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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

SULLIVAN COUPLE URGES OTHERS TO FOLLOW LEAD

By **Barbara Lewis**

In the mid-1980's, when Star Hesse and Mike Lovelace saw their airline jobs in New York City jeopardized by "downsizing" and consolidation of the industry, they began to consider what the next step in their life might be. They wanted to live on a pristine, large tract of land in an historic old house. They abandoned the idea of looking in over-priced and over-developed Long Island, where they had been living. Their search for a home in Northeastern Pennsylvania ultimately led them to the property that suited them perfectly in Sullivan County, New York. Giving up higher-paying jobs for more modest ones here in Sullivan County, Star was able to get a job in a government social services agency and Mike, with expertise in airplane mechanics, worked at a series of local airports before finally starting his own airplane service business outside Honesdale, PA.

For Star and Mike, the quality of their life on their 97-acre property in Lava, NY, outside Narrowsburg, with its rushing stream, huge pond, abundant wildlife, extensive forests, and beautifully preserved historic farmhouse and barns, has more than compensated them for the financial sacrifices they made to come and live here. They love their country life, and they love their land.

From the time they moved here, Star and Mike wanted to see their special property preserved. They just didn't know quite how to go about protecting it for the future. "We didn't think of something formal like a conservation easement, but we both felt from the get-go that we would never want to have our land developed," Starr explained. They kept their eyes and ears open, reading articles and making inquiries, but nothing quite fit their needs. Then in 2007 they read an article in a local newspaper about a woman

named Alice Froelich who had protected her farm in the Kenoza Lake area of Sullivan County, NY, with a conservation easement through the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. A lightbulb went on for them, and they called the Conservancy to inquire about how they could protect their land.

"This was just such a perfect thing for us," Star states. Other plans they'd looked at contained so many demands that they felt they'd give up control of their land. "With this you don't give up control. You sign what you're going to do...everybody agrees to agree, and you're OK," says Mike of the conservation easement they signed to protect their property for posterity.



Hesse and Lovelace think there are a lot of other people in Sullivan County who are not happy with the development they see going on, the open space disappearing, and the animals getting driven further and further into the 'hinterlands.' "That's another reason that the word should be gotten out, because some people who have property say, 'Oh, we don't want to do anything, because this is for our children, and our children have to get the money out of it. There are people like us out there looking for this type property, so it's not unmarketable,'" says Lovelace, and it

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Upcoming Meetings:

Land Protection July 19
Board Meeting August 16

WELCOME DENISE

Denise Frangipane is a community volunteer whose career and volunteerism have spanned from advocating on behalf of children and supporting survivors of domestic violence to raising awareness about environmental and social issues.

After a ten-year career in human services, Denise accepted a position as Program Officer with the Gerry Foundation, where she manages the Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods, is involved with community development work and oversees the environmental and youth initiatives of Sullivan Renaissance, a program that supports volunteer efforts to build pride and enhance the appearance of Sullivan County.



Along with members of her community, Denise organized Bethel First, a grassroots community development effort and Bethel Now! a citizens group that has worked in support of smart growth and development. Through this involvement and as a private citizen she has actively participated in the planning process and served on the Town's comprehensive plan committee. She is an organizing member of the Bethel Business Association and has been newly appointed to the Board of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

Denise was raised in Bethel, NY. She is a graduate of Monticello High School, received her BA from SUNY Binghamton and her MPA from Marist College.

Denise loves the outdoors and enjoys hiking, skiing, kayaking, gardening and simple living. She lives in Bethel, New York with her husband Dr. William Pammer and their four legged friend, a lab mix named Lincoln-Jack. Having lived elsewhere and traveled extensively, she is happy to call this area, with its natural beauty, outdoor opportunities and sense of community home.

Denise is a very active Board member. She enhances the Conservancy's outreach in New York and compliments our efforts in our new Monticello office.

Welcome Denise!

(Continued from page 1)

can be protected forever without the future owners having to give up all ways of making money from the property. Their easement, for example, allows for small non-commercial horse farming or a bed and breakfast operation with a couple of employees to help keep the property financially viable for future owners.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy helped them preserve their land in exactly the way they desired, "but for other people who don't really know what they want to do, the Conservancy can give them a very nice outline of what the easement can do for them and for their property." Every easement can be tailor-made to suit the needs and desires of its owners, and Hesse and Lovelace are eager to spread that message to other landowners, especially in Sullivan County.

BARBARA YEAMAN RECEIVES CONSERVATION HERITAGE AWARD

By Krista Gromalski

The highest recognition the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) provides to a person who has distinguished themselves in the cause of conservation was recently awarded to Delaware Highlands Conservancy Founder Barbara Yeaman.

The award was established in 1991 to pay respect to the conservation legacy of **Ralph W. Abele** through recognizing citizens of Pennsylvania who have made outstanding contributions to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the aquatic resources of the Commonwealth.

Barbara's selection as recipient was unique for its recognition of the importance of land conservation in preserving the state's water resources. Back in 1994 when Barbara founded the Conservancy, she realized that in order to protect the Upper Delaware River, she would need to first protect the lands comprising its watershed.

To define the Conservancy's service area, Barbara focused on her beloved river and the boundaries of its watershed—Pike and Wayne counties in Pennsylvania and Sullivan and Delaware counties in New York. Today, the Conservancy has offices in Hawley, PA, and Monticello, NY, from which it works with landowners to protect the natural and cultural heritage—including forests, farms, water, scenery and open space—of the Upper Delaware River region. Since its founding, the Conservancy has protected more than 10,000 acres.

Though they never met, both Ralph Abele and Barbara Yeaman were born in Pittsburgh. Of Abele, the PFBC has written, "Ralph W. Abele led, inspired, encouraged, motivated, supported and commanded the fight to save our natural environment. He believed strongly in the right of everyone to clean air, pure water and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment."

Abele is described as an uncommon leader of the Commonwealth whose motto was, "Do your duty and fear no one!" This spirit is personified in the dedication Barbara has brought to preserving the natural resources of the Upper Delaware River region in one of the fastest-growing areas of the country. Like Abele, Barbara Yeaman has become a champion—for land, water and habitat conservation, as well as rural and scenic preservation.

The award presentation was followed by a seminar with land expert and author, Stephen J. Small, who provided information for local landowners about the how conservation easements can protect family lands. "If you have a piece of land you care about, I guarantee you that someday it will be paved over or developed," said Small. "If you care about your land, you must plan, and act accordingly."

Small urged the audience to gather information and to take action on behalf of their family properties. "Landowners do conservation easements for three reasons: they love their land, they love their land, they love their land," he concluded.



Gary Moore of the PA Fish and Boat Commission recently presented the Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award to Conservancy Founder Barbara Yeaman, who received a framed print featuring a watercolor painted by Ed Parkinson of Browndale, PA. The print depicts an angler on the West Branch of the Delaware River on a glorious autumn day. The painting was selected as the winner of Pennsylvania's 1998 Trout Stamp Art Competition and became the Fish and Boat Commission's 1998 Trout Stamp. Photo courtesy of Heron's Eye Communications

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lou Barr, Al and Rosemarie Carin, Mike Conley, Bert Daday, Bill Dittmar, Sam Jackson, John and Patti Kiesendahl, Isabelle Lang, Amy and Bob Litzenberger, Barry Schwartz, William and Jane Seibecker, Marlyn Shaffer, Bob and Jean Smith, Larry Sparta, William and Stephanie Streeter, Karl Wagner, Dorene Warner, Eckersley and Ostrowski LLP, Forest Lake Club, and PPL Corporation

NEWS FROM OUR NEW YORK OFFICE

A major investment in land conservation was announced on Wednesday April 16th by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Land Trust Alliance.

Among the awards was a two-year grant for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to hire a full-time land protection specialist for its newly opened Monticello, New York office.

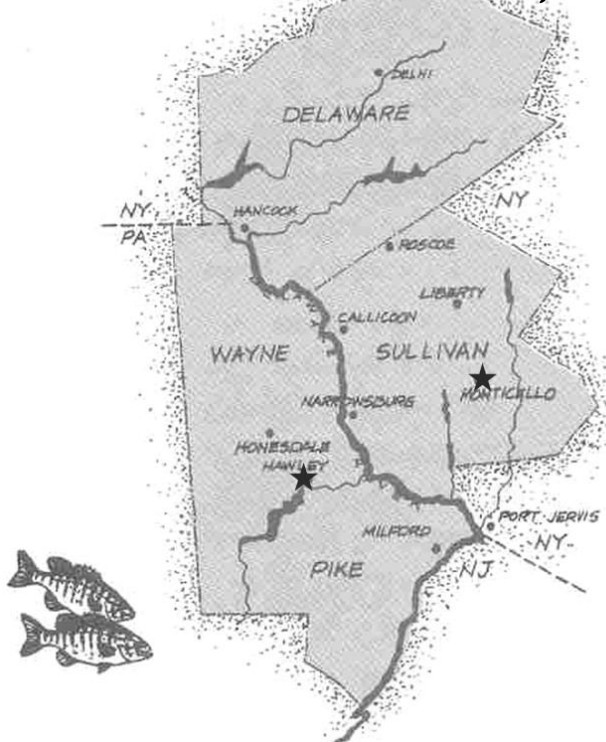
"I applaud the work of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and am so pleased the DEC and Land Trust Alliance awarded them one of the highest grants of \$57,000," said Aileen Gunther, Assemblywoman for the 98th District which includes all of Sullivan and a portion of Orange counties. "The work of protecting land is so important for our environment, food chain, recreation and quality of life. Congratulations to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy!"

"We are excited by both the opportunity to work with more private landowners to protect the natural areas, farms and forests as well as the potential to provide increased support for local planning efforts," said Conservancy Executive Director Sue Currier. "These funds will significantly increase our ability to meet the requests for our services in Delaware and Sullivan Counties. We thank the Land Trust Alliance, DEC, and our local representatives for their continued support of conservation in the region and throughout New York State."

State Senator John J. Bonacic (R/I/C - Mount Hope) stated "The land trust organizations in Ulster, Sullivan, and Orange Counties partner with our local governments to implement smart growth principles. I strongly support the New York State Conservation Partnership program and was pleased to work to ensure that it is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund. This funding for various conservation projects is essential to our region to sustain its natural beauty that our tourism economy depends upon."

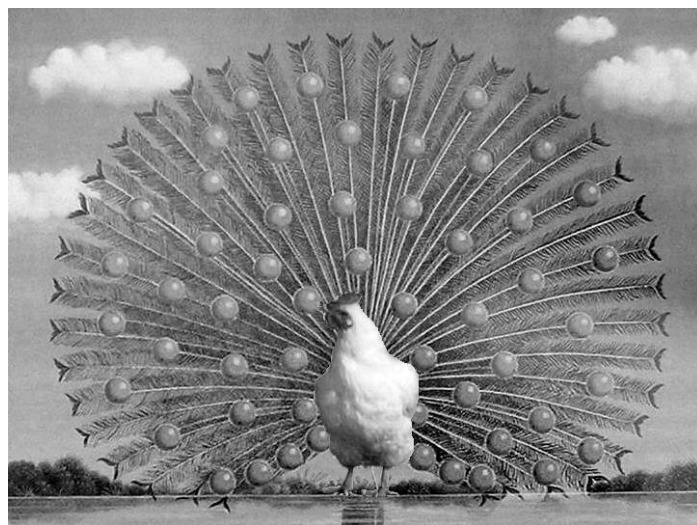
The Conservancy award was one of 52 grants totaling \$825,000 to local and regional land trust organizations across New York State. This year's land trust grant awards represent an unprecedented investment in New York's land trusts that will help make New York's communities better places to live and work.

Offices in Hawley, PA and now in Monticello, NY



Visit us: at the Sullivan County Government Center
100 North Street, Monticello, NY

Office on the second floor, co-located with the
Division of Planning & Environmental Management
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 219 Narrowsburg, NY 12764
Call us: at 845-794-3000 ext 3228



We are just so proud of what we have accomplished.

10,000 ACRES AND COUNTING... *Foods of the Delaware Highlands*

The Conservancy raised almost \$10,000 at “Foods of the Delaware Highlands,” an April 26 gala celebration marking our achievement of protecting 10,000 acres within the Upper Delaware watershed by 2007.

More than 125 Conservancy supporters attended the five-course dinner and wine tasting at The Settlers Inn, in Hawley, PA. And to keep the positive momentum going forward, the Conservancy set a new goal of protecting another 10,000 acres by 2012.

“There is much more to be accomplished as our area continues to grow at a rapid pace,” says Conservancy Founder Barbara Yeaman.

Thank you to our event sponsors: Beach Lake Bread, Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club, Clemleddy

Construction, Grant and Jeanne Genzlinger, Honesdale National Bank, Bob Kiesendahl, Litzenberger Family Foundation, Narrowsburg Roasters, Tony Waldron, Wayne Bank, and Sigrid Wilshinsky.

Thanks also to our volunteers: Grant Genzlinger, Krista Gromalski, Gail Lowden, Bob Mermell, Nora Pavone, Dave Soete, Cindy Wildermuth, Grace Wildermuth, Sigrid Wilshinsky, Barbara Yeaman, and Claude Briere.



Sue Currier, Barbara Yeaman and Grant Genzlinger

2 MORE YEARS

In a significant legislative victory for land conservation, Congress recently passed the hotly debated Farm Bill, overriding the President's veto, and extending the powerful tax incentives which have helped conserve over a million acres of farms, ranches and natural areas nationwide. The tax incentives, which apply to donations of conservation easements, had expired at the end of 2007. They have now been extended until the end of 2009, and are retroactive to January 1st of 2008. The incentives, which apply to a landowner's federal income

tax, raise the amount a donor can deduct from 30% to 50% of their income in any year, and increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years. We are excited that these incentives will make it easier for landowners to take the step of protecting their land from development, as it did during 2006 and 2007, when the Conservancy helped a record number of landowners place their land into conservation easements. It further allows farmers who make more than 50% of their income from farming to deduct up to 100% of their income each year.

(Article by Barbara Lewis)

PRESERVING FAMILY LANDS



The last week of May, the Conservancy hosted a series of programs for landowners and the professionals who advise them. **Stephen J. Small, J.D., LL.M.**, is recognized as the nation's leading authority on private land protection options and strategies. Mr. Small wrote the Federal income tax regulations

on conservation easements as attorney-advisor in the Office of Chief counsel of the IRS.

The evaluation results speak for themselves — it was a resounding success. Excellent (5 out of 5) wasn't a high

enough mark on some surveys — so some wrote in 6 and then added the comments.

“Mr.Small is an excellent speaker and inspires conservation. I am glad I attended.”

“Excellent program with an extremely knowledgeable speaker”

“Excellent, Informative, Insightful”

“A timely topic for our area—excellent knowledgeable speaker.”

We thank ALL our incredible partners and sponsors who helped make the session a success. With gas leasing on the horizon throughout the region, we also took time to host a working session with other local land trusts and agencies to discuss how to work within a changing landscape. All in all it was a valuable week.

LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

Jeffersonville

Thursdays 2-6 pm
June 12 through September 25
Route 52 (Main Street) across from the Post Office.

Liberty

Fridays 3-6 pm
May 9 through October 10
In the Municipal Lot on Darbee Lane near The First National Bank of Jeffersonville

Callicoon

Sundays 11 am-2 pm
May 4 through November 3
Callicoon Creek Park
Audley Dorner Drive near bridge over the Delaware River to PA

Roscoe

Sundays 10 am-2 pm
May 11 through October 12
Route 206 near Stewart Avenue

Kauneonga Lake

Fridays 2 pm –6 pm
Fireman's Pavillion, Route 55

Barryville

Saturdays 10 am-2 pm
3385 Route 97 behind the River Market

Bethel Woods Harvest Festival

Sundays 11 am-4 pm
Late August to mid-October
Bethel Woods site, Hurd Road

Hawley

Fridays from 3:30 to 7 pm
June 27 through October 17
At the Hawley Train Station

Honesdale

Saturdays 9:30 am—1:30 pm
Late May to Late October
Commercial Street, at the Wayne County Visitors Center

SHOP LOCAL, SAVE LAND

Buying locally grown food is healthy for you and good for our local communities. Farmers selling directly to their community take more responsibility for the food they sell, so you can feel more confident about where your food comes from and more informed about how it is produced. Also, the farther food has to travel, the more nutrients it loses. Locally grown and sold produce, meat and poultry, and dairy products do not spend days on trucks and sitting in warehouses. Buying fresh locally grown foods means you are eating healthier.

Buying locally doesn't just benefit our bodies, it benefits our land and way of life. Supporting local growers is an investment in the quality of our communities. Buying from local farmers contributes to our local economies and helps to sustain our rural quality of life. Successful farms are a rich part of our local culture and history. When we lose our farms we sacrifice part of what makes life special here in the Upper Delaware region; when we lose our local farms, we lose an important part of who we are.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is dedicated to maintaining the unique rural landscapes that make life special here in the Upper Delaware River region. Our efforts focus on conserving vital open spaces and educating the public with regard to the importance of our rural landscapes to the health and overall quality of our lives. We are pleased to be part of efforts to support local farms and farmlands, so that they remain vibrant and viable for future generations of farmers. With generous support from the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau, the John and Helen Villaume Foundation, the Wayne County Community Foundation, and an anonymous donor, we are currently producing a guide to farms, farmers' markets, and farm stands that produce and sell local agricultural products. The "Shop Local, Save Land" guide will be available and distributed free to the public at convenient locations in Monroe, Pike, and Wayne Counties by July 1st.

In 2009 we will produce a much more comprehensive publication that includes additional information on local artisans, nurseries, garden shops, small businesses, and restaurants that offer locally grown and produced products to the public. In this expanded edition, in addition to merchant listings, we hope to include articles, events and activities, and advertisements as well.

"Shop Local, Save Land" joins the already produced "Pure Catskills" booklet, the free guide to farm fresh products and local businesses covering the Catskill Mountain region on the New York side of the Upper Delaware. "Pure Catskills" is an economic initiative of the Watershed Agricultural Council published in collaboration with the Catskill Mountain Foundation with support from the members of Pure Catskills. The full booklet can be accessed at www.purecatskills.com. With "Pure Catskills" and "Shop Local, Save Land," residents and visitors to the area will have the easy access they need to information about buying fresh and buying local.



Nick Mower taps a sugar maple at Journey's End Farm.

Local county and state agricultural programs also contribute to the protection and promotion of local farmlands and have to date helped conserve thousands of farmland acres in the Upper Delaware region of Pennsylvania and New York State. All of these efforts – including most importantly *yours* to buy local – will assure that our invaluable farm lands are here for us and for the benefit of future generations.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday July 12 Canoe Trip

Join Pete Nye, expert on the American Bald Eagle, on this trip along the Delaware River. Meet at Long Eddy and return by canoe for refreshments at end of trip. Call 570-226-3164 to reserve your space.

Saturday July 19 Chamber Music Concert

The Weekend of Chamber Music Summer Festival will be held, 8 PM at the Eddie Adams Farm in Jeffersonville, NY. The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is sponsoring the Gala Reception following the concert featuring work by Olivier Messiaen. Tickets \$25. Call 845-932-8527 or see www.WCMconcerts.org

Saturday August 2 Botany Walk with Dr. Ann Rhoads 10:00 AM

Join renowned expert and author, Dr. Ann Rhoads for an explanatory walk and talk. For more information call 570- 226-3164.

Saturday August 23 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 raised 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

Saturday September 13 Green Earth Fair 12 Noon – 5:00 PM Lackawaxen

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the Upper Delaware Preservation Coalition have joined forces to create the largest environmental awareness event in the Upper Delaware River Region. Named the Green Earth Fair, it combines two of the most respected events in the area, The Conservancy's Meadow Party and UDPC's Energy Fair into a single event at the fairgrounds in Lackawaxen. Join us for entertainment featuring the Erie Street Band, food, drink, eco-educational speakers on a variety of topics, kids games, live auction by Auctioneer Jeanine Tanzi, eco-storyteller Ronni Diaz,



Bring a date to the Fair

alternative energy solutions and demonstrations by many local vendors. In addition, to environmental awareness activities, Swift Water Rescue Demonstrations, Eagle Awareness, Open Air Market, Alternative Energy Workshops, Historical Presentations and walking tours will take place throughout the day.

Sunday September 21 Earth Day in Autumn, Bethel Woods, NY 11:00 AM — 4:00 PM

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

Monday September 22 Highway Corridor Redevelopment and Conservation Subdivision

Across the United States, Randall Arendt has worked with many municipalities to address conservation of land through creative development tools. His new work is concerned with highway corridor design and way communities can refine existing highway corridors and prevent them from being developed improperly. This event will cover both topics in one day. Program is co-hosted with the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management. Details on location and registration to follow.

Thursday September 25 So You Want to Protect Your Land ... Now What? 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Landowners will learn how to keep cherished lands in the family and protect the landscape in perpetuity. Delaware Highlands Conservancy Executive Director Sue Currier will discuss how conservation and agricultural easements are key tools. Lorne Possinger will discuss grant funds available from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that are available. Representatives from Wayne and Pike will discuss the specifics of each County's Agricultural Easement purchase program.



Raffle Prizes to be won — get your ticket today



Saturday October 18 Annual General Meeting 10:00 AM

PPL Environmental Learning Center. 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; to learn about our future plans; and to meet your fellow members, new and old.



Friday, October 24 Autumn Skies Star Watch, Butterfly Barn, 8:30 PM

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.



STIMULATING CONSERVATION

The Treasury has begun sending **Economic Stimulus Payments** to more than 130 million individuals.

A recent survey indicated that 4% of Americans who qualify for the stimulus package plan to donate this windfall check to charity or to a non-profit. Conservancy members can do better than that 4%. Think what 100 checks endorsed over to the Delaware Highlands could do: Protect more wildlife habitat, save more working farms, hire much needed office staff, **award more scholarships to top local students** and much, much more.

PAULINA RENGGLI SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

"Ever since I can remember, I have been intrigued by nature. Everything from witnessing the metamorphosis of a butterfly to watching leaves change colors in the autumn fascinated me." So, it is no surprise that Paulina Renggli, our latest Conservancy Scholarship recipient has chosen to study wildlife biology. Paulina is a graduate of Eldred High School in New York and 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.

At Eldred High School, Paulina played softball and ran indoor track, but her favorite sport remains soccer which she played both in the summer as a club member and in the fall for her high school. The Port Jervis Youth Soccer Club also benefits from Paulina's participation. She was an officer and member of the Honor Society, part of the Mentor Program, involved with Envirothon, and played in the Senior Band.

Volunteering with the Eagle Institute has special meaning for her in that she has met so many interesting and dedicated people from all age groups and backgrounds. "Even though the people were great, the eagles stole the show every time. Seeing an eagle for just one minute made up for hours outside in the bitter cold of winter."



Sometime during the next two years, Paulina plans to live and work in Switzerland for four months, staying with and getting to know her father's family; she actually holds dual citizenship. The Conservancy is pleased to add Paulina's name to our long list of scholarship winners in both Pennsylvania and New York. Congratulations Paulina.

COUNTIES PARTNER TO PRODUCE REGIONAL MAP

In an unprecedented partnership, eight counties that border the Upper Delaware River Valley have produced a regional development map. The map, which is a collaboration between the county planning departments of Delaware, Sullivan and Orange in New York, Wayne, Pike, and Monroe in Pennsylvania, and Warren and Sussex counties in New Jersey, shows existing dense development, proposed residential development of over 20 lots that have been approved or are pending since January 2006, commercial development over 10,000 square feet, and conserved lands.

The map is the first project of the Upper Delaware River Roundtable, which is a voluntary partnership of representatives from state agencies, county governments and grass roots organizations who meet every other

month to communicate and explore collaboration to enhance the future of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

The idea of the map came out of a meeting held in September 2007, when it was suggested that due to the bisected nature of Upper Delaware, a regional map would be a useful tool to provide local municipalities with an overview of what development was occurring outside of their own borders. The National Park Service GIS division of the Delaware Water Gap Recreational Area served as the clearinghouse for information and created the map. Future plans include periodical updates and the creation of a digital version that is available on CD and on the internet.

Copies of the map can be obtained by calling your county planning department or the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

Send an email to roundtable@upperdelaware.com to receive meeting announcements.

GAS LEASING

By Barbara Yeaman

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy receives many calls about gas extraction and production from individuals who offer advice or seek it.

As board members and staff we may have certain feelings about the issue; however as an organization we must stay within specific boundaries when addressing it. According to *"The Standards and Practices Guidebook"* a publication of the national Land Trust Alliance, "Land trusts generally are not primarily advocacy organizations, and many land trusts deliberately avoid getting embroiled in political controversies that they feel would interfere with their ability to protect land."

In our efforts to conserve the natural landscape, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy works with any individuals who love their land and want to protect it in a state that maintains its ecological health and natural beauty. We welcome every opportunity to preserve land, as long as we can find solutions dedicated to conserving the natural values of the lands we are entrusted to protect. We work with landowners who wish to preserve their ability to consider gas extraction as well as those who do not.

Coal mining and oil and gas extraction have long been permitted under Pennsylvania and New York Law. **Our** focus, however, is on protecting the conservation value of the properties we protect. In our conservation easements we typically prohibit commercial or industrial uses

that disturb the surface of the land. We consider gas or oil drilling a commercial activity that may damage land, air and water quality. We believe that the highest standards of environmental safeguards must apply to any and all activities taking place on protected lands. Wherever natural gas extraction is done, all precautions must be taken to ensure that no environmental damage occurs during gas extraction and after extraction operations cease.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy works with landowners to explore *all* options for protecting their property. These options include eliminating *all* commercial development and leasing, applying restrictions to allow only non-surface exploration that follows best management practices with specific restrictions in addition to state and federal standards, and the potential of protecting lands around gas wells. We encourage landowners who are considering signing a gas lease to educate themselves extensively (including seeking legal and financial council), before taking this serious and irreversible step. We suggest that landowners who make the decision to sign a lease for gas extraction coordinate with other landowners to ensure the best possible lease that gives them the best return while also protecting their land, their water, their neighbors and their liability.

Finally, we must as a society, learn to use energy more efficiently and to explore and support renewable ways to generate the energy that we need. In this, I believe, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and our members and supporters can help lead the way.

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 ____ American Express 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.

OFFICE WISH LIST

- Table and chairs for the front porch
- Vacuum cleaner
- Donations of services and new (or nearly new) items for the Green Earth Fair Auction September 13, 2008

WHAT'S INSIDE

July 12 Eagle Canoe Trip
July 19 Chamber Music Concert
August 2 Botany Walk
August 23 Monarch Butterfly Program
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Economic Stimulus Payments



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

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