

Women and Their Woods

Information for Women Forest Landowners
Issue 14 Fall 2014

Chestnut Fever

by Leila Pinchot

You could say we've gone a little chestnut-crazy on the Milford Experimental Forest. Whenever there's a harvest, freeing-up precious growing space, inevitably my father or I decide to plop in a few more chestnuts. It started with a breeding orchard in 2004, which has recently started producing nuts. Then in 2012 we implemented a 60-acre shelterwood harvest, creating the perfect environment for another chestnut planting. Our hunt club also caught the bug and has planted numerous chestnuts within their food plots to create the ultimate salad bar for their beloved white-tailed deer.

Our latest chestnut endeavor is perhaps the most exciting - in collaboration with The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) we planted 1000 chestnut seeds from ten putatively-blight resistant hybrid families last spring. The plan was to study the long-term survival, growth, and blight resistance of the various families, to help TACF select the best families for large-scale reintroduction. Unfortunately most of the nuts, though protected by a deer enclosure and tree shelters, were eaten by a sneaky creature of some sort, probably a raccoon (goes to show how palatable the nuts are). So this fall we're replanting seedlings, which won't be as vulnerable as nuts. We're very excited to recruit the help of Women and Their Woods towards this effort.



Why are so focused on this one species? The historic importance of chestnut is compelling, but isn't the motivating force behind our reintroduction efforts. Rather I think about how chestnut can help us meet our current management objectives for the property – providing a reliable source of hard mast for a variety of wildlife species, thereby increasing biodiversity and hopefully hunting opportunities for our hunt club. It may be a suitable tree to plant, along with other species, on parts of our property where eastern hemlock is losing its battle with hemlock woolly adelgid. And for those sentimental types, it also offers a story of hope in an era where forests are under attack from all sides.

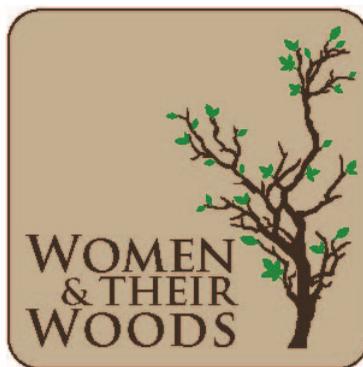
Mark your calendars! Our next Women and their Woods event is **April 25-26, 2014** in Milford, PA. We are planning for an exciting weekend touring Grey Towers National Historic Site, former home of conservationist Gifford Pinchot and his talented wife, Cornelia. We will also be participating in work to reintroduce the American chestnut at the nearby Milford Experimental Forest, currently owned and managed by members of the Pinchot family.

The Women and Their Woods program is administered by Penn State Forest Resources Extension and the Delaware Highlands Conservancy with support from the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program, US Forest Service at Grey Towers, and PA DCNR Department of Conservation and Recreation.

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Throughout our region, women are increasingly responsible for the stewardship of private forestlands. Women landowners require accurate information and relevant knowledge about available options for managing their properties.

Women and Their Woods is a dynamic, fun, and informative program that teaches women to effectively care for their lands. **Women and Their Woods** emphasizes conservation stewardship and the value of intact forestlands and instills in women landowners a sense of confidence in their abilities to meet the challenges of forestland ownership.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful. Please contact us for further information on how to be involved.

We need your Email Address!

As conservation-centered organizations, we want to conserve resources by communicating with you through email.

Please send your email to conserve@delawarehighlands.org and specify if you would like to receive our mailings electronically or continue to receive hard copies in the mail.

Private Forest Landowner Conference:

The Future of Penn's Woods

March 20–21, 2015

Blair County Convention Center
Altoona, Pennsylvania

The Private Forest Landowner Conference is a comprehensive conference for private landowners in Pennsylvania. Whether you own one or 500 acres, you are one of nearly 740,000 Pennsylvania woodland owners who make decisions about the health and well-being of nearly 12 million acres of private forests.

Presentation topics include:

- Conservation options
- Invasive species
- Taxes
- Tending your woods
- Water quality
- Wildlife
- Woods in your backyard



Center for Private Forests
at Penn State

PENNSTATE



College of Agricultural Sciences

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION, VISIT
ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forest-conference

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Grey Towers National Historic Landmark

Home of Gifford Pinchot

Grey Towers was completed in 1886 by James Pinchot, a wealthy wallpaper merchant from New York City, born and raised in Milford. At nineteen, with no room in his family business, James left Milford to seek other opportunities, acquiring enough fortune to retire at age forty-four. Civic minded and a supporter of the arts, James and his wife, Mary, connected themselves with many influential people, among them Richard Morris Hunt, a leading architect of the era. Hunt designed their summer home to both utilize both local materials and reflect the French heritage of the Pinchot family, who first settled in Milford in 1818.

For two decades the Pinchots and their children enjoyed numerous summers at Grey Towers, entertaining guests for afternoon teas and dinner parties. Here James, disturbed by destructive logging practices then prevalent in the country, encouraged his eldest son, Gifford Pinchot, to consider a career in forestry.



Forestry and Conservation

Heeding his father's advice, and born with a love of nature, Gifford Pinchot went to Yale in 1885. Though forestry schools did not yet exist in the United States, he took what few related courses he could. After graduating in 1889, and already fluent in French, Gifford went aboard to study at the French Forestry School in Nancy, France. A year later, impatient to return home, he cut short his studies to confront the forest devastation then sweeping across the country.



Gifford Pinchot and Cornelia Bryce Pinchot

In the next two decades, Pinchot raised scientific forestry and natural resource conservation from a radical experiment to a nationwide movement. He became head of the Division of Forestry in 1898. His good friend, President Theodore Roosevelt, later named him Chief Forester of the newly created United States Forest Service., an organization guided by Pinchot's principle, "the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." His magnetic personality and leadership style ignited the new organization. During his tenure, national forests tripled in size to 193 million acres. Roosevelt, with Pinchot as his strategist, considered conservation his greatest contribution to the American domestic policy.

Politics

In 1914, with Theodore Roosevelt in attendance, Gifford Pinchot

...Continued on next page

married Cornelia Bryce, daughter of journalist and politician, Lloyd Bryce, and granddaughter of inventor and philanthropist Peter Cooper. Failing in bids for the United States Senate, Pinchot eventually was elected governor of Pennsylvania in 1922. Cornelia's influence over women voters was essential to his election.

Gifford Pinchot is widely regarded as one Pennsylvania's most popular and efficient governors. During his two terms, the second beginning in 1931, he wiped out the state's \$30 million deficit, battled to regulate public utilities, sought relief for the unemployed, and paved rural roads to "get the farmer out of the mud."

Gifford and Cornelia met with members of the Progressive Party during Theodore Roosevelt's run for President in 1912. During the 1920s and 1930s, Cornelia ran unsuccessfully for Congress three times. Her campaigns focused on education and the labor rights of women and children. Someone commented that she "was equally at home on the picket line with striking workers as she was a gracious hostess at a formal reception."

"...among the many, many public officials who under my administration rendered literally invaluable service to the people of the United States, Gifford Pinchot on the whole, stood first." - Theodore Roosevelt



Family Notes

James Pinchot believed he had created no slums, fouled no



Cornelia and Gifford on a camping trip.

rivers, and wasted no resources while obtaining his wealth. Widely respected, he helped push through the construction of the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty and, with others, founded and financed the National Academy of Design and the American Museum of Natural History. With his sons and wife, Mary, he endowed the Yale School of Forestry in 1900 and began at Milford the first forest experimental station in the nation to encourage reforestation of denuded lands. Until 1926, Yale held summer forestry camps for graduate students of his Grey Towers estate.

Mary Pinchot married

James in 1864. Well schooled in manners and ways of socially elite, she was the daughter of Amos Eno, a real estate investor and one of New York City's wealthiest men. With travels aboard, private tutors and prominent family associates, the Pinchot's three children never strayed far from the influence of their parents, developing strong moral and intellectual beliefs.

Antoinette, Gifford's younger sister, married a British diplomat and focused on the social causes in Europe. During World War I, she organized and ran the American hospital in Ris Orange, France. Amos, a lawyer and youngest of the three; served on the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, helped organize the Progressive Party, and was a co-founder of the American Civil Liberties Union.



Gifford and Cornelia selecting the family Christmas tree.

Grey Towers Today

In 1963, Gifford Bryce Pinchot, the son of Gifford and Cornelia, donated Grey Towers and 102 acres to the USDA Forest Service, the federal agency founded by his father and which now administers the site cooperatively with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, a national non-profit group committed to leadership in forest policy, thought and action. The Institute, dedicated by President Kennedy at Grey Towers on September 24, 1963, seeks to further evolve and apply conservation values and philosophies initially prescribed by Gifford Pinchot. Today, conferences and seminars at the estate bring together a diversity of leading conservation and environmental thinkers to help guide the future of natural resource conservation.

Grey Towers National Historic Landmark: Tours, Programs and Activities

Grey Towers is open daily Memorial Day through October, offering tours and a variety of other programs and events. Please call (570)296-9630 or visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/gt for more information. Grey Towers is located at P.O. Box 188/151 Grey Towers Drive, Milford, PA 18337.



WomenOwningWoodlands.net

You told us your favorite part is reading stories from other landowners...check it out...there are new stories! (And we are looking for stories from you!) Please send them to Amanda at conserve@delawarehighlands.org.



You'll also find information applicable to your forest landownership and connect through nearby events for women landowners. www.WomenOwningWoodlands.net

Women and Their Woods Receives Environmental Partnership Award

On Thursday, October 30th, the Northeast Environmental Partners awarded their twenty-fourth annual environmental partnership awards, and Women and Their Woods was one of the recipients. The awards pay tribute to those organizations and individuals of Northeastern Pennsylvania that have achieved environmental protection or conservation through partnering with others.

The Conservancy's Stewardship and Education Coordinator, Amanda Subjin accepted the award and had this to say: "It would be impossible to coordinate this initiative without the numerous dedicated, creative and conscientious women forest landowners with whom I am fortunate to work. Additionally, I am thankful to all of the professionals and partner organizations who have helped to build a strong network of women forest landowners and resources."

The Northeast Environmental Partners include Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Northeast Office, PPL Corporation, Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company, and Wilkes University.

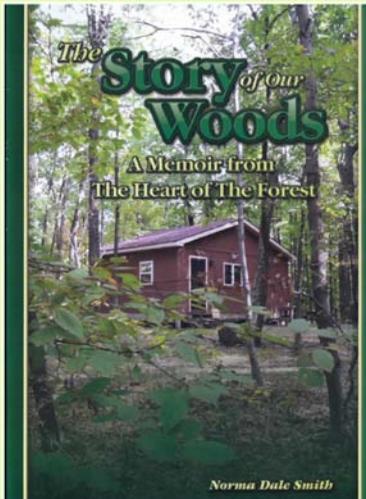


Diane Madl, Amanda Subjin, Nancy Baker, and Janet Warnick

The Story of Our Woods: A Memoir from the Heart of the Forest

by Norma Dale Smith

Agnes Lane



In the past two Women and Their Woods newsletters, we've printed excerpts from "The Story of Our Woods," written by Norma Dale Smith. In her own words, "After I attended the WaTW retreat in September 2012, I came home bursting with enthusiasm. Knowing I had to do something to instill the love of our land and the importance of stewardship to the next generation of our family, I was inspired to write a story. 'The Story of Our Woods' is the finished result of my project.' Here is the third and final installment from the series.

Over fifty years have sped by since Fred and Agnes Dale acquired those lofty acres in Donnertown. Even though they are now both gone, their legacy lives on. Dad had a dream he was able to share with our family through the decades of our lives long after he was gone. From the beginning Mom played a part in Dad's dream that no one would know for years to come. He and Mom could never

have imagined how the purchase of a patch of woods in the middle of nowhere could bring so many cherished family memories woven through the majesty of the forest. Dad's deep rooted love for mountains and springs has filtered down to their children and grandchildren.

Now Mom has been honored for her years as wise and faithful steward of the earth: Standing at the entrance to the old logging road there's a brand new road sign that proudly reads Agnes Lane. As the generations continue and new stewards take over as guardians of the forest, they will always remember her name, and this account will be there to tell the "Story of Our Woods."

If you want to read more of the stories from this book, we'll have copies of it available... contact Amanda to reserve yours!



Forest Landowner Perspective

This newsletter is YOUR space! Share your connections to the forest with other WaTW newsletter readers. Send Amanda an email at conserve@delawarehighlands.org with your photos, journal entries, drawings, other artwork, or stories, and we'll share it here.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!



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Women and Their Woods Newsletter



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serving New York and Pennsylvania
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