

GREY TOWERS LEGACY

Conservation • Community • Culture

SPRING • SUMMER 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

A year ago, I readily accepted the office of President of Grey Towers Heritage Association. The challenge has been joyous as we discover our path forward.

Our assistance to the U.S. Forest Service didn't miss a beat! Popular public events garnered record attendance: the tributary Festival of Wood; the Public Lecture Series that connected to the Readers and Writers Festival; National Public Lands Day with free ice cream; Cemetery Programs that brought to life the stories about early Milford settlers and families; and holiday dramatic readings of Poe and Dickens.

Of course, public programs and beautiful grounds would not have blossomed without you. Your giving spirit is much appreciated!

Kindly continue your support of Grey Towers Heritage Association, and feel free to reach out to any Director. We are in this together!

Marian Keegan

JULY 18TH • JOIN US FOR THIS LECTURE AT GREY TOWERS

Resilient PA: The Keystone to a Sustainable Future

Dr. Peter Boger of Penn State's Sustainability Institute will focus on the importance of an ecologically viable world, and what individuals are doing and can do in the future to maintain a sustainable lifestyle.

Dr. Boger is responsible for helping the Sustainability Institute articulate and implement its vision for community engagement, integrating the university's sustainability initiatives with the needs and goals of government and non-profit partners throughout Pennsylvania.

He assists in carrying out existing programs such as the Sustainable Communities Collaborative and Penn State's Study Away Pittsburgh and Study Away Philadelphia programs.

He is also working on efforts to foster a greater shared ethos of place and community to allow potential campus and community partners to collaborate more easily.

Dr. Boger holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a focus on environmental media and history. He also earned a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies focused on environmental education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in History from Princeton University.

Previously, he was director of Tales from Planet Earth, the largest free admission environmental film festival in the U.S. He also has worked as a special assistant to New Jersey's Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection.

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MESSAGE FROM BILL DAUER, GREY TOWERS DIRECTOR

When the Pinchot family donated their family home, Grey Towers, to the American public in 1963, they chose the USDA Forest Service to be stewards of not only the physical property but the legacy that began here.

Gifford Pinchot, founder and first Chief of the Forest Service, and two-term Governor of Pennsylvania, along with his wife Cornelia and other family members accomplished

many long-lasting conservation, civil rights and social justice initiatives.

Today, the US Forest Service gets to carry forward the ideals and welcome the public to the home. But we couldn't do all that we do without the support of our partners and volunteers. The Grey Towers Heritage Association is a volunteer organization that helps with our public programs and projects that, without their support, would

probably not happen. We appreciate all that GTHA does to help us expand our capacity and leverage our resources.

Your patronage of GTHA is also support for this national treasure. We hope you continue to enjoy and appreciate all that they do.

Bill Dauer



FIRE TOWER UPDATE

Restoring one of the Pinchot Towers—Big Pocono Fire Tower

In 2017, the Big Pocono Fire Tower was disassembled as part of Pennsylvania's plan to upgrade its fire tower network. The tower was relocated to Grey Towers National Historic Site, where a group of volunteers began the work to restore the fire tower (May 2018).

The Big Pocono Fire Tower—built in 1921—is typical of fire tower construction in Pennsylvania between 1914 and 1939. These early Fire Towers, (including the Big Pocono Fire Tower) were sometimes called "Pinchot Towers," because Gifford Pinchot, as the Pennsylvania Commissioner of Forestry in 1921, appropriated \$1,000,000 for forest protection, and some of that money was used to buy 50 fire towers.

The Big Pocono Fire Tower was built by the Aermotor Company, Chicago IL, the first and lead manufacturer of steel fire towers from approximately 1915-1925. These towers have very small cabs because they were placed on Aermotor windmill towers. The Big Pocono Fire Tower has a typical Aermotor LS-40 cab (7 by 7 ft cab);

access was by way of a trap door in the floor. The steel tower was 21 ft. tall.

The first step was the restoration of the fire tower cab, which was disassembled during the summer of 2018 and reassembled during the summer of 2019. The cab was scraped, primed and painted with a final coat of paint similar to the original color. Windows, salvaged from another fire tower of like design were restored and installed.

The interior was completely removed and new flooring and siding installed. A new roof was purchased and installed based on the original Aermotor LS-40 design.

During the summer of 2020, we plan to place the fire tower in the vicinity of the Forest Discovery Trail,



Volunteers rebuild the original fire tower cab.

which will require construction of a new foundation and reattachment of the cab to the steel tower.

The final step will be development of educational panels describing the USFS fire program, its history, Pinchot's role, and fire suppression and management today.

LAUREL HILL CEMETERY UPDATE

Cemetery Repairs, Research, Rehab Reveals Community Roots

Laurel Hill Cemetery one of Milford's first cemeteries. The oldest grave dates to 1810. The cemetery was the burial site for many of Milford's early residents, including several generations of the Pinchot family.

Over time, care of the gravesites decreased and the cemetery fell into disrepair. The U.S. Forest Service, in partnership with the Grey Towers Heritage Association and many others, has worked to restore Laurel Hill Cemetery.

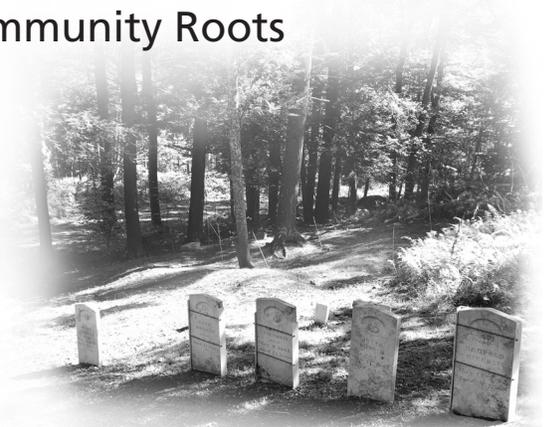
In recent years, a group of volunteers has worked to clean and repair headstones and family plot fencing and restore some of the larger

monuments. Volunteers have uncovered and reset a number of headstones that had been buried.

Volunteers have also worked hard to cut back the vegetation and brush, removing falling trees and other material that restricts access.

Access has been improved by annual mowing of trails and access roads within the cemetery. Recently, a perimeter trail was constructed around the cemetery and the old hearse trail has been cleared.

Mowing and vegetation control around family plots and headstones have made them more accessible.



Volunteers discovered the graves of the entire Kircheis family and research led to their story.

Other improvements include placement of new interpretive signs, entrance sign and placement of three stone benches along pathways.

2019 Successes & Accomplishments

If you've been to a program or event at Grey Towers, enjoyed the gardens or the mansion, connected virtually or been inspired by our essence, chances are you have crossed paths with the Grey Towers Heritage Association.

As the primary partner providing support to the Forest Service for its public programming, outreach and connections, the GTHA and its volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes to accomplish so much.

A sampling from 2019 included support for:

- **Lecture/film series**, including participation in the Milford Readers and Writers Festival;
- **Events:** Festival of Wood, Ice Cream Social and National Public Lands Day;
- **Projects:** Laurel Hill Cemetery; Pinchot fire tower and Milford Experimental Forest;

If you like what we are doing, please consider continuing your support!

Want to get involved? Contact us at 570-296-9625 or info@greytowers.org.

Every year, thousands of visitors learn, enjoy and experience this national icon through the variety of public programs we offer.

The public would not enjoy the same level of programming without the support of the Grey Towers Heritage Association

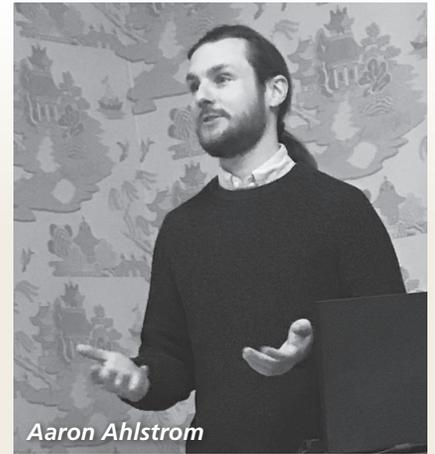
– Bill Daurer, Grey Towers Director



- **Social media/community connection:** Web Site, Facebook, Twitter, Constant Contact;
- **Public Programs:** Edgar Allan Poe and Charles Dickens readings; Cemetery dramatic production;
- **Volunteer support:** annual awards and incentives.

Our Volunteer Board:

- **Donated nearly 700 hours** of service (value: \$17,705);
- **Covered more than 4,000 miles**
- **Provided cash support of more than \$20,000** from donations, memberships and small grants.



Aaron Ahlstrom

Scholar-in-Residence Program 2020

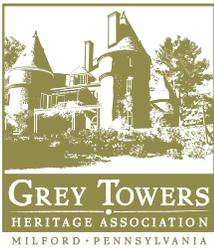
Each year, Grey Towers Heritage Association provides a stipend for scholars to work on their research at Grey Towers.

This year, the scholarship committee voted to support four scholars:

- **Aaron Ahlstrom**, "The Evolution of Massachusetts' State Forests and Parks," including how Gifford Pinchot influenced that evolution.
- **Ryan Edwards**, "History of Argentina's Tierra del Fuego National Park" began as a prison at the End of the World with inmates timbering, helping to develop that frontier.
- **Mette Flynt**, "How Public Use and Coordinated Management of Public and Private Forests Changed Utah Culture."
- **Adam Sowards**, "Historical Disruption and Attempted Restoration of Three Ecologically Important Species Widespread in Public Lands in the American West."

While using the research facilities at Grey Towers, scholars live on the premises, taking advantage of nearby resources.

You can see summaries of previous scholars' research at greytowers.org/scholars



greytowers.org



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OUR MISSION

To assist the US Forest Service in education, improvements, promotion, conservation and wise use of Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford, PA.

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Become a Member

We invite you to join Grey Towers Heritage Association in partnership with the US Forest Service at Grey Towers National Historic Site to continue the Pinchot Legacy by becoming a member of Grey Towers Heritage Association (GHTA).

Benefits of Membership

- Help Preserve the Grey Towers Estate
- Help Support Public Programs
- Help Tell the Pinchot Conservation Story
- Help Strengthen the Community Connection

Membership Levels

- **Individual Associate: \$30**
(Senior \$25/Student \$10)
- **Associate Household: \$50**
(Helps support tree plantings in a National Forest)
- **Patron: \$250 plus Annual Tour Pass**
- **Sponsor: \$500 /Annual Tour Pass**
- **Sustainer: \$1,000 /Annual Tour Pass**

NEW! Need a gift? Give the gift of a GHTA Membership!

You may join us through our website GreyTowers.org

Grey Towers Heritage Association Welcomes Volunteers

There are many Volunteer Opportunities available:

- Mansion and Garden Tours
- Special Events
- Gift Shop
- Conservation Education
- Landscape and Gardens
- Trails
- Cemetery Restoration
- Fire Tower Restoration

And much more!

Go to GreyTowers.org for application and more information on volunteering.

If you can't shop local, shop to give back...



Through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of the purchase price of your items is donated back to Grey Towers Heritage Association by the AmazonSmile Foundation. It's free to sign up and costs you nothing. Visit smile.amazon.com and select **Grey Towers Heritage Association** to get started.