

# The Grey Towers Legacy



## Information and Calendar of Events



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Spring 2007

## 2007 Programs Focus on Conservation, Community Message

The public programs that we have developed for 2007 are designed to introduce people to the conservation, cultural and community commitments made by the Pinchot family, beginning in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The most obvious is their gift of Grey Towers to the American public in 1963. The less-than-obvious ideas provide the framework for a host of programs, including:

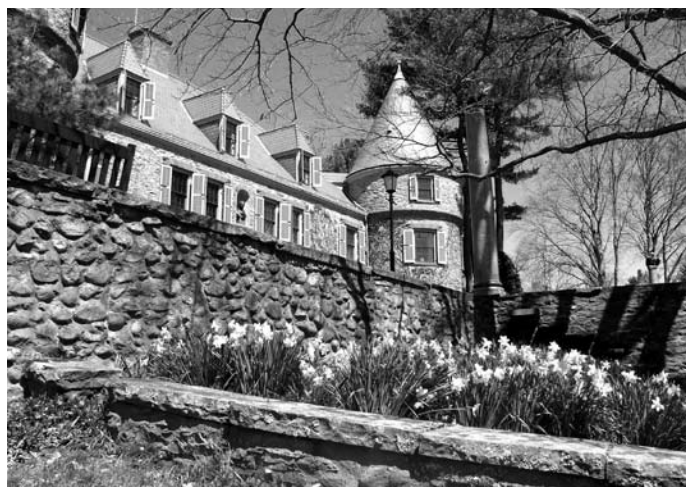
- Forestry history in America and the importance of this site
- Music and Art, storytelling and dramatic readings, providing an entrée to nature and conservation
- Local history and our connection to downtown Milford and the town cemetery
- Conservation education, focusing on forestry, then and now
- Educator workshops, focusing on land-based ethics and stewardship
- Festival of Wood, celebrating our natural and cultural heritage of wood
- Weekend Walks that bring visitors into the gardens and onto our trails
- Leadership Development of our nation's natural resource professionals

One of the most difficult and most rewarding tasks we tackle is how to better communicate our message. By staying true

to our mission – continuing the Pinchot family legacy – it's relatively clear *what* we want to focus on. But *how* to deliver the information is always a challenge.

We continue to listen to our visitors and others who have a stake in the future of Grey Towers, so if you have ideas or feedback about a program you attended, please let us know. With this feedback, you'll see a constantly evolving slate of programs that continue what the Pinchot family began with their ground-breaking and courageous contributions to society.

See Calendar  
of Events  
inside



## Grey Towers Heritage Association: Community Support for a National Treasure



A new non-profit organization formed by community members will provide support for Grey Towers and assist in strengthening the partnership between the community and Grey Towers.

The Grey Towers Heritage Association is led by a volunteer board of directors who are focusing their attention on community support and participation and assisting in the enhancement and preservation of Grey Towers "for the benefit of this and future generations."

"The Heritage Association will be looking at ways to build financial support for public programs and improvements for this wonderful community treasure," said Barbara Buchanan, president of the new Association. "At the same time, we will help the Forest Service balance their important national conservation role with the value it adds to our community."

Faced with increasing demands for public use, Grey Towers welcomes the participation of a community-based organization that can help keep a finger on the pulse of community needs and expectations.

"Over the years Grey Towers has had the support of a number of partners, and we welcome the addition of the Grey Towers Heritage Association as a way to expand our capacity," said Grey Towers Director Richard Paterson. "We recognize how much the community values this national site and the Association will provide an avenue for local support and outreach. This gives our other partners with larger-than-Grey-Towers agendas an opportunity to expand their work beyond the estate grounds."

Some of the projects the GTHA will assist the Forest Service with include community projects as publications, volunteers and public programs.

In addition to Mrs. Buchanan, who has been a Grey Towers supporter for more than 20 years, other GTHA board members include: Richard Nachman, Milford, vice-president; Krista Gromalski, Greeley, secretary; and Peter Osborne, Port Jervis, treasurer.

To learn more about the Grey Towers Heritage Association call 570-296-9630 or write GTHA, c/o Grey Towers, PO Box 188, Milford, PA, 18337.

## Message from the Director

The Grey Towers National Historic Site Act of 2004 encompassed not just Grey Towers proper, but also its associated properties. As the scope of our public programs grows, we are more and more appreciative of the value of those associated properties. The story of Grey Towers begins with the Community House, the original Pinchot homestead and home of the first Yale School of Forestry library. Across the street, Forest Hall, built by the Pinchots and originally serving as the first headquarters and classrooms for the Yale School of Forestry, celebrated its Centennial last summer. A conservation easement on the 1,200-acre Milford Experimental Forest, the nation's first research forest, now commits those lands as an experimental forest in perpetuity. Across the Sawkill sits the Yale School of Forestry Camp, where we have re-introduced student programs. We recently began bringing our visitors into town on walking tours to learn about the historic contributions made by the Pinchot family. We're proud to also point out the recently restored Fauchere, which serves as the jewel on the historic fabric of Milford. And how many towns this size have a museum like The Columns? We're proud to be able to *reach into* the community and to have the community *reach out* to us.



Richard Paterson

## Pinchot Institute Internships, Fellowships Expand Grey Towers Opportunities

### *Research Fellow Evaluated Environmental Management System Impact*

Dick Phillips, a Regional Economist on the Resource Planning and Monitoring staff in the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Region 6, served earlier this year as the first Edgar Brannon Conservation Fellow at Grey Towers. Dick's project, "*Environmental Management Systems, a Forest Service Experience*," evaluated the cultural, social and fiscal impacts of developing and using environmental management systems on National Forests. His findings will be particularly useful now that law requires every National Forest to have an Environmental Management System in place in order to revise or amend forest plans after January 5, 2008.

The Edgar Brannon Conservation Fellows program is a cooperative program between the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and the Forest Service at Grey Towers to commemorate the work of Edgar Brannon, former Director of Grey Towers. The program is open to natural resource professionals in the public sector and focuses on furthering knowledge and understanding of conservation issues. The program provides the selected fellow with a stipend funded by an endowment fund through the Pinchot Institute. The Forest Service provides office space and housing during work on the selected project.

For Brannon Conservation Fellow application information, contact the Pinchot Institute at 202-797-6580 or [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org).



### *Annual Garden Internship Provides Learning Experience*

Since 1994, the Pinchot Institute has co-sponsored the Elisabeth S. Mortimer Garden internship at Grey Towers. Created by a generous donation from Elisabeth and Charles Mortimer, the focus is on gardening, one of Mrs. Mortimer's greatest passions. The endowment provides a \$2,500 stipend for the 10-12 week program.

A large part of the history and visitor experience at Grey Towers is centered on the formal, landscaped, and wooded grounds created in large part by Corneila Pinchot. The Elisabeth S. Mortimer Internship provides valuable, practical experience for the motivated undergraduate college student or recently graduated high school student. The internship provides the student hands-on experience to challenge and broaden the student's knowledge of practical applications of horticultural theory learned in the classroom. This internship has been very successful, in the past; participants have majored in such areas as ornamental horticulture, forestry, landscape architecture, and environmental disciplines.

The intern, chosen each spring, works closely with Grey Towers horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke. For more information call 570-296-9661 or send an email to [ehawke@fs.fed.us](mailto:ehawke@fs.fed.us).



## Third Annual Festival of Wood August 11-12, 2007

*Third Annual Festival of Wood Offers Music, handmade Crafts, Kid's Activities and more!*

A variety of activities for the whole family are planned for the third annual Festival of Wood scheduled for Saturday and Sunday August 11 and 12, 2007, at Grey Towers National Historic Site.

The Festival is intended to illustrate the concept of sustainable forestry, introduced to America 100 years ago by Gifford Pinchot. As a celebration of our natural and cultural heritage of wood, the Festival educates thousands about the many valuable uses of wood in our everyday lives.

Some of the highlights of the Festival include:

- Music with wooden instruments
- Handmade wood crafts, demonstrations and sales (Sponsor: Pocono Arts Council)
- Children's activities, games and programs with wood and wood products
- Educational exhibits with free handouts
- Mansion open house (Fee)
- Wooden stilt walkers
- Refreshments
- Pennsylvania's Wood Mobile
- "From Logs to Lumber" portable sawmill and other demos
- Bluebird nestbox building
- Forestry Trail hikes and other programs
- Special appearances by Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl



A surprise event to celebrate Gifford Pinchot's (142<sup>nd</sup>) birthday will be held on Saturday, August 11.

Most of the activities are free. For more information, call (570)296-9630 or email us at [greytowers@fs.fed.us](mailto:greytowers@fs.fed.us) or check out the web at [www.fs.fed.us/gt](http://www.fs.fed.us/gt).

### Grey Towers is Resource for Educators

Grey Towers offers a wide variety of conservation education programs for regional schools. Designed to educate about the diversity of the environment, our programs create a sense of stewardship, fostered through experiential learning. All school programs are curriculum-based and meet the academic standards for environment and ecology in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

Grey Towers' conservation education programs are offered on-site and in the classroom. Our focus is forest ecology and topics range from wildlife habitats and adaptations, to fire prevention, recycling, and water studies. All age groups and grade levels are served, from our Reading Ranger pre-school program to our unique Conservation History program for middle and high school students.

Grey Towers also helps meet the continuing education needs of regional teachers. We offer educator workshops and this year we are spearheading an initiative with other environmental entities in the region to streamline the workshop offerings.

A full brochure is available on-line at [www.fs.fed.us/gt](http://www.fs.fed.us/gt). For more information or to schedule a field trip or conservation education program for your classroom, please contact Daniel Banks, Conservation Education Specialist, at 570-296-9671 or [dsbanks@fs.fed.us](mailto:dsbanks@fs.fed.us).



## Grey Towers Volunteer Program Has Opportunities for Everyone

Grey Towers relies on its volunteers all year long, contributing thousands of hours of help giving tours, maintaining our trails, weeding and planting our gardens, selling interpretive items in the gift shop and more. Our volunteers have an opportunity to share years of valuable experience, skills and knowledge.

Due to an increased interest in volunteering at Grey Towers, the Forest Service is planning two orientation sessions: Saturday, May 5, 10 am to

12 pm, or Wednesday, May 9, from 6-8 pm, at Grey Towers. While not mandatory, participation is highly recommended. Volunteers who attend the training will have a more rewarding experience at Grey Towers.

Volunteers at Grey Towers are invited to attend two volunteer appreciation and recognition events each year. In addition, volunteers with certain cumulative hours of service are offered reward incentives. Finally, volunteering offers you the opportunity to:

- Pursue a personal interest, special skill or hobby;
- Meet people from all over the country
- Learn about conservation, forestry and natural resources
- Work in a unique location with beautiful surroundings
- Become a part of the "Grey Towers Family"

There are a number of ways for volunteers to get involved; a regularly scheduled day, a special event or program or joining a volunteer team. Depending on availability, interest and skill level, there are opportunities for nearly everyone, including retirees, professionals, students, service clubs and organizations and individuals.

Individuals must be comfortable around people and be personable and must be able to provide their own transportation. For some positions, individuals must be comfortable with public speaking and should be able to do some lifting (at least 40lbs), climb stairs, and stand for long periods of time.

For more information or to register for the Volunteer Training and Orientation workshop please call 570-296-9630 or send an email to [greytowers@fs.fed.us](mailto:greytowers@fs.fed.us), with "Volunteering" in the subject line.



## Swimming Pool Terrace Rehabilitation Will Improve Public Access

Rehabilitation of the swimming pool terrace at Grey Towers will be completed in 2007 and will greatly enhance public access and use of the site.

Set into the landscape above the Finger Bowl, the swimming pool and terrace were used by the Pinchot family for recreating and entertaining. One of the first landscape features installed by Cornelia and Gifford, the pool was filled with fresh water from the nearby Sawkill Creek.

When deciding what to do with the pool and terrace, the Forest Service weighed the history, liability and growing demands for public use. The best and most appropriate use of the outdoor space includes an adaptive re-use for outdoor public programs, conservation education/classroom space, interpretive experiences and when not in use, a reflective space with a fabulous and inspiring view of the grounds and neighboring mountains.

Visitors will enjoy improvements made to the extensive stonework, the columned pergola and plantings, and addition of utilities and a removeable tent covering. We believe the project will improve the landscape aesthetics and greatly expand our ability to more fully realize the intent of the gift of Grey Towers to the American public.

The project was completed in cooperation with the Forest Service, the PA State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service, Historic Preservation Training Center.



*"Pre-rehabilitation"*



*"A work in progress"*

## Grey Towers Receives Gifford Pinchot Death Mask



Gifford Pinchot's death mask, a bronze cast made of his face following his death in 1946, is now a part of the Grey Towers' permanent historic collection.

The mask was donated by Blair Proctor, son of the sculptor Gifford Proctor and grandson of the prolific American West sculptor Alexander Phimister Proctor (1860-1950). Alexander Phimister Proctor was a close and admiring friend of Gifford Pinchot, so much so that he named his youngest son after him. Given the close family ties, Pinchot's wife Cornelia commissioned the death mask upon Gifford's death in 1946. The whereabouts of the original mask, which would have been cast in plaster or wax, are unknown. The Proctor family came across the bronze version in their father's studio upon his passing in 2006 and felt it should have a home at Grey Towers. It is not known if other casts were made of the death mask.

Alexander Phimister Proctor, who was an avid outdoorsman and hunter, created several pieces for Gifford Pinchot during their friendship, including a bronze bas-relief of a moose family and a Boone and Crocket Alaskan bear head, which Grey Towers has in its collection. Other pieces created for Pinchot include relief shields with animal figures created for Pinchot's Washington D.C. home. Before his

death in 2006, Gifford Proctor was working to complete his life-long labor of love, a 20' life-like sculpture of General George Washington, with the hope that the finished sculpture will be placed on Mount Joy at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The death mask is a welcome addition to the Grey Towers collection as it further strengthens the documentation of the Pinchot's connections with the artistic community and is a unique, extremely personal memento. The Forest Service will publicly exhibit the death mask for short, temporary intervals with associated interpretive messages.

The Pinchot death mask is not the only cast memento of a deceased Pinchot family member. A marble cast of the hand of Gifford's sister Lucy Pinchot, who died in 1869 from scarlet fever when she was two years old, was completed by the sculptor Launt Thompson upon commission by her parents and is exhibited on Gifford's bedroom dresser at Grey Towers.

Death masks are known as a part of traditions of virtually all countries and nations, dating back to ancient Egypt (the most well-known death mask is of Pharaoh Tutankhamen). In the seventeenth century, it was common for death masks to be used as part of the effigy of the deceased, and displayed at state funerals. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries they were also used to permanently record the features of prominent corpses for the purposes of identification. They were a common way to create mementos of the dead, or for use in the creation of portraits. Eventually the practice was largely replaced by photography.

Other well-known death masks include Napoleon, General Grant, James Joyce, William Shakespeare, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln (on display in the Smithsonian).





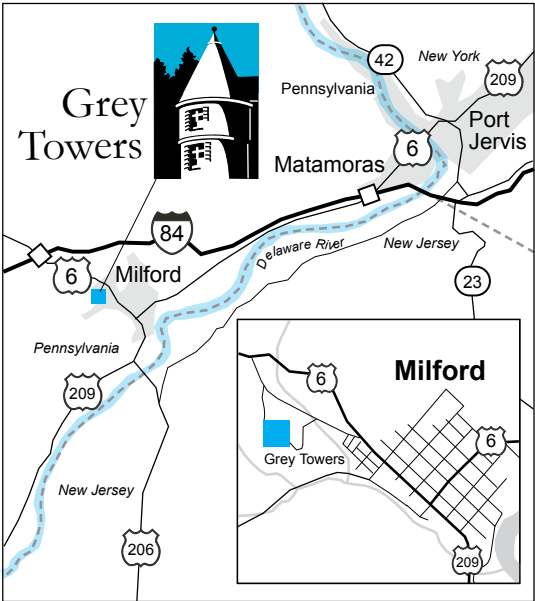
### “Log On” For More Information

Grey Towers Web Site:  
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For more information about the  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry,  
log on to:  
[www.fs.fed.us/na](http://www.fs.fed.us/na)





**Grey Towers**

Phone: 570-296-9630

For more information see our webpage at [www.fs.fed.us/gt](http://www.fs.fed.us/gt)

email: [greytowers@fs.fed.us](mailto:greytowers@fs.fed.us)



Grey Towers National Historic Site  
151 Grey Towers Drive  
PO Box 188  
Milford, PA 18337

## New Passes Will Provide More Enjoyment of Public Lands

Grey Towers will be offering and accepting a host of new passes this year to encourage visitors to enjoy, recreate and learn at the historic site and other national resources.

- A new Grey Towers Frequent Visitor Pass will provide a reduced fee for visitors who make multiple visits each calendar year;
- Two new Volunteer Pass programs, one that will enable free admission at Grey Towers and a national pass that will be accepted at Federal public sites;
- The “America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass,” a new annual pass that combines into one comprehensive pass all of the existing recreation passes from five agencies: Department of Interior’s National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service (including Grey Towers National Historic Site).

Other passes that Grey Towers will continue to offer and accept are a lifetime senior pass for U.S. citizens 62 or over, and a free lifetime access pass for citizens with permanent disabilities. The new national annual volunteer pass is for volunteers acquiring 500 hours of service in one year.

All fees collected from the sale of these passes help Grey Towers improve public programs and services and benefit the site restoration. Grey Towers visitors benefit as they use their passes at various locations throughout the country.

For more details on passes and fees, visit us at [www.fs.fed.us/gt](http://www.fs.fed.us/gt) or call (570) 296-9630.



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