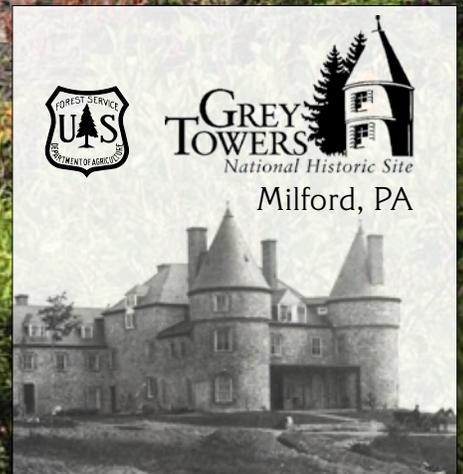
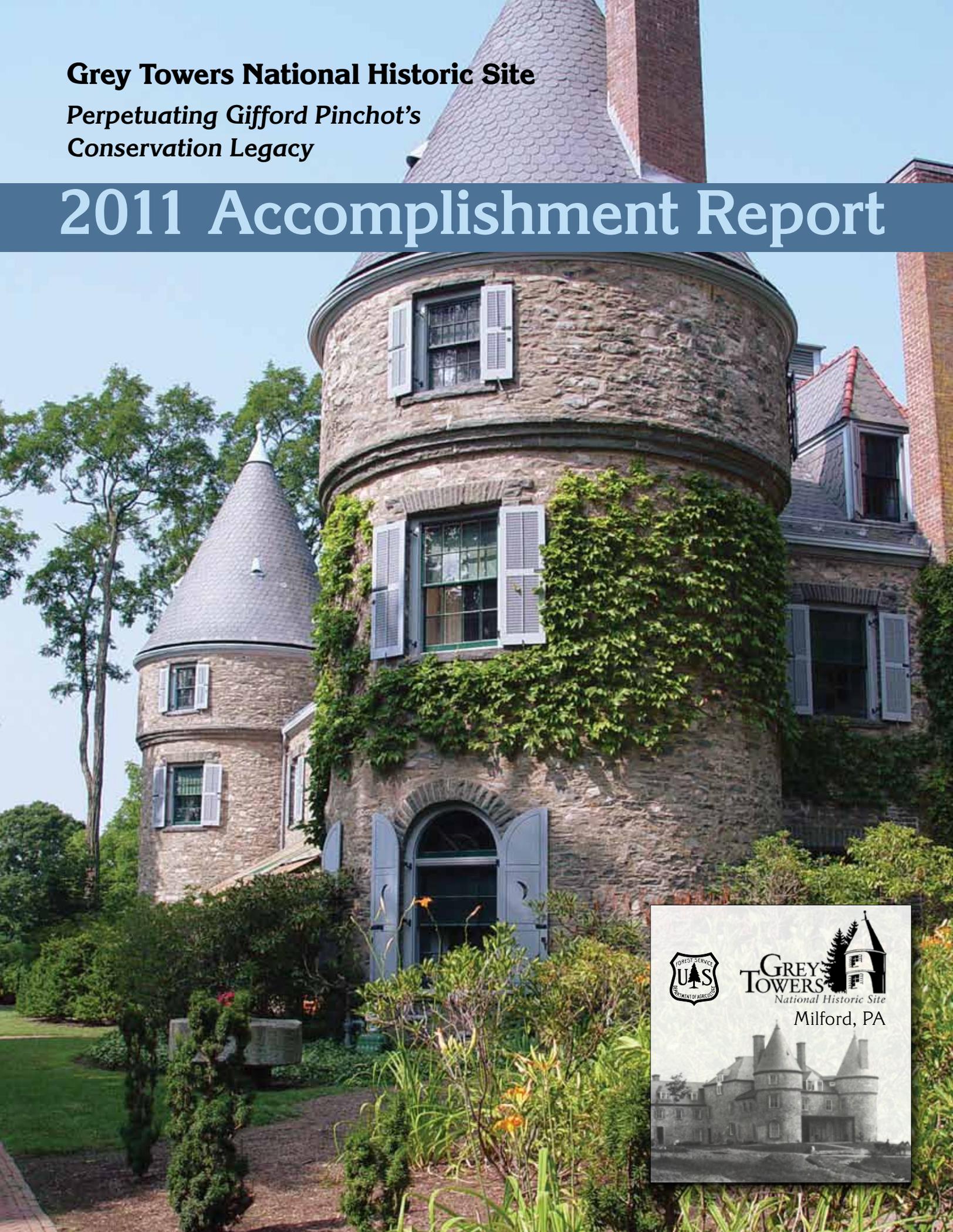


# Grey Towers National Historic Site

*Perpetuating Gifford Pinchot's  
Conservation Legacy*

# 2011 Accomplishment Report



# Celebrating



Grey Towers, Milford, Pa.

## Grey Towers 1886–2011: Celebrating 125 Awe-Inspiring Years

James Pinchot hired celebrated architect and family friend Richard Morris Hunt to design a Norman-Breton bluestone manor that paid homage to the family's French heritage. The result was Grey Towers, situated high on a hill overlooking James' hometown of Milford, PA. Grey Towers was imposing from the start, with 3 60-foot turrets, 23 fireplaces, and 44 rooms.

The family moved in on August 11, 1886—Gifford's 21st birthday—and celebrated with a tea.



*"Sorry you can't be at Yale Field Work. Camp fire - ladies night last night, had a fine time. Things going fine here - 26 men taking surveying. Am leading the simple life this year." Postcard sent to Benjamin K. Ayers, State Forest Commission, Concord, NH, from Roscoe Suttie, who taught surveying at the Yale School of Forestry summer program at Grey Towers in 1912.*

*"We don't seem to find an appropriate name for our house. 'The Towers' or 'Saw-kill Towers' seem the best we think of so far."*

*- Mary Pinchot, February 1886*

*Grey Towers eventually was named for the "exquisite view under soft grey light" that Mary repeatedly referred to in her diary of October 1885.*



*Grey Towers sits high above the town of Milford, PA, as illustrated in this colorized postcard, circa 1900.*

**Coming in 2013: Commemorating 50 years of public ownership, 1963-2013.**

# 125 Years



Mansion, circa 1886

## Dear Friends of Grey Towers:

As I write this letter, the staff and friends of Grey Towers National Historic Site are reflecting back upon another very successful year thanks to the incredible commitment of our partners, neighbors, and advocates around the world. This year brought to completion the \$2.1 million in restoration projects of the mansion and grounds funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Much of this work focused on returning the landscape to the environmental plan envisioned and designed by Gifford Pinchot's wife, Cornelia, during the 1920s and 1930s. We look forward to welcoming you, whether it be for your first visit or return visits. We are always proud to share the life and legacy of one of America's most prominent families—the Pinchots.

2011 marked the 125th Anniversary of the original construction of Grey Towers by the Pinchot family. The work of the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers National Historic Site and the work of our partners—the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, the Grey Towers Heritage Association, and the Delaware Highlands Conservancy—honored that anniversary by furthering natural resource conservation on both a local and global scale. I invite you to read about the accomplishments achieved through our partnerships in the pages of this report. I am particularly proud of the Women and Their Woods program and several collaborations we facilitated at Grey Towers for natural resource leaders from Russia, India, and a dozen other nations across the globe.

2012 brings many new opportunities to Grey Towers and our partners, foremost as we kickoff preparations for the 50th Anniversary of the gift of Grey Towers to the American people. Many of you know that in 1963 the Pinchot family donated Grey Towers and the surrounding 102 acres of forested lands to

the public so that Gifford Pinchot's legacy and vision could be actively pursued by and for future generations. We are excited about the opportunity to renew our commitment to the American public and to the natural resource conservation of our planet. We will reach our objectives by continuing to develop the leadership skills of national and international natural resource professionals, educating our youth about conservation, and interpreting and researching Pinchot's work in natural resource conservation. We invite you to join us in September 2013 for this spectacular event!

I hope you enjoy the following pages of this accomplishment report. The work described here is the result of the combined efforts of many talented people throughout public service and private industry, as well as our neighbors in the surrounding communities of northeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Their commitment to natural resource conservation and abundant generosity in time and effort are what carry the vision of Gifford Pinchot to the generations yet to come. I am grateful for their cooperation and support and look forward to facing our new challenges with them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Stewart".

Allison Stewart

Director, Grey Towers National Historic Site



Grey Towers Director Allison L. Stewart, center, listens as an interpreter translates for a visitor from the Peruvian forestry delegation.

# Historic Preservation



*Milford's original town graveyard is located on the grounds of Grey Towers. Efforts are now underway to make improvements, enhance access, and increase interpretive opportunities.*



*A temporary wooden staircase was replaced with bluestone stairs to better harmonize with the aesthetics of the estate. The stairs are heated to reduce winter maintenance costs and improve safety.*



# and Stewardship



Mansion, circa 1930

## Forest Service Stewardship Protects This National Treasure

Visitors are most often awestruck by the stately mansion, magnificent grounds, colossal trees, and unique landscape features. The Forest Service focuses its resources on continuously improving, maintaining, and protecting the buildings, the landscape, and the historic collection.



Nearly 600 feet of historic stone wall was restored and repaired to fix collapsed portions, and new footings were installed to mitigate future damage.



Funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act helped the Forest Service restore the front drive of Grey Towers to its appearance in the 1920s, which included replanting trees and shrubs and reconstructing the cobblestone gutters.

# International

## Pinchot's Global Vision Finally Realized at His Home

Before Gifford Pinchot left Washington in 1910, he was calling for the formation of an International Conference on Conservation. Pinchot recognized the need for global cooperation in order to conserve the Earth's forests, but he never fully realized this vision. In 1944 he again pursued the idea, but WW II threw it off track. In 1949, 3 years after Gifford's death, his wife Cornelia served as a delegate to the United Nation's Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources—the first major meeting that addressed the world's natural resource issues.

Today, the Pinchot ancestral home is the ideal location to engage the next generation of the world's forest leaders. Forestry leaders from Russia, China, Brazil, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Canada, Russia, India, Nepal, Cameroon, France, Peru, and the United States have had robust, honest, and transparent discussions in the rooms of Grey Towers and in the nearby forests.

We can imagine that Gifford Pinchot would be proud to see this sharing of ideas and thought-provoking dialogues taking place in his home.

*"They absolutely loved Grey Towers, the staff, the story of Gifford Pinchot and his family. They were fascinated by his library, his hunting rifles, his French background, and the diversity of his interests. I think somewhere toward the middle of the excursion they said they could really feel his soul in the house and grounds. Mr. Panfilov was the most animated that we've ever seen him."*

—Nina Savransky, U.S. Forest Service International Programs, Russia, Europe, and Central Asia Specialist, speaking about the Grey Towers' excursion by the Russian Federal Forestry Agency



As part of the International Year of Forests (IYF), Grey Towers displayed the photo exhibit "The Forest Through the Eyes of a Forester," which was provided by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations. Thousands of visitors enjoyed viewing the large canvases,

which offered a glimpse into the unique beauty of Croatian forests and contributed to the IYF goal of raising awareness and strengthening the **sustainable management**, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.



Three groups of foresters studying public administration through the Maxwell School of Syracuse University (New York) visited Grey Towers to learn first-hand about the history of forestry in America.



Members of the Russian Federal Forestry Agency took time out of their busy schedule while in New York City to visit Grey Towers and see first-hand the place that inspired Gifford Pinchot to introduce forestry in America. Alexei Panfilov, Deputy Director of the Russian agency, was accompanied by colleagues on a tour of the Grey Towers mansion, nearby Milford Experimental Forest, and a local restaurant for a lunch much like what Pinchot would have eaten!

# Stewardship



Mansion, circa 1940



Peter Pinchot, Gifford Pinchot's grandson and director of EcoMadera, a locally empowering sustainable forest enterprise in Ecuador, was on hand for the signing of the "Grey Towers Declaration." Pictured at the Grey Towers conference center are ratifying members of the Amazonian Inter-Regional Council (left to right): Jorge Velasquez Portocarrero, Regional President of Ucayali; Jose Arista Arbildo, Regional President of Amazonas; Peter Pinchot; Yvan Vaquez Valera, President of the Council; Cesar Villanueva Arevalo, Regional President of San Martin; and Jose Luis Aguirre Pastor, Regional President of Madre de Dios.



Members of the delegation learn about and reflect upon Gifford Pinchot's conservation vision during an interpretive tour of Grey Towers.

*"By stripping away our agency, our job titles, as individuals we're able to devote more than a half PowerPoint slide on the challenges and forestry problems our countries are facing. As agency representatives we traditionally share a large national success story without the context of challenges we overcame. I think that's the real benefit of a venue like this, of attending the Global Issues in Governance seminar. The honesty in sharing difficulties and not just best practices helps us all deal with the pressing issues facing forest governance around the world."*

– Global Issues 2011 Participant



Mid-career officers from 12 countries met at Grey Towers for Global Issues in Governance of Natural Resources: New Leadership for New Challenges, an international training seminar co-organized by the Rights and Resources Initiative, U.S. Forest Service International Programs, and MegaFlorestais.



The weeklong training exposed participants to cutting-edge analysis of a wide range of issues to provide a deeper understanding of global transitions in forest governance. The training promoted improved information sharing and networking, and encouraged second generation forest leaders to be better prepared to work with their global peers to solve future challenges.

# Private Land

## The Unfinished Business of Gifford Pinchot: Private Lands

The forest land that Gifford Pinchot was referring to was *private* forest land. As the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Pinchot pioneered forest conservation in the United States by creating the National Forest System and helping to found the agency that

*“One more purpose we came to have before my service was finished, and that the most important of all, for it concerned a far greater area and possible productiveness of forest land than all public forests put together.”*

—Gifford Pinchot



*Forest Service support was provided for the startup of a regional forest landowners group. This support included meetings and educational programs that have had 15 to 50 participants at each program. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources works with others to ensure that the meetings focus on educating forest landowners with an emphasis on utilization and stewardship of the land.*



*Instructors at a workshop co-sponsored by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and the Pike County Conservation District show local loggers how to install and use a portable timber bridge to prevent stream damage during logging.*



*More than 70 landowners, including Steve and Jennifer Schoonover of Pike County, PA, have collectively received more than \$400,000 in financial support to develop plans and take actions that will help protect the Delaware River basin for the long term. This assistance has been provided through the Common Waters Fund, a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.*

# Stewardship



Mansion, circa 1970

administers these lands. But toward the end of his life he referred to private forestry as his “last unfinished business” and was admittedly unsuccessful in gaining control of how private forest landowners managed their lands.

Today the Forest Service is forging ahead to pursue the unfinished business of Gifford Pinchot through its State and Private Forestry division. State and Private Forestry is an integral part of the agency’s mission that provides resources to influence the wise management, protection, and sustainable use of urban and rural natural resources.

At Grey Towers, partners collaborate to help private forest landowners manage their lands to sustain forests, enhance air and water quality, protect communities, and contribute to people’s relationship with nature.

Regional agriculture and woodland owners are better connected to consumers through a new Forest Service-supported initiative called Shop Local, Save Land, which supports working lands and protects scenic rural character, cultural heritage, and quality of life. The idea is to create a sustainable market for farmland owners and wood products providers.



Women forest landowners gained invaluable experience and knowledge about the value of their lands and sound stewardship practices during a 4-day educational retreat, the culmination of a number of educational workshops that make up the Women and Their Woods program.

The retreat was co-sponsored by the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Forest Service at Grey Towers, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Penn State University, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State University, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.



# Commun



*The annual Festival of Wood educates thousands about Pinchot's philosophy of managing forests for "the greatest good, for the greatest number, for the long run." Music, crafts, children's activities, and more help illustrate sustainable forestry.*



*The landscape continues to inspire community artists, much like James Pinchot's artist friends who were inspired in the 19th century.*



*Students, scouts, and other youth learn about forest health management and conservation history on the Grey Towers Forest Discovery Trail.*



## Weeks Act Centennial

In June 2011, Grey Towers partnered with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation to bring conservation leaders from across the country to Yale University. Their goal: identify ways to build on the accomplishments borne out of the development of the Weeks Act legislation to solve new, evolving conservation challenges for generations yet to come.

The 1911 Weeks Act allowed the National Forest System to be expanded in the East through the Federal government's purchase of private lands. It also created the framework for cooperative fire management. The Weeks Act centennial helped tell the story of nearly 25 million acres—where some of the most abused and severely degraded forests were healed and restored. These former wastelands are now fully functioning forest ecosystems that provide clean water, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and public recreation opportunities.

# ity Education



Mansion, circa 1990

## Community Programs, Interpretive Tours Share the Pinchot Family Legacy with Thousands

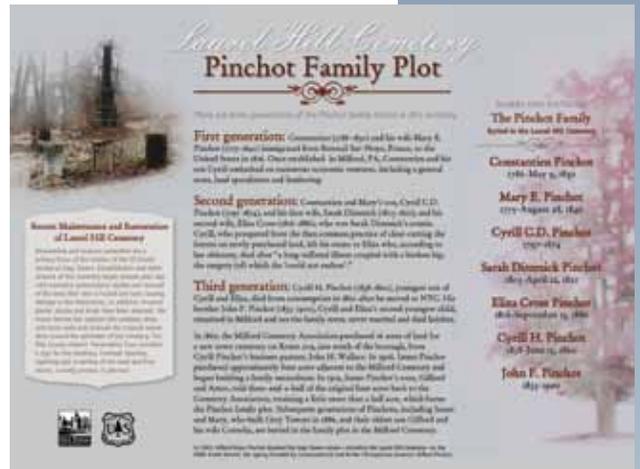
The Grey Towers mansion and landscaped grounds inspire all who visit and provide the setting for staff members to connect visitors' hearts and minds to the legacy of the Pinchot family. Interpretive tours, public programs, walks and talks, school programs, and community festivals bring the Pinchot family legacy to life for all who visit.

In its heyday, Grey Towers was a welcome respite from the family's active social and political lifestyle. However, even as a private country escape, it was always filled with guests and activities.

Today the Forest Service and its many partners continue the Pinchot tradition of hospitality with a variety of public interpretive and educational programs that keep the mansion and the grounds abuzz with activities similar to those hosted by the Pinchots.



Nearly 15,000 visitors learn about the family and their many contributions to American society through interpretive tours.



The Grey Towers Heritage Association partners with the Forest Service to develop new wayside exhibits and publications, which enhance the visitor experience and educate visitors about the Pinchot family.



Scholarly research continues at Grey Towers with the support of the Forest Service historian, Brian Balogh (left), and the Grey Towers Heritage Association. In 2011, researchers explored topics such as Gifford Pinchot and his Progressive-era politics and technological or engineered forests as ecosystems.

# Leadership Development



## Natural Resource Dialogues Thrive Through Conferences, Leadership Development Programs

When Dr. Gifford Bryce Pinchot gifted Grey Towers to the American public, he was clear that it should not be maintained as a shrine to his father's memory. Rather, Grey Towers was poised to become a viable, vigorous, and active conservation center where dialogues about natural resource conservation—much like the discussions that occurred when the Pinchots lived here—would continue into the future.



*Participants in leadership development programs at Grey Towers benefit from the aesthetics of the indoor spaces as well as the landscaped grounds.*

Today the Forest Service and its many partners facilitate a number of different conferences, workshops, retreats, and leadership development programs for natural resource professionals, filling the rooms with stimulating and exciting discussions that Gifford would probably have enjoyed participating in.

In 2011, more than 300 natural resource professionals attended leadership development programs. An additional 1,100 participants attended conferences, retreats, workshops, and development sessions at Grey Towers.



Mansion, circa 2000



GREY TOWERS  
National Historic Site

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