

November 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

Pike County Getting Greener

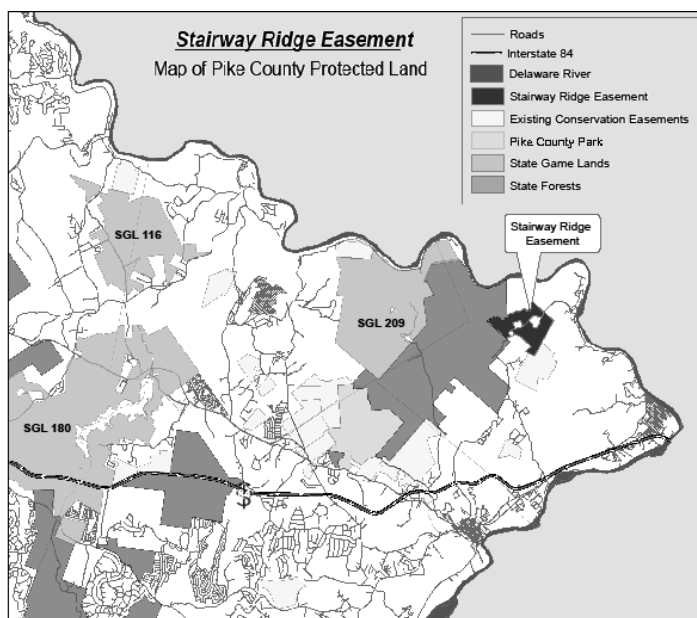
The benefits of Pike County's Scenic Rural Character Preservation Bond (SRCP) fund continue to be realized with the protection of the 708-acre Polatnick property in Westfall Township. The Polatnick property, a heavily forested ridgeline parcel, contains pockets of wetlands and the headwaters for Mill Rift (Bushkill) Creek.

Scenic Rural Character Bond Funds at Work

The SRCP bond fund contributed \$1,304,392 to state funds allocated through Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to enable the state to purchase the property and protect it with a conservation easement. The easement specifies that the state who owns the land will manage and maintain it to



L to R: Harry Forbes, Richard Caridi, Karl Wagner, Jessica Grohmann, Helle Henriksen, Tony Waldron Seated Steve Polatnick and John Roger.



* This map is not a survey. All positions, features, boundary lines and calculations are approximate.

provide for natural resource protection and public recreational access. State ownership of the property removes the burden of management from the County, though the County, as per the terms of the easement, has a voice in the development of state plans. The County will also oversee state management and maintains the power to implement its own plans should the state not adequately care for the property.

The Polatnick property is an invaluable contribution to Pike County's green space and to the maintenance of the County's scenic rural character. The parcel sits adjacent to state land and the Slatestone Hunt Club. Its permanent protection creates a contiguous green corridor that provides vital protection for wildlife habitats and freshwater resources. The western edge of the property that meets current state lands contains a section of Mill

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Delaware Highlands Conservancy

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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
info@delawarehighlands.org

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Fundraising & Outreach
Nov. 19

Land Protection/Board Meeting:
Nov. 21

Financial Benefits of Land
Conservation:
Dec. 9

JULIA HORROCKS JOINS CONSERVANCY

"Land protection is the best way to protect our important water resources" Julia fell in love with conservation work while serving as an AmeriCorps member with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy in Asheville, NC this past year. There in the Highlands of Roan and the Great Smokey Mountains, she wrote conservation easements and facilitated land protection projects in the area.

Julia grew up in Orlando, Florida and attended Florida State University where she received both a BA in Music Performance (she plays the cello) and a BS in Environmental Studies. Julia also has her JD and a Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School (May 2008) where she focused on water law and land use issues. While in Vermont, she was Senior Articles Editor for the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law, and Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper. She has published a number of articles including a law review article in favor of extending the public trust doctrine to groundwater.

Her parents are in Asheville where they run a family frame shop/art gallery that they have owned for almost 20 years. Julia credits their love, support, and patience in allowing her to finally discover what she wants to do. Her younger sister and best friend is also in Asheville attending college, and plans to go onto graduate school to study psychology.

Julia loves being outdoors, especially to hike and camp with her new pup, Billy. She also hopes to join some pick-up basketball games when she has the free time. We welcome Julia to our Conservancy team as a Land Protection Coordinator and are planning a canoe trip to introduce her to the wonderful Delaware River.



MELINDA KETCHAM
and PETER VANSLYKE
MONITORING the
WILLOWemoc

(Continued from page 1)

Rift (Bushkill) Creek designated a Class A wild trout stream. With the trail that will be created through this parcel, county residents eager to enjoy Pike's beautiful woodland landscapes can hike from Milford Beach through Gray Towers, the Milford Experimental Forest, and the County Park, ending on the Polatnick property, which will now be within the Buckhorn tract of the Delaware State Forest.

"Priority parcels like this one that protect our flora and fauna and our waters and add to the County's outdoor recreational opportunities are too valuable to lose to development," states Conservancy Executive Director, Sue Currier, "protecting Polatnick is the perfect example of the Scenic Rural Character bond funds at work." The Conservancy will hold and monitor the easement to assure the maintenance of the property's conservation value for now and future generations.



Polatnick Property



Egypt Creek Mountain Laurel

Palmyra's Planning: A Win-Win

Palmyra Township, with the help of Scenic Rural Character Preservation Bond funds, recently updated its comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances. With an eye toward conserving its green space and sustainable development, the Township incorporated the 'transfer of development rights' into its zoning ordinances.

Now a landowner or developer can choose to permanently protect a large tract of land but still maintain the ability to profit from development. By severing development rights from a parcel of unimproved open space and transferring them to a parcel located where development infrastructure already exists, a developer can realize the development profit of that parcel while contributing to ecological health and scenic beauty of the community.

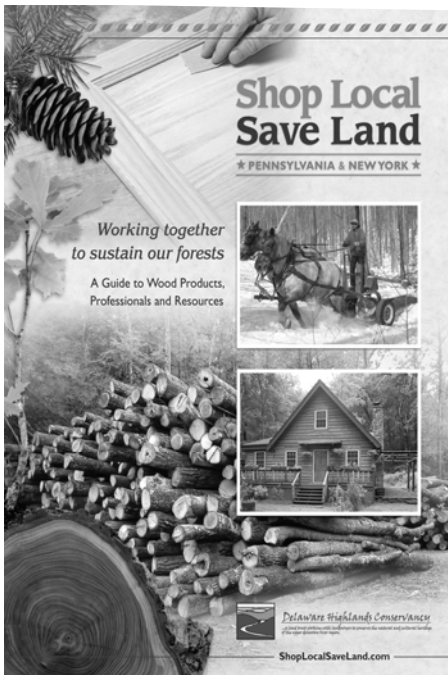
Leading developer, Sam Shahar, took advantage of this opportunity for community-minded development when he transferred the development rights from his 58-acre parcel of land, called Egypt Creek, in Paupack on Route 390 to the area around 507, where residential infrastructure already exists. The 58-acre parcel of forested land containing important freshwater resources is now permanently protected with a conservation easement, which the Conservancy will hold and monitor.

In the transfer of development rights, everybody wins. A developer or landowner maintains the ability to build and profit from it, while acting as a responsible community member invested in the larger goals of conservation and sustainability. The community as a whole benefits when lands with important natural resources and scenic green space that might have been developed are permanently protected.

In incorporating the possibility for transfer of development rights into its zoning ordinances, Palmyra Township sets a conservation-minded example for other communities committed to sustainable development – and to maintaining their environmental health, scenic beauty, and quality of life.

Welcome New Members:

Patricia Aakre, Helen Adair, Laurel Burns, Alan Cohn, Bertrand Delanney, Thomas Didato, Nathan Hadley, Dolores Keesler, Orm and Dot Long, Jane Luchsinger, Shirley Masuo, A. David and Allison Niles, Jeanne Petta, Prosthetic and Orthotic Association, N. Regevik, Crandall Richard, John and Candy Steen, Susan Thompson, Meg Welker, J. Weisberg, Chris Wigand and Freya Williams.



SHOP LOCAL SAVE LAND: GUIDE TO WOOD PRODUCTS

The Conservancy's ***Shop Local, Save Land Guide to Wood Products*** joins its popular guide to farms and farm markets published earlier this summer.

"By promoting our region's local wood and farm products as an excellent economic choice for local citizens and visitors, we are helping to sustain our vital forestlands and farms," says Sue Currier, Executive Director of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

The Conservancy was honored for the creation of the *Shop Local, Save Land Program*. The program joins local and regional businesses in a marketing network and puts local residents and visitors in the Upper Delaware River region, together with agricultural and wood products businesses whose economic success helps maintain the region's rural character and ecological success. Get your own copy at local shops and businesses.

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.

Sustainable Development and Land Conservation

Is it possible for towns to continue developing their land and still be respectful to the environmental resources? Ed McMahon thinks so. The Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Sullivan Renaissance, with sponsorship from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, presented the "Sustainable Development and Land Conservation" seminar, on Sept. 26th, in Liberty, NY.

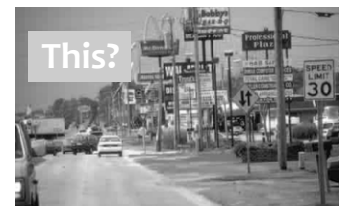
McMahon used his expertise to discuss tools that residents and town officials can use in their own municipality to promote sustainable development. He used examples of towns that have effectively dealt with ongoing development without compromising the environmental and historic resources. He specifically discussed preserving Sullivan County's important historical buildings in connection with maintaining sustainable tourism.

Residents, developers and planning officials from New York and Pennsylvania, attended the seminar. The overall consensus was positive. One participant stated "it was a great chance for our community to see how other communities have successfully incorporated aesthetics into their planning. McMahon did a wonderful job showing that good design and environmental sensitivity can lead to a better local economy," Heather Jacksy, Yulan, NY.

McMahon presented to a smaller group at the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts on Friday night. A video of this presentation will be available through the Sullivan Renaissance website. If your municipality would like a copy of McMahon's book "**Better Models for Development in Pennsylvania**" please contact the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. The Conservancy would like to thank our sponsors and volunteers who helped to make this seminar a success!

Sullivan Renaissance is dedicated to enhancing the appearance of Sullivan County while building a sense of pride and community spirit. Visit them on the web at www.sullivanrenaissance.org or call 845-295-2445.

New York City's Department of Environmental Protection has a comprehensive watershed protection program which focuses on both protective and corrective initiatives, to ensure that its Catskill/Delaware reservoir system remains unfiltered and sustains its extraordinary high quality. Call 1-800-575-LAND for more information.



Salmon Fisherman Protects Land

By Barbara Lewis

BETHEL, NY- How did a salmon fisherman from Alaska happen to be the first person to protect a parcel of land in the town of Bethel, NY, just a stone's throw from the Bethel Woods Arts Center and the original site of the Woodstock Festival?

It just so happens that Lou Barr, a salmon fisherman and former marine biologist, grew up in Kauneonga Lake, NY, where his mother worked at the local post office for many years. Growing up, Lou loved to roam the woods around his family home, hunting, trapping and fishing. "I spent every moment I had outside. That was all that interested me. When school was over, I came home and walked the land. Of course, in my growing up days, I never thought about whose land was whose. I just went as far as I could reach." Miraculously, much of the land that Lou wandered over is still pristine, owned by him and some of his cousins. Yet he is the first one to protect any of this land.

Barr's property spans both sides of Segar Road; encompassing not only his family's original 52 acres but another 67-acre parcel previously owned by a farm family named Segar. Lou and his family stayed with the Segar's when they first came here as summer people back in the 1950's. The rolling farmland is beautiful and excellent for cultivation and the woods provide valuable habitat for a myriad of wildlife. And his land is only two or three miles from the Bethel Woods Performing Arts Center, the site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival. As Lou recalls, "Woodstock had a huge effect when it happened...my folks were totally pinned down here for days...everything was just full...they couldn't move a car."

Lou Barr learned about the Delaware Highlands Conservancy in the 1990's, but his elderly mother had a hard time understanding the concept of a conservation



Above: Lou Barr in his apple orchard



Above: Lou's open meadow

easement. So Lou bided his time, and he didn't pressure her about it. After she died at the age of 98 a couple of years ago, Lou and his two daughters, Valerie and Heather, inherited the family property. This gave Lou the opportunity to go ahead with his plans to protect the family land in perpetuity. "I don't want development. The easement allows for building on the land around the existing house, and on two other small parcels (called "building envelopes") to make the land more saleable. "I got some very good advice from different people [at the Conservancy] on how to handle this thing," says Lou. Asked what is special about his land that makes him want to preserve it, Lou replies, **"If I had the money, I would preserve every piece of natural land in the world. This is the piece I have, so that's what I'll protect...I have tremendous devotion to what's wild."**

The protection of this property was made possible by the New York State Conservation Program, a program supported by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Land Trust Alliance. The program is an innovative public-private partnership that provides competitive matching grants for qualified land trusts throughout New York State, thanks to the Environmental Protection Fund and our local representatives. The grant allowed the Conservancy to secure the necessary funds to place a conservation easement on Lou's property. "I am delighted that the Delaware Highlands Conservancy received this grant funding to protect Mr. Barr's property," said Aileen M. Gunther, Assembly Member for the 98th AD. "I want to thank Mr. Barr and his daughters and congratulate him on being the first to protect his land for future generations."

Lou's protection of his 119 acres is especially significant because of the pristine nature of the land...consisting of woodlands, open fields, and important wetlands. It also sets a precedent for other landowners in the area, who may be encouraged to see the value of protecting their land in a similar way. **As the Town of Bethel celebrates its Bicentennial it also celebrates its first property to be permanently protected by a conservation easement, thanks to the legacy Lou and his daughters have left behind.**

Earth Day in Autumn- A warm day with clear blue skies welcomed visitors to Earth Day in Autumn, Sunday, Sept. 20th, at the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, site of the famous Woodstock Festival. In addition to environmental booths, farmers markets, and local craft vendors, the Conservancy staffed the corn and hay maze. This year we gave out “butterfly wings” to promote the work of the Conservancy and the Butterfly Barn. The wings were a great hit with visitors young and old.

In our annual kayak raffle fundraiser, first prize, an Old Town Otter kayak, generously donated by **Alice’s Wonderland** was won by Bryan Berkenstock. Alice’s Wonderland is a family-run business carrying clothing, footwear, and sporting goods offering quality merchandise in both function and style. Stop in their store at 1581 Route 6 in Greeley or online at www.aliceswonderland.com.

Ann Rhoads won second prize, an overnight stay at **The Settler’s Inn**, a beautifully restored Arts and Crafts Lodge in Hawley, PA. The Inn is also home to a unique chef-owned farm-to-table restaurant. For more details visit www.thesettlersinn.com or call 570-226-2993.

Third prize, a local dining experience of gift certificates to **Ehrhardt’s Lakeside Restaurant**, Hawley, PA. **JJ Macks**, Honesdale, PA and **1906 Restaurant**, Callicoon, NY went to Peter and Marsha Comstock of the Homestead School.



Our bonus early bird prize drawn on Aug. 20th, of a framed wildlife photography by **David B. Soete** was won by Carol VanArtsdalen.

We ask you to join us in thanking this year’s generous raffle sponsors.

STAY CONNECTED



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 or fill in the blank on your membership form.

SIGN UP for EMAIL UPDATES and E-NEWSLETTER

GOOD LUCK HELLE

After 15 years with the Conservancy, Helle Henriksen has decided it’s time to try something new.

Helle’s been integrally involved with the Conservancy: working with Barbara Yeaman and others who shared the dream of a local land trust, establishing the Conservancy as a independent entity, serving on the Board of Directors, volunteering for projects – including coordinating years of successful Meadow Parties, and working as our full-time Pennsylvania Land

Protection Coordinator the last three and a half years – closing easements on thousands of acres.



(L-R): Julia, Melinda, Mike, Gail, Helle, Carson, Amanda, Cindy, Sue

LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION

When the Alliance was created in 1982, there were fewer than 450 local and state land trusts across the country. The first land trusts were true pioneers with little money, but lots of pluck and determination. They formed the Alliance because they believed that by sharing policy, information and training, they could strengthen the work of land trusts everywhere.

Last year the Land Trust Alliance announced an accreditation program for the nation's 1500 land trusts- local, state, regional and national groups that conserve land through voluntary agreements with private landowners in communities across the country. The program is designed to provide independent verification that these groups meet high standards for voluntary land conservation.

Excellence

Accredited land trusts will meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

Trust

Accreditation will provide the public with the assurance that the land trust displaying the accreditation seal meets

established standards for organizational quality and permanent land conservation.

Permanence

The accreditation program will verify that the land trust has the policies and programs in place to keep this promise, either by caring for the land itself or transferring the land to an entity that can.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission will conduct an extensive review of an applicant's policies and programs before making a determination to award accreditation and the right to display the trademarked seal. The accreditation seal will recognize land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

Delaware Highlands Conservancy is planning to apply for accreditation in 2010. As part of this process, public comment is solicited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission regarding compliance with their standards for ethical and technical operation of a land trust. The details about how to make a comment will be made available when the exact date of submission for accreditation is determined.

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

To Make our First Coffee Table Book of the Upper Delaware Highlands

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is in the preliminary stages of creating a book that showcases the landscapes and the people of the Upper Delaware Highlands. The book will focus on the Upper Delaware River, the scenic views and natural habitat of the region, and the people who have made a lasting impact on the region by placing a conservation easement on their property. We are looking for people interested in volunteering their photos, people who have publishing and graphic design skills, writing short stories for the book, and volunteering for the steering committee. If you are interested in working on this exciting project, please contact the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and speak with Melinda Ketcham. She can be reached at the PA office at 570-226-3164 or the NY office at 845-807-0535.



WISH LIST THANK YOU

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bartleson for the four pieces of wicker furniture for the porch of the Hawley Office and Mr. and to Mrs. Jack Torfield for a Hoover Wind Tunnel vacuum and a Magellan Roadmate car GPS unit. Thanks also to Bonnie Evans of Honesdale for permission to use her water color paintings on our note cards.

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

- Perennial plants and gardening help in Hawley
- 48 to 54 inch mat for the office

INSIDE:

885 more acres conserved.
Welcome Julia, new Land Protection Coordinator
Ed McMahon talks sustainable development
Earth Day in Autumn



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

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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