Kristin lives in Milford with her parents and older sister. She most recently worked in the office at Kittatinny Canoes. In the fall Kristin will begin her studies in the natural sciences at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Delaware Highlands Conservancy is pleased to award the Yeaman/Delaware Highlands Conservancy scholarship to someone who supports our mission and may just find the cure for the "common knotweed."

NEW YORK REGIONAL INTERCONNECT

Efforts by the New York Regional Interconnect (NYRI) to establish an electric transmission corridor in the Upper Delaware River valley has met with broad based opposition from residents, lawmakers and regional organizations. The Conservancy is very concerned about the impact this power line will have on the natural resources, scenic vistas as well as tourism in the River Corridor.

The proposed megawatt high-voltage power line would run 200 miles between Utica, NY and Rock Tavern in Orange County, NY. The 129 feet tall towers, spaced at 400 to 800 feet intervals, will require a right-of-way 150 feet wide. The NYRI proposal filed at the end of May, describes a path utilizing a patchwork of utility corridors which falls within the view-shed of the Delaware River in several locations. Even more troubling is the proposed alternate route along the Norfolk Southern Railroad that hugs the Delaware River from Hancock to Port Jervis.

The NYRI proposal is a substantial threat to the conservation values that Delaware Highlands Conservancy endeavors to uphold. For more information visit the website of the New York Regional Interconnect at www.nyri.us or the Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition at www.udpc.net.

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Helle Henriksen has accepted an offer to join the team as the Land Protection Coordinator. Helle has been actively involved in the Conservancy since the beginning – as a volunteer, Meadow Party Committee Chair, and board member. She was excited by the opportunity to serve the Conservancy in a new capacity. Helle hit the ground running, and is actively engaged with several landowners on their Conservation Easements. Please join us in welcoming Helle to the staff.

CONSERVANCY COMPLETES LARGEST EASEMENT TO DATE

In December 2005, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy completed our largest Easement to date on the 1,200 acre Windsor Woods property in Broome County, New York.

Windsor Woods is a large, heavily forested property with prime wildlife habitat on rolling topography. This sheer size uninterrupted by public roads makes the property particularly important for large mammals such as bear, bobcat, and fisher and for neo-tropical migratory birds that require large areas of contiguous forest cover. Small wetlands throughout the property provide diverse habitat, protect water quality, and stabilize water quantity.

The owners contemplated selling the property, but knew that it would likely be developed. The parcel contains excellent timber resources in a northern hardwood and oak forest with areas of hemlock and conifers. It was important to the owners that their property remain substantially undeveloped and that the timber resources continue to be managed in sustainable manner. Because there was no local land trust and the property did not meet the Nature Conservancy's criteria for preserving rare or endangered species, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy was approached.

Despite the fact that the property is not in the Conservancy's general region of activity, the land has important conservation value. Windsor Woods falls in the corner of the Upper Delaware River watershed not far from the Sullivan County border on the divide between the drainages of the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers. It includes the headwaters of several significant streams. With undeveloped tracts of such size becoming more rare, and the considerable conservation value of the property, the Board voted to move forward on the Easement. The Easement will be held by the Conservancy until a Broome County Land Trust is available.

The owners of Windsor Woods can now put their property up for sale, knowing that its natural resources and scenic values are protected forever. Perhaps this latest easement marks the potential beginning of a new trend of large-scale easements. Protecting large and smaller properties is critical to ensuring protection of the natural heritage of the Upper Delaware River Region.



Artist Amy Long donates her painting of Barbara's State Champion Black Maple to the Conservancy in May 2006. Amy generously donated not only the painting but also the right to reproduce and sell limited edition prints to raise funds for the Conservancy's work. Watch for more details in the coming months. Thank you very much Amy.

NEW TAX CREDIT FOR NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

The State of New York recently enacted conservation tax incentive legislation that gives property tax relief to landowners with conservation easements that were wholly or partially donated to a land trust or government agency. This innovative tax credit can offer an annual rebate of 25% of the property taxes paid on lands protected by a conservation easement (up to \$5,000 per year). This is great news for eligible landowners in New York.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15 River Trip 10:00am

Join us for a canoe trip down the river from Buckingham down to Long Eddy. Peter Pinchot will discuss the history and future of Forestry along the Upper Delaware. Space is limited. Call the office at 570-226-3164 to reserve.

Aug 5 Native Plants Walk

Join renowned author and botanist Dr. Ann Rhoads for a walk and a discussion of native plants in PA State Game lands near the Pond Eddy Bridge. Call the office for more information 570-226-3164.

Aug 12 Rising Nation Lenape River Journey Celebration 10:00 – 4:00pm, Milford Beach

Join the Conservancy, other local conservation groups and the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania for a celebration of life in the Upper Delaware.

Aug 19 Monarch Butterflies 10:00am, 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 almost 3,000 adult monarchs. Come and learn about the monarch life cycle and help to tag early migrants. For more information check out the website www.butterflybarn.org

Aug 29 Better Models for Development in Pennsylvania, 4:00 – 9:00pm, PEEC

A Pike Conservation Partnership program. Author and speaker Edward T. McMahon, a fellow at the Urban Land Institute and formerly with The Conservation Fund, will discuss a new book *Better Models for Development in Pennsylvania*. The book was commissioned by the PA DCNR and The Conservation Fund and was co-written with Shelley S. Masttran. It is an excellent 'tool for local governments to encourage development that makes their communities more attractive, livable and prosperous.' There is a \$20 cost for this program covering dinner and materials.

Sept 16 Annual Meadow Party 12:00 – 5:00pm, Butterfly Barn

Join us for our 10th 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.

Sept 22 Autumn Skies Star Watch 8:00pm, Butterfly Barn Rain Date: Saturday Sept 23

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.

Sept 27 Benefits of the Official Map, 7:00pm PPL Environmental Learning Center

Local planner Carson Helfrich and Dave Albright, Planning Director from Chestnut Hill, will discuss how municipalities can best use one of the most powerful land use management tools, the Official Map. Dave will address the implementation process and benefits achieved in Chestnut Hill. Carson will provide insight on its appropriate application here in the Upper Delaware.

Oct 7 Exploring the Autumn Forest 10:00am, meet at Butterfly Barn

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

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC unless otherwise noted

Directions to the Butterfly Barn (www.butterflybarn.org)

The Butterfly Barn is located on the PA River Road along the Upper Delaware River. From New York Rte 97 take the Milanville/Skinners Falls exit. Across the bridge in PA, go right one mile South on River Road. From 652 and Narrowsburg, go 4.5 miles North on the PA River Road. The Delaware Highlands Conservancy sign is on the riverside of the road, next to a yellow farmhouse with a fruit stand. Parking signs will direct you.

WAYNE COUNTY APPROVED AS FOREST LEGACY AREA

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy has been selected as the sponsoring agency by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) for Wayne County. This designation now permits forest landowners in Wayne County to apply to conserve their woodlands with grant funding from the Federal government.

The Forest Legacy Program, not previously available in Wayne County, promotes traditional forest uses such as timber harvest and recreation and seeks to conserve contiguous tracts of woodlands while protecting habitat for wildlife and general water quality.

The FLP is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is the sponsoring agency for the FLP in Pike County as well.

JOURNEY'S END FARM: A GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

In 1997, Marie and Ralph Curtis signed a Conservation Easement that would profoundly affect the future of their farm in Wayne County. Working closely with the Curtis family, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy crafted an Easement that restricted future development while allowing for uses including agriculture, a Friends Meeting House, and a special working farm camp for children.

Members and friends of the Conservancy have visited the farm during March to observe the harvesting of sap and the making of fragrant maple syrup. Journey's End Farm Camp continues to emphasize non-violence, simplicity and a reverence for nature in their co-ed programs centered around the life of a Quaker farm family. For more information about Journey's End Farm Camp contact Kristin Curtis at 570-689-7552 or visit www.journeysendfarm.org



**A NEW ADDITION TO THE BUTTERFLY BARN
BARBARA YEAMAN (RIGHT) WITH KITE DONATED BY AMY LONG (LEFT)**

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:** _____

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☐ 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.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Daniel and Vanessa Abramson, Carlton Albright, Martha Bergesen, Alice Bloom, Frederick and Linda Bosch, Ed Brannon, Michael and Louise Brennan, Brian Brock, T. Scot Brown, Richard and Bernadette Caridi, Benjamin Cart, Dave Chant, Gregory Chelak, Michael Cortright, Kevin Coutts, Janet DeLucca, Richard Durbeck, Robert Eckersley, Richard Eckersley, John and Diane Farley, Lynn Farrell, Priscilla Fenstermacher, Heidi Finkelberg, Joseph and Diane Foster, Michael Geitz, Richard and Joan Glazier, Louis and Frances Gruber, Virginia Guglielmon, George and Margaret Gumble, Charles R. Gumble, Victoria Hartung, Tom and Jen Hauber, Mr. and Mrs. John Hoodak, James and Jayne Hopkins, William Howden, Larry Hoyle, Stefan Hurdalek, Dave And Sandy Jobson, Madelon Jones, Robert Joyce, Chris and Penny Keating, Jean and Walter Kellyhouse, Virginia Kennedy, Bob Kiesendahl, Bill Kiger, Robert Kiley, Martin and Hedy Kunstmann, Paul Labounty, Fred and Donna Lackland, James Lake, Chris Lanning, Bill and Sandy Leiser, Rebecca Lindsey, Joseph Maculaitis, Fort Manno, Melvin Maron, Elizabeth McAllister, Louis and Patricia McCarter, James and Carolann McCormack, Ceceilia McKee, Regina McVay, Paul Meagher, Jet and Bob Mermell, June and John Miller, Jim and Therese Montemarano, Sally Moretti, Wistar Morris, Gerald Mullally, Elizabeth and Thomas Murphy, Greg and Kitty Myer, Paul Nicholson, Joseph and Mary Palladino, Barbara Peters, Arthur Ridley, Peter Rodgers, Peter Rudoy, Jack Russen, George Ruth, Edward Rytter, Gerald and Barbara Scofield, Joan Searle, Bertha Seeley, Vincent and Ruth Settepani, Wes Shirk, The Ehrhardt Family, Joan Thirion, Dan Townsend, Richard and Celia Trayes, Joan and Albert Waldman, Patricia Walters, Ingrid Warshaw, Jeff and Candy Watson, Joseph and Dorothea White, Vera Williams, Jerold Yavarkovsky, and Anonymous

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