



july 2009

# HIGHLANDS JOURNAL

newsletter of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy

**... 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**

## ANITA ORLOW, STEWARD OF THE LAND

By Barbara Lewis

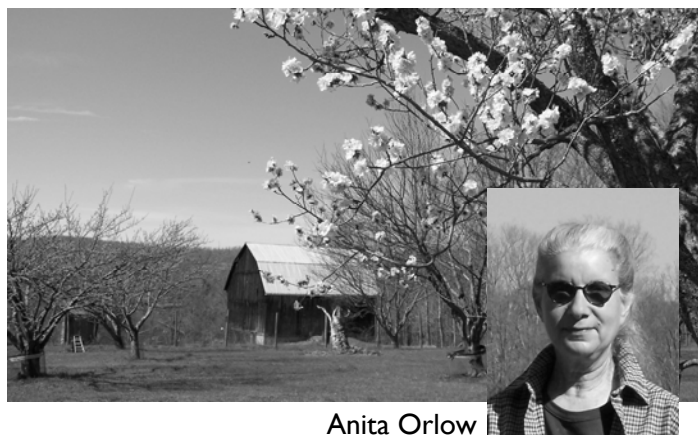
Growing up in small New England towns, Anita Edelberg was a “country girl” ‘til she met David Orlow and moved to Brooklyn where they undertook the project of restoring a broken-down city house in Park Slope. Yet they dreamed of getting back to the country, buying 3 to 5 acres of land and some water. In 1985 they saw an ad for a farm in Northeastern Pennsylvania and came up to have a look. “We walked the perimeter...looking for what might be the ‘downside,’ and we didn’t see anything but just beauty, raw beauty,” says Anita. “We fell in love with it.”

An attractive property of 98 acres, set high in the rolling hills of Wayne county, with dense woodlands, open meadows, and a stream running through it, it was much more land than they’d expected to buy. However, when they found out that the owners were planning to subdivide it into 22 building lots, they acted decisively. “Like the Brooklyn house, we rescued it from a fate that was less than satisfactory. From the outset, Anita knew this was something to be preserved. “There was not really a feeling of ownership. It was a feeling of responsibility to protect and preserve what’s here, and to make it better in any way we possibly could.” David improved the existing pond, so it could be enjoyed for swimming and fishing. They renovated the barn and a small garage they used as a weekend residence. Together they planted an orchard of fruit trees, fenced it in, and painstakingly tended it.

During the twenty years that Anita and her husband

David spent weekends on their farm, “Always there was the idea that this was just too precious a place to allow an unforeseen future,” says Anita. “We are just caretakers...we’re just here for a very short time.” And, in fact, David’s time ended three years ago. After his passing, Anita moved to her country home year round and decided the time had come to take steps to protect her land.

Anita had been aware of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy from its inception, read its newsletters, and kept its phone number nearby. “I always thought it was a noble organization [doing] a very important activity.” In late 2008 Anita Orlow’s “merging” with the conservancy, as she calls it, finally came to be. She protected her 98 acres with a conservation easement that prevents it from every being subdivided or developed, except for allowing an additional dwelling to be built near the barn and garage and limited small farming activities to be enjoyed. By protecting her property, Anita has fulfilled her promise to herself to be a steward of the land. The dream she envisioned when they purchased the farm in 1986 is now fulfilled. “I’m very comfortable with that completion,” say Anita. “It feels good to me.”



Anita Orlow

## Delaware Highlands Conservancy

### Officers:

Carson Helfrich, President  
Don Downs, Vice President  
Mike Uretsky, Treasurer  
Scott VanGorder, Secretary

### Board Members:

Joe Fowler  
Denise Frangipane  
Grant Genzlinger  
Krista Gromalski  
Adam Rodell  
Greg Swartz  
Cindy Wildermuth

### Executive Director:

Sue Currier

### Land Protection

#### Coordinators:

Helle Henriksen  
Melinda Ketcham

#### Mail us:

P.O. Box 218  
Hawley, PA 18428-0218

P.O. Box 219  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

#### Visit us:

508 River Street  
Hawley, PA

Sullivan County  
Government Center  
100 North Street  
Monticello, NY

#### Call us:

Main phone: 570-226-3164  
Also: 845-807-0535 \* NEW

#### Online:

[www.delawarehighlands.org](http://www.delawarehighlands.org)  
[info@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:info@delawarehighlands.org)

### Upcoming Meetings:

Land Protection	July	18
Fundraising and		
Outreach	July	23
Finance	August	7
Board Meeting	August	15

## JOSEPH FOWLER, NEW BOARD MEMBER

In keeping with our outreach in New York, we welcome White Lake resident, Joe Fowler to our Board of Directors. Fortunately for us, Joe and his wife, Bernice moved to Sullivan County from Orange County, NY where he was Vice President of the Orange County Land Trust. The Fowlers have four grown children scattered about the US and Canada.

Joe has a Masters Degree in physics, and after thirty years as owner of an insuring agency in Walden, NY, he turned to teaching physics, business and math at several NY colleges. While in Walden, in addition to his land trust involvement, he became active in the Montgomery food pantry, Orange County SCORE (counseling people going into business), and served as a church elder. He was a member of the Walden Rotary for fifty years and they recently held a dinner recognizing Joe "for a lifetime of community service".

Joe retired in 1997 and moved to White Lake in 2007, again becoming a SCORE counselor in Sullivan County. Ever active in his local community, Joe is now a trustee of the Monticello Crawford Library, a member of the Bethel Lions Club, and an elder in the Bethel Presbyterian Church. We are more than pleased to have Joe join our Conservancy Board.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LAND CONSERVATION

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Sullivan Renaissance are co-hosting a seminar with renowned speaker Ed McMahon, **a highly sought after, extremely engaging speaker**. Mr. McMahon is an author, attorney, lecturer, and expert in green and sustainable development practices, community planning, growth management, land conservation, urban design, and historic preservation. His seminars are well received by professionals, municipalities, and planners.

Ed McMahon will be exploring how new development can be made more attractive, more efficient, more profitable, and more environmentally sensible, as well as the importance of maintaining our downtown districts. Mr. McMahon uses visual references to make his points.

The forum is designed for public officials, professional, planners, developers, engineers, and residents interested in **learning more about balancing conservation with development**.

**Date:** Saturday, September 26th  
**Time:** 9:00 AM-12:00 NOON  
**Location:** CVI Building, Liberty, NY  
**Cost:** \$10 per person

**Advanced Registration is Required.**

Please contact the Conservancy to reserve your spot at the seminar!  
The event is sponsored by Delaware Highlands Conservancy,  
Sullivan Renaissance and NYCDEP



## DELAWARE RIVER CANOE TRIP

The rain stopped long enough for 47 canoeists/kayakers to travel from Buckingham, PA to Long Eddy, NY. In fact the weather was ideal and the water was moving fast due to recent heavy rains. We had lunch in a grassy clearing where John Conway joined us and gave us interesting historical background for this part of the Delaware River featuring the early Lenape tribes and our early settlers. Don Hamilton described both fish and fowl that inhabited this wonderful part of the National Park Wild and Scenic River. Members of the Sullivan County Historical Society joined us for this trip along with several dogs, a toddler, and some of us in our 80's. We finished the trip with a relaxing interlude of refreshments while waiting for the shuttle....have another glass of wine! It was a wonderful day.



John Conway relates river history.



Geo says "Lets get back on the river".



All ages enjoy our river trips.

## ON THE COURSE FOR CONSERVATION

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy held its first annual "On the Course for Conservation" golf tournament on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at The Country Club at Woodloch Springs, near Hawley, PA.

"The business community's strong support is a testament to the Conservancy's important role in fostering a robust local economy," says tournament chairperson and Conservancy Board Member Cindy Wildermuth. "We are grateful to all of our sponsors."

Golf tournament sponsors included: **Ginader, Jones & Co. LLP; Clemledy Construction; Woodland Management Services; Woodloch Resort; Henkelman Appraisal Service; First National Community Bank; Costa's Family Fun Park, Encore Custom Builders, R. Anthony Waldron, III, Attorney at Law, The Settlers Inn, Representative Michael Peifer; Gresham's Chop House and Shooky's Distributors.** Your support is greatly appreciated.

Forty-seven golfers were in attendance, but Mother Nature did not have golf in mind this day. We saw no golf was played this day due to the torrential downpours and hail. Woodloch issued vouchers to all attendees for another day of golf at their beautiful facility. Despite the stormy weather, a great day of fun was had by all attendees.

Approximately \$3,000 was raised to help the Conservancy continue our work in Pennsylvania and New York. Thank you to **all** who made "On the Course for Conservation" a success!



John Keisendahl greets Hawley golfer Mr. Bartles



John Pillar and Cindy Wildermuth host the festivities away from golf ball sized hail.

## THE VOLUNTEERS SERIES IS A SUCCESS!

The Conservancy recently held our first annual Open House at the Perry Pond Brook Property as part of our volunteer series, “Stewards of the Land: Contributing to Conservation”. Despite all of the rain we have recently had, the sun shined all day! Volunteers, as well as landowners, were able to experience the property first hand and meet fellow members, landowners, volunteers, and Conservancy staff, and eat local food sponsored by *Pure Catskills*. The Conservancy honored Starr Hesse and Mike Lovelace, for their support of the Conservancy and for graciously allowing us to use their property, and Sullivan Renaissance for co-sponsoring the volunteer series.



Starr Hesse and Mike Lovelace

### Join us for Volunteer Training on July 18th!



Professional Forester Josh Flad, leads a hike across the Perry Pond Brook Property at the May 30th Open House.

The volunteer series also includes three volunteer training dates— June 9th, June 16th, and July 18th. At the June training dates, the Conservancy distributed their newly created Volunteer Manual and staff provided volunteers with training on monitoring, conservation easements, and the Conservancy’s policies and procedures. And, both new and old volunteers received the Conservancy’s personalized volunteer hats.

The Conservancy would like to thank everyone that attended the Open House and volunteer training. **The success of the Conservancy is largely due to our committed force of volunteers.**

**We welcome the following new volunteers to the Conservancy:** Keith Fitzpatrick, Sally Thomson, C. Perrin Ross, Laurie Kilgore, Kelly Koch, Joan Lizzio, RuthAnne Morris, Ilene Havey, Margaret Sincavage, Eileen Hetzel, Caroline Sklenar, Dustin Long, Brendan Clarke, Zhanna Potash and Gina Marra.

The Conservancy is deeply appreciative of your continued support of the Conservancy’s mission: To protect the scenic rural character, cultural heritage, and environmental health of our region.

**We look forward to seeing you at the July 18th training and hope you can make it to our next Open House this Fall!**

### HAWLEY OFFICE WORK DAY: CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

The Conservancy will be holding a Summer Office Work Day on **Saturday, August 29, at 9:00 am.** We will be painting the upstairs office, cleaning, organizing and gardening. If you have a few hours to spare on this day please call the office at 570-226-3164. **We would love to see you there!**

## IT’S KAYAK RAFFLE TIME AGAIN

Take a chance on our annual raffle and win an **Old Town Otter XT, 9.5’ kayak** of your own. Raffle tickets will be available at the Conservancy Offices, each of our upcoming events or can be mailed out to you. For only \$2 each or three for \$5 you can be plying the Delaware River this fall. **Draw date: September 19**, at the Earth Day in Autumn event in Bethel, NY.

**A GIGANTIC thank you to Alice’s Wonderland**, for their generous donation for our raffle. Stop by and shop at their store at 1581 Route 6, in Greeley, PA (halfway between Hawley and Milford) or check them out online at [www.aliceswonderland.com](http://www.aliceswonderland.com).



Amanda explores the local waterways in her Kayak  
You could win a Kayak of your own in our Raffle!

## HELP US GO GREEN

Help us be more environmentally and economically conscious.

Provide us with your email address and we can keep you up-to-date on events, news and volunteer opportunities. We will not sell your email address and you can unsubscribe at anytime.

Simply email us at [info@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:info@delawarehighlands.org) or fill in the blank on your membership form.

## SIGN UP for EMAIL UPDATES and E-NEWSLETTER



## IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT

Wildlife biologists from the PA Game Commission and an Assistant District Forester from the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry share with woodland owners and a local boy scout troop, the importance of serviceberry trees (also known as shadbush, shadblow or juneberry) to wildlife while standing next to a rather large specimen. The program was held on Saturday, June 20 at Mink Pond Club in Lehman Township, Pike County.

## Memorial Donations:

Donations were received by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy in memory of Evelyn Porter from Don and Edie Downs and Phil Fitzpatrick from Jeffrey and Lorraine Kroutil. Thank you for your remembrance.

## TWO WHO LEFT US A LEGACY

by Barbara Yeaman

The Conservancy lost two good friends this spring.

In 1995 **Tom Raleigh**, who lived in a small cottage in Sullivan County near the Delaware River, was the first person to approach our new land trust about preserving his land. He walked into our board meeting in Milanville unannounced looking for information. I'll never know how he found us, but I remember negotiating with him over the years, to get it right. He wasn't wealthy, and I believe he hesitated to give up the value of the development rights on his 25 acres not knowing what medical needs may lie ahead. We finally drafted an easement to suit his needs, and ours, and he placed it in his will. We are now working with the executor of his estate to bring his wishes to fruition.

The other loss was very personal to me. **Dorothy Merrill**, a good friend and confidant, was in her eighties when we began the Conservancy. She and her husband Dan were both active in environmental causes in NE PA, and were strong supporters of the new Delaware Highlands Conservancy. When Dan died a few years ago, she

carried on their love of the natural environment and never tired of hearing me describe our progress and land preservation efforts.

As Dorothy grew into her nineties she needed more care and would express her regret that while she had willed the Conservancy a percentage of her estate, she was afraid there might be little left to share with us.

In mid-June at age 97 Dorothy passed away. Dorothy's legacy will help to ensure our future. I am forever grateful for her moral and financial support and hope she is pleased, that wherever she may be, she still has a hand in continuing our work.

Contact the Conservancy to find out how **you** can become a **Legacy Leader** and make a lasting difference.



Dorothy Merrill in her sunroom retreat.



# Shop Local Save Land

The Conservancy, proudly announces publication of its second annual edition of the award winning **Shop Local, Save Land**, a guide to farms and farmers' markets in Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties.



The attractive, easy-to-use brochure has grown tremendously since last year. The 20-page 2009 guide includes helpful information about farms, farmers' markets and stands, and community gardens that produce and sell local agricultural products. It also includes a keyed map for easy navigation.

The 2009 guide also features profiles and photos of some of the innovative businesses and organizations whose generous support helped to make this year's guide possible, including: the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau, the John and Helen Villaume Foundation, The Settlers Inn, and Clemleddy Construction.

## PLUS A NEW GUIDE TO WOOD PRODUCTS

The Conservancy is currently working on a new guide in the *Shop Local Save Land* series, this one being a guide to local wood products. Modeled after the NY Watershed Agricultural Council's *Catskills WoodNet* project, the guide will provide listings of buyers and sellers of local wood products, including forestry professionals, local forest products and related industries, and artisans. Educational components will be included for each category of listings within the guide as well as a comprehensive list of resources relating to local wood products.

We believe a well-connected network of local wood products providers, forest landowners, forestry professionals and the general public can foster the sustainability of healthy and economically productive forestlands.

Funding for the production of the *Shop Local, Save Land Guide to Wood Products* has been made possible through contributions from the John and Helen Villaume Foundation, Pike County Conservation District, and Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board.

The ***Shop Local, Save Land Guide to Wood Products*** is due to be released August 8, 2009 at the annual Festival of Wood at Grey Towers National Historic Site.

**Pick up your copies at the Conservancy's offices, or other locations across the region.**

## PACE UNIVERSITY LAND USE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

Thanks to PA Representative Michael Peifer and NY Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Olive B'Oconnor Foundation, Pike County Conservation District, Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board, Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, Sullivan Renaissance, and the Upper Delaware River Roundtable, individuals from both sides of the river completed an intensive 4 day program on land use techniques.



"Building Communities One Conversation at a Time" - May 2009 Graduating Class

# UPCOMING EVENTS 2009

## **July 18 – Weekend of Chamber Music, Eddie Adams Barn, North Branch/Jeffersonville, 8:00 pm**

The concert and artists' reception is sponsored by the Conservancy. Performers will include Tannis Gibson, Judith Pearce, Sunghae Anna Lim and Caroline Stinson. Admission is \$25; free for students under 19. For more information visit [www.wcmconcerts.org](http://www.wcmconcerts.org).

## **July 18 – Volunteer Training, Hawley, PA 11:00 am**

Come learn about the important roles and responsibilities that the "stewards of the land" have in making the Conservancy a successful organization. New and old volunteers, will learn how to monitor properties and more.

## **Aug 1 – Botany Walk with Dr. Ann Rhoads, PA 10:00 am**

Join renowned botanist, Dr. Ann Rhoads of the Morris Arboretum, as we explore the exciting botanical world of Pennsylvania's forests at the Milford Experimental Forest. To reserve your space, call 570-226-3164.

## **Aug 8 – Money CAN Grow on Trees, Grey Towers National Historic Site Festival of Wood, Milford, PA 2:00 pm**

Join other woodland owners for discussions and presentations regarding the Clean and Green Act, Conservation Easements and Stewardship Plans for this informative session. Then drop by the Conservancy booth at this 2-day festival that offers artists booths, exhibits and demonstrations, music, children's programs and more. Contact Grey Towers at 570-296-9630 for more information.

## **Aug 22 – Monarch Program with Ed Wesely, Butterfly Barn, PA 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. Come and learn about the monarch life cycle and help to tag early migrants. For more information check out the website [www.butterflybarn.org](http://www.butterflybarn.org).



## **Sept 16 – Estate Planning Workshop, Sullivan County, Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Learn how conservation easements play a role in estate planning. Representatives from Cornell Cooperative Extension Elder Law Department will be available for questions, along with a local financial planner.

## **Green Earth Events**

In lieu of the Green Earth Fair, the Conservancy is putting its support behind two related events:

## **Sept 18-20 – Pennsylvania Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Festival in Kempton PA**

This 3-day festival at the Kempton Community Center highlights renewable energy, natural building construction, sustainable agriculture, land-use planning, forestry and healthy living practices. Visit [paenergyfest.com](http://paenergyfest.com). Join the NEPA Audubon Bus trip on September 19th by calling Bob Campbell at 570-676-9969.

## **Sept 20 – Earth Day in Autumn at Bethel Woods, Bethel, NY 11:00 – 4:00 pm**

Visit educational booths, buy local produce at the market, enjoy lunch while you watch performances on stage, shop for local crafts or take a trip through the Conservancy Corn Maze at Earth Day in Autumn at Bethel Woods on the site of the famous Woodstock Festival. For more information visit

[www.sullivanrenaissance.org](http://www.sullivanrenaissance.org).

## **Sept 26 – Rural Options for Sustainable Development and Land Conservation, CVI Building, Liberty, NY, 9:00 am**

The Conservancy and Sullivan Renaissance are co-hosting a seminar with renowned speaker on sustainability and land use planning, **Ed McMahon**. Cost for the program, including materials is \$10 per person. Space is limited so call the office at 570-226-3164 or 845-807-0535 to reserve your space today.

## **Oct 7 – Financial Benefits of Land Conservation, PPL Environmental Learning Center, Hawley, PA 7:00 pm**

## **Oct 16 – Autumn Skies Star Watch, Butterfly Barn, PA 8:30 pm**

## **Oct 17 – Annual General Meeting, PPL Environmental Learning Center, Hawley PA 10:00 am**

Find out more about the years accomplishments, plans for 2010, and meet other members at our annual meeting.

## **Oct 24 – Fuelwood Harvesting and Chainsaw Maintenance, Milford Experimental Forest, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Space is limited so call the office at 570-226-3164 or 845-807-0535 to reserve your space today.

## **Oct 28 – Financial Benefits of Land Conservation, Town Hall in Jeffersonville, NY, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

**All dates and times are subject to change.  
Visit [www.delawarehighlands.org](http://www.delawarehighlands.org) for details.**

# DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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

Non-Profit Org.  
Hawley, PA  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 42

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Anita Orlow, Steward of the Land  
Joe Fowler, new Board member  
Ed McMahon, Community Planning  
Delaware River Canoe Trip and the Golf Outing  
Volunteer Series - Training July 18  
Shop Local Save Land Guide  
Legacy Leaders  
Upcoming Events



## 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.

## NEW MEMBERS

Susan and John Pavone,  
Joseph and Kathryn Adams,  
Jan Goodwin, Jerry Uhrig  
and Thelma and Robert  
Miller

## WISH LIST

Perennial plants and garden-  
ing help in Hawley  
Volunteers to help paint and  
finish our "upstairs" - give us  
room to grow  
Computer/Desk Chairs  
Blank Thank You Cards  
GPS Unit