

The Grey Towers Legacy



Information and Calendar of Events



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Message from the Director

With some of today's tremendous economic, environmental, and social problems, "hope" has become a valuable commodity across the country. I think Grey Towers can be a source of inspiration in taking on some of these challenges. After all, it has a history of providing hope and inspiration in the face of catastrophe.

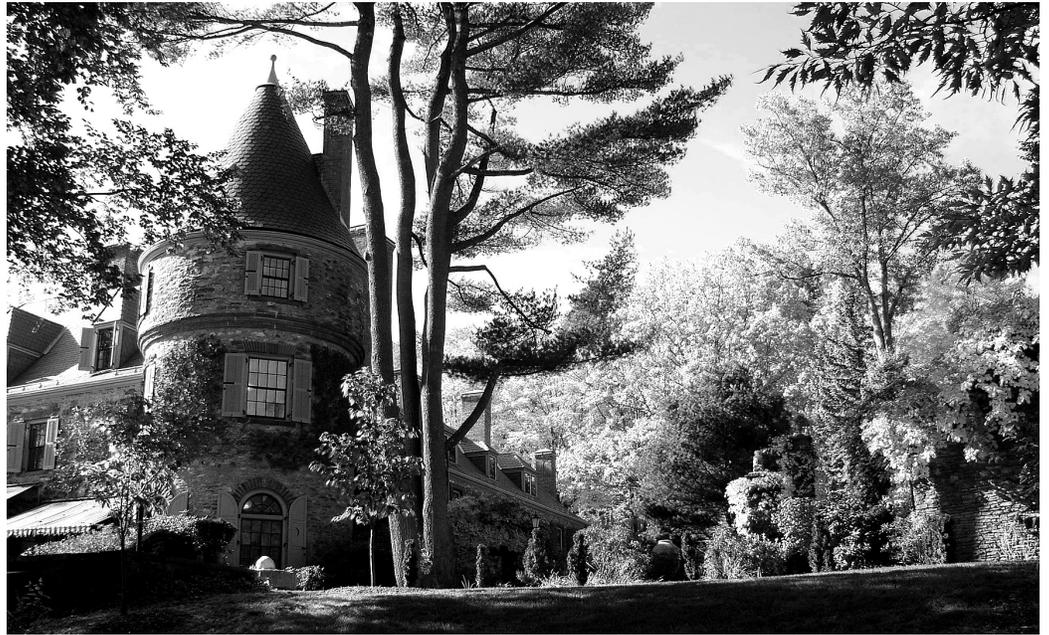
When Gifford Pinchot began his calling to conservation in America, there was no land being managed under the principles of conservation. What public land existed wasn't being looked after at all. Deforestation was sweeping across America, followed by unbelievable erosion and environmental degradation. Those paying any attention knew we were not far from a large-scale timber famine.

Perhaps Gifford's biggest contribution was "hope." He defied incredible odds and just got to work doing what needed to be done. There were no foresters, so he created a graduate school at Yale to train some. Conservationists were not organized, so he created a professional society in his living room (it did help to have the sitting President attend). There was no agency leading conservation, so he created the US Forest Service.

I do not know what Gifford Pinchot would do if he were with us today, facing both climate change and a climate of change. But I do know he would roll up his sleeves and get to work.

Richard Paterson

Grey Towers As An Inspiration – Then and Now



When James Pinchot first envisioned his family home on the top of a hillside in bucolic Milford, PA, he pictured an inspirational setting that would serve as the place where he would live out the rest of his years. James committed to restoring the forests around Grey Towers while encouraging his eldest son, Gifford, to restore the forests throughout the nation. Inspired by his father from their home at Grey Towers, Gifford went on to become the founder and first chief of the US Forest Service.

James surrounded himself with artists and the arts, supporting those who would go on to inspire a nation through their work. A founder of the Hudson River School, James recognized early on that the arts could connect people to the environment.

Later, when Gifford and his wife Cornelia moved into Grey Towers, the home was transformed into an estate "fitting of a governor," and served as inspiration for the couple's progressive and active political agenda as they set out to change the social and economic face of Pennsylvania.

In the 1960's, the home and its rich history inspired Gifford and Cornelia's only child Dr.

Gifford Bryce Pinchot to donate the estate to the American public, to carry forward the family legacy and to continue to inspire others.

Inspiration. Webster's Dictionary explains it as "the act or power of moving the intellect or emotions." At Grey Towers, inspiration means that and so much more.

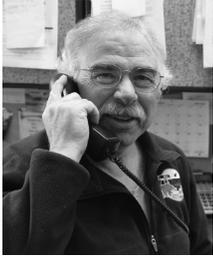
Committed to fulfilling Dr. Pinchot's vision of creating an inspirational place, the US Forest Service and its many partners have set about making available as many opportunities for as many different audiences to gain inspiration from the setting while examining their personal role in the future of natural resource conservation.

From motivational Leadership Development programs to stirring interpretive tours, from stimulating public lectures to engaging children's classes, from weekend walks to public talks, visual, literary and musical arts, or just a quiet bench to sit upon, Grey Towers is growing into and fulfilling its inspirational role.

The Pinchots sensed the ability for this place to "move the intellect and emotions" before the first stone was set in this ground. We invite you to visit and be inspired.

Discovery of Alaska's Oldest Human Remains Leads to Grey Towers

FS Employee Pens Report of 12-year Archeological Project in a Pinchot Tower



What does the discovery of human remains and artifacts dating to more than 10,000 years before present during paleontological excavations in a cave on southeast Alaska's Prince of Wales Island in July 1996 have to do with Grey Towers, the ancestral Pinchot family home situated on a hilltop clear on the other side of the country?

Terry Fifield, an archaeologist with Alaska's Tongass National Forest, recently spent three months at Grey Towers drawing inspiration from the setting to write the history of this archaeological and tribal relations success story, dubbed the "On Your Knees Cave" project and held up as a model for doing archaeology in the 21st century.

The discovery of the oldest known human remains in Alaska or Canada set in motion a chain of events that has led to significant scientific discoveries, important educational opportunities, and remarkable relationships among the forest service, Alaska Natives, and researchers. For 12 years, Fifield served as the liaison between the partners, providing a free flow of information and seeking benefits for all interested partners.

In 2006 the local tribes submitted a claim for the human remains under the authority of the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act. In 2007, after due analysis and public notification, the Tongass National Forest transferred custody of the 10,300 year-old remains to the local tribes. And in September 2008 the Klawock and Craig Tribal Governments, with the help of Sealaska Heritage

Institute and the Tongass National Forest, honored the person whose remains were discovered (dubbed Shuká Kaa, "Man Ahead of Us" by Tlingit elders), the knowledge gained by his study, and the relationships formed and strengthened during these years. The Shuká Kaa Honor Ceremony was attended by tribal, state, and federal dignitaries from Alaska to Washington, DC.

Forest service leaders in Heritage and Tribal Relations wanted to capture the On Your Knees Cave project model to help other professionals who might be navigating similar sensitive situations. What Fifield needed was a place to reflect upon the activities of the past 12 years and write it up in a setting that was removed from the distractions of his normal duties. Grey Towers offers the perfect contemplative retreat for a project of this magnitude, and it fits well with the mission of working with a broad spectrum of the American public and making the best uses of non-renewable public resources.

Spending time at Grey Towers, learning about the origins of the conservation philosophy in America, has provided that inspirational and contemplative setting and more. "The Pinchot estate is not just an architectural marvel. It is a center of intellectual growth and change. Listening to the staff here, and to the patrons and visitors that attend Grey Towers sponsored events, I gain a sense of what conservation means, not only to Gifford Pinchot and Teddy Roosevelt, but also in the eyes of today's agency leaders and the public. I can see my work here as part of something bigger that may add to the body of experience that guides future resource managers."

For more information on the "On Your Knees Cave" project, contact Terry Fifield at tfifield@fs.fed.us.

Beyond the Mansion: Grey Towers Forestry Trail



Students learn about forest conservation at the Yale tent.

Improvements to a little-known trail at Grey Towers offer a glimpse into stories and information *beyond the mansion*. The Grey Towers Forestry Trail, a ½-mile loop located behind the mansion in a 40 acre forested section of the estate, offers history, wildlife, forestry and more.

Trail hikers can learn about the demise of and see first-hand the American Chestnut and Hemlock trees; see the remains of mansion's first water tower; listen for pileated woodpeckers; identify different mushrooms and more.

The most unique feature of the trail is a re-creation of the Yale School of Forestry summer campsite. From 1901 to 1926, students from Yale University attended summer forestry school at Grey Towers, living in tents in the woods and practicing forestry skills. Visitors can step back in time with a visit to the authentic period tent and campsite, complete with photo exhibit. A white pine

plantation, planted by the students nearly a century ago, can be seen from the trail.

If you are hiking with children, ask about borrowing our Smokey Bear backpack, complete with kid-friendly forestry activities that you can do along the trail.



Festival of Wood Promotes Goods From the Woods August 8-9, 2009



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 Festival of Wood—August 8th and 9th, 2009—reaches a five-year milestone this year! Each year, we have been successful building on previous events while expanding the activities, programs and events to help celebrate our natural and cultural heritage of wood. Most events are free!

Highlights of the 2009 Festival:

Unique wood crafts and art are 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 illustrates 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. A magician and musician will entertain and educate children about the forest. Children can build bluebird nest boxes (from wood, of course!) and learn about habitat conservation. Live amphibians and reptiles will visit.

Films and lectures about wood and forestry, educational exhibits and informational handouts will be available throughout the weekend. Topics such as Alternative Forest Products and Private Forest Landowners are offered.

Wood in Building exhibits, activities and demonstrations highlight the many ways we use wood in our homes and landscapes. Co-sponsored by the Pike County Builders Association, with a visit from Pike's Bob the Builder, the Wood in Building tent includes home construction, tree and shrub planting and interior wood décor projects.

Free music with wood instruments is offered each day.

Educational exhibits and handouts from a variety of organizations and agencies, such as reintroducing the American Chestnut Tree, next generation landowner information, tree identification, U.S. Forest Service wood technology initiatives and reducing your carbon footprint.

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

Refreshments are available.

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

The Festival of Wood is a collaborative project of the US Forest Service at Grey Towers, Grey Towers Heritage Association, Northeast Area State and Private Forestry and many, many community partners.



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.

Why can't we see the upper floors of the mansion?

The second and third floors of the mansion have been renovated as an active conference center, in keeping with the original intent of the gift of Grey Towers from Dr. Gifford Bryce Pinchot. He wanted to make sure Grey Towers continued to be a place where conservation conversations and dialogues would continue to take place, just as they did when his father lived here. Check the calendar schedule to find out when a three-floor tour or an Open House is offered to give visitors a look at those upper floors.

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.



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.

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.

How do we get to the falls?

The waterfalls are located on private property and the landowner no longer allows public access.

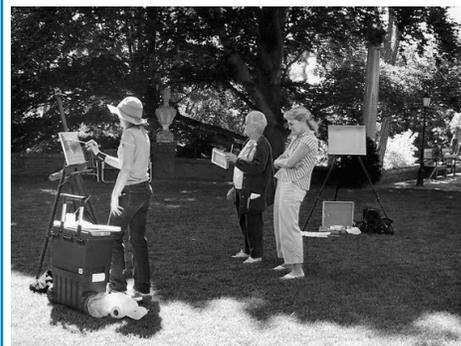
Is Grey Towers haunted?

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.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Teachers: Plan a field trip or have us visit your classroom. Earn continuing education credits at one of our teacher workshops

Natural Resource Professionals: Research, reflect or write using the inspirational ambiance of Grey Towers. Forest Service detail opportunity (570-296-9630) or Edgar Brannon Conservation Fellows Program (202-797-6580).

College Students: Check out our internship opportunities www.fs.fed.us/gt/internships.

Artists: Gain creative inspiration from the grounds.

YOU: Take a tour, attend a program, visit the estate grounds, participate in an event.



Have some spare time? Consider volunteering at Grey Towers

Have a passion for history? An interest in conservation? Do you love to garden? Enjoy talking to people? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you might enjoy volunteering at Grey Towers. Opportunities exist for tour guides, gift shop, garden and landscape, research and curatorial and maintenance positions.

An orientation session is planned for Saturday, April 18, 2009, 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.

Throughout the year Grey Towers relies on its volunteers who contribute thousands of hours. 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.

For more information or to register for the Volunteer Orientation call 570-296-9630 or send an e-mail to greytowers@fs.fed.us, with “Volunteering” in the subject line.



Private Forest Lands: The Unfinished Business of Gifford Pinchot

Educational Workshops Offered for Private Forestland Owners



Dr. Ann Rhoads instructing landowners about invasive during a “Women and their Woods” workshop.

As the first Chief of the US Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot pioneered forest conservation in the U.S. He and President Theodore Roosevelt created the National Forest system, setting aside more than a million acres for public use, and set in motion the State forestry agency system.

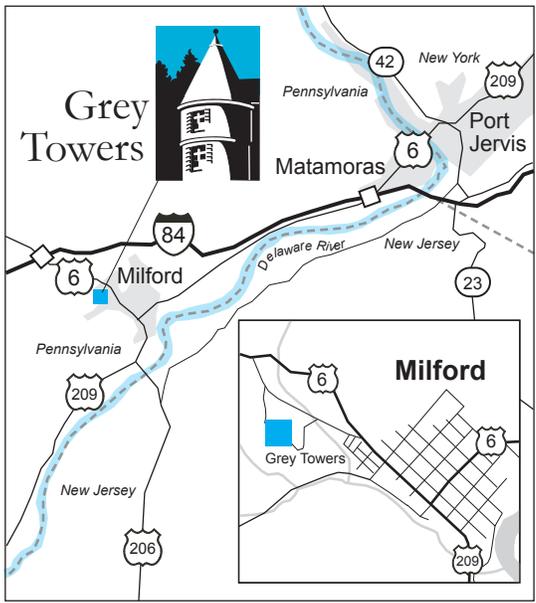
Near the end of his life, Pinchot referred to private forestry as his “last unfinished business,” making clear the understanding that while the nation and the states had a plan and a system, private landowners did not. Pinchot recognized that private landowners needed support and resources and today natural resource conservation includeS educating the private landowner because “private forests do the public good.”

The US Forest Service at Grey Towers and the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Hawley, PA, have launched a number of initiatives that address “the unfinished business of Gifford Pinchot,” providing support and resources for the private landowner.

“Women and Their Woods” is an ongoing program that invites women landowners to learn more about the forests they own. There now is a growing network of women forest landowners who have access to information about such topics as forest health, landowner rights and talking to the next generation about forest land ownership.

“Explore the Value in Your Woods” helps private forest landowners face today’s challenges, such as the wood products industry, gas leasing and land values and creates a network of landowners who can work together to protect the private forests in the region.

These programs will continue to look for innovative and interesting ways to provide a resource or private landowners and to strengthen the networking and communication opportunities necessary in today’s touch economic times. The Conservancy and the US Forest Service at Grey Towers are exploring such topics as wildlife habitat improvement, protecting forest health, and working with professionals to manage private forestland. For more information contact Grey Towers at 570-296-9672 (greytowers@fs.fed.us) or the Conservancy at 570-226-3164 or www.delawarehighlands.org.



Grey Towers

Phone: 570-296-9630

For more information see our Web page at www.fs.fed.us/gt

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Carrying Forward the Pinchot Leadership Legacy

Ellen Geis, Assistant Director for Leadership & Business Management

I can't think of a better way for Grey Towers to honor the leadership legacy of the first chief of the US Forest Service or the first family of scientific forestry in America than to assist in the development of present day natural resource leaders. Many may not realize that Grey Towers has been doing just that for nearly two decades.

Back in the early 1990's, the US Forest Service convened a panel of agency leaders and organizational development specialists to discuss the idea of creating a peer-to-peer leadership development program for Forest Supervisors. Agency leaders recognized that when one Forest Supervisor was not fairing well, all the Forest Supervisors suffered some residual effect. A development program was launched from Grey Towers.

The historic site, with a past that helped sow the seeds of American conservation, provides the perfect atmosphere and ambiance for natural resource leaders to take some time out of their busy schedules and day-to-day stresses for reflection. The programs provide participants an opportunity to learn about facing challenges, to learn from other's experiences, and most importantly, to learn about themselves. These US Forest Service leaders gain an insight into their leadership skills and abilities. They are inspired to become better leaders in a place that inspired the agency's first leader, Gifford Pinchot.

Over time, the program has grown to include more than Forest Supervisors, ranging from deputy forest supervisors to staff officers to executive assistants.



The programs now include small group settings, interpretive presentations, roundtable discussions, sabbaticals, experiential learning, team building, decision making processes, conflict management skills, and leading through times of change, to name just a few. The sessions reach more than 350 leaders annually from all areas of the country, the US Forest Service and other resource management agencies.

We're confident that Pinchot would find this a very fitting use of his family home.

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