



DELAWARE  
HIGHLANDS  
CONSERVANCY

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

# Highlands Journal

Newsletter of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy

# June 2012

## Conservancy Founder Receives Prestigious Environmental Award

By Virginia Kennedy

At this year's annual conference for the PA Land Trust Association (PALTA), the Conservancy's inspirational founder and all-around wonderful person, Barbara Yeaman, was awarded PALTA's **Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award**. Barbara founded the Conservancy in 1995 at the age of 70. Her own 12-acre property on the Delaware River was the Conservancy's first property protected with a conservation easement.

"I don't think there's been anyone more self-effacing and effective," stated Greg Belcamino, Conservancy Board President, before PALTA Executive Director, Andy Loza presented Barbara her award. "Those who know her work in land conservation," Greg continued, "have nothing but admiration for her commitment to the cause and nothing but astonishment for the time and energy that she's put into it."

Barbara thanked her family and fellow conservationists in the community as well as the Conservancy's members, volunteers, board, and staff, noting that "no one works alone."



*The Conservancy's first easement: Barbara Yeaman's property on the Delaware, with famous black maple in the foreground.*

Highlighting the uniqueness of this region she has worked so hard to protect, Barbara stated, "One of the most satisfying rewards is the sense of awe and gratitude that comes from seeing the natural beauty and unspoiled views that still exist along the Upper Delaware River."

Barbara concluded her remarks with a quote from "When Women Were Birds," by Terry Tempest Williams: "**The world is already split open and it is in our destiny to heal it, each in our own way, each in our own time, with gifts that are ours.**" Barbara then asked the audience to consider, "What better message for us to take and use as our own?"

Everyone here at the Conservancy is proud of Barbara who has been our mentor and our inspiration. As we carry her work forward with the invaluable support of our members and volunteers, we do it with same dedication to and love for this region that Barbara has always exhibited and acted on.



Photo by Heron's Eye Communications

*Barbara Yeaman receives the PALTA Lifetime Conservation Leadership Award from PALTA Executive Director, Andy Loza (far right) and Conservancy President, Greg Belcamino.*



This publication is printed on recycled paper with soy ink.





# DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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## Gala Success

**Our fifth annual Foods of the Delaware dinner was the Conservancy's most successful to date. This year's dinner, which celebrated the "perfect partnership" between the Conservancy and the Eagle Institute, raised more funds than any previous year.**

The significant resources raised through the generosity of everyone who participated go directly toward our work with landowners and communities to protect healthy lands including important eagle habitat, clean waters, and locally sustainable economies in our beautiful and unique Upper Delaware River region.

Our popular gala, held at the Settlers Inn in Hawley, featured a four-course farm-to-table dinner and wine tasting followed by an exciting live auction led by Conservancy member, easement holder, and auctioneer extraordinaire, Sean Strub. This year's dinner also included a silent auction celebrating the generous bounty of our local businesses and products.



*Eagle Institute Founder, Lori McKean, with husband, Michael (left) and dinner chair, Michael Geitz.*

The Conservancy sends special thanks to our Foods of the Delaware Highlands Dinner Committee whose diligent work contributed so much to our great success: Conservancy Board Member and Dinner Chair Michael Geitz, Sponsor Chair Amy Litzenberger, and Auction Chair Brenda Ruello.

We also thank everyone who attended and participated in the auctions, those who could not attend but generously supported the dinner, and all of our volunteers who provided invaluable assistance to the staff in completing the nuts-and-bolts work needed to assure a wonderful dinner and a smoothly run evening for everyone.



*Executive Director, Sue Currier (left) with dinner chairs, Brenda Ruello and Amy Litzenberger.*

Photos by Heron's Eye Communications

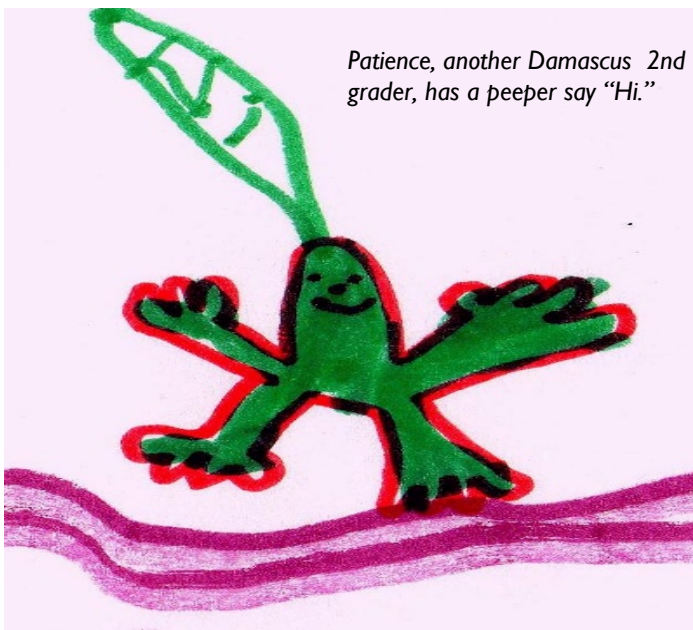
## Spring Visitors Stop by the Conservancy's Facebook Page

If you've visited our Facebook page since early April, you've probably noticed our new **Spring Visitors feature**. Naturalist Ed Wesley of The Butterfly Barn submits great photos each week of the different signs of spring in our area, from crocuses and spotted salamanders to spring peepers and snapping turtles.

Each photo comes with a drawing from a child and a bit of interesting information with a link to learn more.



*May rains have revived drought-stricken spring pools, and set them pulsing with tiny Spring Peepers. "You can hardly see them in a pond," writes Nicole, a 2nd grader at Damascus School. "They are small but they are LOUD."*



*Patience, another Damascus 2nd grader, has a peeper say "Hi."*

## Kelly Frey Wins Scholarship

**The Conservancy is honored to award the Yeaman Scholarship for students committed to a career in conservation to Wallenpaupack Area graduate Kelly Frey.**

The Conservancy recognizes that when we say we work to protect healthy lands, clean waters, and quality of life now and for future generations, those future generations need to care deeply about the earth that sustains us. The Yeaman Scholarship is meant to support students like Kelly who have a sincere desire to contribute to the health of our planet for this generation and the next.



Kelly's career goal is to work in the field of environmental conservation where she can translate her passion for the environment into a profession that makes a real difference in the world. Kelly has always loved the outdoors. As a young girl, she became a member of 4H and spent most of her time playing in fresh air and sunshine, climbing trees, and digging tunnels to China. Recently Kelly began volunteering and receiving training in Emergency Medical Service. Kelly finds the emergency response work that allows her to work outdoors and provide vital care for people very rewarding.

One of Kelly's favorite pastimes is hiking. Her hikes and other outdoor activities connect her with the beautiful and unique the natural areas of the Upper Delaware River region where she has grown to love the woods, rivers, and natural areas that are so special here.

Kelly affirms, "I hope to be able to work to restore what has been lost in disasters or through industrial misuse of the land, and to conserve the beauty that is left. It doesn't matter if I find myself out in the oceans or right here in the Poconos working on local rivers, as long as I get to preserve nature." Kelly plans to attend West Chester University in the fall, majoring in GeoSciences with a focus in Environmental Conservation.



**Become a Conservancy Facebook fan to win summer prizes.**

[www.Facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy](http://www.Facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy)



# Chainsaws, Herbicides, and Propane Torches: Women Landowners Gain Hands-on Forestry Skills

By Amanda Subjin



*Women forest landowners with workshop facilitators.*

participated in the 2011 Fall Retreat, which was offered to women from across the region interested in learning more about forest management and who could then act as mentors for other landowners in their area. **The Women and Their Woods program is offered by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy in partnership with USDA Forest Service at Grey Towers, Penn State Natural Resources Extension, and PA DCNR.**

At the start of the weekend workshop, the women gathered around Nancy's dining room table, looking over a large map showing the aerial view of her 100+ acre property. The sun shone brightly across the freshly mown yard just beyond the windows, as we all listened to Nancy talk of the history of the land she inherited from her family. As women, learning through connections is powerful, and every woman's story connects her to her land in special ways. Once the women had grown more familiar with each other, we headed outside to follow naturalist Jane Swift towards the old hemlock sided barn. On the way, Jane pointed out some of the wild flowers and medicinal plants we saw just beyond Nancy's front door. Up the hillside we went, following the old farm road bordered by open fields on one side and a steep, wooded ravine on the other.

Friday afternoon, April 20, significantly the weekend of Earth Day 2012, twelve women landowners from Pennsylvania and New York gathered in the home of Nancy Baker for the Women and Their Woods spring workshop.

**The Women and Their Woods program brings women landowners together and provides them with valuable education and educational resources.** The women cultivate long-range support groups and help each other properly steward their lands or seek proper assistance in caring for their lands should they need it.

The spring workshop at Nancy's was offered as a follow-up to the 2011 Women and Their Woods Educational Training and Retreat. Seven of the twelve workshop attendees also



*Landowner Nancy Baker points to the location of her house on the map as participants look on.*



*Driving the black walnut log to the other side of the creek.*

Back on the trail, we met up with presenters Dr. Peter Smalidge, Extension Forester for Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Daniel Swift, Consulting Forester, both of whom were eager to show us important tools for invasive species control. After our 'invasives lesson,' Peter and Dan got to work setting up for our next hands-on demonstration. In a recent storm, one of the black walnut trees on Nancy's property had blown over and was lying along the edge of her yard in the perfect place for a small scale logging demonstration. With a diesel-engine ATV and logging arch perched on the hillside, Peter talked to the group about logging safety and reviewed the equipment he had brought along.



After a much deserved night of rest, we gathered for a discussion led by Mike Hanawalt, District Manager for the Natural Resource Conservation Service, regarding cost-sharing and developing plans for privately owned forestlands. Mike answered questions about the cost share programs offered by NRCS and listened as women who had plans talked about the process.

During the discussion on setting goals for their properties, one of the women who had attended the 2011 Women and Their Woods Educational Training and Retreat mentioned a conversation she had had with her husband after the event. "I asked my husband if he would be interested in having a wildlife biologist visit our property so we could plan to improve wildlife habitat. He said he wasn't interested in the wildlife on the property,



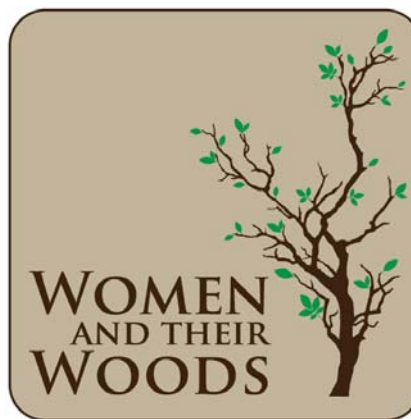
*The group plants shrubs along a field break.*

just enjoying the beauty of the land. I was shocked! I thought we were on the same page as for what goals we had for the property. Goes to show how important it is to ask these questions before setting out to develop a cost share plan."

One of projects in Nancy's cost share plan involved tree and shrub planting along the edges of some open fields on the property. With the expertise of Dan and Mike, and Dan's ATV and trailer filled with plants, water jugs, and tools, participants helped to plant several species of native shrubs in the rocky soil. Just before the skies started fill with dark clouds, we watered in the new plants and headed back to get cleaned-up for lunch.



*Consulting Forester Dan Swift demonstrates how to install a tree shelter around a newly planted shrub as Zebbin pays close attention.*



Mark your calendar now for September 27-30, 2012

**The next Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat and Training will be held September 27-30, 2012 at Camp Susque in Trout Run, Lycoming County, PA.**

To receive information about the Women and Their Woods program, to be added to the mailing list, or to receive an application for the September training, please contact Amanda Subjin at the Delaware Highlands Conservancy by phone, 570-226-3164, or email [conserve@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:conserve@delawarehighlands.org).

More information about the program can also be found online at <http://extension.psu.edu/womenandtheirwoods>.



# Eagle Babies Are Here and Fledgling Season Will Soon Be Upon Us

The Delaware Highlands provides ideal habitat for breeding eagles and this season has been very successful, with the majority of nesting pairs producing healthy young eaglets.



Clean water, an abundant food supply and large undisturbed stands of trees all lend themselves to supporting a healthy population, just like humans!

Look for the large, brown eaglets fledging from their nests around the Fourth of July.



Photo by Stephen Davis

Young, immature bald eagles are a common sight in the region during the summer months, when they first leave the nest. This youngster has the perfect perch for his dinner.



Baby Eagle Photo by Dave Soete

## Conservancy Cuts the Ribbon on New York Office

The Conservancy's new New York office is officially open for business! Located on the beautiful - and protected - 119-acre farm of Conservancy member Lou Barr, the new office space will be the site of exciting programs and initiatives including a teaching garden and orchard scheduled for planting in the spring of 2013.



*Conservancy President Greg Belcamino, flanked by Sullivan County Legislature Chair, Scott Samuelson (left) and Bethel Township Supervisor, Dan Sturm, cuts the ribbon on the new New York office. Also pictured from left to right, member Greg Schwartz and son, Simon, Conservancy Executive Director, Sue Currier, and Stewardship Coordinator, Amanda Sub-jin with son, Zebbin.*

Photo by Heron's Eye Communications



## Upcoming Events

### July 14 – Zane Grey Day, Lackawaxen, PA

Visit the Conservancy booth at the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen, PA, at the annual celebration of the life and writings of renowned western author Zane Grey.

### July 21 & 22 – Audubon Art & Craft Festival, Wallenpaupack School, Hawley, PA, 10am-5pm

Stop by the Conservancy booth at the Audubon Art and Craft Festival. The festival includes activities for all ages including wildlife presentations, live birds of prey on site, and education tables. Wildlife artists from America and Canada will display their art, prints, and more.

### July 22 – Riverfest, Narrowsburg, NY, 10am-4pm

Visit the Conservancy booth at Riverfest on Main Street in Narrowsburg. The festival features local music, original art, and interesting information about the Delaware River ecosystem.

### August 3 - Moonlight Canoe Trip on the Rio Reservoir, NY, 7pm-9pm

Join the Conservancy for a moonlight paddle on the Rio Reservoir. This outing is perfect for people who love the out of doors and are not afraid of paddling in the dark under a full moon. To join us you must have your own canoe and or kayak, possess a certified PFD, and be a capable swimmer. **Reservations are limited.**

### August 18 – Monarch Butterfly Program with Ed Wesely, Milanville, PA, 10am-12pm

Since 1996, Ed Wesely and Barbara Yeaman have rescued Monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars from threatened



habitats and reared them in the Butterfly Barn. With the help of local schoolchildren, they've nurtured and released almost 3,000 adult monarchs.

Come and learn about the

monarch life cycle and help to tag early migrants.

### Sept 22 - Member/Volunteer Thank You Party, Bethel, NY, 12pm-4pm

### Sept. 22 – Introduction to Forest Stewardship, Bethel, NY, 9am-12pm

Spend a field day learning about options for forest

management and conservation easements at the Conservancy's Bethel, NY office.

### Sept. 23 – Earth Day in Autumn at Bethel Woods, Bethel, NY, 11am-4pm

Visit the Delaware Highlands Conservancy at Earth Day in Autumn during the Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods on the site of the famous Woodstock Festival.

### Sept. 27 - 30 – Women and Their Woods Educational Retreat, Trout Run, Lycoming County, PA

The Conservancy has partnered with Penn State Natural Resources Extension, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the US Forest Service at Grey Towers to offer a four-day educational event for women forest landowners from across the state of PA.

**Registration required.**

### Oct. 6 - Fall Hike, Crystal Lake Wild Forest, Fremont, NY, 10am-12pm

Join the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Morgan Outdoors for a 2-hour guided

hike and learn about the ecology and history of the area. Remember to wear hiking shoes, comfortable clothes, and to bring water.

### Oct 13 - Forestry Field Day, Pike County, 9am-12pm

Join the Pike-Monroe Woodland Owners Group and the Conservancy for a forestry field day to learn about stewardship and funding opportunities for forestlands. To register, contact Mike Roche at 570-656-6672 or [miroche@pa.gov](mailto:miroche@pa.gov)

### Oct 20 - Annual General Meeting, PPL Environmental Learning Center, Hawley, PA

The Conservancy's annual meeting for members.



**Call the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or 845-583-1010 or visit us online at [DelawareHighlands.org](http://DelawareHighlands.org) for details and to register for events.**

## 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

**WISH LIST:** The Conservancy is looking for donations of a picnic table and lawn chairs for outdoor events.

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# DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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