



March 2011

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.

Legacy Leader: Mimi Raleigh

By Barbara Yeaman

It was 1995, and the Delaware Highlands Conservancy was holding one of its initial meetings at Innisfree in Milanville, PA when a kindly gentleman knocked on the door. Tom Raleigh had come to speak to us about protecting his Sullivan County property located in Cochecton, NY from looming development.

Tom acquired the 26-acre tract of land on Sullivan County Road 116 in 1965, and lived there in a small cottage, enjoying the forest and the splashing music of the small creek that crosses in front of the cottage until his death in 2009.

In 1994 Tom learned that a large tract of land directly across the road from him had been subdivided and was likely to be developed in the near future. Could we help him protect his land from a similar fate?

Because his land was so precious to him (and he knew our mission is to preserve the land and waters of this region) Tom left the Conservancy a generous bequest and left the land to his niece Mimi Raleigh.

Tom truly loved his land and his love was joined by his favorite niece Mimi. She visited him and his woods often during her childhood and beyond. She loved the land as he did, and her love only strengthened over the years. "Ever since I was a child, I hoped one day the property would come to me. He and I stayed very close, and as I grew older my love for the land only grew stronger" she concluded. Once title came to her, Mimi thought long and hard about the future of the land, deciding finally to donate the land to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

"Everybody asks me", "Why did you give it away?" Mimi told us referring to the property. So the question remains, why did she give it away? Her answer reflects her inner struggle, "He left it to me because he knew I would preserve it." Yet she realized that living in Westchester County where she built a thriving veterinary practice (she was just nominated by her peers as "One of the Best Veterinaries in Westchester County."), she would not be able to properly care for it.

In her own words, "I knew I wouldn't be able to maintain it, but no way was I going to let that land be sold. He loved it, and I loved it." So she turned instead to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, trusting that whatever we ultimately did with the land, we would protect it first with a conservation easement, as her Uncle Tom requested in his will.



Mimi Raleigh chose to further honor Tom's wish by contacting the Conservancy to transfer title to us. This was accomplished in December 2010. We are very grateful that Tom expressed his wishes for the land in his will. It means that long after Tom Raleigh left this earth, his legacy to us all is reflected in the future care of his beloved land.

If you would like to know more about our "**Legacy Leader**" program, please call the office and we will be happy to explain how it works, and how we can administer this program to meet your needs. Legacy Leaders are a special group of people who give an exceptional gift back to the Conservancy and to the environment. They have the satisfaction of knowing they contributed to protecting the special places of the Upper Delaware River region. They also receive special membership benefits with the Conservancy and possible tax benefits. Their gift will help to protect our beautiful rivers, working farms, wildlife habitat, and forests for future generations. Please call us to learn how you can join this elite group of donors.



This publication is printed on recycled paper.



DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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Amanda Subjin

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Call us:

Main phone: 570-226-3164
Also: 845-807-0535 (NY)

Online:

www.delawarehighlands.org
info@delawarehighlands.org

Upcoming Meetings:

Mar 19 – Land Protection
April 5 – Finance
Apr 11 – Board
Apr 21 – Development
May 14 – Land Protection
May 19 – Development
June 7 – Finance
June 13 – Board

Delaware River Named River of the Year for 2011

"The Delaware provides drinking water for millions; a great fishery for trout, bass and other game fish; recreational opportunities for canoeists, kayakers and other boaters; world-class scenery; and habitat for iconic creatures like the bald eagle and Atlantic sturgeon. Any river that gives so much to so many is certainly entitled to "river of the year" designation, and deserves all the protection that we can give it."

Gregory R. Belcamino, President, Delaware Highlands Conservancy

Other things are new for 2011 at the Delaware Highlands Conservancy — including a **revamped logo** as shown to the left. **Thank you to Amy Miller** for updating our look. We'll be taking this new image across brochures, the newsletters and a redesigned website later this year.

We're also expanding many of our committees as outlined in our updated by-laws. These committees help guide the direction of the Conservancy — and all are looking for new members. To find a committee you'd like to join, contact the office or join us for the Open House to learn how you can help make this be the start of a great new decade for conservation.

A Brunch, Open House & Volunteer Event

508 River Street, Hawley, PA

Saturday, March 26
10AM-1PM



New Volunteers - Come learn from staff and volunteers ways you can help to protect the Upper Delaware.

Existing Volunteers and Committee Members -

An opportunity for volunteers to introduce themselves and share their talents.

Brunch will be served.

Registration is requested.

For more info contact: info@delawarehighlands.org or 570.226.3164

Conservancy Attire

You saw them at the open house, monitoring, or at the latest events — hoodies and golf shirts with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy logo in front and some with a butterfly on back. Now you can have one too:



Melinda Meddaugh, Sue Currier, Amanda Subjin, and Vicky Waldron

Golf Shirts — \$25
(logo only)

Hoodie — \$55
(logo and butterfly)

Call and Order yours by
April 30.



COUPLE PROTECTS SULLIVAN COUNTY WILDLIFE HABITAT

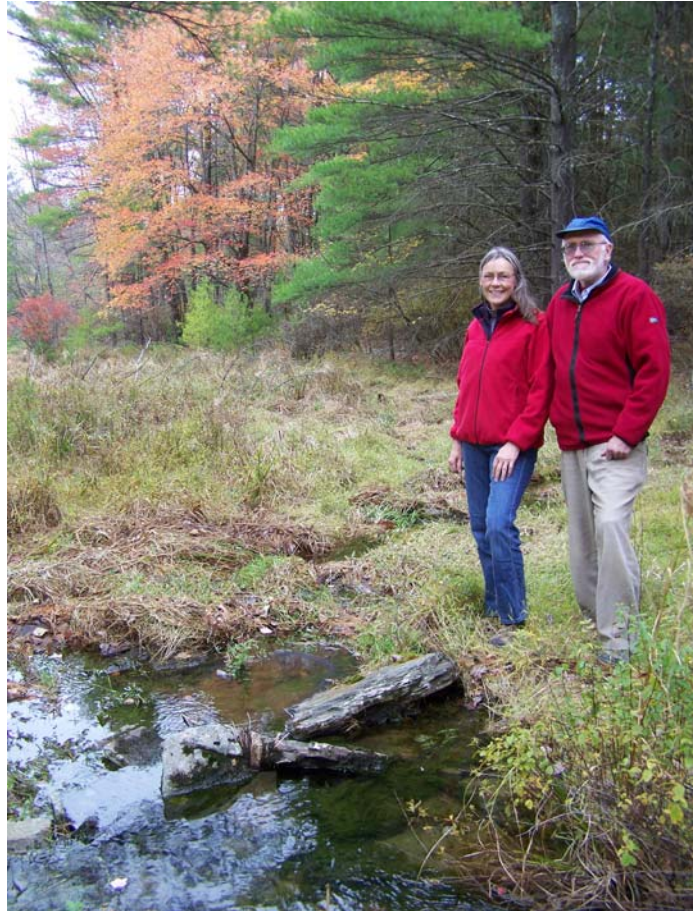
by Barbara Lewis

A group of land parcels in Sullivan County, New York, known as the “Mongaup Sanctuary,” has recently been protected with a conservation easement with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy. The property includes a wetland with a creek running through it, a couple of open fields that used to be farmed, and the rest is woodland. Its wildlife habitat provides home to mammals including bobcats, deer and flying squirrels, a wide variety of plant species and at least 87 bird species from the abundant wild turkeys to the rare pair of resident Red-shouldered Hawks that fledges a family here almost every year. More importantly, the property in this easement is part of a block of undeveloped land that includes state land, a hunting club and a scout camp, all in close proximity.

“The protection of our land is more valuable because it’s not just an isolated area, and because it’s part of the Delaware River watershed,” says Mike Smith, who with his wife Linda, owns these environmentally significant parcels of land.

The Smiths met at Cornell University in the “60’s” when Linda was studying mathematics and Mike was getting a degree in wildlife management. After that, Mike explains, “we corresponded ‘across the planet’ while I spent three years running around the world.” While getting his Masters at the University of Alaska, Mike became convinced that’s where he wanted to live. He came back to Cornell briefly to marry Linda and complete his PhD in natural resources management. Then, with the promise of a job teaching math for Linda, they packed all their belongings in their van and drove to Anchorage. Forty years later they still make their home there. Living in Alaska, Linda says, “We often take for granted that we’re surrounded by so much public land. We have state land, federal land (and) lots of parks.”

So why do they come back every year, spring and fall, to the land of their roots in Glen Spey, New York? Mike’s family goes back five generations to his great-great grandfather who bought land here to build the original family farmstead in 1851, and did subsistence farming. His great-grandfather became the first supervisor for the Town of Lumberland in the 1890’s. His grandfather developed a good chicken, egg and pig business from 1920 through WWII and also worked as a carpenter at some of the big summer estates in Glen Spey, where he met his bride, a domestic who’d recently emigrated from Ireland. They raised three children, Mike’s dad and his two aunts,



Mike and Linda Smith at Mongaup Sanctuary

who all married and moved away but never lost their connection to the family farm where their parents lived out the rest of their lives. Mike was raised in New Jersey and came to New York often to visit his grandparents on the farm. “I was raised in New York and visited my grandparents in New Jersey on the farm,” quips Linda. Mike’s two aunts continued to buy land adjoining their family’s original farmstead, and Mike and Linda have continued to enlarge the Smith family’s holdings, to the present 105 acres.

The Smiths have chosen to protect 101 acres from subdivision, allowing only recreational, limited agricultural, and woodland uses. Though they plan to spend their retirement here and deed the land to their children, their easement assures their property will be protected in perpetuity, no matter who subsequently owns it. Its proximity to other protected lands provides significant public benefit by ensuring that precious habitat will continue to be available to the large variety of wildlife that populates this historically protected environment.

Contact the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or 845-807-0535 to learn how you can protect your land too.

Common Waters Fund: Protecting the Upper Delaware

The **Common Waters Fund** will initially provide \$1 million to private landowners and some conservation and forestry professionals to implement forest management and conservation projects in the Upper Delaware River watershed.

While applying for funds from the Common Waters Fund is a simple process, there are a few basic requirements for **eligibility**:

- At least five acres located in the priority funding area (see map)
- You must be receiving some form of income from your land (typically from timber harvests) or you are otherwise eligible for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program

Applications are available online at www.commonwatersfund.org or through several local resource offices (see website or call the Conservancy). These experts can help you determine your eligibility and assist with your application. Applications will be evaluated based on a project's potential contributions to forest health and water quality. The first applications will be reviewed on May 1, 2011.

What is Funded?

Forest Management Plans

Forest owners can apply for funds to have a forester write a new forest management plan. If you have an existing plan, you can be funded to enhance the plan. The Common Waters Fund will fund 100% of the cost of a new or upgraded plan (note: there is a small application fee).

Forest Management Practices

Landowners can apply for funds to offset the costs of implementing certain forest management practices that will improve forest health and protect water quality. The Common Waters Fund pays set rates for eligible practices. These rates are meant to cover approximately 75% of the costs. The maximum grant award per landowner per year is \$20,000.

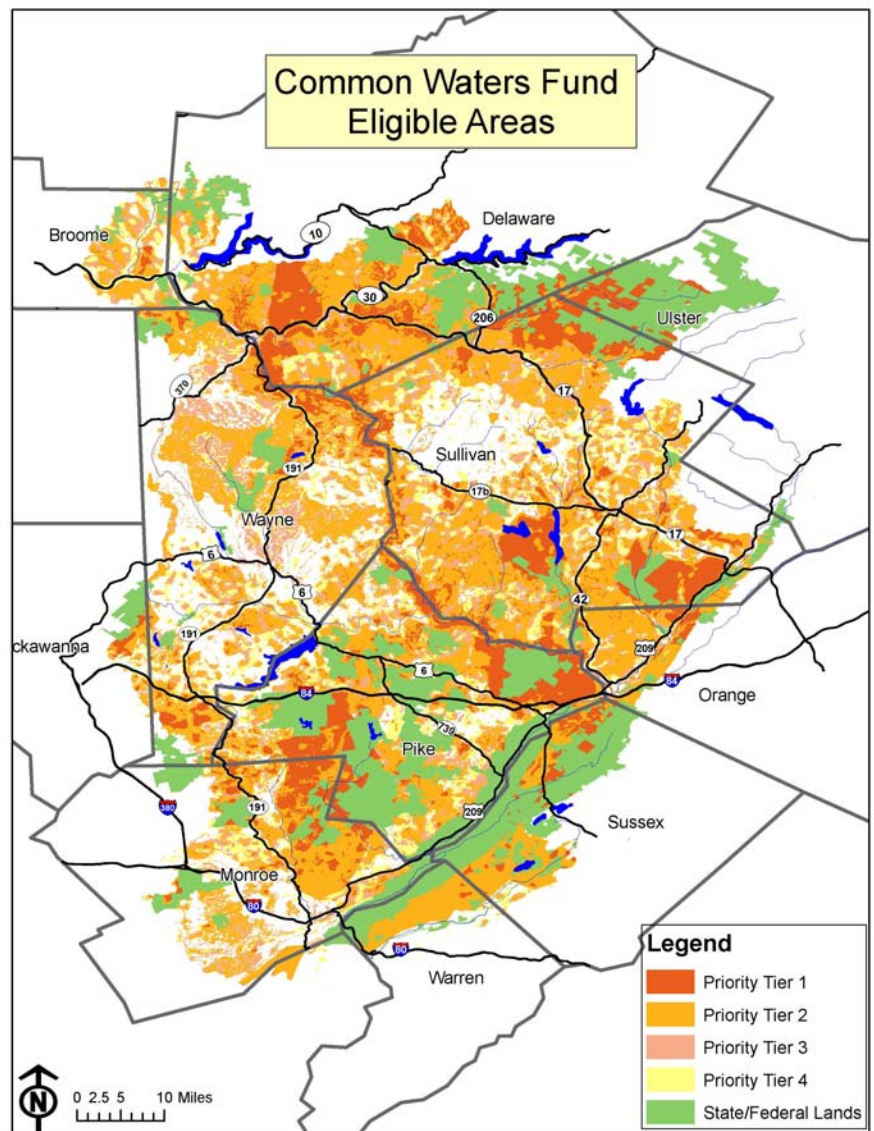
Conservation Easements

Costs associated with protecting land with an easement are also eligible. If you would like to learn more about protecting your land, call the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or 845-807-0535.

Or join us at these an upcoming program on the Financial Benefits of Land Conservation:

Mar. 30 at the PPL Learning Center
Route 6, Hawley, PA, 7-9pm

Mar. 31 at the Dr. Duggan Community Center
3460 Route 55, White Lake, NY, 7-9pm



Upcoming Events

Apr. 2 – Emily Dickinson’s Garden, PPL Environmental Learning Center, Hawley, PA 1:00 - 2:30 pm

The great poet Emily Dickinson loved wildflowers, especially the delicate blooms of March and April. Her quiet life in 19th century Amherst Massachusetts was described by a friend as follows: “Her events were the coming of the first bird, the bursting of a chrysalis...the wondering opening on the new world of every little flower.” Join naturalist Ed Wesely for a virtual tour of the fields and streams that Emily Dickinson knew around Amherst, and of the spring wildflowers that inspired her. Please register for this program, and/or obtain information, by calling or emailing the Delaware Highlands Conservancy at info@delawarehighlands.org.

May 6 – Spring Skies Star Watch, Butterfly Barn, PA 8:30pm

Join local astronomers who will share their telescopes and sky charts to observe deep sky objects and locate the constellations. This program will last about two hours. Bring binoculars and folding chairs, if you have them, and dress for cool weather. Rain Date is May 7th.

May 7– Native Plants Walk and Open House, Dingmans Ferry, PA 9am-12pm

Renowned author and botanist, Dr. Ann Rhoads, will lead a walk on the Akenac Park property and answer questions about the native plants found in a forested community. Participants are invited to enjoy light refreshments and celebrate the 5 year anniversary of the Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program. Dr. Rhoads’ books include “The Plants of Pennsylvania,” “The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania,” and most recently, “Trees of Pennsylvania.” Dr. Rhoads was the Director of Botany for Morris Arboretum and taught Botany at the University of Pennsylvania. This walk is free and open to the public, but prior registration is requested. To reserve your space and receive directions, please call or email the Delaware Highlands Conservancy office.



Member Spotlight

“Protection of our property in an easement assures us of the biodiversity of flora and fauna and of clean water for future generations.”

— Joann Puskarcik

Joann and Roy protected their property at Hempstead Lake with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy

Photo by Roy Morsch

3rd Annual On the Course for Conservation Golf Tournament

With spring just around the corner, golfers are gearing up for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's annual "On the Course for Conservation" golf tournament on **Monday, May 16th** at **The Country Club at Woodloch Springs**, near Hawley, PA.

The event includes a **hearty farm-to-table breakfast** and registration starting at 8:30 AM, followed by a **10 AM shotgun start**. To cap a fun-filled day of golf in support of local land protection, a wine and cheese reception and awards ceremony begins at 3 PM.

On the Course for Conservation is captain and crew format. Cost is \$110 per golfer, which includes breakfast, golf and awards reception.

Conservancy members and supporters who will not be golfing can join in the fun during the reception and awards ceremony at The Country Club at Woodloch Springs. Cost for the reception only is \$50 per person.

Watch for more details from this years co-chairs:
Joe Adams and Ken Myett



3rd Annual Golf Outing
Save the Date
Monday, May 16, 2011

Land Protection Committee — Helping Guide Conservation



Committee Chair: Josh Flad — outside

2011 Land Protection Meetings:

March 19 — 9 - 11:00 am
May 14 — 9 - 11:00 am
July 23 — 9 - 11:00 am
September 17 — 9 - 11:00 am
November 19 — 9 - 10:00 am
December 17 — 9 - 10:00 am

The Land Protection Committee (LPC) of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy is a standing committee charged with evaluating Conservancy land and conservation value protection activities. Land protection policies, procedures and standards are reviewed and discussed by the LPC during meetings.

The Committee does not set Conservancy policy but does provide valued guidance to the Board and Conservancy staff. Recommendations are made to the Board for approval of specific actions as well as improvements to guidance documents.

Other roles of the Committee include: assisting Conservancy staff with outreach to landowners and protection issues, updating our growing database, easement monitoring and partnership development.

Members of the LPC are a devoted group with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Our members for 2011 include: Barbara Yeaman, Carson Helfrich, Don Downs, Jack Gearhart, Jon Villaume, Ken Myett, Scott Van Gorder and Tony Waldron.

We are a small group that is looking to grow. Contact the Conservancy staff if you are interested in joining our efforts.

Join an Evening of Celebration: April 30, 2011

Celebrate over 13,000 acres of protected land with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy at the annual **"Foods of the Delaware Highlands"** gala, a five-course dinner and wine tasting. This year's dinner is **6 pm April 30** at The Settler's Inn located in Hawley, PA. Grant and Jeanne Genzlinger are our hospitality co-chairs for the event.

General dinner invitations will be mailed in mid-March. Ticket prices are \$125 per person (including a \$75 donation to the Conservancy).

Sponsorships are available now and will guarantee tickets to the event, which was sold out last year. Sponsorship requests can be directed to Executive Director Sue Currier or to Dinner Chair Michael Geitz.

This year's dinner will feature both a live and silent auction of unique items including vacation stays in Florida, Washington and France, sporting excursions such as fly fishing, dining experiences with local chefs in your home and an overnight stay and dinner for 6 people at Sayre Mansion in Bethlehem, PA. Additional details will be posted on the website.

Conservator: \$2,500

(4 guaranteed dinner tickets, a \$2,300 donation and a \$500 credit for use in the live auction)

Guardian: \$1,000

(2 guaranteed dinner tickets, a \$900 donation and a \$500 credit for use in the live auction)

Steward: \$500

(2 guaranteed dinner tickets, a \$400 donation)



Conservancy Director Greg Belcamino kicks off the auction
at the 2010 Gala Dinner



Michael Geitz (Dinner Chair), Brenda Ruello (Auction Chair),
and Amy Litzenberger (Sponsor Chair)
invite you to join them this year

Be sure to **RSVP** early for this delicious annual event!

MENU

1st Course

Compressed and Composed Fruit Salad
with Tarragon Verjus Vinaigrette
Wither Hills Sauvignon Blanc 2010, New Zealand

2nd Course

Forks Farm Chicken and Calkins Aged Gouda Sausage,
Tait Farms Tomato Jam
(Vegetarian Option: Crudités with Unique
Dipping Sauces)
Jade Mountain Imperial White 2008, California

Intermezzo

Apricot Chardonnay Sorbet

3rd Course

Blooming Grove Brook Trout and
Prosciutto "Block" Grenobloise Sauce
(Grilled Tofu with Orange Ginger Soy Sauce)
Beaulieu Vineyards Coastal Estates Pinot Noir 2009,
California

4th Course

Tonjes Farm Crispy Veal Risotto Arancini
(Vegetarian Option: Parmesan Risotto Arancini)
Miguel Torres Santa Digna Shiraz 2007, Patagonia, Chile

Dessert

Settler's Inn Chocolate Ganache Cake
Served with "The Farm's" Raspberry Truffle

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

- Perennials for our front garden (and a little good compost too)

- Hanging baskets for plants
- Clipboards
- Flower watering can

Don't forget to recycle your used ink cartridges with us.

INSIDE
A Legacy Left
Land Protected in Sullivan
Common Waters
Upcoming Events
Member Spotlight



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

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