

# The Grey Towers Legacy



## Information and Calendar of Events



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### Message from the Director

#### *The "Greening" of Grey Towers*

Reducing one's "carbon footprint" and "going green" are popular buzzwords this year. At Grey Towers, we're doing more than using the words—we're acting on them.

Among the most important of the changes at Grey Towers this year is our effort to transform Grey Towers into "Green" Towers. We will operate in a more sustainable manner, setting an example for the hundreds of natural resource leaders who come to Grey Towers each year.

Perhaps the greenest building of all is one that is already built, one that has embodied energy, or energy that has already been expended to construct the building. Grey Towers' buildings that already exist and are rehabilitated have already saved an enormous amount of harvesting, extraction of materials and minerals, manufacturing of products, etc.

A "Green Team" at Grey Towers is looking at all aspects of our operation—vehicle use, utilities, purchases, and more. We hope that you will contribute ideas and do your part in making Grey Towers a model of sustainable operation.

Richard Paterson

## 2008 Marks 45-Year Anniversary



*"Every great work is in the shadow of a man, and I don't think many Americans can point to such a distinguished record as can Gifford Pinchot."*

President  
John F. Kennedy,  
Grey Towers,  
Milford, PA  
Sept. 24, 1963

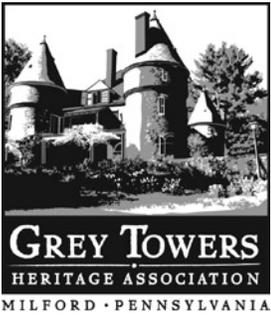
Forty-five years ago, Dr. Gifford Bryce Pinchot turned over the keys to the front door of his family home in Milford, PA, to the American people. The home was Grey Towers, and its importance and significance in American conservation history is as large and massive as the stone towers that are firmly planted on the hilltop overlooking the Delaware River.

Driving this generosity was Dr. Pinchot's intention to have Grey Towers actively carry on the legacy of his father, Gifford Pinchot, eminent conservationist and twice Governor of Pennsylvania. Dr. Pinchot envisioned an institution that would continue the work begun by his father who, as founder and first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, "made conservation an accepted virtue and part of our life which we take for granted today."

In essence, Grey Towers would continue to be a place where we could look to the future, utilizing the rich history of the past.

The U.S. Forest Service and its many partners are working hard to achieve that promise of 45 years ago. Today we continue Pinchot family traditions by offering programs that stimulate the conservation dialogues and debates of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Arts programs illustrate the link between arts and nature, a concept that James Pinchot recognized and supported over a century ago. Education programs introduce resource conservation concepts and promote stewardship ethics. Interpretive tours inform visitors of the magnitude of impact that one family had on the thinking of an entire nation. Leadership development programs for natural resource professionals impart the same leadership qualities that Gifford Pinchot embodied as a gifted administrator.

Dr. Pinchot's vision of 45 years ago is alive today. Grey Towers National Historic Site is not only the keeper of America's conservation history, but a promulgator of the nation's conservation future. To contribute your thoughts on how we might improve at this task, please contact us at 570-296-9630 or send us an e-mail at [greytowers@fs.fed.us](mailto:greytowers@fs.fed.us).



## Grey Towers Heritage Association: Conservation, Culture and Community

A non-profit organization, formed by community members to provide support for Grey Towers and to assist in strengthening the partnership between the community and Grey Towers, has already had an impact on public programming and plans to do more of the same in the future.

During its inaugural year, the Grey Towers Heritage Association (GTHA), led by a volunteer board of directors, was responsible for a number of public programs, including some of the music at the Festival of Wood, the EnviroFest part of Black Bear Film Festival and support for the volunteer program.

The GTHA board members, who are focusing their attention on community support and participation, are striving to assist 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 J. Buchanan,

GTHA president. “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 of 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 enables our other partners with larger-than-Grey-Towers agendas an opportunity to expand their work beyond the estate grounds.”

To learn about how to get involved in the Grey Towers Heritage Association visit the Web at [www.greytowers.org](http://www.greytowers.org) or call 570-296-9630 or write GTHA, c/o Grey Towers, PO Box 188, Milford, PA, 18337.



## Curator's Corner

Rebecca Philpot

### Portraits of the Pinchot Children

Most parents want to capture their children's images at youth, and the Pinchots were no different. James Pinchot, a passionate supporter of the arts, befriended and supported a number of well-known artists, including George Augustus Baker, Jr. (1821-1880). Baker completed two portraits titled “The Pinchot Children” in 1868: Gifford, at age three, and his sister, Lucy Phelps Pinchot, who died at 22 months from scarlet fever.

The staff at Grey Towers was delighted when these exquisite portraits of the Pinchot children resurfaced from a private collection in Georgia. Color images of Gifford as a child are rare, and there was no known photo documentation of Lucy. Also, because her young life was cut short, her beauty and innocence will be forever captured in Baker's artwork.

Both portraits, once exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, received conservation treatment and are on display on the 2nd floor hall of the mansion. Visitors can see them when taking part in the Grey Towers' Three-Floor Tours or Open House (see Calendar Supplement for schedule).

Another Baker portrait was commissioned by James of his bride-to-be, Mary Eno. He gave it to her as an engagement present and it now hangs in the Great Hall of Grey Towers.



*Gifford*



*Lucy*

Baker, born in New York City, studied in Europe and became an excellent portrait artist, most noted for his portraits of women and children. Baker's work is highly finished and carefully drawn, and one would never guess that he was afflicted with serious eye trouble. Well known works include the portrait of artist John F. Kensett at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, and “The Ideal Head” in the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC. Many of his paintings were purchased by James Pinchot's friend G. M. Vanderbilt for his collection.

## Festival of Wood Has Something for Everyone August 9-10, 2008



*The Festival of Wood helps us recognize the many ways we use wood in our everyday lives and how sustainably managed forests can provide that wood today while ensuring forests for the future.*

The fourth annual Festival of Wood—August 9-10, 2008—builds on the success of previous events while expanding the activities, programs and events to help celebrate our natural and cultural heritage of wood.

Highlights of the 2008 Festival:

**Unique wood crafts** and art will be exhibited, sold and demonstrated. Some examples include: wood furniture, pipe boxes, Shaker boxes, sawdust folk art, wooden snowflakes, wooden bowls, wood turning, fretwork and hand-carved sculpture. Co-sponsored by the Pocono Arts Council, the crafts component will illustrate how beautiful objects that we use in our everyday lives are created from wood.

**Children's activities** include games and toys using wood and wood products. The Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society will host a bluebird nest box building activity. A Forestry Trail hike and a visit from Smokey Bear



and Woodsy Owl also are planned. New this year: Forest fire fighting activity.

**Films and lectures** about wood and forestry, educational exhibits and informational handouts will be available throughout the weekend.

**New this year:** "Alternative Forest Products" and "Herbal and Medicinal Forest Products."

**Free music** with wood instruments will be provided each day. **New this year:** Celtic music and African drum circle.

**Educational exhibits** and handouts from a variety of organizations and agencies, such as reintroducing the American Chestnut Tree, private forest landowner information, tree identification and U.S. Forest Service wood technology initiatives.

**A Living History program** and refreshments celebrating Gifford Pinchot's birthday.

All three floors of the historic mansion are open for visitors both days; a \$4 fee will be charged.



## Leadership Development and the Grey Towers Conference Center

*"...among the many, many public officials who under my administration rendered literally invaluable service to the people of the United States, Gifford Pinchot, on the whole, stood first."*—President Theodore Roosevelt, *An Autobiography*, 1913

What leadership skills, characteristics and abilities must one embody to be held in such high esteem by one of this nation's most prominent leaders? A leadership legacy that began in 1905 when Gifford Pinchot founded the U.S. Forest Service continues today as the agency strives to nurture and cultivate these leadership attributes within the current and future agency leaders.

Grey Towers continues to play an increasing national role in the Forest Service Leadership Development Program. With its retreat-like setting and unique historical perspective, Grey Towers is the perfect place for natural resource professionals to come to re-connect with their conservation roots and to leave inspired to lead as their founding father did over 100 years ago.

Some examples of the Leadership Development programs at Grey Towers include the Forest Supervisors' Leadership Program, Senior Leader Programs and Coach Training. Grey Towers also hosts the Leadership Laboratory and new leadership development opportunities such as the Leadership Legacy, Leadership Renewal and Staff Officers Program. The popular Ranger Academy is now an established Grey Towers program.

The Grey Towers Conference Center also hosts other natural resource conservation groups. On average, more than 1,500 professionals utilize the meeting and conference space for planning sessions, meetings, retreats and more.

Perhaps one Leadership program participant summed it up best when he said:

*"Leadership of the agency—Rangers, Forest Supervisors, the Chief—should train at the birthplace of the leadership of the agency."*

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### *What is Grey Towers?*

A 44-room French chateausque mansion that was built in 1886 by James Pinchot. Today it serves as an education and leadership development center for natural resources. Administered by the U.S. Forest Service, it was donated to the public in 1963 by Dr. Gifford Bryce Pinchot to carry on the legacy of his father, Gifford Pinchot, eminent conservationist and two-term Pennsylvania governor.

### *What did Gifford Pinchot accomplish?*

As founder and first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot introduced and then implemented the groundbreaking concept of conservation, or sustainable use of our natural resources. An eminent conservationist, he helped create the National Forest System, which today comprises over 190 million acres. As two-term governor of Pennsylvania, Gifford, along with his wife Cornelia, made tremendous changes in the economic, social and political climate of the Commonwealth.

### *Who were some of the other Pinchots?*

**James and Mary Pinchot**, Gifford's parents, built the house in 1886. James, who grew up in Milford, was a wealthy businessman who made his fortune in wallpaper. As patrons of the arts, James and Mary were supporters of the Hudson River School of Painting, and James was co-founder of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. James had a strong conservation ethic and vision for the nation and both encouraged their son Gifford to pursue forestry as a career. **Amos Pinchot**, Gifford's brother, was his political confidante and advisor, a lawyer who helped found the American Civil Liberties Union. Their sister **Antoinette** married a British diplomat and focused her energies on social causes in Europe, including running the American hospital in France during WWI.



### *Were the gardens at Grey Towers always so lavish?*

No. During James and Mary's time, the grounds included a large rose garden and apple trees, but mostly was a working farm. It wasn't until Gifford and his wife Cornelia Bryce Pinchot moved to Grey Towers in the 1920s and 1930s that the gardens, under Cornelia's planning and vision, began to take shape. Working with landscape architects and designers, Cornelia added all the plantings and stone features in the landscape, including the buildings. She and Gifford planted over 100 trees.

### *What can I do at Grey Towers?*

Visitors are encouraged to join us on a guided tour of the first floor of the mansion and the grounds. Or, you can walk around the grounds, see the historic gardens or take a hike on the trails. There are a number of public programs planned throughout the visitor season. School programs, conferences and leadership development programs also are held here.

### *Who can use the Conference Center at Grey Towers?*

Any natural resource agencies, groups, associations and organizations that are working on conservation or have as their mission natural resource conservation.

### *Can I have my wedding or take wedding photos at Grey Towers?*

As nice as the landscape is, it is not within the scope of our mission to host weddings or other private social functions. There are a few locations in the landscape outside of the historic corridor where we allow wedding photos, as long as they don't interfere with our primary functions and use. Use of these locations must be approved in advance.

### *Is Grey Towers haunted?*

There have been no documented sightings of ghosts, though some claim to have "felt" a presence. It depends on your personal interpretation and beliefs.

### *Why isn't there a dining room in the House?*

Grey Towers served mainly as a summer home. Gifford and Cornelia Pinchot spent a lot of time outdoors. The outdoor dining table, also known as the Fingerbowl, served as their dining room and is the most popular feature in the landscape.

## TOWER TIDBITS

**Estate size:** 102 acres

**Mansion:** 18,200 sq. ft. (excluding basement and attic)

**Original bedrooms:** 16 (excluding the servants' wing)

**Windows:** Approximately 100, including French door windows

**Fireplaces:** 15 (some were removed by Cornelia Pinchot during renovations in the 1920s)

**Outer walls:** Fieldstone and quarried bluestone (local)

**Roof:** Slate (local)

**Interior floors:** Pine, except in library, which is teak veneer over pine subfloor

**Heat source:** Fireplaces, coal, steam over time. Currently natural gas.

**Cost to build** (1886): \$19,000 (\$44,000 furnished and with trim elements)

**Cost to restore/rehabilitate** (2001): \$18 million, including interior and exterior, outbuildings, landscape, new entry drive, parking and visitor pavilion.

# Conservation Learning Opportunities at Grey Towers

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation, a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization, supports several Grey Towers programs that enhance learning opportunities for natural resource professionals, students and the public.

## ***Edgar Brannon Conservation Fellows Program:***

The Edgar Brannon Conservation Fellows Program, open to natural resource professionals in the public sector, is focused on furthering knowledge and understanding of conservation issues. Two Fellows from the U.S. Forest Service have completed projects at Grey Towers. Dick Phillips, a regional economist on the Resource Planning and Monitoring Staff in the Pacific Northwest Region, completed a project on “Environmental Management Systems, a Forest Service Experience,” evaluating the cultural, social and fiscal impacts of developing and using environmental management systems on National Forests.

Gregory Nowacki, regional ecologist for the Eastern Region, spent several weeks at Grey Towers identifying, securing, reading and electronically cataloguing the large amount of literature that

addresses presettlement conditions that could serve as a reference for ecosystem restoration throughout the Eastern Region. His final seminar included an ecological assessment documenting past and current conditions, land-use impacts and past-to-current trend analysis.

For Brannon Conservation Fellows Program 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.

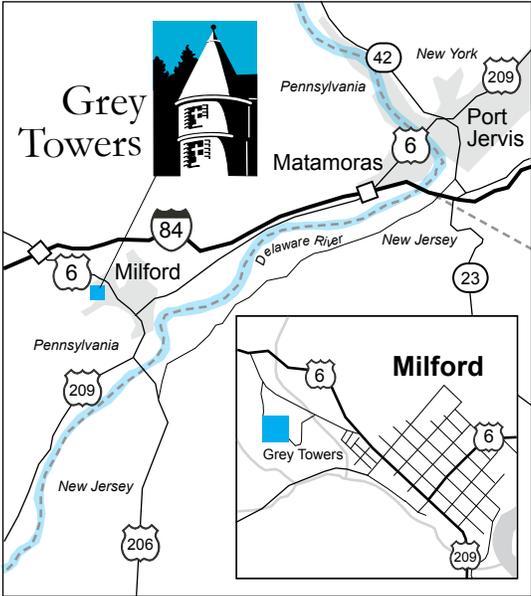
A large part of the history and visitor experience at Grey Towers is centered on the formal, landscaped and wooded grounds created in large part by Cornelia Pinchot. The Elisabeth S. Mortimer Internship provides students with a valuable, hands-on experience that challenges and broadens the student’s knowledge of practical applications of horticultural

theory learned in the classroom. The intern works closely with Grey Towers Horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke. For more information call 570-296-9661 or send an e-mail to [ehawke@fs.fed.us](mailto:ehawke@fs.fed.us).

## ***Conservation History Program Taught at Grey Towers***

“A Day in the Life of a Forestry Student” is a unique educational program that introduces students to forestry education as it was when the profession was first introduced by Gifford Pinchot over 100 years ago. Students visit a replica of the former Yale School of Forestry Camp, where America’s first trained foresters—including five Forest Service chiefs and Aldo Leopold—gained their practical forestry training at Grey Towers. The program takes the students through a typical day of a forestry student circa 1901-1926, including an introduction to the tools of the trade, the history of America’s National Forests and what camp life was like. The students then are introduced to some of today’s challenges of forest management, including the emphasis on State and Private Forestry and a land-based stewardship ethic. Visit [www.fs.fed.us/gt](http://www.fs.fed.us/gt) to learn more.





**Grey Towers**

Phone: 570-296-9630

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

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## *Grey Towers Volunteer Program Has Opportunities for Everyone*

### **Orientation Session: April 19, 2008**

Due to an increased interest in volunteer opportunities at Grey Towers, the U.S. Forest Service has scheduled an orientation session for Saturday, April 19, 2008, from 10 am to 12 noon.

While not mandatory, participation is highly recommended. Volunteers who attend the training will have a more rewarding experience at Grey Towers.

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

**A rewarding experience:** Grey Towers volunteers are invited to two volunteer appreciation and recognition events each year. In addition, volunteers with a certain number of cumulative hours of service are offered reward incentives.

Finally, volunteering offers 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 40 lbs), climb stairs, and stand for long periods of time.

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



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