



September 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.

Conserving Land: A Tie That Binds

By Sean Strub

Over the course of my life, I have found various accomplishments that once gave me great pride — especially those that are career-oriented — over time began to fade into memory. I'm still proud of them, but they aren't as important as they once were.

As time passes, **one particular accomplishment, placing a conservation easement on my 377 acres in Dingman Township, is an accomplishment in which I take more and more pride.** In 1999, a sense of responsibility toward my land and stewardship drove me to contact the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and proceed with the easement. Though I knew my decision was important and the right thing to do, it was still a very big step.

What I did not realize then was how much that decision would mean to me and my family in subsequent years. What began as my dream—protecting a gorgeous piece of land—became a vision shared by my closest family. **The easement has literally changed our relationship to the property in a very positive way.**

A few years later, my parents made it possible for a small piece of property to be acquired by the Johnson County Heritage Trust, in Iowa City, Iowa. The property is a rare remnant of native Iowa prairie, with more than 100 species of indigenous wildflowers. The family's response to this was also very positive; my Dad said if he and my Mom had known how popular their decision to protect the property would be with their grandchildren, they would have done it sooner.

Some people view protecting land simply as a philanthropic or charitable endeavor; in our family it has become a prized value that has helped **bridge the gap between generations, great distances and even**

divergent political ideologies. It is a source of pride and an inspiring example for my nieces, nephews and future generations.



Above: The cabin at Dwarfskill in 1940 on the property protected by Sean Strub. Below: A small tributary of the Raymondskill Creek.



This publication is printed on recycled paper.



DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

Officers:

Greg Belcamino, President
Barbara Yeaman, Vice President
Joe Fowler, Treasurer
Scott VanGorder, Secretary

Board Members:

Denise Frangipane
Michael Geitz
Grant Genzlinger
Krista Gromalski

Executive Director:

Sue Currier

Land Protection:

Melinda Meddaugh
Amanda Subjin

Mail us:

P.O. Box 218
Hawley, PA 18428-0218
P.O. Box 219
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Call us:

PA: 570-226-3164
NY: 845-807-0535

Online:

www.delawarehighlands.org
info@delawarehighlands.org

Upcoming Meetings:

Sept. 17 Land Protection
Oct. 22 Annual General Meeting
Nov. 19 Land Protection
Nov. 19 Board Meeting
Dec. 17 Land Protection
Dec. 17 Board Meeting

Congratulations Amanda and Geoff!

Amanda Subjin, the Conservancy's Stewardship and Education Coordinator, and Geoff welcomed their new son, Zebbin. Look for Zebbin's occasional appearances in the office come September, when Amanda returns to work.



'Like' Delaware Highlands on Facebook

If you're into social networking, come check out Delaware Highlands Conservancy's new Facebook page and "Like" us, then spread the word!

There, you can **receive updates and news** about what we're doing, **learn about upcoming events**, and **see photos** of the beautiful areas your donations and volunteer efforts are helping to preserve. You can even **share your own photos** on our page, **ask us any questions** you may have about our work or upcoming events, or **start some interesting conversations** about why you support land conservation in our area. Our page also gives you an easy way to **share your suggestions and ideas** with us.

We are excited to connect with our old friends and make new ones through our new online community, so be sure to stop by!



Left to Right: Sue Currier, Barbara Yeaman with Accreditation Certificate, Virginia Kennedy, Jake Hendee, Melinda Meddaugh and Jamie Barthlomew at the Hawley, PA Office

Meet the Expanded Conservancy Team:



Melinda Meddaugh, Land Protection Coordinator

Melinda works with Sullivan and Delaware, NY landowners to create conservation easements for their properties. She provides landowners with the tools necessary to effectively protect their land. Melinda leads the “Legacy Leader” program that supports the Conservancy through landowner bequests. She contributes to the organization and production of a variety of educational programs and assists New York municipalities and organizations with open space and farmland protection.

Amanda Subjin, Stewardship and Education Coordinator

As Stewardship Coordinator, Amanda responds to questions from landowners regarding their conservation easements and the stewardship of their land. She organizes educational programs for forest landowners in the area, including the Women and their Woods group, and coordinates with local providers for the *Shop Local Save Land* guides and website.



Virginia Kennedy, Outreach and Development Manager

Virginia, her husband, and three children have made their home in the Upper Delaware region since 1993. Before joining the Conservancy full time, Virginia spent the majority of her professional life as a teacher. She taught high school English in the 1980’s and after receiving a MA in literature in 2000, she taught literature and composition as an adjunct professor at Marywood University and the University of Scranton. In 2006, Virginia embarked on obtaining a PhD in English and American Indian Studies at Cornell University and will be completing her doctoral dissertation on environmental ethics in American and American Indian literature this fall.

Virginia has worked part time with the Conservancy as a grant writer and in September will come aboard fulltime as Outreach and Development Manager. Virginia will be working to grow our community of supporters, partner with volunteers, and continue to make the Conservancy an active and engaged presence in our region’s communities through special events and educational programs.

Virginia has big ideas and would like to hear others from our members and supporters. She looks forward to engaging with the community through our new Twitter and Facebook networks and to enhancing the Conservancy’s conservation accomplishments through strengthening outreach and communication in our Conservancy community and beyond.

Jake Hendee, Land Protection Coordinator

Jake Hendee is the first Conservancy staff member who grew up outside of the greater Appalachian Valley. The Conservancy’s new Land Protection Coordinator is originally from Easton, Kansas, a small town west of the Missouri River. He’ll be joining our other Land Protection Coordinator, Melinda Meddaugh, working on all aspects of conservation easements. Jake can work with you one-on-one to help determine whether a conservation easement or other land protection tool is right for you, and can help to answer your questions regarding the best way to protect your land.

Equal parts athlete and intellectual, Jake earned a bachelor’s degree in forest science from the University of Illinois, where he walked onto the football team as a kicker but says he “ended up choosing Big Ten forestry over Big Ten football.” He went on to earn a Master’s in natural resources and environmental sciences.



He has worked with a natural resource social scientist, interned at the forestry department at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and done private consulting. In his experience, he says “land trusts and conservation easements provide some of the most successful examples of disparate groups of people coming together to their own benefit and the benefit of ecosystems of which they are a part.” In Pennsylvania, Jake is looking forward to “new topography, abundant forests, clean and scenic waters, and to becoming a contributing member of our community.”

Delaware Highlands Conservancy Earns National Accreditation

Delaware Highlands Conservancy has earned national recognition for our land conservation work. Receiving accreditation means that the Conservancy meets national quality standards, upholds the public trust and ensures that conservation efforts are permanent. The accreditation seal is given by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. **The Conservancy is one of only 135 land conservation groups in the country to date** that have earned this important distinction.



What does this mean for you?



The Conservancy, in addition to being an important community organization in our region, is now part of a large, nationally recognized collective. Whether you are interested in donating land, philanthropic dollars, or your valuable time, **you can trust that the Conservancy always operates according to the highest professional standards.**

"I am so proud that Delaware Highlands Conservancy is now a recognized Accredited Land Trust. This means that landowners are further assured that we provide expert professional guidance as we help them protect their own very special places throughout this magnificent Upper Delaware River region."

Barbara Yeaman, board member and founder of the Conservancy

As of August 2011, the Conservancy has helped protect over **13,000 acres** throughout Pike, Wayne, Delaware, and Sullivan counties. **The Conservancy offers landowners and communities the tools necessary to protect lands in ways that are effective, flexible, and specific to our region's local concerns.** Conserving land is critical for clean air and drinking water, growing safe food, and protecting wildlife habitat and scenic places for people of all ages to get outside and connect with nature.

For more information please contact us at one of our two conveniently located offices by calling 570-226-3164 (PA office) or 845-807-0535 (NY office). Or, send an email to info@delawarehighlands.org.

"Completing the accreditation process helped the Delaware Highlands Conservancy prepare itself to grow and to become more effective in protecting land. We can now say, with confidence, that we comply with the highest standards in the land trust community."

- President Greg Belcamino

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awards the accreditation seal to organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands and for organizational operation and management. The Commission is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. More information is available on the Commission's website, www.landtrustaccreditation.org.



Raffle supports the
DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

FIRST PRIZE Old Town Otter 9.5' kayak & paddle (courtesy of Alice's Wonderland, Greeley, PA)

SECOND PRIZE Three Separate One-night mid-week stays: One at the Settlers Inn, one at the Ledges Hotel in Hawley, PA and One at the Sayre Mansion in Bethlehem, PA

THIRD PRIZE \$50 Gift Certificate from Alice's Wonderland

Drawing Sept. 18, 2011



Congratulations to
Dr. **Dick Traves**, of the
Cherry Ridge Veterinary
Clinic,
winner of this photo by
Dave Soete.



Win this KAYAK!

New Shop Local, Save Land Member: The Rock Hill Farmers' Market!

The Rock Hill Business & Community Association is proud to announce the Rock Hill Farmers' Market located in Rock Hill, Sullivan County, NY **every Saturday from 10am—1pm** at the Ambulance Corps property, located at 96 Lake Louise Marie Road. The market opened on June 25 and will run until October 9, 2011.

Customers can find local produce, dairy products, soaps (locally made), peaches, wine, maple syrup, honey, baked goods, and cut flowers from the following Sullivan County farms and vendors: **Neversink Farm, M&S Farm, Catskill Soap Company, Beaver Dam Brook Farm, The Bake House, Catskill Mountain Sugar House, Trussbridge Farm and Bashakill Vineyards.**

To join the Rock Hill Farmers' Market e-mail list and receive weekly news regarding vendor and seasonal produce availability, send an e-mail to rhfarmersmarket@gmail.com.



Happy market attendees buy fresh produce from Beaver Dam Brook Farm



The ribbon cutting ceremony

For more information on other area farmers' markets and the **Shop Local Save Land** initiative, visit

www.shoplocalsaveland.com.

**Shop Local
Save Land**

★ ShopLocalSaveLand.com ★

You'll find directions to area farms, wineries, and farm markets to purchase fresh local produce and other locally sourced goods, information about upcoming events and tours, and guides for finding local forest products or forestry services.

It's an easy way to enjoy the bounty this area has to offer, support the local economy, and strengthen your own connections to the land.

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. These projects are meant to help preserve land and protect sources of drinking water for 15 million people in the local area and surrounding regions.

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 Common Waters 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.

For more information on the Common Waters Fund and your options for protecting your land, join us at these upcoming programs on the

Financial Benefits of Land Conservation:
Sept. 28 at the PPL Learning Center,
Route 6, Hawley, PA, 7-9pm
Oct. 27 in Liberty, NY
7-9pm

Please call to reserve your space.

quality.

What is Funded?

Conservation Easements

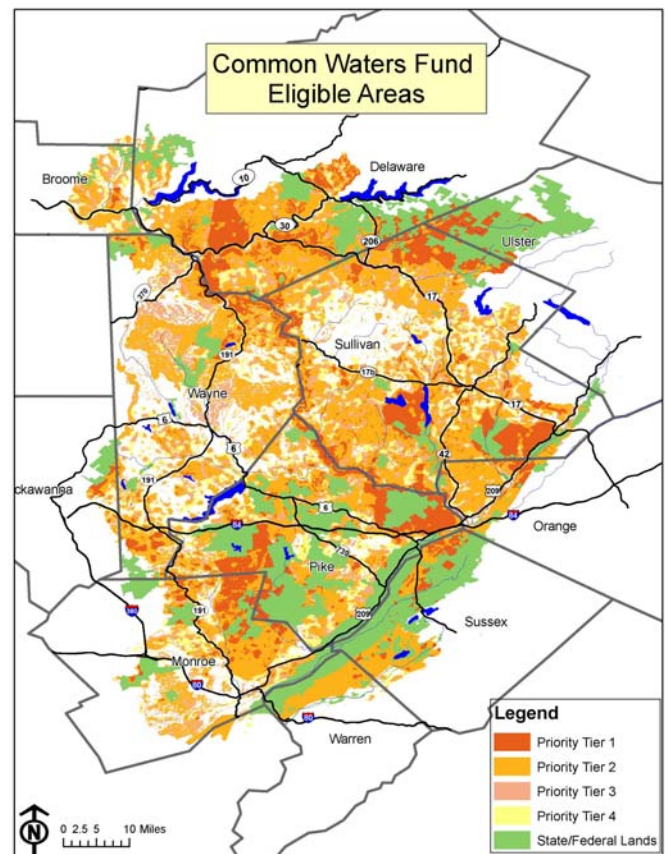
Costs associated with protecting land with an easement are eligible. If you would like to learn more about protecting your land, call the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or 845-807-0535. You may also visit our website at www.delawarehighlands.org, or send an e-mail to info@delawarehighlands.org.

Forest Management Plans

Forest land owners can apply for funds to have a forester write a new forest management plan. If you have an existing plan, enhancement of that plan can be funded. 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 percent of costs. The maximum grant award per landowner per year is \$20,000.



Upcoming Events

Sunday September 18 — Earth Day in Autumn at Bethel Woods

Stop by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy booth at Earth Day in Autumn at Bethel Woods on the site of the famous Woodstock Festival. For more information visit www.sullivanrenaissance.org.

Saturday September 24 — Woods Walk:

The Future of Your Forest

NEW is part of the Forestry Field Days program in coordination with DCNR and Pike County. Take a hike through the beautiful Schoonover Residence in Bushkill, PA, while learning about managing a woodlot and lumbering opportunities from foresters and hearing the owners' goals and objectives for their property. This event is free and open to the public. **To register & receive directions, contact Mike Roche at 570-656-6672 or miroche@state.pa.us.**



Sunday September 25 — Neversink Unique Area Hike, Rock Hill, NY, 10am-12pm

Hike down to the Neversink River and learn about the history of the area. **Registration Required.** Call 570-226-3164 or 845-807-0535.

Wednesday September 28 — Financial Benefits of Land Conservation, PPL Learning Center, Hawley, PA 7-9pm

Learn how to keep lands in the family from generation to generation through estate planning options. Sponsored by Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program.

Friday September 30 — Autumn Skies Star Watch, Butterfly Barn, PA 8:00pm

Observe deep sky objects and learn how to locate constellations. Local astronomers share telescopes and lead star gazing. This program will last about two hours. Bring binoculars, and folding chairs, if you have them, and dress for cool weather.

Rain Date: October 1.



Thursday to Sunday October 13-16 — Women and Their Woods

Join the Conservancy female staff and women woodland owners from Delaware Highlands and across the eastern U.S.



for a three-day retreat on forest stewardship and management, hosted by the Penn State Cooperative Extension and funded in part by the USDA. Cost is \$130, which includes all lodging and meals. Call the Conservancy to reserve a spot: 570-226-3164.

Friday October 21 — Wildlife and the Forest Ecosystem, Pike County, PA 7am -12pm



Part of the Forestry Field Days program in coordination with DCNR and Pike County. Walk a protected property and learn about the ecosystems of our regions forests. \$5 per attendee. Early morning bird walk at 7am.

Saturday October 22 — Annual General Meeting PPL Environmental Learning Center, Hawley PA 10:00 am

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

Thursday October 27 — Financial Benefits of Land Conservation, Sullivan County, NY 7-9pm

Landowners learn how to keep cherished lands in the family and protect the landscape in perpetuity. Town officials will learn about conservation easements and more. Visit www.delawarehighlands.org for details.

Tuesday November 15 — Financial Planning for Your Forest, Pike County, PA 6:30-9pm



Join an attorney, a financial planner and a forest landowner as they walk you through financial & estate planning options for your forestland. Part of the Forestry Field Days program in coordination with DCNR and Pike County. \$5 per attendee / couple.

For more information visit www.DelawareHighlands.org or find us on facebook

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.

JOIN THE TEAM: VOLUNTEER TODAY

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is always looking for new volunteers — for an afternoon, an activity or for a longer term commitment on one of our committees. Call the office to find out how you can help.

INSIDE
Delaware Highlands Conservancy Accredited
Meet the team
Upcoming Events
Kayak Raffle



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

DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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