



DELAWARE
HIGHLANDS
CONSERVANCY

2014 Annual Report

Celebrating 20 Years

2014 was a special year for the Conservancy as we celebrated our 20th anniversary and took time to reflect on the individuals and organizations whose efforts have made our work possible.

Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of sponsors and attendees, we hosted a 20th anniversary celebration—and a 90th birthday party for our founder, Barbara Yeaman—at Bethel Woods in Sullivan County, NY. With live music, a delicious

meal made from locally sourced ingredients, and an auction befitting the occasion—the naming one of our Sullivan County eagle-viewing blinds as the “Barbara Yeaman Eagle Observation Area”—it was a night we will always remember!

Guests received a commemorative 20th anniversary book, highlighting the Conservancy’s key accomplishments over the past two decades—and of course, the people who gave their time and energy to make it happen. We still have a limited number of books available for any donor who contributes \$250 or more to the Conservancy this year.

— continues on page 3



Look where we live!

Remember to visit TrailKeeper.org, your one-stop source for Sullivan County hiking trails and guides to hiking safely—and stay tuned for TrailKeeper’s series of hiking events planned in 2015.

Keep up with your Conservancy

Find us on DelawareHighlands.org, on Facebook  at www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy, and on Twitter  @DHConservancy to stay up to date with all the latest happenings and follow along with our seasonal photo albums. (And don’t forget to sign up for our e-news!)

Shop Local Save Land

★ PENNSYLVANIA & NEW YORK ★

Supporting our
working farms
and forests

Visit ShopLocalSaveLand.com to find a searchable database for local farm and forest products. From farms and farm markets to foresters, sawmills, and locally made furniture, when you shop locally, **you help to sustain the farm and forestlands that sustain all of us.**

Making Connections

Supporting Tourism, Community, and Conservation



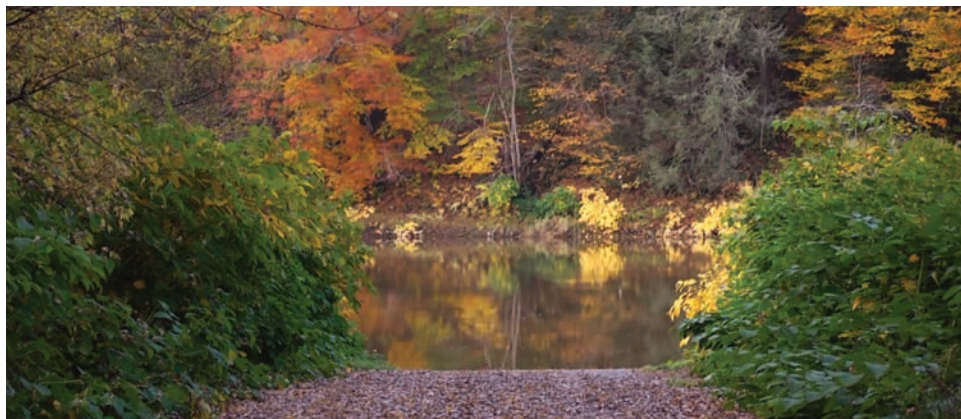
Green Lodging

The award-winning Green Lodging Partnership—in which local business owners ask guests to invest \$2 per stay toward local conservation—has now grown to include 16 properties across our region of PA and NY. The initiative has raised a mind-boggling \$50,000 to date (which, to put it in perspective, means more than 25,000 individuals and families have said yes to the \$2 donation). What a great way to share the message of land conservation!



Thank You to Our Volunteers

As a small nonprofit organization, we do our best to stretch every dollar. As a result, we can't say enough great things about our volunteers—the ones who take care of the grounds at our Bethel office; who show up with a smile to spend the day stuffing envelopes; who serve on the committees that help direct all of our activities and initiatives; and of course, the ones who spend their winter weekends outdoors in the cold, helping visitors to our region have a great eagle-watching experience. Thank you to all of our volunteers who are so generous with their time and energy, and unflagging in their enthusiasm.



Better Access in Long Eddy, NY

The Conservancy's effort to purchase the Long Eddy river access in Sullivan County, NY and transfer it to the NYS DEC for improvements is part of a local Waterfront Revitalization Program, which is focused on improvements to six access points along the Delaware River to revitalize river communities and enhance our economic vitality. Donations toward the project through our fundraising campaign not only met but wildly exceeded our \$5,000 goal on Indiegogo.com—and they're still coming in! Every dollar donated goes directly to the project and benefits the local community, its businesses, and all river users. We also thank the Open Space Institute for making the project possible.



Investing in Clean Water

In exciting news for the entire Delaware River watershed, in 2014 the William Penn Foundation of Philadelphia announced a \$35 million dollar multi-year initiative to protect and restore critical sources of drinking water. The grant funds collaboration among conservation organizations—including the Conservancy—who are working together to protect lands and waters. Our community, our local economy, and the quality of life we enjoy are dependent upon our ability to protect our water.



Hiking and Learning in NY

Our outdoor classroom at our office in Bethel, NY continued to grow in 2014, thanks to an Environmental Initiatives grant from Sullivan Renaissance. This year, we hosted a Pollinator Party, where attendees planted a pollinator garden and learned about the plants favored by butterflies and bees, and how to convert lawn to meadow. Then, this fall, we cut the ribbon on our new woodland trail, designed and created by volunteers Ed Morse and Dawson Smith, featuring interpretive stops along the way. **We're planning a series of volunteer-led nature walks this summer on our trail, so keep an eye on our website for details.**

Celebrating 20 Years

In land conservation, when we talk about protecting land “forever,” twenty years starts to seem like a very short time. But what our anniversary has reminded us is that this responsibility is not one we face alone.

It is our shared responsibility to protect the lands and waters of this area we love—and as we all work together to plan for the future, we know that we are laying the foundation for generations to come, and are inspired by the passion and dedication of the conservation community.



Conservancy founder Barbara Yeaman with her daughter Suzanne, son Bill, and board member Brenda Ruello.



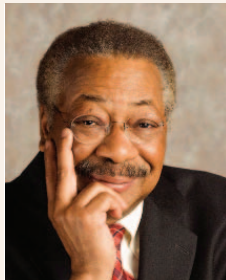
In Memoriam

This year we remember and celebrate the lives of the members of our conservation community who passed away in 2014.

We express our gratitude for the many people who have come together with an outpouring of support for the friends and family of those we lost, and those who have chosen to honor their memory with a contribution to the Conservancy.

The Conservancy also thanks the Estate of Becky Finch for their generous contribution to pay for an annual memorial eagle-watching excursion to benefit the Conservancy, whose work was important to and valued by Becky.

In addition, the Conservancy thanks the individuals and groups who made contributions **in memory of** Douglas Rowedder, Becky Finch, Dr. Clement Price, Richard Snyder, and Vanessa Van Gorder; and **in honor of** Anonymous, Angus, Jimmy Curran, Don and Edie Downs, Olga Garcia, Ron Sarachan, Ann Wojcik, and Barbara Yeaman.



Clement Price

1945-2014

Dr. Clement Price was a distinguished professor at Rutgers University and a Newark historian, and was a long-time, generous friend of the Conservancy. His warmth and wisdom will never be forgotten.



Richard “Dick” Snyder

1940-2014

Dick Snyder, a prominent Milford businessman, philanthropist, and conservationist, was also a dedicated and generous friend of the Conservancy and a community leader in our region. We'll always remember and appreciate his enthusiasm for the Conservancy's work.



Vanessa Van Gorder

1990-2014

Vanessa Van Gorder, daughter of board member Scott Van Gorder and his wife, Beth, was a kind and welcoming friend to all who crossed her path. She had recently graduated from West Chester University, and loved more than anything to spend her time outdoors in the woods, rivers, and lakes of Pennsylvania.

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.” – JOHN MUIR

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U.S. Forest Service
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Christine Yaun-Crary
William Yeaman
Donna Zaleski
Faith Zerbe and Gokhan Seker

Legacy Leaders

The following people have included the Conservancy in their estate plans.

Sue Currier
Mary Evans
Susanne Hand and David Kinsey
Susan Hartney
Alfred Lees and Ronald Nelson
Ed MacGregor
Dorothy Merrill (*deceased*)
Sally and Enrico Moretti
Kimberly (Mimi) Raleigh
Brenda Seldin
Shary and Gary Skoloff
Richard Snyder (*deceased*)
Sigrid Wilshinsky
Jonathan Wind
Barbara Yeaman

Sustainers

The following people make monthly contributions to the Conservancy.

Anonymous
Roy Borgfeld
Julie and Kevin Kulak
Jamie Bartholomew
Bob and Gail Lowden
Clark and Peggy Pitcairn
Thomas O'Keefe and Teresa Stack
Fred Buchholz and Helen Ripple
Jerre and Linda Coleman
Gary Roth
Leon and Ginger Smith

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Hotel Fauchère
James Manning House
Ledges Hotel
Pepacton Cabins
Roebing Inn on the Delaware
Starlight Lodge
The Inn at Starlight Lake
The Lodge at Woodloch
The Settlers Inn
The Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort
The Sullivan
Villa Roma Resort
Woodloch Resort

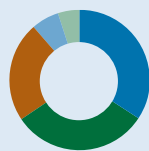
President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of the Board of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, I would like to thank you for your continued support last year. As a not-for-profit, our organization depends on the sustained generosity of donors like you who share our vision for the conservation of the unique habitat of the upper Delaware River region. Unlike some other organizations, however, the Conservancy does not have the luxury of utilizing an endowment fund to meet our day to day expenses. Our ability to maintain the critical work of creating property easements to protect the environment is entirely subject to being able to fund our operations from outside donations. One of our greatest challenges is reconciling the need to protect those easements forever through year-to-year fundraising efforts. Please be assured that your support, no matter how big or small, makes a huge difference to the success of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy.

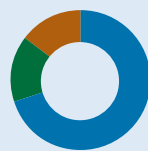
Michael Geitz

Michael Geitz



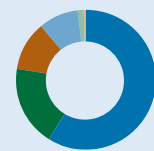
Operating Income 2014

Donations	\$ 149,000
Events & Education	\$ 136,000
Grants	\$ 99,000
Investment Income & Gains	\$ 28,000
Services	\$ 21,000
Total:	\$ 433,000



Operating Expenses 2014

Program Expenses	\$ 315,000
Management & General	\$ 69,000
Fundraising	\$ 65,000
Total:	\$ 449,000



Select Assets as of 12/31/14

Stewardship & Defense Funds	\$ 770,000
Cash & Marketable Securities	\$ 241,000
Land Protection Funds	\$ 150,000
Property & Equipment	\$ 121,000
Accounts Receivable	\$ 15,000
Other	\$ 7,000
Total:	\$1,304,000



Upcoming 2015 Events

Join the Delaware Highlands Conservancy at our fun and educational events scheduled throughout 2015.

Most events require advance registration—call the Conservancy at 570-226-3164, 845-583-1010, or email info@delawarehighlands.org to learn more. Our events calendar is always available and up-to-date on DelawareHighlands.org.*



April 14-15

Green Tourism Conference • Woodloch Resort, Hawley, PA

An annual conference bringing together lodgings, restaurants, recreational activity vendors, and communities from across the Upper Delaware River and Catskill Mountains region to learn about building sustainable businesses and partnerships. Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org/greentourism to learn more and register.

April 24-26

Hawley EarthFest • Hawley, PA

Hawley, PA invites you to join in the celebration of love for planet Earth!

Local businesses and conservation organizations—including the Delaware Highlands Conservancy—will be offering programs, activities, and events for a weekend of celebrating, learning, and exploring.



April 25-26

Women and Their Woods Spring Workshop • Milford, PA

An exciting weekend touring Grey Towers National Historic Site, former home of conservationist Gifford Pinchot and his talented wife, Cornelia. Then, help to reintroduce the American chestnut at the nearby Milford Experimental Forest.

May 2

Foods of the Delaware Highlands Dinner

The Settlers Inn, Hawley, PA

Join us to celebrate accomplishments in the Upper Delaware River region. The event will feature delicious cuisine prepared with locally grown and produced organic ingredients, paired with appropriate fine wines. Tickets are \$125.00 per person for the four-course meal. This dinner sells out annually, so register early.

May 16

Financial Benefits of Land Conservation • Milford, PA

Learn how to keep cherished lands in the family, protect your lands and waters forever, and receive financial and estate planning benefits from doing so.

June 13

**Native Plants Walk with
Ann Rhoads at NatureFest
Lake Ariel, PA**

New this year, join us at Lacawac Sanctuary's NatureFest for our annual Native Plants Walk with renowned botanist Dr. Ann Rhoads.



June – August

**Guided Nature Walks with
the Conservancy
Bethel Office, NY**

Join Conservancy volunteers for guided nature walks on our woodland trail and learn about what you see. Select weekends available through the summer; visit website for details.



July 11

Walkabout the Partner Ridge Trail • Lake Ariel, PA

Join Jamie Bartholomew at Lacawac Sanctuary for a guided hike on the Partner Ridge trail.

August 29

**Community Picnic for Our Members, Volunteers,
and Friends • Bethel Office, NY**

Our annual free picnic for our members and friends at our Bethel, NY office features entertainment, music, guided walks, delicious local food, and more.

October 10

Fall Hike – Tusten Mountain Trail • Tusten, NY

Join the Conservancy for a two-hour guided hike and learn about the ecology and history of the area.

December 5

**Eagle Watch Volunteer Training
Lackawaxen, PA**

Join us for an overview of the volunteer program followed by visits to monitoring sites. To register or for more information, contact volunteer@delawarehighlands.org.



*Event dates and times subject to change; visit www.DelawareHighlands.org for the most up-to-date information.

Eagles in Our Region

We're happy to report that the bald eagle population in our region—including resident pairs who live here year-round, and the wintering eagles who come here from Canada and upstate New York in search of open water—are continuing to thrive here in the healthy forests and clean waters of the Upper Delaware and Catskill Mountains region.

We were able to expand our educational eagle programming in 2014, thanks to generous support from our partners, grant funders, and of course, you—our members and friends. Thank you for stopping by our Upper Delaware Visitor Center in Lackawaxen, joining us for an Eagle Watch bus tour or “Little Sparrow and the Eagles” event, or helping us to share the message that eagles—and people—thrive when our lands and waters are healthy and clean.



© STEPHEN DAVIS

Thank you

You, our members and supporters, make land protection and conservation possible.

Visit DelawareHighlands.org to see even more details on how your support has made a difference.



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DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

SERVING NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

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