



2014 Accomplishment Highlights



The staff at Grey Towers National Historic Site is proud to present this accomplishment report for 2014. It briefly highlights many of the programs, partnerships, outreach, and education opportunities that took place at Grey Towers over the past year. Working with our key partners, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and the Grey Towers Heritage Association, the legacy of Gifford Pinchot and the Pinchot family was shared with thousands of visitors. Our signature events continue to grow and the Leadership Development Program at Grey Towers continues to gain significance. We encourage you to check out the virtual tour of the mansion and grounds now available on the Grey Towers Heritage Association web site and consider all the possibilities as we work together to share and perpetuate the Pinchot legacy and the future of conservation at Grey Towers. Enjoy!

Bill Dauer, Acting Director

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: The USFS staff at Grey Towers continues to build upon Gifford Pinchot's leadership ethos and intent to provide an intellectual and inspirational center for natural resource leadership development.

Programs in 2014 provided opportunities for Natural Resource Professionals, Scholars & Historians, and Emerging Leaders (Interns/Youth):

- More than 750 natural resource professionals from federal, state, local and NGO natural resource organizations advanced their leadership abilities through programs at Grey Towers;
- Nearly 300 Forest Service employees, ranging from middle level management, operational and leadership teams to Forest Supervisors, benefitted from meaningful Leadership Development programs;
- USFS staff shared expertise and guidance to others looking to build upon the success of the USFS Leadership Development program at Grey Towers regionally, nationally and internationally;
- Hosted 5 academic professionals and environmental historians through the Scholar in Residence program, who were able to further their research of historic resource conservation events and their impact on future resource conservation;



- Provided experiential learning experiences for 5 college students to strengthen their academic and career opportunities in such areas as forestry, environmental science, recreation management, museum sciences, horticulture and landscape architecture.

Looking Ahead: Grey Towers staff is working closely with agency leaders to expand and strengthen the leadership development opportunities throughout the agency.

PRESERVATION & ARCHIVAL CONSERVATION: The USFS staff at Grey Towers continues to focus on its core mission of preserving the historic integrity of the National Historic Site’s buildings, landscape and archival collection.

Progress in 2014 helped balance today’s demand for multiple uses with maintaining the historic integrity of Grey Towers:

- Continuing the preservation of the architect-designed landscape at Grey Towers, we restored the wrought iron gate into the marble court terrace utilizing the iron forging techniques of the craftsmen from that period to replicate its original 1920s look.
- With support from partner Grey Towers Heritage Association, we continued the restoration of the Laurel Hill Cemetery on the grounds of Grey Towers with the restoration and installation of 3 of the original iron fences that surround family plots; the repositioning and stabilization of damaged headstones and removal of invasive trees and plants. A popular public education program capped the 2014 efforts.
- Educated thousands with new curatorial exhibits showcasing over 100 items from the historic collection that focus on Gifford Pinchot’s interests in hunting, fishing, travel, natural history, forestry and conservation; James Pinchot’s involvement and contributions to bringing the Statue of Liberty to America, and Mary Pinchot’s appreciation of the art of lacemaking and her donation to the Smithsonian Institute.
- Inventoried and catalogued over 300 donated historic Pinchot family materials, including photos, receipts, documents, books and prints, making these items available for future research and information.



Looking Ahead: Re-plant wildflower meadow with 1,500 plugs to increase natural pollination, decrease maintenance, and restore the historic landscape;

Re-furbish Gifford Pinchot’s 1922 Old Town canoe for exhibit and education

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EDUCATION: The USFS staff at Grey Towers and key partners continue to interpret the lives and contributions of Pinchot family members through a dynamic public program that includes interpretive tours, programs & special events.

Programs in 2014 reached new audiences with education and information that embraces the past and promotes a stewardship ethic for the future:



- Educated more than 15,000 visitors about the Pinchot conservation legacy through interpretive mansion tours and Introduced nearly 900 school children to the USFS, forest conservation education and history with programs along the GT Forest Discovery Trail;
- Broadened understanding of Pinchot family contributions to conservation and social justice through a variety of public programs co-sponsored by partner Grey Towers Heritage Association, including town walking tours, outdoor films, forest education trail hikes and programs, arts programs and more;
- With partner Pinchot Institute for Conservation provided training workshops and classroom materials for nearly 100 regional teachers to address classroom ecology standards and enhance their students' learning experiences;
- With partner Delaware Highlands Conservancy, strengthened the Family-to-Forestland connection with a new "Family Tree Series" of educational programs to help kids and families connect to nature—and to foster conversation about the future of their own family lands. Also strengthened the network of women forest landowners through the Women and Their Woods programs and supported a dynamic website that connects consumers to local providers of a variety of wood products;
- Strengthened community ties and educated new audiences with popular signature events, including the 2-day Festival of Wood (3,500 visitors); a re-creation of Gov. Pinchot's Ice Cream Social (750 visitors); 8KRace/Walk (109 participants); Community Appreciation Day/Community Food Drive (500 participants) and participation as one of the agency's high profile National Public Lands Day volunteer project sites.



Looking Ahead: 2015 is the sesquicentennial commemoration of Gifford Pinchot's 150th birthday. A number of public educational programs, including a Lecture Series that will highlight different aspects of his life and personality, are planned.



ONGOING SUCCESSES:

- Volunteers: Community volunteers, groups and individuals and student interns donated more than 3,500 hours to help the USFS accomplish its work in 2014; key partner Grey Towers Heritage Association donated an additional 1,195 volunteer hours to deliver public programs;
- Tribal relations: GTNHS has begun cultivating a relationship of cooperation and cultural sharing with the Stockbridge Munsee Band of the Mohican Indians, whose traditional homelands are located in the Delaware and Hudson River drainage areas where GTNHS is located;
- 21st Century Technology: Guests can now enjoy cyber capability, including Wi-Fi, enhancing the conference and educational programs; a new Trees of Grey Towers booklet and signage enables visitors to learn more by swiping the QR codes with their electronic devices; a comprehensive Virtual Tour of Grey Towers is now available on two web sites, fs.fed.us/gt and greytowers.org.
- Milford Experimental Forest: USFS staff and several partners are moving forward with implementing the conservation easement on the adjacent Milford Experimental Forest, privately owned by the Pinchot family, with public trail building and interpretive signage, environmental literacy programs for educators, stewardship programs for forest landowners and opportunities for research and data collection.

