



DELAWARE  
HIGHLANDS  
CONSERVANCY

*Conserving our natural heritage and  
quality of life in partnership with landowners  
and the communities of the Upper Delaware region.*

# Annual Report 2011

## **2011 was an eventful year for the Conservancy.**

**We have met the challenges of 2010 with resolve and built on its successes with enthusiasm.** We addressed the challenge of natural gas drilling in the region with a set of clearly articulated guidelines, and we began to bounce back from the recession-imposed hardships of last year. Our diligent work towards accreditation in 2010 was met with success in 2011. We protected multiple properties, and with the support of our members and supporters, we have moved forward to strengthen and expand our land protection and educational outreach capacities.

### **LAND PROTECTION**

**The Conservancy has currently protected over 13,000 acres in Pennsylvania and New York.** Our land protection success lies largely in our focus on carefully listening to landowners and understanding their needs for their properties. The Conservancy's land protection staff members use their considerable expertise to emphasize recording comprehensive baseline data and to clearly explain the need for annual monitoring. Our land protection experts build the personal relationships necessary for easement creating and monitoring, and we focus community outreach on the goal of making sure our whole regional community understands how protection of private lands mean healthier lands and waters for all. **2011 was a good year for land protection.** The Conservancy completed four easements, two in Pike County, PA and two in Sullivan County, NY for a total of 267 acres covering lands on both sides of the river.

### **The Conservancy added the 45- acre Lemons Brook II easement to its protected properties.**

Lemons Brook Farm II is located in the Town of Bethel, in Sullivan County, NY close to the Bethel Woods Performing Arts Center, the site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival. Owner Rudy Magnan, who has tremendous

respect for the natural world, was intent upon protecting the flora and fauna that thrive on his property. The Conservancy worked closely with Rudy to assure the land and all its natural values would be protected now and into perpetuity. Lemons Brook Farm II is adjacent to an existing 119-acre easement—Lemons Brook Farm, now the site of our Sullivan County office—also held by the Conservancy. Together, the two properties form a permanently protected greenway. This easement was also made possible with grant funding support from the Common Waters Fund, which helps private landowners sustainably manage and preserve land and water resources.

**Another Sullivan County property, Sulphur Springs Farm, is a 166 acre dairy farm with rich soils and pasture and hay lands.** Sulphur Springs lies within the Callicoon Creek Watershed, a tributary of the Delaware River. The easement was purchased with contributing funds from NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and the Open Space Institute. With the easement in place, the farm was purchased by a neighboring farmer. So, the property continues to be active agricultural land and, with easement protection, will be healthy farmland into perpetuity.



*View of the dairy farm from the farm's outer fields.*



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**The Conservancy also completed two easements on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River. Lake Lattimore II and III totaling 56 acres.** Lake Lattimore II and III are particularly notable because they are the result of neighbors coming together to protect important lands that might otherwise have been purchased for development. Lattimore II and III constitute an important scenic by-way. Wetlands and a long stretch of Dingmans Creek and Nichecronk Brook flow through



*View of Dingmans Creek as it runs through the Lake Lattimore easements.*

the parcel. The easement protects a half mile of forested scenery along Silver Lake Road. When this 56-acre property came on the market in 2007, neighbors were concerned about the possibilities of development. Alan Dolge and Jim Doyle, owners of a neighboring properties, had experience with conservation easements and their role in protecting healthy lands and waters. Mr. Dolge, Mr. Doyle, and their neighbors, members of the Lake Lattimore and Woodpecker Lake communities, valued their lands and vistas enough to ante-up the purchase price for the parcel.

**In all, six adjacent landowners each contributed to the effort.** In the process they formed a Partnership and approached the Conservancy seeking a conservation easement that would provide permanent protection for this land. The 56 acres is bisected by Silver Lake Road, a Pike County Scenic Byway, and is adjacent to an 85-acre property, the Lake Lattimore I conservation easement, already protected by the Conservancy. The 20 acre easement north of the Silver Lake Road is a “forever wild” easement that does not permit residential or commercial buildings. The easement covering the 36.5 acres south of Silver Lake Road (about half are wetlands) will permit a residence and ancillary structures that will permit limited agricultural use. **Combined, the Lake Lattimore conservation easements protect 141 acres along Silver Lake Road.** The Conservancy working on behalf of the Partnership sought funding for incidental costs from the Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation (SRCP) program through the donated easement program. The SRCP donated easement program encourages landowners to voluntarily protect their land by covering many of the associated

costs. This became the first project for this SRCP program. The entire Pike County community will benefit from the conservation of the scenic beauty and protection of wildlife habitat and water quality of Dingmans Creek and Nichecronk Brook. **It was all made possible by neighbors who care about their lands working together to protect them.**

## ACCREDITATION

**You have probably noticed the symbol of accreditation by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission on your recent issues of the *Highlands Journal* and other Conservancy publications.** The Conservancy undertook the huge challenge of seeking accreditation two years ago, and during the past couple of years, the necessary efforts to acquire accreditation have been resource and time intensive. It was time well worth the effort.

**This year, the Conservancy was awarded our hard earned accreditation.** The accreditation seal is given by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. The Commission is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. The seal indicates that the Conservancy has received national recognition for our land conservation work because it meets national quality standards, upholds the public trust, and ensures that conservation efforts are permanent. **The Conservancy is one of only 158 land conservation groups to date nation-wide that have earned this important distinction.** The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awards the accreditation seal to organizations that meet the highest standards for protecting important natural places and working lands, for organizational operation and management, and for upholding the ethical standards of our land protection mission.



*Grandparents and their grandchild enjoy a view of the Delaware River Valley on the ledges above Milford.*

## PARTNERSHIPS

**The Conservancy continues to be engaged in strong partnerships with other regional organizations, both public and private, that share our conservation goals.** Shop Local Save, Save Land, in its fourth successful year, is an initiative connecting consumers to local farm and forest products and educational information

to support working lands and protect scenic rural character, cultural heritage, and quality of life. The Common Waters Fund, a partnership of public and non-profit organizations, helps forest landowners in the Upper Delaware River region improve the management of their private forest lands in order to support the development of sustainable communities and working landscapes in the watershed. These partnerships and others in which the Conservancy participates foster dedication to the

conservation of the Upper Delaware River region's natural heritage and sustainable local economies.



## Woman and Their Woods

In 2008, the Conservancy realized that due to demographic trends, increasing numbers of women are becoming the owners and managers of forestland.

**Because women landowners often feel they lack the knowledge to make informed decisions about land, the Conservancy, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and PA DCNR, began**



*Women landowners at the Woman and Their Woods Retreat  
Photo courtesy of Jim Finley*

**offering conservation education programs targeted to women forest landowners, and Women and Their Woods was born. In 2011, Woman and Their Woods held its first overnight retreat.** The Retreat was the culmination of a series of prior workshops. Attendees were selected through an application process focused on women who would be

willing to attend the Retreat in order to become mentors for other women landowners across their regions. Participants attended workshops with thirteen presenters representing diverse organizations like PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Penn State University, USDA Forest Service, Oregon State University and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The Conservancy and Penn State University will continue to provide educational outreach to the women mentors and support them in creating their own regional *Women and their Woods* groups. The Conservancy will also be participating in a national effort to research the educational needs of women forest landowners and to develop a curriculum to be used by various educators to enhance the *Women and Their Woods* network.

## NATURAL GAS GUIDELINES

**The challenge of natural gas drilling in the region has been a critical one for the Conservancy, and we have undertaken to meet that challenge through a careful process in line with our mission and our conservation ethics. In 2011, the Conservancy Board approved a set of gas guidelines clearly stating that gas extraction is not**



*View of the Roebing Bridge at the confluence of the Delaware and Lackawaxen Rivers.*

**compatible with our mission.** As a result we will consider allowing a gas extraction exception only under extraordinary circumstances in order to protect lands of exceptional value. These guidelines have resulted from the dedicated work of a group of volunteers who grappled with this issue for over a year. We believe our response is rigorous, realistic, and in line with our mission to protect the lands, waters, and quality of life in the Upper Delaware River Region. (Guidelines available in full on our website: [www.DelawareHighlands.org](http://www.DelawareHighlands.org))

## A BRAND NEW POSITION

**This year we added an important new staff position. In September, we welcomed Virginia Kennedy, who is completing her Ph.D. in English and American Indian Studies at Cornell, as Outreach and Development Manager.** Virginia's position was made possible through a Professional

Development grant from the Land Trust Alliance. Virginia is focused on enhancing the engagement between the Conservancy and its members and the larger regional community through outreach and programming, as well as on increasing the Conservancy's fundraising capacity. Successful outreach and fundraising mean more lands protected and more members of the community invested in the Conservancy's mission to protect healthy lands and waters now and for future generations.

## 2011 FINANCIAL SUMMARY - AUDITED

### Operating Income

Cash Donations	\$ 102,569
Educational and Other Events	74,948
Grants	57,299
Land Protection and Related Services	50,041
Service Donation	24,710
Memberships	24,370
Investment Income and Gains	<u>22,235</u>
Total Income	\$ 356,172

### Operating Expenses

Program Expenses	\$ 251,522
Management and General*	<u>76,411</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 327,933

### Selected Assets as of 12/31/11

Cash and Marketable Securities	\$ 504,908
Monitoring Stewardship Fund	\$ 261,517
Accounts Receivable	\$ 57,247

\* Total Fundraising Expense \$6,967

### Officers, as of Dec 31, 2011

Greg Belcamino, President  
Barbara Yeaman, Vice President  
Grant Genzlinger, Secretary  
Joe Fowler, Treasurer

### Board Members

Denise Frangipane  
Michael Geitz  
Krista Gromalski

### Conservancy Staff

Sue Currier, Executive Director  
Jake Hendee, Land Protection Coordinator  
Melinda Meddaugh, Land Protection Coordinator  
Amanda Subjin, Stewardship Coordinator  
Virginia Kennedy, Outreach and Development Manager

## Thanks to our 2011 Members

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