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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

ISABELLE LANG PROTECTS WILDLIFE HABITAT IN PIKE COUNTY

By Barbara Lewis



Isabelle Lang has been many things during her long life – a city dweller, a world traveler, a wife and a householder – but above all, this diminutive woman is a self-proclaimed nature-lover.

For the past 33 years Isabelle has lived in a country home in the midst of a pristine tract of forested land in Dingman Township, Pike County, PA, and this place to her is “home”. It is also home to a variety of wildlife that thrives in the forest and wetlands of her property. Because of her animal “neighbors”, Isabelle has just chosen to protect a 57-acre tract of her land with a conservation easement with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. That easement assures that her property will never be subdivided or developed, whether it stays with her heirs or is sold to someone else.

Isabelle’s connection to this land goes way back. She has been coming to this part of Pike County since she was a “youngster”, as she puts it. Born and raised in Scranton, Isabelle started visiting Dingman Township when she was only 12 years old ... and that’s 75 years ago!

Isabelle is alarmed at how quickly the area has grown in the last 30 years. “Our road had only half a dozen

houses back in the 70’s” she says, “and now there are close to 125!” Fortunately, the Langs were able to keep most of their land intact, and for many years they took daily walks for a mile through the woods to neighboring Shohola Falls in the PA State Game Land which borders on their land.

To this day Isabelle’s favorite pastime is watching the barn swallows swoop and dive in and out of their nests in the shelter of the metal awnings outside her kitchen window. She looks forward to their return from the South every spring, and waits eagerly for their eggs to hatch so she can watch them feed their baby birds, eagerly waiting with maws wide open. She also loves to see “her bear” picking apples off a tree in her yard, the deer grazing in the open field, and squirrels scurrying up and down the nearby trees.



What was it, then, that made Isabelle decide to protect her land with a conservation easement? As she continued to watch development encroaching on three sides of her property, she became more and more concerned about the shrinking habitat for the wild animals she held so dear. “I felt sorry,” she said, “the animals were here

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Delaware Highlands Conservancy

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Upcoming Meetings:

Board Meeting August 11
Land Protection September 8

SIGRID WILSHINSKY NEW DIRECTOR

Sigrid Wilshinsky is a recent and welcome addition to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy Board. Sigrid spent her post WWII childhood years at her country home near Berlin Germany. Her grandmother taught her to love animals, plants, and art. She was educated in Germany and studied art in college. Moving to the United States in the 1960's, she initially worked as a stewardess for Pan American Airlines and afterwards lived in New York City where she was a designer for clothing and fabrics.



Fortunately for us, Sigrid moved to the Poconos in 1972, taught art classes and generally continued her efforts in befriending wildlife. She is now a full time painter specializing in painting animals. All the proceeds from her art commissions are donated to local animal shelters.

In 2004 Sigrid placed a conservation easement on her property and became involved with the Conservancy as a volunteer. She recently agreed to join our Board of Directors. Welcome Sigrid.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT — 2007

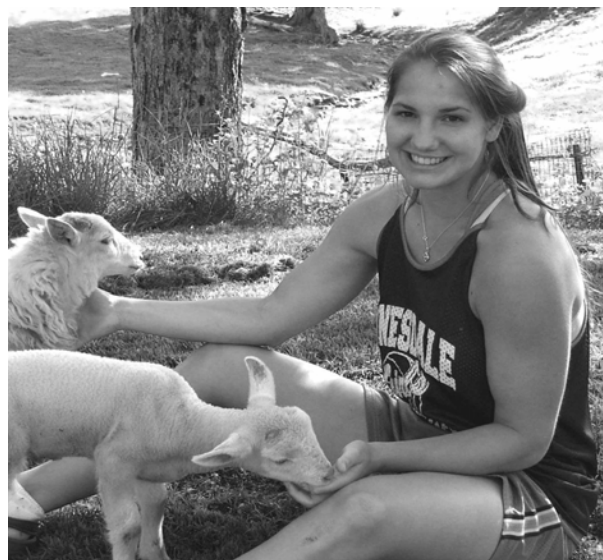
Cassilyn Schweighofer never wears gloves when she works in her garden. She loves the feel of the earth in her hands. Cassie is the seventh recipient of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy/Yeaman Scholarship. She will be graduating from Honesdale High School this June and will be attending Cornell University to study Ag Science, specializing in farm management and economics. The youngest of four sisters, she lives and works on the family's 700 plus acre Wayne County farm that also includes the retail Sprig'N Twig nursery. Her large vegetable garden produces a surplus that she sells at local farm markets. Cassilyn also has a landscaping business on the side, installing and maintaining plants for a number of customers. "I am their personal gardener," says Cassie. Vineyards in Wayne County? "I would love to experiment with different cultivars of wine grapes".

Away from the farm, she loves participating in sports; varsity field

hockey in the fall, varsity basketball in the winter, and varsity track and field in the spring and summer. Her favorite by far is track and field, excelling in both shot put and discus. (Each of her sisters held high school records in these sports). Cassie went on to break the district record as well. She plans to continue satisfying her passion for sports at Cornell. The Cornell coach is anxiously waiting!

Academically, Cassie is in the top 5% of her class, consistently on the honor role and a member of the National Honor Society. She is a welcome volunteer for numerous community and school projects from being Grand Champion Pumpkin Grower to community "Litter Pluck" and the Tyler Hill Christmas Luminary Project.

We are proud to award this scholarship to Cassilyn and will welcome her back to this area after college to continue her family's farming tradition.



MEADOW PARTY ☆ AUGUST 18 ☆ MEADOW PARTY

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy invites everyone to join us for the **11th Annual Meadow Party**, along the Delaware River near Milanville, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, **August 18th** from **12 noon to 5:00 pm**.

The 2007 Meadow Party will include great opportunities for all ages to have fun. Come enjoy great entertainment, wildlife presentations, environmental exhibits, a silent auction, activities for kids and more! Bring friends and family to have fun and help us celebrate the wonderful lifestyle and environment of the Upper Delaware River region. Admission is free. All money raised from the activities throughout the day will help support the Conservancy's work.



Local environmental groups will be displaying exhibits to explain their missions during the day. Expect to see representatives of the Upper Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Eagle Institute, Lackawaxen River Conservancy, the National Park Service, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development, and many more.



Bring your own picnic lunch and join us for a party in the Meadow.

We also invite you to take a chance in our Annual Kayak Raffle. Alice's Wonderland in Greeley, PA donated a Otter XT kayak for the first prize. Second prize is a PFD Fishing vest and third prize a \$50 gift certificate for Alice's. A framed photo by David B. Soete is the bonus early bird draw for tickets received by July 20th.

RAFFLE PRIZES DRAWING AUGUST 18TH



Early bird drawing July 20



First prize Otter XT kayak

Proceeds from the silent auction and raffle go directly to the Conservancy's conservation efforts in the Upper Delaware region.

We hope to see you on August 18th.



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before we were. I mean, they have no place to go.” Learning there would be additional costs for the baseline documentation and title search and a donation to the Conservancy’s Monitoring Fund, Isabelle accepted a “**stewardship sponsorship**” from a Conservancy member. Thanks to the help of generous friends and her

own concern for the future, Isabelle Lang has assured that her precious wildlife habitat will be preserved in perpetuity and that her beloved animals will continue to have a place to go.

Barbara Lewis is a freelance writer and photographer from Honesdale PA. She volunteers for the Conservancy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, August 4 Dr. Ann Rhoads 10:00 AM

Join renowned author and botanist, Dr. Ann Rhoads, to explore the fields and forests of the Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary in White Mills, PA. Please call the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 to reserve your space.

Saturday, September 1st Monarch Program, Butterfly Barn 10:00 AM

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 visit www.butterflybarn.org.

Tuesday, September 25 Landscaping for a Healthy Environment 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Learn to design, install and care for landscapes that benefit our local environment by reducing storm water, flooding and water pollution. To register call the Pike County Penn State Cooperative Extension Office at 570-296-3400. PPL Environmental Learning Center, Route 6, Hawley, PA

Saturday, September 29 and Sunday Sept 30

Lenape Pow-wow 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Stop by the Conservancy booth at the Lenape Nation Pow-wow in Bingham Park Hawley, PA.

Sunday, September 30 Earth Day in Autumn

Stop by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy booth at the Earth Day in Autumn Festival in Bethel at the site of the famous Woodstock Festival.

Tuesday, October 9, 23 and 30 Pathways to a Green Future 6:00 – 7:30 PM

In this series of three programs participants will learn about Pike County’s key recreation and open space destinations and how these places are related to the landscape of Pike County. For more information contact the Pike County Office of Planning at 570-226-6293.

Saturday, October 20 General Meeting 10:00 AM

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; and to learn about our future plans. PPL Environmental Learning Center, Route 6, Hawley, PA

Call 570-226-3164 or visit www.delawarehighlands.org for more information.



Lothar Holbert's son — Delaware River canoe trip June 23



Ken Myett — Ledges hike May 6

POWER LINE POSES SERIOUS THREAT

THE PROPOSED NY REGIONAL INTERCONNECT (NYRI) CORRIDOR FOR ELECTRIC ENERGY TRANSMISSION CONTINUES TO BE A THREAT TO THE UPPER DELAWARE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE AFFECTED AREAS.

Barbara Yeaman submitted this testimony on behalf of the Conservancy on July 9, 2007 at a public meeting with Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and other opponents:

I am Barbara Yeaman, a Director and founding member of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. We are a land trust working in Sullivan and Delaware Counties, NY and Wayne and Pike Counties, PA.

Twelve years ago we started the land trust in order to help preserve the watershed region of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Our mission is to protect the forests, farms and waters of this exceptionally scenic and eminently recreational river watershed. Nothing quite like it exists in this Northeast region of the U. S.

Today we have over 450 active members and have conserved, by working with willing landowners, over 10,000 acres of land. All this was accomplished with conservation easements; all this land is still in private ownership and remains on the local tax rolls.

With these easements land owners give up the right to subdivide and develop their lands in order to preserve them forever as open space. These landowners have given up the right to make a fortune by converting them into large residential or commercial uses. These are landowners who, like our own members, value the priceless scenery, wildlife habitat and water quality found here in the Delaware River watershed.

If this proposed NYRI powerline is allowed to follow the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River along the railroad from Hancock to Port Jervis, all this work, all these donations by landowners wishing to preserve their farms and forests, all the money raised in grants, from foundations, and indeed from individual landowners, will have been in vain.

This powerline will change this river valley from agriculture and silviculture to a commercial scene. Without question it will reduce the federal Wild and Scenic River designation for the Upper Delaware River to one that will no longer legally qualify for that designation. All this loss for commercial profit to a few stockholders.

The energy needs of the great Eastern US cities must be met, but not by the destruction of the exceptional scenic beauty and valuable recreation opportunities that thrive here.

Conservation must be given serious consideration to supply the power needs of a growing urban region, and the provision of necessary electric power transmission must follow another commercialized corridor, like that of a major highway.

IN MEMORIAM

The following donations have been received in memory of:

Alan Sperling from Bill Yeaman

Ken Knapp from Ross Horwood and Associates

Jerry Kroutil from Kathleen Moran

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. Contact the office for details. Your donation is tax-deductible.

RECYCLE YOUR INK CARTRIDGES

Recycle your ink cartridges with us — and win twice. Your cartridges will be recycled and we earn money to help us continue our land conservation efforts. Call the office at 570-226-3164 to find out where you can drop off your cartridges or arrange for pick up.

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.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Lorie Ballbach, Elisabeth Berry and Paul Vazquez, Roy Borgfeld, Kevin and Debra Brennen, Christopher Matteson, Mary and Dick Paterson, and Chris Reid, Thomas Stoneback

WISH LIST:

- Garden enthusiast to spiff up the front yard
- Push broom and dust pan
- Recycle bins
- Draft dodger for bottom of door
- Fan — window exhaust and for office

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY



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June trip: Bashakill Wildlife Management Area

— Photo by Sandy Long