

Grey Towers National Historic Site



2015 Accomplishment Highlights

Thank you for taking a moment to review our 2015 Accomplishment Report, my first as the new Director of Grey Towers National Historic Site. This was a year full of celebration and transition as we successfully commemorated Gifford's 150th birthday (August 11th) while the outstanding staff patiently worked through two Acting Directors and my official transition. Along the way, we hosted a record breaking Festival of Wood and the growing 8k Race/Walk, and Chief Tom Tidwell officially rolled out the national Every Kid in a Park initiative during our Public Lands Day and traditional Pinchot ice cream social. Nearly 500 Forest Service employees from across the nation rolled through working on their leadership development while more than 1,000 natural resource professionals met here to discuss conservation for "... the long run." A big thank you to our many partners, with special thanks to the Pinchot Institute and the Grey Towers Heritage Association; read about their many projects, including the refurbishing of Gifford's canoe. By all indications, 2016 will be as busy and exciting as ever and I remain honored to have been selected to be part of it all. Please plan to spend some time here this year!

Bill Dauer, Director

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

The USFS staff at Grey Towers continues to build upon Gifford Pinchot's leadership ethos and provides an intellectual and inspirational center for natural resource leadership development.



Grey Towers in springtime

Programs in 2015 provided opportunities for Natural Resource Professionals, Scholars & Historians, and Emerging Leaders (Interns/Youth):

- New and expanded leadership programs at Grey Towers include the increasingly popular Leader as Convener workshop; the Eastern Province of the Middle Leader Program, and FS Roundtable opportunities;
- More than 1,000 natural resource professionals from federal, state, local and NGO natural resource organizations utilized the Grey Towers conference facilities to advance their leadership abilities and organizational goals through programs at Grey Towers;



Fingerbowl workshop inspiration

- Nearly 420 Forest Service employees, ranging from middle level management, operational and leadership teams to Forest Supervisors, benefitted from meaningful Leadership Development programs;
- The FS Senior Leader program has returned to Grey Towers!
- Grey Towers staff coordinated leadership development opportunities and retreats for other FS staffs, and 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 2 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;
- Launched and hosted the first Heritage Scholar candidate, a program that will help capture case studies for future use within the agency;
- Provided experiential learning experiences for 8 college students to strengthen their academic and career opportunities in such areas as forestry, environmental science, recreation management, museum sciences, horticulture and landscape architecture. Also coordinated hands-on natural resource learning experiences with students, the USFS urban field station in NYC and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Looking Ahead: Grey Towers staff is working closely with agency leaders to expand and strengthen the leadership development opportunities throughout the agency, including the expanded Leader as Convener workshop and introducing agency staffs that are interested in the Grey Tower's learning experience.

LANDSCAPE, 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.



Headstone stabilization

Progress in 2015 helped balance today's demand for multiple uses with maintaining the historic integrity of Grey Towers:

- Continued the preservation of the architect-designed landscape at Grey Towers with restoration of wrought iron gates, sculptures and other landscape features.
- 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 development and installation of stabilization devices for headstones; stump and invasive plant removal and new entry sign. A popular public education program capped the 2015 efforts;
 - ✧ re-planted wildflower meadow with 1,500 plugs to increase natural pollination, decrease maintenance, and restore the historic landscape;
 - ✧ re-furbished Gifford Pinchot's 1922 Old Town canoe for exhibit and education;

- Educated thousands with new curatorial exhibits showcasing a) over 100 items from the historic collection that illustrated a timeline of Gifford Pinchot's life, and b) newly acquired Cornelia Pinchot's desk and memorabilia representing her life of activism.
- Inventoried and catalogued hundreds of donated historic Pinchot family materials, including photos, receipts, documents, books and prints, making these items available for research.

Looking Ahead: Visitors will appreciate and gain inspiration from Cornelia Pinchot's original design and vision with the restoration of the Long Pool and Garden.



Cornelia Pinchot Exhibit

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, conservation education & special events.

Programs in 2015 centered on Gifford Pinchot's 150th birthday commemoration and heightened the public's knowledge of all he accomplished and contributed to conservation and social justice in America:

- Nearly 1,000 visitors participated in the annual National Public Lands Day activities at Grey Towers, including Chief Tidwell's introduction to the Every Kid in a Park national initiative. Local fourth graders earned the agency's first free passes for entry to the nation's public lands at the event, and throughout the year.
- Educated more than 17,000 visitors about the Pinchot conservation legacy through interpretive mansion tours and programs. Introduced nearly 630 students to forest history and stewardship with conservation education programs along the Grey Towers 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, lectures, films, forest education trail hikes and programs, arts programs, Community Appreciation Days, an ice cream social, festivals and more;
- With partner Delaware Highlands Conservancy, provided educational programs to help kids and families connect to nature—and to foster conversation about the future of their own family lands; strengthened the network of women forest landowners through the Women and Their Woods programs; supported a dynamic website that connects consumers to local providers



Chief Tidwell Delivers Every Kid in a Park passes.



Top: Gifford Pinchot and His Canoe.
Bottom: Audubon Exhibit at Festival of Wood

of a variety of wood products; and coordinated with the Pinchot family and the American Chestnut Foundation to plant 465 American Chestnut seedlings at the Milford Experimental Forest;

- 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 (900 visitors); 8K Race/Walk (109 participants); Community Appreciation Day/Community Food Drive (1,000 participants) and participation as one of the agency’s high profile National Public Lands Day volunteer project sites.

Looking Ahead: Development of new interpretive programs and materials that focus on different aspects of the Pinchot family members, their accomplishments and contributions to American society.

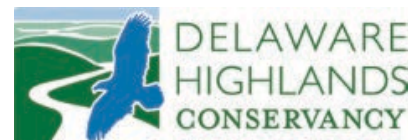
ONGOING SUCCESSES:

- **Volunteers:** Community volunteers, groups and individuals and student interns donated more than 3,500 hours to help the USFS accomplish its work in 2015; key partner Grey Towers Heritage Association donated an additional 2,217 volunteer hours to deliver public programs and leverage FS funding and resources;
- **Tribal relations:** 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 Grey Towers is located, continues to strengthen;
- **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, and stewardship programs for forest landowners. Opportunities for research and data collection, such as a chestnut tree planting program and installation of Smart Forest monitoring equipment, is underway.



Top: Youngsters Enjoying the Grounds.
Bottom: Planting Chestnut Trees at Milford Experimental Forest

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