



# DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY Annual Report 2008

... a land trust dedicated to working with landowners to conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Upper Delaware River region in Pennsylvania and New York

## Land Protection

**In 2007, the Conservancy met its goal of protecting 10,000 acres of land.**

In the last year, the Conservancy completed eight conservation easements protecting over 500 acres of farms, forestlands, and river frontage. The number of inquiries from interested landowners continues high. We received over forty inquiries in 2008.

One of our most significant accomplishments in 2008 was the purchase of a conservation easement protecting the **Hillview Rod and Gun Club** in Lackawaxen Township, Pike County. The Club encompasses 300 plus acres of rock ledges, woodlands, and wetlands located on a ridge overlooking the Delaware River

and historic Roebling Bridge. The Conservancy utilized purchase funds from the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP grant) administered by the PA Game Commission.

Another key project begun in 2008 was assisting **Camp Speers-Eljabar's** effort to protect 450 acres of the Long Pond Wetlands in Pike County PA. The Long Pond Wetlands parcel is unbroken forest land adjacent to state gamelands. \$700,000 in purchase funds were provided by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. An additional \$350,000 from Pike County's Scenic Rural Character Preservation Bond funds were provided by the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board to permanently protect the Long Pond Wetlands property. We hope to complete the project in 2009.

Pressure for growth remains high in the Upper Delaware Region as we continue to conserve the region's natural splendor, and cultural heritage. Our goal in 2009 is to protect another 10,000 acres by 2012.

## Educational Outreach

In 2008, we signed a contract with Pike County to help municipal officials acquire funds for land acquisition or to draft easements to protect open space and properties with conservation value. We also worked with government and citizen groups who seek to ensure the environmental health and natural beauty of the region. In one example we worked with the Pike County Conservation District and Delaware Township Supervisors to produce "**Pike County: Where Land and Water Meet,**" a newspaper story about the value of conserving land. 15,000 copies were inserted in local newspapers. This project was funded by the League of Women Voters and the Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund.



*Wetland path into Camp Speers-Eljabar's easement land*

**In 2008 the Conservancy continued its partnership with the Upper Delaware River Roundtable**, a voluntary coalition of state agencies, county governments, and grass roots organizations. The Roundtable meets every other month to explore collaborations that will enhance the future of the Upper Delaware River Valley. With a grant contribution from Pennsylvania Representative John Siptroth, the Roundtable produced a regional map showing development patterns and conserved lands. The map will help county planners and other groups shape the future growth of our region.

**In 2008 our annual Meadow Party fundraiser evolved into the Green Earth Fair.** This was our first partnership with Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition (UDPC).

The Green Earth Fair celebrated the natural and cultural heritage of the region with music, crafts, alternative energy demonstrations, speakers, exhibits, and activities illustrating how community members can become better stewards of our earth.



*Our Director Sue Currier (right) with other two and four legged attendees at the Green Earth Fair*

**In 2008, the Conservancy produced 22 educational programs** to educate the public about the importance of protecting open space, the conservation of natural resources, and the adoption of good stewardship practices.

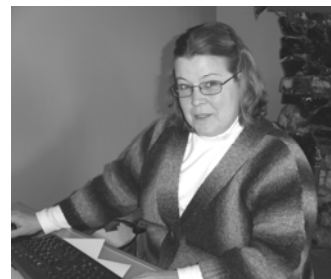
Our programs covered a wide array of subjects including the financial benefits of land conservation. We sponsored renowned author and attorney **Stephen Small** who addressed our Legislators' Breakfast, and provided officials from all levels of government with important land use information and conservation initiatives.

Our workshop on conservation-based development with land use planner, author and lecturer **Randall Arendt** was sold out. Where possible we co-hosted these programs with other partners including the Sullivan County Planning Office, Sullivan Renaissance, Pike-Wayne Conservation Partnership, the Upper Delaware Roundtable and others.

With generous support from the **Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau, the John and Helen Villaume Foundation, the Wayne County Community Foundation**, the Conservancy produced a guide to farms, farmers' markets and farm stands that produce local agricultural products: **"Shop Local, Save Land."** In 2009 we hope to produce a much more comprehensive publication that includes additional information on local artisans, nurseries, garden shops, small businesses, and restaurants that offer local products too.

## Exciting Additions to the Staff

The demands on the Conservancy (addressing landowners inquiries, conducting educational outreach, assisting and partnering with other conservation organizations) often exceed the capacity of our dedicated but small staff. **Sue Currier**, Executive Director and **Helle Henriksen**, Land Protection Specialist rely on the assistance of a group of volunteer members whose contributions are invaluable.



*Grace Cogger*

However, in order to respond to ever more challenges the Conservancy hired **Grace Cogger**, as administrative assistant. Now when you call the office, it is usually Grace who answers the phone.

## Outreach to Sullivan County NY

In 2008, the Conservancy made significant strides



*Melinda Ketcham*

to expand our efforts in the New York portion of the Upper Delaware River watershed. The Sullivan County Legislature contributed office space in the County office building in Monticello.

The Conservancy moved into our new space within the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management in the spring of 2008. Now we coordinate with the planning staff to protect more lands in New York State. With grant funding from the New York Land Trust Alliance, the Conservancy hired full-time Land Protection Specialist Melinda Ketcham to staff our Sullivan County office. Helle now concentrates on Pennsylvania land protection.



## Other Conservancy News

**Paulina Renggli**, a graduate of Eldred High School in New York, received our **2008 Conservancy Scholarship**. Paulina plans to attend Orange County Community College for two years under a guaranteed transfer admission program with the Environmental Science and Forestry College, a division of the State University of New York.

One of the Conservancy's own, our founder **Barbara Yeaman**, received the highest recognition the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission provides to a person who has distinguished themselves in the cause of water quality and conservation, the **2007 Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award**.

The Conservancy raised \$10,000 at the first **"Foods of the Delaware Highlands"** gala marking our protection of 10,000 acres within the Upper Delaware watershed by 2007.

More than 125 Conservancy supporters attended the dinner at The Settler's Inn in Hawley, PA. The Conservancy announced its goal of protecting an additional 10,000 acres by 2012 and set a date for April 25, 2009 for the second annual Foods of the Delaware Highlands dinner.

## 2008 FINANCIAL SUMMARY—UNAUDITED\*\*

### Operating Income

Grants	\$ 398,244 *
Memberships	\$ 35,455
Cash Donations	\$ 79,619
Educational and Other Events	\$ 43,049
Service Donations	\$ 27,640
Land Protection & Related Services	\$ 22,155
Investment Income/Gain on Securities	\$ 38,039
Total Income	\$ 644,201

### Operating Expenses

Program Expenses	\$ 501,165 *
Management and General	\$ 67,552
Total Expenses	\$ 568,717

### Selected Assets as of 12/31/08

Cash and Marketable Securities	\$ 413,569
Monitoring Stewardship Fund	\$ 298,107
Accounts Receivable; Pledges	\$ 23,586

\* Includes approximately \$345,000 for easement purchases and related expenses

\*\* Audited statement available upon request after April 09

### Officers

Grant Genzlinger, Pres.  
Don Downs, VP  
Scott VanGorder, Sec.  
Mike Uretsky, Treasurer

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Barbara Yeaman  
Gail Lowden  
Jeffrey Moore  
Greg Belcamino

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### Executive Director

Sue Currier

### Land Protection

Helle Henriksen, PA  
Melinda Ketcham, NY

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