



# THE PINCHOT LETTER

News from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE USDA FOREST SERVICE

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*Dedicated by former President John F. Kennedy, Jr. at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark  
to further Gifford Pinchot's forest conservation legacy.*

## Wildfire Lessons: Rethinking The “Wildland Urban Interface”

*Dr. V. Alaric Sample  
President  
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Something that many of us learned with our introduction to college dorm life is that you don't really know someone until you've lived with him or her. The nicest person can turn out to have some bizarre habits that make them challenging to have as a roommate.

We love forests and the beautiful, cool, green environment they create. Forests are wonderful places in which to visit, and if you are lucky enough, to live. Who doesn't dream of packing up their computer and fax machine, or perhaps their retirement check, and moving to some wooded retreat in which to both live and work? But it turns out that forests, too, can have bad habits that can make them hard to live in. They tend to burn.

The term “wildland urban interface” has been invented to describe the boundary between human and forest communities. To some, this suggests a distinct sort of threshold, like stepping from one's grassy backyard into the shade of the woods beyond. In fact, this boundary is more gradual in most instances, with fingers

of human habitation winding far into mountains and forests where they both influence, and are influenced by, natural events inherent to these functioning ecosystems.



Dr. Al Sample

In recent years, more than a few forest dwellers have seen their dream turn into a nightmare as wildfires have taken both the forest and their homes. In some instances, extraordinary and often risky efforts by firefighters have saved homes, only to leave them overlooking a charred

landscape profoundly changed from the one that attracted the homeowner there in the first place. Enormous values have been lost—not only economic and aesthetic values, but water quality, erosion and flood controls, fish habitat, biological diversity and others—thus prompting the latest crisis in forest policy. What can be done? What should be done?

### ADAPTING TO NATURE'S TERMS

The “wildland urban interface” can often be a collision between a human system that likes order, certainty, and some degree of permanence, and a natural one that tends toward unpredictability, chaos, and

*(continued on page 2)*

### INSIDE

-  **Why All the Fuss About Forest Certification?....page 5**
-  **The Machine in the Garden .....page 9**
-  **Donate Online.....page 18**

*Leadership in Forest Conservation Thought, Policy and Action*



what would appear to be occasional self-destruction.

In historical studies on natural fires, some of which go back a thousand years or more, fire ecologists, such as the University of Washington's Jim Agee, suggest that almost every kind of forest in the US—from the dry pine forests of the Rockies to even the temperate rain forests of the Pacific Northwest—has burned at regular intervals, and will likely continue to do so. Many forest types, most notably the ponderosa pine forests of the interior West, have been

shown to be subject to frequent low-intensity fires that tend to thin out the underbrush, kill some of the smaller trees, and leave most of the large healthy trees scorched, but still dominating the ecosystem.

But every few centuries, perhaps during periods of drought that extend for a decade or more, these and most other types of forests burn intensely over large areas. While many of the fires in recent years have been attributed to a century-long policy of aggressive fire suppression, it should be kept in mind that the landmark fires

that torched most of western Montana and northern Idaho in 1910 preceded this policy. So did the fires that Agee has shown swept through the forests of the Pacific Northwest three hundred years ago. Through research like Agee's, patterns emerge that are otherwise hard to for us to ascertain. Our understanding of the world is often framed by the context of human lifetimes. Forests operate on their own time scale.

Forest ecosystem processes also operate on their own geographic  
(continued on page 3)

## ABOUT THE PINCHOT INSTITUTE

Recognized as a leader in forest conservation thought, policy and action, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation was dedicated in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy, Jr. at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark (Milford, PA)—home of conservation leader Gifford Pinchot. The Institute is an independent nonprofit organization that works collaboratively with all Americans nationwide—from federal and state policymakers to citizens in rural communities—to strengthen forest conservation by advancing sustainable forest management, developing conservation leaders, and providing science-based solutions to emerging natural resource issues. Further information about the Pinchot Institute's programs and activities can be found at [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org).

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scale. On a single day, June 7, 2002, Colorado's Hayman Fire raced 19 miles from Lake George to the foothills west of suburban Denver. It was stopped just short of the Rampart Range by an 8,000-acre prescribed burn that had been a center of controversy when the Forest Service conducted it the year before. The area that had been treated through prescribed burning altered the behavior of the runaway fire in a way that more limited, smaller-scale treatments simply could not have done. Though human-caused, the Hayman fire had become a force of Nature, operating on Nature's own superhuman scale.

#### CHANGING THE BEHAVIOR OF FUTURE WILDFIRES

As with other wildfires last year, several of which spread over several hundreds of thousands of acres, natural as well as human values were diminished. At a June 3, 2003 Denver symposium entitled *Wildfire, Forests and Biodiversity*, sponsored by the National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry, some of the nation's leading forest ecologists described recent research showing the impacts on animal and plant diversity from sustained fire suppression, which was followed by unnaturally large and intense wildfires. In the Southwest, more critical habitat for the endangered Mexican spotted owl was destroyed by wildfires during the past year than has been affected by timber harvesting in a decade. Oregon's 500,000-acre Biscuit Fire entered the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and eliminated extensive areas of old-growth Douglas-fir forest, which served as habitat for the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.

In time, these habitats will return, but over a matter of centuries, not years. Will spotted owls and marbled murrelets still be around and able to wait for this habitat to be restored? No one really knows. The Hayman fire burned an area that is normally

about four-fifths forested and one-fifth natural openings. Now the entire 138,000 acres essentially has been converted to an opening, and natural succession will take more than 300 years to begin providing the diversity of species and habitats that existed there until recently.

If our goal is to avoid, or to at least minimize, the impacts of unnatural wildfires on values such as biodiversity, water quality, and freshwater habitat, then we must rethink our concept of the "wildland urban interface" and the purposes of our efforts there.

A large proportion of the millions of dollars that are spent each year to extinguish wildfires is actually spent trying to protect specific buildings



Protected home within the Buffalo Creek fire site.

and other structures that appear to be in the path of an approaching fire. Often, these efforts are simply overwhelmed by the sheer size and intensity of the fire, and the property is lost anyway. Similarly, most pre-emptive hazardous fuel reduction treatments are performed in small areas in the immediate vicinity of homes and other property that would be threatened in the event of a wildfire. These efforts, too, often prove futile in the face of the kind of large-scale, fast-moving, furious wildfires we are now seeing so frequently.

Arguably, the challenge of avoiding damage to specific homes and other structures is primarily the responsibility of the owner—first in making intelligent, informed choices about where to locate, and then in undertake fuels treatments in the immediate vicinity to minimize the chances of loss in the event of a fire. Major property insurers in the U.S. seem to agree, and home insurance premiums in fire-prone regions are beginning to reflect the extent to which homeowners themselves understand and act upon this responsibility by creating defensible zones around their homes.

One of the overarching lessons from the recent spate of large-scale wildfires is that, to be effective, fuels treatments need to focus less on trying to assure the survival of a particular structure or forest stand, and more on influencing the behavior of wildfires themselves. The 8,000-acre Polhemus prescribed burn, conducted by the Forest Service on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest in 2001, was successful in halting the spread of the Hayman fire, a crown fire burning under extreme conditions of high winds and low humidity. Had the fire not encountered this large-scale treated area, no amount of small-scale treatments around individual homes in the path of the fire would have saved them. It is likely that an additional several thousand acres of forest and dozens of homes would also have burned, with mounting impacts on watersheds, biodiversity and other important natural values.

#### EFFECTIVE ACTION AND EVOLVING SCIENCE

Forest ecology, particularly when it comes to understanding the role of periodic, large-scale natural disturbance, is still some measure of art as well as science. Even seasoned forest scientists are finding themselves on a steep learning curve when it comes to understanding the causes and effects

of major wildfires in US forests. What is clear is that these fires have come at enormous costs, in both ecological and economic values, and even greater values that are at stake.

What can be done? What should be done? Clearly there is a need for individual responsibility and action, particularly by those who choose to make their homes in fire-adapted forests and thus must embrace the risks as well as the rewards of this lifestyle. There is also a need for prompt and decisive action by the public agencies we have entrusted with the conservation and sustainable management of vast areas of the nation's forests. To be successful and effective in the face of such an

enormous and pressing challenge, it will be important to rethink how we define the "wildland urban interface."

Moreover, we must support Federal land management agencies undertaking large-scale efforts, like the Polhemus prescribed burn—efforts aimed less at protecting specific areas and structures, and more to altering the behavior of large wildfires burning under extreme conditions. Public land managers—and the policymakers who set the rules within which these managers can act—must remain flexible, and attentive to the rapidly evolving science of fire ecology and the stark lessons that now are written on the forest landscape for many years to come.



Burned out fire damage from the 2002 Hayman fire site.

## PARTNERING THROUGH THE CFC

Considering the reality of the current marketplace, we realize that now, more than ever, we need to diversify our base of financial support, begin establishing relationships with new friends who recognize the value of our work, and build an endowment to ensure that our programs can continue to impact forest policies and conservation. Your fully tax-deductible gift made through the current *Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)* can help us do this, plus much more.

By ensuring that we have well-maintained forests, your gift also helps our nation to have cleaner air, better quality water, reduced pollution and toxic substances, sustainable timber, more affordable energy resources and supplies of fish, and properly maintained rivers, beaches, and shorelines. In turn, this gives us more opportunities for outdoor recreation, an abundant quantity and variety of wildlife, and affordable grazing lands and soil conservation for our animals.

Please don't forget us. With over 3,000 nonprofits participating annually in the *CFC* campaign, we want to make sure that we can continue to fund our efforts—work that directly supports yours. Only by working together can we spread the roots of forest conservation.

For more information on how to contribute through the *CFC* and to ensure that you're kept informed of our work and exciting events at Grey Towers, please contact Kendra Miller at 202-797-6580 or [kmiller@pinchot.org](mailto:kmiller@pinchot.org).



Pinchot Institute for Conservation: a new member of the Conservation and Preservation Charities of America federation. Check your guide for our new charity number.

## Why All the Fuss About Forest Certification?

Will Price  
Program Associate  
Pinchot Institute for Conservation

*"It is a matter of what a man thinks about while chopping, or while deciding what to chop."*

Aldo Leopold,  
*A Sand County Almanac*

Over the past few years the Pinchot Institute conducted major projects involving state and tribal government that are interested in certification for their forestland holdings. We worked with forest management agencies in five states, 30 tribes, and two universities to pilot test certification on their lands, affording the land managers experience with certification and a chance to become certified. The main objective of these projects has been to test certification in these settings, and evaluate whether two of the major certification programs in the U.S. are viable and valuable for these landowners.

These efforts have attracted a lot of attention in the areas where they took place, and sometimes resonated throughout the forest products industry. The "dual assessment" projects as we have called them, have sometimes been highly politicized, yet they have delivered many insights and great value to the participants. They have also affected the prominence and familiarity of certification as a conservation tool, especially for public and tribal forest managers. Considering our work on certification began five years ago, it is a good time to describe the evolution of certification programs, and the challenges ahead as they continue to evolve and encompass a greater portion of the forest estate in the U.S.

### WHAT IS FOREST CERTIFICATION?

Forest management certification is a process that developed to recognize and promote environmentally responsible forestry and the sustainability of forest resources. Certification relies on natural resource professionals to conduct forest management assessments by evaluating management plans and observing actual conditions in the forest. There are a number of private certification programs in operation that seek to identify and reward well managed forestland by measuring forest management practices against various sets of standards. In this way, certification intends to provide credible assurance that certified forests, and the wood products derived from them, reflect a process that supports the stewardship of an entire forest ecosystem. This responsibility calls for forest landowners and managers to pay attention to social and economic welfare as well as environmental protection.

Forest management certification arose as a non-regulatory alternative for fostering the improved stewardship of working forestlands. While there are many regulations governing forest management — particularly in the United States — certification provides a private incentive to encourage landowner commitment to sustainable forest management. It also offers a stamp of approval for forest management practices that meet standards considered to be environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable.

Forest management certification

as we now recognize it, emerged in the late 1980s as a means of promoting the sound management of tropical rainforests, where widespread deforestation and poor harvest practices were occurring. Since then, certification has broadened in scope to include the management of many types of forests (in fact, over 80% of the forests that are certified today are temperate or boreal).

### HOW DID CERTIFICATION ORIGINATE?

The history of forest certification in the United States and throughout the world cannot be separated from the evolution of the concepts, practices, and institutionalization of *sustainable forest management*. Throughout history, people managing land, whether as individuals or communities, for companies, or for kings, have wondered how natural resources are best used and sustained over the long term. This type of thought has occasionally given birth to intricate systems for maximizing the yield of desired forest products over multiple generations of trees and people. Early societies such as the Mayans in Mexico and the Acehnese of Indonesia developed silvicultural techniques to sustain and maximize yield over the long-term for many tree crops. At the time, the extent of forests on the European continent was shrinking. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Germans and the French introduced formalized training and management systems to their silvicultural (or "tree-culture") practice. At the heart of this training was the notion that the forest could be managed in perpetuity. The earliest foresters in the U.S. studied at

European academics and introduced these management approaches at home. Prominent among them was Gifford Pinchot, who trained in France, and then was the first to formally apply the craft in the U.S. when he prepared a comprehensive forestry plan for the Vanderbilt estate in North Carolina. These management systems were focused on a set of the conditions necessary for consistent yield of wood products (e.g. soil productivity, water, and other factors affecting growing conditions).

A global outcry over the decline in extent and quality of forested ecosystems has occurred over the last half of the 20th century, and the call to encourage responsible stewardship has emerged worldwide. These concerns were raised in multiple International forums, where country representatives sought mechanisms to halt the destruction of tropical forests, and improve the overall treatment of the world's forest estate. Perhaps the most pivotal of these gatherings was the United Nations Conference and the Environment and Development

(UNCED) in 1992. The Rio Earth Summit prompted a set of international guidelines for sustainability. Called *principles* and *criteria*, these guidelines encapsulated the scope of issues that should be considered when evaluating forest management. Setting them to paper provided a universal template for the new market mechanisms that were emerging.

These guidelines capture today's broader definition of sustainability. Though still very dynamic, the definition has expanded to address the health of the entire forest ecosystem and the vitality of people involved and associated with managed forests. Forest certification has become the tool that distills these broad concepts of sustainable management into measurable guidelines that can be verified and then communicated to a world market.

HOW DOES CERTIFICATION WORK IN THE UNITED STATES?

In March of 1993 the Almanor forest in California, successfully com-

pleted a certification assessment under the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), becoming the first forest *certified* in the United States. However, at the time there were already sustainable forest management programs in the United States, which evaluated their members based on principles of sustainable forest management similar to those developed at the UNCED. Several of these programs have now added a formal certification process, incorporating third-party auditing and a label that represents their claims in the market. For them certification was a natural next step, giving their long-standing forest stewardship programs recognition in the marketplace. The longest-operating program of this kind is the American Tree Farm System, which has been enrolling and inspecting members for 60 years. The two other systems in the United States that transitioned from forest stewardship programs to certification systems include Green Tag and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

As of May 1, 2003 over 76 million

Green Tag Guiding Principles	FSC Principles	Categories of Standards/ Guidelines and Performance Measures for the American Tree Farm System	SFI Program objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Planning and Management</li> <li>• Forest Health, Inventory, and Natural Diversity</li> <li>• Logging, Post-Harvest Evaluation and Reforestation</li> <li>• Road Construction, Stream Crossings, and Protection of Special Sites</li> <li>• Product Utilization and Aesthetics</li> <li>• Chemical Utilization</li> <li>• Community and Social Relations</li> <li>• Economic Viability</li> <li>• Record Keeping and Tracking</li> <li>• Commitment to Sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with laws and FSC principles</li> <li>• Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities</li> <li>• Indigenous Peoples' Rights</li> <li>• Community Relations and Worker's Rights</li> <li>• Benefits From the Forest</li> <li>• Environmental Impact</li> <li>• Management Plan</li> <li>• Monitoring and Assessment</li> <li>• Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests</li> <li>• Plantation Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring sustainable forests</li> <li>• Reforestation</li> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Wildlife habitat</li> <li>• Forest aesthetics</li> <li>• Protect special sites</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Slash disposal and utilization</li> <li>• Prudent use of chemicals</li> <li>• Forest contractor use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadening the practice of Sustainable forestry</li> <li>• Ensuring prompt Reforestation</li> <li>• Protecting water quality</li> <li>• Enhancing wildlife habitat</li> <li>• Minimizing the visual impact of harvesting</li> <li>• Protecting special sites</li> <li>• Contributing to biodiversity</li> <li>• Continuing improvements in wood utilization</li> <li>• Continuing the prudent use of forest chemicals to help ensure forest health</li> </ul>

acres, or 31 million hectares of forestland in the United States were independently third party certified as a sustainably managed forest under the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Green Tag, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program. The wood arriving from the forestlands certified by each of these programs sit on shelves together, often indistinguishable. Even if you wanted to buy from only one program, it would be difficult to find that program's wood in your local store, or you would not be able to tell whose it was. However they are different and they do have different labels to represent them in the market.

#### HOW DO THESE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS DIFFER?

At their core, all certification programs seek to assure consumers that wood certified by their program is, according to the best available science, from sustainably managed forests. However, owing to their disparate origin and differences in membership, the certification programs in the United States differ in what they require of their participants. Even a cursory look of the main principles or objectives suggests that there are differences in how the standards are structured, the scope of the issues they address, and the specificity of the guidance they offer. For example, the FSC system addresses a broader array of socially-oriented concerns, especially regarding the rights of indigenous peoples on forestlands.

At the end of the day, their differences are points of contention and a basis for competition—and by their own account have driven improvements in all the programs. Market competition has always been the dominant feature of the U.S. forest products industry—and environmental performance is now another dimension of competitiveness.

#### THE FUTURE OF CERTIFICATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Perhaps the biggest challenge for the certification programs in the United States is succeeding in reaching more wood growers that are willing and able to adopt the requirements of certification programs. In the U.S., the majority of the timber that is harvested belongs to non-industrial private forest landowners (i.e. private landowners without mills). In the U.S. approximately 2.4 million landowners own



more than 10 acres (and more than 7 million more own less than 10 acres.) The average ownership period is only ten years. With the sheer number of landowners forming the base of the timber supply in the United States, it will always be a major undertaking to verify whether sustainable practices are followed. This has been a challenge for public programs in the United States for some time now, and will continue to be a challenge certification programs as they seek to enlarge their market-share.

These differences in origin have

implications for how each system will credibly expand participation in their program. From the start FSC certification required a “chain-of-custody” system, tracking wood in specific quantities from a certified forest to the retailer's shelf. An FSC-certified retailer sources wood from a certified processor (mill or manufacturer), who sources wood from a certified forest.<sup>1</sup> In contrast, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) principally considered the forests of American Forest and Paper Association members and licensees. However, SFI program participants are now developing systems that can tell how much of the wood co-mingling in their mills is from forests managed in a manner consistent with a SFI procurement standard.<sup>2</sup> The American Tree Farm System (ATFS), which is 60 years old and 65,000 landowners strong, is composed of landowners who belong by virtue of their adherence to a broad set of principles. Among other changes necessary to become recognized as a source for certified wood, ATFS is strengthening the system for verifying whether members follow these principles.

In the Southeast, SmartWood is currently promoting a “group certification” approach—wherein either a set of landowners organized in a cooperative seek certification together, or a resource manager (typically a forester or consulting firm) achieves certification for a portfolio of clients (i.e. Certified Resource Manager). As a system geared for larger and often industrial landowners, SFI certified companies are aggressively working to improve procurement systems. Firms like PriceWaterhouseCoopers are also honing their methods for auditing the supply chain for SFI-certified wood. Meanwhile Tree Farm, which has already been described by SFI as an *appropriate* system for smaller landowners, is seeking to strengthen their system. The steps to required to gain international recognition as a

certification program would involve system-wide changes affecting thousands of members.

At first glance, and maybe in the final analysis, it seems these systems have complementary strengths: one introduces a standard seeking a wide range of consumer values in forestry, another can adapt these values to the complexity of the world's largest wood products infrastructure, and a third has a grassroots-oriented connection with the thousands of smaller producers that grow the bulk of our nation's trees. The rapid growth and evolution of the certification programs in the United States over the last few years suggests that the differences will be bridged and future challenges will be surmounted. Many questions remain over how the various programs in the U.S. will function in the marketplace. However, their role in linking trade in forest products with responsible stewardship should continue to compel improvements in forest management. In doing so, certification will help assure that the value of products cultivated in forests of the United States will only reinforce conservation of our natural heritage.

<sup>1</sup> There are allowable percentages for non-certified content.

<sup>2</sup> Since its inception, the SFI program has included logger training for non-fee forestlands from which SFI participants source wood.



## BECOME AN INNOVATOR FOR FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Concerned about the changing global climate? Not sure if the natural resources we enjoy today will be here tomorrow for future generations? Dissatisfied with the quality of your water?

Not sure if you can make a difference? Well, you can. Make today your first day as an innovator for forest stewardship by becoming a **Pinchot Associate**.

As a Pinchot Associate, you will join others across the nation who invest resources the Institute needs to quickly, yet thoughtfully, respond to natural resource issues *before* they become policies that ruin our environment, diminish our livelihood or destroy our quality of life. The flexibility your unrestricted gift provides enables us to collaborate nationwide with all of America's people—from rural landowners to federal policymakers—to sustain natural resources and build economic capacity through educational programs, research on forest-management policies, and technical assistance for on-the-ground projects.

As a natural resource steward, becoming a Pinchot Associate will enable you to feel good about protecting our environment while helping others. For your gift of \$100 or more, we will:

- ✿ Keep you informed of timely natural resource issues through *The Pinchot Letter*;
- ✿ Send you advanced notification of our workshops, seminars, conferences, and newly released publications;
- ✿ Give you special recognition in our newsletter and annual report;
- ✿ Send you invitations to special events we host in your community, Washington, DC, and at Grey Towers so you can see for yourself how you are helping to advance forest conservation.

Your gift can be made to the Pinchot Institute through the Combined Federal Campaign or by returning the enclosed envelope. For information on additional tax-advantaged ways to become an innovative conservationist and follow in Gifford Pinchot's footsteps, please contact Kendra Miller at (202) 797-6580 or [kmiller@pinchot.org](mailto:kmiller@pinchot.org).



Pinchot Institute for Conservation is a member of the Conservation and Preservation Charities of America. Check your guide for our listing and charity number under this federation.

## The Machine in the Garden

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NOTE: An earlier version of this article was delivered at the conference "Biotech Branches Out," Atlanta, GA December 4, 2001; an extended, and fully footnoted, paper appeared as "Rough Terrain: Forest Management and its Discontents, 1891–2001," *International Journal of Food, Agriculture, and Environment*, 1(1), January 2003, p. 135–38.

They broke into the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington, set incendiary devices around the office of researcher Terry Bradshaw, and stole away before fiery blasts ripped through the building. The subsequent conflagration destroyed Bradshaw's facility and gutted much of the rest of the complex, causing damage estimated at \$3 million.

In a post-fire communiqué, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed credit for the May 21, 2001 assault. Bradshaw, it asserted, is "the driving force in G.E. [genetic engineering] tree research," and was thus responsible for unleashing "mutant genes into the environment that [are] certain to cause irreversible harm to forest ecosystems."

Their determination to stop genetic engineering has led to a series of other attacks on labs around the country—all helpfully chronicled on the ELF website—and as the extensive list makes clear, the scientific innovations associated with hybrid research and genetic engineering have escalated some people's fear of the unknown. Their anxiety is bound up with an unshakable distrust of technology and its experts, and gives shape to their worries about the emergence of a Frankensteinish world portending the end of nature.

But their attacks on engineered foods and forests is not just driven by an aesthetic distaste for the manufactured and the modified, although the

desire to preserve wildness owes much to late-eighteenth-century Romantic disgust with a then-industrializing world. The stakes now appear more fundamental, and thus seem to sanction more visceral reactions. As one ELF supporter wrote in the wake of the Merrill Hall fire: Bradshaw's research was "[t]ampering with the fundamental blueprint for life—the genetic code," and as such "crosses an...ominous threshold." So threatening was this prospect that only "[s]wift and decisive action" by "dedicated Earth warriors" could halt these "emerging technological menaces before they escape the lab;" only late-night incendiarism would "protect this beautiful planet."

### CONSERVATION AND THE NATION STATE

This presumption is not unique to ELF, or even to the relatively short history of scientific forest management in the United States. Since the late-nineteenth-century importation of European ideas about how best to manage New World forests, many of these innovations have been met with doubt, suspicion, and occasionally, violence. The environmental concerns, social challenges, and political controversies of the past set the stage for the conflicted context in which early-twenty-first century genetic engineering now finds itself.

Among the seminal texts that helped nineteenth century Americans redefine their place in the environment was George Perkins Marsh's

*Man and Nature: The Earth as Modified by Human Action* (1864). Marsh warned of a coming apocalypse that could only be held off by a shift in Americans' attitudes and behaviors. Some who heeded his prophetic words founded the American Forest Association (1875), read widely in the European literature that Marsh had depended on to make his case, and began to publish their convictions in *Garden & Forest*, a new journal devoted to conservationism.

Out of this initial intellectual energy came a small bureaucratic breakthrough—the establishment of the Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture—and a series of legislative initiatives to create national forest reserves, which finally bore fruit in 1891. By 1905, National Forests totaling more than 85 million acres had been carved out of the public domain, and were managed by the newly founded Forest Service under Gifford Pinchot's leadership.

None of these changes could have occurred without the simultaneous transformation of the nation-state itself. Bernhard Fernow, third chief of the Division of Forestry, had linked scientific forestry with the creation of a "paternal" government whose power transcended local rights and governance, a connection Gifford Pinchot forged when, after President Theodore Roosevelt had tapped him to be the first chief of the Forest Service, he won court approval to charge user fees for grazing, mining, and lumbering. In sanctioning these ac-



Dr. Char Miller

tions, the U.S. Supreme Court extended the federal government's sovereignty and legitimized a new politics of conservation, what Pinchot coined as "the greatest good, for the greatest number for the longest run."

#### REVOLT IN THE WEST, 1905–1920

Not everyone accepted this as the prevailing definition, let alone ceded to the Forest Service's claim of professional expertise, scientific legitimacy, and political authority. Throughout the west, economic interests opposed the agency's implementation of federal conservationism. Some took the law into their own hands—violence flared, as forest rangers were shot at, beaten, or threatened with lynching when they attempted to uphold National Forest boundaries or to tax resource use.

The political arena was only slightly more restrained. Enraged westerners championed "state rights" to blunt what they perceived to be an aggressive executive branch, whose enforcement actions they branded as

"Pinchotism." Hoping to defuse the animosity, Roosevelt sent Pinchot throughout the west to meet with leaders, speak before angered audiences, and rearticulate the administration's commitment to conservation. As he told a vast gathering in Denver in 1907, "There are many great interests on the National Forests," and of necessity these "sometimes will conflict a little." To secure the necessary consensus that will insure a rational use of the land it "is often necessary for one man to give way a little here, another a little there." In this new Rooseveltian age, there "must be hearty cooperation from everyone."

Nature would compel their cooperation in any event, Pinchot believed, for the carrying capacity of the land when and how a landscape could be utilized. "The protection of the forest and the protection of the range by wise use," Pinchot reminded his audience, "are two divisions of a problem vastly larger and more important than either." This is "the problem of the conservation of all our natural resources," for if "we destroy them, no amount of success in any other direc-

tion will keep us prosperous." Private, short-term interests must give way to public, long-term needs.

#### LOCAL CONTROL V. NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, 1920–1990

Not all were persuaded, and western resistance to federal conservationism continued throughout the twentieth century. In the 1920s, for example, Interior Secretary Albert Fall, a New Mexico rancher who chafed at federal grazing regulations, failed in his attempt to transfer the Forest Service (and its woods) to his department; critics believed Fall was attempting to strip the agency of its regulatory authority and perhaps sell off some of its prime lands.

Similar worries surfaced in subsequent decades, which resulted in a struggle framed as one between economic development and environmental preservation. When in the 1950s, Bernard DeVoto railed against the power that the western livestock industry wielded in Congress to attack federal conservationism—"They have reversed most of the policy, weakened all of it, and opened the way to complete destruction"—he did so in language that depended on a half-century legacy of political tension.

Forty years later, members of the so-called Wise-Use movement, encouraged by President Ronald Reagan's anti-environmentalism and goaded by right-wing, talk-radio commentators, moved to assert local control over federal land. In Nevada, county commissioners crashed bulldozers through Forest Service fences to lay claim to federal property. In other parts of the interior west, ranger district offices were fire-bombed, agency equipment vandalized and, in at least one incident, a ranger discovered a pipe-bomb under his truck parked in the driveway of his home. These explosive episodes, however much tied to the

particularities of time and place, were also part of a long-standing pattern of western political protest with which Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot had considerable experience.

#### ENVIRONMENTALISM EMERGES, 1945–1970

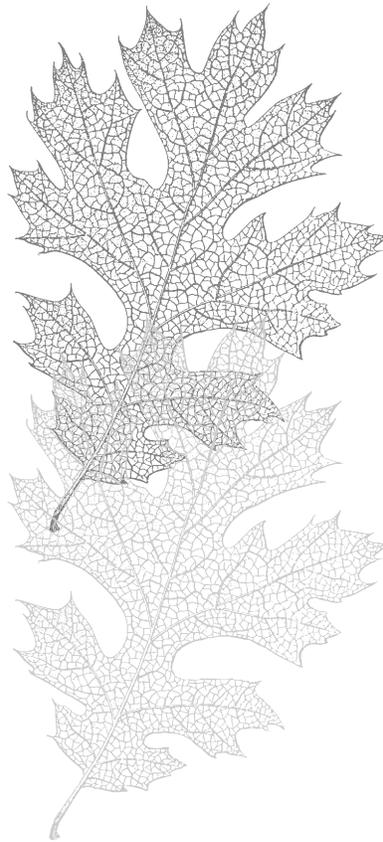
Other late-twentieth century controversies over land management would have been less recognizable to Progressive Era reformers. And they would not be because those who earlier had founded the major conservation agencies in the departments of Agriculture and Interior—among them, the Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service—could not have anticipated the escalating resource demands associated with the post-World War II economic boom, or the range of political responses they generated.

One consequence of this was that federal land-management agencies found themselves confronted with a newly energized environmental movement that challenged the prevailing scientific belief that intensified resource production would not damage forest and land health.

The Sierra Club, Wilderness Society and National Resource Defense Council funded lawsuits that stopped the damming of some free-flowing western rivers and halted some clear-cutting of eastern and western forests; they also successfully lobbied for legislative initiatives to protect wilderness and endangered species, promote clean air and water, and sustain riparian and wetland habitats. When these political victories and congressional legislation were combined with a clutch of favorable legal mandates and a new-found expertise based on the ecological sciences, the post-war environmental movement swelled in size, political power, and cultural significance.

#### POLITICAL BACKLASH

Within a decade, however, some environmentalists would conclude that these manifold efforts were too insignificant. They worried that the Reagan administration would roll-back critical environmental legislation, were riled by the unchecked militancy of the Wise-Use movement, and were dismayed that mainstream environmental organizations



appeared incapable of countering these renewed threats to nature. Those who broke off into splinter groups such as EarthFirst!, and later, the Earth Liberation Front, adopted their organizational names to signal their disaffection with what they took to be their predecessors' more anthropocentric agendas; their tactics in turn were designed to shock, bloody, and disrupt those forces arrayed against what they define as planetary health and survival.

Taking their early cues from Edward Abbey's novel, *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (1975), in which fictional activists disabled road-building machinery and timber-cutting equipment, and unfurled a large banner simulating a crack in the Glen Canyon Dam, real-life protesters in time graduated to potentially more deadly forms of sabotage and property damage. When in 1998, ELF incinerated three major buildings and four ski lifts in Vail, CO, a response to Vail, Inc.'s plans to expand into threatened lynx habitat, it made it clear that it had no interest in reaching consensus with an economic system it believed must be destroyed.

ELF's combative stance mirrors those adopted by some western insurgents at the turn of the twentieth century who reacted violently to what they perceived as a life-threatening imposition of federal regulatory controls on natural resources. It evokes as well the actions of ELF's more-immediate contemporaries on the radical right, who in the late 1980s and early 1990s lashed out at agents of the regulatory state they despised.

Marginal though each of these groups may have been (and are), their marginality nonetheless has helped shape the broader context in which each era has debated the intersection of politics and science, social change and environmental health. Contending organizations, by whatever means they choose, inevitably define and defend themselves in relation to their ideological competitors, a dynamic that will become ever more clear as the battle over genetic engineering unfolds with the twenty-first century.

*Dr. Char Miller, a renowned author and Gifford Pinchot historian, is also a Senior Fellow with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.*

## Private Forestry in the 21st Century

Pinchot Institute Board member Dr. Daowei Zhang, professor of Forest Policy & Economics at Auburn University's School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, recently co-edited a book titled *Global Initiatives and Public Policies: First International Conference on Private Forestry in the 21st Century*. The book, which discusses the effects of globalization on private forestry, is a compilation of peer-reviewed papers that were presented at an international conference held earlier in Atlanta, GA.

In addition to serving as co-editor, Dr. Zhang also played an instrumental role in selecting the published papers. In conveying his focus for the book, Dr. Zhang says, "Globalization has had unprecedented impacts on private forestry practices. Incentive matters most in private forest management. One of the most important points discussed," he says "was how the role of private forestry is converging with forest sustainability."

"Look at this country. Private forests supply nearly 90% of timber production...[they] enable public forests to be used towards more non-timber benefits. This ensures forest sustainability in the U.S." He goes on to say, "Globally, however, whether public or private, forests are owned by private individuals, yet they often have public values. [Therefore,] there must be a way to balance the private and public interests to make forests sustainable."

Over 200 participants from many countries worldwide attended the March 2001 International Conference on Private Forestry in the 21st Century, which was convened by the Auburn Forest Policy Center. At which, varied stakeholders, such as private forest landowners, state- and federal-government land management agencies, those in academia, and other non-governmental organizations, discussed topics on globalization; the impacts, design, and implementation of private forest pol-

icy; sustainable forestry; and forest certification.

The Auburn Forest Policy Center, of which Dr. Zhang is a key member, is a division of Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. The purpose of this research and outreach center is to explore the fundamental forest policy issues affecting the United States in an increasingly globalized economy, and assist policy makers, business people, non-governmental organizations, the media, and the public by providing objective analysis of forestry issues.



Dr. Daowei Zhang

*For more information on the book, conference or the Center, please contact Dr. Daowei Zhang at (334) 844-1067 or zhangd1@auburn.edu.*

## Board Member Sean Strub Appointed to Prestigious Pennsylvania Partnership

Governor Edward Rendell recently appointed Pinchot Institute board member, Sean Strub, to the prestigious Pennsylvania Travel and Tourism Partnership.

The partnership is comprised of 17 members, including the chairs of relevant committees in the Pennsylvania Senate and Assembly and statutory positions designated for representatives from various industries in the state, including hotels, restaurants, historic sites, transportation and campgrounds.

Tourism is Pennsylvania's second largest industry, generating \$17.4 billion in annual direct and indirect traveler spending and \$1.4 billion in annual federal, state and local taxes, thus employing more than 300,000 people. Strub, an entrepreneur who is also President and CEO of Community Building Projects, LLC, President of Pike Media, LLC, and Chairman of his New York-based publishing company, Smart+Strong, LLC, has played a leading role in revitalizing Milford's historic reputation (including that of Grey Towers)

as a tourist mecca.

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation congratulates Sean on his prestigious appointment, and wishes him continued success.



Sean Strub

## Board Member Pat Layton Appointed to Lead Biotechnology Advisory Committee

In Spring, Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman appointed Dr. Patricia A. Layton, as Chair of her new Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agriculture. In addition to serving on the Pinchot Institute's board of directors, Dr. Layton is also professor and chair of the Forest Resources Department at South Carolina's Clemson University.

The 18-member Committee hails from 14 states nationwide, the District of Columbia, and Mexico. The

members represent the biotechnology, food and seed industries; farmers; nongovernmental environmental and consumer organizations; academia and international plant research centers; and product shippers and traders. Their charge is to take a "forward look," as Veneman says, "at agriculture biotechnology," by examining the long-term impacts of biotechnology on the US food and agriculture system. They will also provide guidance to USDA on pressing, individual

issues related to the application of biotechnology in agriculture.

The Pinchot Institute congratulates Pat on her prestigious appointment, and wishes her continued success.



Dr. Pat Layton

### YOUR PARTNERSHIP TO ENSURE THE FUTURE

Though the economic climate has improved, nonprofit organizations across the country are faced with new fundraising challenges. The recession had a major impact on philanthropic foundations that provide much of the support for the nonprofit sector. Furthermore, public support for nonprofit organizations is still at an all-time low. The cumulative effect is that this is the first time in a decade that nonprofits have had to raise funds for operating and project support during a depressed economy.

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation is not immune to these economic trends. During the past several years, the Institute's board and staff have built a *Working Capital Fund* for unrestricted/general operating support. Furthermore, we established the *Pinchot Legacy Fund* in 2001 as an endowment to help ensure the Institute's long-term financial health and well-being. Such support is essential to our steadily providing timely research and policy analysis on key natural resource conservation issues as they arise. And in times such as these, the *Working Capital Fund* and *Pinchot Legacy Fund* become essential to continuing, without interruption, the kinds of innovative, quality programs for which the Institute has become known.

By far, the most important source of such support is unrestricted contributions from people like you. Through our annual campaign, contributions via the Combined Federal Campaign, matching employer gifts, credit card or vehicle donations made through a secured server on our website, and a number of innovative planned giving opportunities, those of you committed to conservation are helping to ensure that we continue to play a leading role in this task of discovering new and creative solutions to the challenges of sound natural resource management.

Now more than ever, we need your support. If you have already contributed, especially as a Pinchot Associate and/or major donor, we gratefully acknowledge your contribution and the continued vitality it brings. If you have not yet contributed, please consider doing so now, when it is most important to our having a lasting, positive impact on the future of conservation.

For more information on the different ways you can donate to the Pinchot Institute, please contact Kendra Miller at (202) 797-6580, [kmiller@pinchot.org](mailto:kmiller@pinchot.org) or visit our website at [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org).

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Pinchot Institute is pleased to announce the following recently produced publications available for distribution:

## POLICY REPORTS

- *Implementation of Multi-party Monitoring and Evaluation: The USDA Forest Service Stewardship Contracting Pilot Projects, FY 2002*, by Andrea Bedell Loucks. PDF also available online at [www.pinchot.org/pic/cbf/Reports\\_2002.pdf](http://www.pinchot.org/pic/cbf/Reports_2002.pdf).
- *U.S. Interim Assessment Report for UNFF3*, by Dr. V. Alaric Sample and Stephanie Kavanaugh. Also available online at [www.pinchot.org/pic/unff/assessment.html](http://www.pinchot.org/pic/unff/assessment.html).

- **Spanish version in PDF:** *An Introduction to the National Fire Plan: History, Structure, and Relevance to Communities*, by Peter Kostishack and Naureen Rana. Available online at [www.pinchot.org/pic/PlanNacional.pdf](http://www.pinchot.org/pic/PlanNacional.pdf).

## DISCUSSION PAPERS

- *Strengthening the Ties that Bind*, by Andrea Bedell Loucks. A joint workshop between community-based forestry groups and the USDA Forest Service.
- *Community-based Ecosystem Restoration Workforce Development: A Discussion of National Policy Issues*, by Peter Kostishack. PDF available online at [www.pinchot.org/pic/gtp\\_pubs.htm](http://www.pinchot.org/pic/gtp_pubs.htm).

A Spanish-language hardcopy version is also available by request.

## PINCHOT DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

- *Forestry & Modern Environmentalism: Ending the Cold War*, by Dr. Patricia Nelson Limerick.

Single copies of any publication will be sent **free** of charge. Multiple copies are available at the cost of shipping/handling. Please make all requests through our Publications Request form (found at [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org)). Forms can be mailed to Pinchot Institute for Conservation, 1616 P Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20036; emailed to [publications@pinchot.org](mailto:publications@pinchot.org); or faxed to (202) 797-6583.



## Pinchot Institute Welcomes New Staff

*Erin LaBerta Gross*  
Program Assistant

In spring, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation welcomed Erin LaBerta Gross as program assistant at its Grey Towers National Historic Landmark (Milford, PA) offices. Erin will play a key role in expanding the Institute's northeast-area programs and strengthening the existing partnership between the DC staff and Forest Service personnel at Grey Towers.

Born and raised in the Milford area, Erin is a well-known face in the community who has an instinctive appreciation for the region's natural resources. Along with her awareness of the region's economic and social issues, she brings strong administrative, organizational, and interpersonal skills to her new position.

Erin's responsibilities include coordinating the Pinchot Institute's *Conservation and the Arts* program, where she works closely with Director Nancy Pinchot. She also arranges

catering for the conference center at Grey Towers, and will soon help Peter Pinchot with *Milford Experimental Forest* programs.



*Lori McKean, Information and Education Specialist with the USDA Forest Service at Grey Towers, provided assistance with this article.*

Erin LaBerta Gross

## UPCOMING EVENTS

ACTIVITIES AT GREY TOWERS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, MILFORD, PA  
*Unless noted otherwise, please call (570) 296-9630 for more information.*

**August 30, 5 p.m.***Summer Adieu!*

Silent and live auction of nature-based artwork by local and regional artists.

**September 4 & 25 and October 2  
10 a.m.–2 p.m.***Come Paint With Me.*

Regional artists creating unique works using Grey Towers' landscape as their inspirational background. Please call (570) 775-6896 for more information.

**October 4 & 5***Music at Grey Towers*

The return of the Vega String Quartet. For tickets, please call (570) 296-2877.

**October 15**

Ticket sales begin for Joe Plummer and son's *A Christmas Carol*.

**November 1, 7 p.m.**

Halloween at Grey Towers. Special program TBA.

*and*

Weekday house and garden tours end.

**November 8, 7 p.m.**

Explanation of the bald eagle's comeback from the brink of extinction and the role Pennsylvania has played in this remarkable recovery.

**November 9**

Silent and live auction of nature-based artwork from local and regional artists.

*and*

Weekend tours end.

**December 1**

Beginning of the annual *Christmas at Grey Towers* celebration—a month-long celebration of the season with traditional decorations.

**December 5**

Annual tree lighting ceremony, program, and open house.

**December 6 & 7**

*A Christmas Carol*, performed by Joe Plummer and son.

**December 8-23, 1–4 p.m.**

Open House. Unique opportunity to see all three floors of the Grey Towers mansion beautifully decorated by the Milford Garden Club.

**December 13, 4 p.m.**

Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Tea and program. Please call (570) 686-5045 for more information.

**December 14, 1–4 p.m.**

Santa visits Grey Towers, while the Lost Art Lacers demonstrate lace making.

## GREY TOWERS MORTIMER GARDEN INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Through the generosity of Elisabeth and Charles Mortimer, the Elisabeth S. Mortimer Garden Internship at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark was established in 1994 to provide an aspiring horticulturalist with invaluable practical experience.

Set along the Delaware Water Gap in Milford, Pennsylvania, Grey Towers is a 116-year-old, French-chateausque mansion designed by Richard Morris Hunt. The 101-acre site, administered by the USDA Forest Service, consists of formal, landscaped and wooded grounds. The student chosen for this opportunity will receive a \$2,000 stipend and hands-on experience that will challenge and broaden practical applications learned in horticultural theory.

The Mortimer Garden internship opportunity is open to students above the freshman level who are interested in a variety of fields of study. Past participants in this 10-12 week summer program were enrolled in such disciplines as ornamental horticulture, forestry, and landscape architecture.

Resumes are being accepted now for future opportunities. For more information on the application process or on this unique opportunity, please contact Grey Towers Horticulturalist Elizabeth Hawke at (570) 296-9661 or [ehawke@fs.fed.us](mailto:ehawke@fs.fed.us).

## GREY TOWERS NEWS NOTES

### NEWS OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AT GREY TOWERS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

#### STAFF ACCOLADES

Grey Towers Site Manager Paul LaBounty and Project Engineer Charles Herne received Certificates of Appreciation last spring from the USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Area office for "demonstrating extra effort in providing management and technical support for various minor construction and maintenance projects" during the agency's 2002 fiscal year (October through the following September). Some of those projects include renovation of the Farm House, construction of a new curatorial storage building, and pre-construction planning for renovation on The Letter Box.

In a spring poll conducted by a northeast Pennsylvania newspaper, tri-State region (NY-NJ-PA) residents voted Grey Towers as the "Most Attractive Building." The award suggests that more and more people are becoming aware of Grey Towers and all the Forest Service and local Institute programs have to offer in the region.

#### NEW ADDITION

Last spring, Rich Gilbert became the newest full-time employee added to Grey Towers' staff. Having worked as a seasonal gardener for the estate's maintenance unit over the past four years, Rich is already familiar with the grounds and the landscaping history of Grey Towers.

In his new position, he will work with Horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke on all aspects of the landscaping, including the flowerbeds, hedges, lawns and edging, walkways, stairs, trails and water features. While busily pruning, planting, fertilizing and watering, Rich has happily conversed with Grey Towers' visitors, answering questions about the historic gardens.



Rich Gilbert

#### VISIT TO GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK LAKE FESTIVAL

Last summer, Grey Towers staff participated, once again, in the annual Lake Festival at Gifford Pinchot State Park (Lewisberry, PA). The Park is named after Pinchot because of its location on one of the first roads to be paved under then Governor Gifford Pinchot's "get the farmer out of the mud" program, an initiative to pave 20,000 miles of roads throughout the state.

Each year, the Lake Festival offers regional environmental groups a chance to share information about their programs. Grey Towers uses the opportunity to educate visitors about Pinchot and his forestry career. While many Pennsylvanians are knowledgeable of Gifford as governor, very few are aware of his legendary impact and influence on conservation throughout the nation.

#### PINCHOT HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING

On Earth Day 2003, Gifford Pinchot received a posthumous award

from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the certifying arm of the American Planning Association. This national, nonprofit public interest and research organization committed to community planning bestowed Pinchot with its *Planning Pioneer Award* for his conservation planning efforts.

By helping initiate the conservation movement, Pinchot was a pioneer of planning in America. As America's first scientifically trained, professional forester and founder and first chief of the USDA Forest Service, he promoted the concept of managed harvests. He also increased the national forests from 60 to 190 million acres to ensure the long-term yield of forest products. Furthermore, Gifford and his family founded the Yale School of Forestry to share this knowledge and to promote conservation throughout the country. In fact, the Yale Summer School of Forestry was operated at Grey Towers for the first quarter of the 20th century.



Gifford Pinchot and his canoe, a recent Pinchot family donation to Grey Towers' historic collection.

After some minor repairs, the canoe will be displayed in The Letter Box, along with an interpretive exhibit that illustrates Gifford's passion for fishing.

Ron Bednar, President of the Pennsylvania Planning Association, a division of AICP, presented the national award in a public ceremony at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark, Pinchot's former home, on April 22, 2003. To date, Pinchot is one of only three Pennsylvanians to earn this national award.

For more information on the award or the public ceremony, please call (570) 296-9624 or visit [www.fs.fed.us/na/gt](http://www.fs.fed.us/na/gt). Further information on AICP can be found at [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org).

#### POPULAR SCHOOL TRIP DESTINATION

More than 850 youth from regional schools (NY-NJ-PA) attended conservation education programs at Grey Towers during a three-week period last spring. Kindergarten through high school students learned about Gifford Pinchot, the Forest Service, water quality, forestry, wildlife and their habitat in a number of interesting programs, hikes, tours and presentations.



High School students play a game of "Tree Trivia" along the estate's Forestry Trail.

Now that schools have re-evaluated their post 9/11 travel policies and operate under tight fiscal constraints, Grey Towers has increasingly become a popular field trip destination because of its close proximity and policy of charging no fees for education programs.

#### EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE FORESTS IN THE DELAWARE HIGHLANDS

In a May 2003 workshop, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and the Forest Service at Grey Towers brought regional stakeholders together at the Grey Towers Conference Center to explore how to produce sustainable forests in the Delaware Highlands. Despite being one of the fastest-growing areas in the northeast, the Highlands is unique in that it still has large, intact tracts of forest, which serves as the recreational playground for the region and controls the water resources for New York City and Philadelphia.

Peter Pinchot, Director of the Milford Experimental Forest and PIC Board chair, is taking the lead on spearheading this initiative. The assembled participants believe that that the Institute and Grey Towers can use their expertise in convening, policy analysis, and education to effectively produce the proceedings, make thoughtful recommendations on next steps, structure partnerships, and then launch an appropriate program.

#### CHAMBER MUSIC LINKS ARTS & CONSERVATION

The Pinchot Institute's second annual *Kindred Spirits Chamber Music Series*, part of its Conservation and the Arts program, is underway at Grey Towers under the guidance of Director Nancy Pinchot and Yosif Feigelson, the artistic director.

This popular program, which makes the connection between nature and art through music, is held in the Great Hall at Grey Towers, an ideal venue for chamber music due to its intimate setting. In addition to enlightening patrons on the interrelated nature of art and conservation, the Series furthers the legacy of James Pinchot, Gifford's father, who was one of the first in the nation to un-

derstand and support the connection between the arts and nature.

October 4-5 will see the return of the popular Vega String Quartet. For more information on the Series or to purchase tickets, please phone (570) 296-9669.

For the first time in more than 10 years, the sound of music was once again heard at the historic outdoor amphitheatre. A folk concert, featuring the music and dancing of the celebrated Canadian folk quartet, Barachois (pronounced *bara schwa*), was held last July. About 280 visitors relaxed on the sloping hillside to hear the group, as they offered a heady mixture of percussion, fiddling, harmonica, foot rhythms and singing, sauced with a liberal helping of humor.

The Barachois Folk Concert is a different offering from the popular chamber music series. Folk music is a logical outgrowth of the series, as it represents cultures that still have deep and direct ties to their native land. Farmers, fishermen, hunters, and pioneers did not need the veneer of high culture to create exciting and meaningful music. Instead, by using their voices, feet, hands, bodies, and by adding guitars, fiddles, harmonicas, drums, and other instruments, people living close to the land created music that expressed the immediate joys and sorrows of their lives.

#### VISIT FROM NEW PA DCNR SECRETARY

Michael DiBerardinis, the newly appointed Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, facilitated a "town meeting" at Grey Towers recently



Michael DiBerardinis

during a whirlwind tour of northeastern Pennsylvania. Grey Towers served as the perfect setting to bring stakeholders, area residents and community leaders together to discuss conservation and recreation issues and needs. DiBerardinis heard about water quality, land use and planning, deer management and ATV use on state lands, to name a few of the topics shared by the 60+ participants.

#### READING PROGRAM PROMOTES LITERACY & EDUCATION

Each summer, Forest Service staff at Grey Towers sponsor, *Reading Ranger*, a unique children's program that promotes literacy, while teaching environmental awareness. The Read-

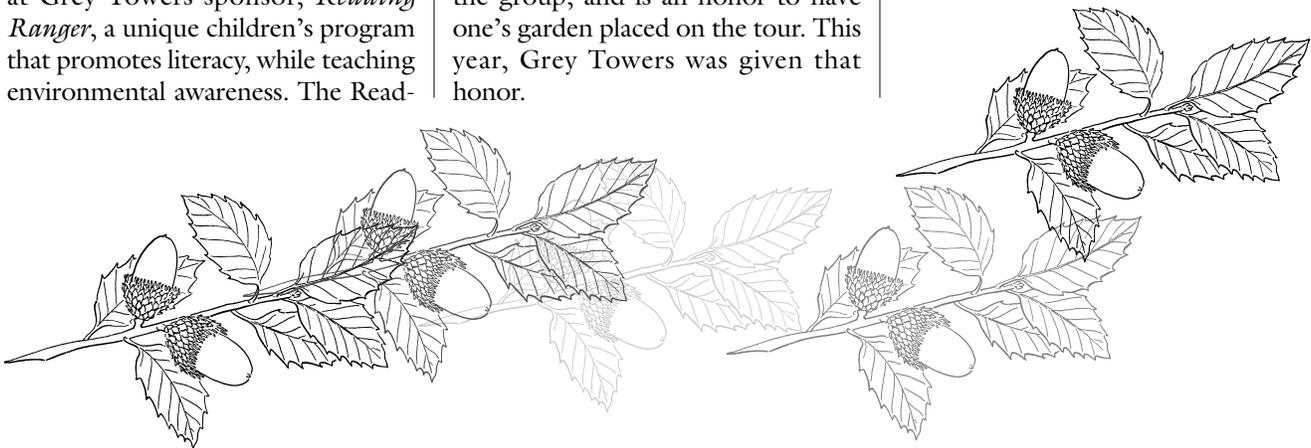
ing Ranger program, which is free and open to the public, consists of a story hour and related activity. The program is designed to encourage reading during the summer months and to introduce children to environmental topics, such as recycling, water quality and wildlife habitats.

#### FEATURE DURING MILFORD'S SECRET GARDEN TOUR

One of the highlights of the summer season in the Milford, PA area is the annual Milford Garden Club's Secret Garden Tour. This much-anticipated event is a major fundraiser for the group, and is an honor to have one's garden placed on the tour. This year, Grey Towers was given that honor.

Horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke and her volunteer Horticulture Team, comprised primarily of Milford Garden Club members, began planting the flower beds around the Gatehouse in 2002. After just one year, these gardens were featured as one of eight locations on the 2003 tour. Nearly 200 visitors visited the gardens and toured Grey Towers during the event.

*Lori McKean, Information and Education Specialist with the USDA Forest Service at Grey Towers provided the preceding news of programs and activities.*



## Now It's Even Easier to Support Your Forests!

**F**orests make our lives more enjoyable. Among other things, they provide us with breathtaking beauty, serenity, and interesting wildlife. You can play a part in the effort to conserve these treasures by making a gift to the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.

Donating to the Pinchot Institute has never been easier. The "Support the Institute" page of our website includes two ways to donate online via a secure server, both offered with no processing fees.

To donate via credit card, simply click on the "Give: Make a Difference" icon, which will take you to the secure server. Please note that LIC

ORG is the name that will appear on your credit card statement, not Pinchot Institute for Conservation. Using a third-party, nonprofit organization helps us to keep our costs low.

We also participate in the Vehicle Donation Program, which accepts contributions of cars, trucks, boats, and even airplanes from anywhere across the nation. Just click on the icon of the gift-wrapped car and follow the easy step-by-step instructions. This is also the place to read about the many benefits of donating vehicles.

As always, gifts sent directly to us by mail and/or through the Com-

bined Federal Campaign (CFC) are always gladly appreciated. Since 84% of all donations are used in direct support of our programs, you can rest assured knowing that your gift to the Pinchot Institute will make a true difference in forest conservation.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we can act as stewards to ensure that our forests are responsibly managed for years to come.

*For information about other ways to give, visit [www.pinchot.org/pic/pic-support.html](http://www.pinchot.org/pic/pic-support.html) or contact Kendra Miller at 202-797-6580 or [kmiller@pinchot.org](mailto:kmiller@pinchot.org).*

## FROM THE PROFESSIONALS

*From the Professionals is a tri-annual column of finance and investing tips from different members of the professional services industry. The opinions represented here are authorized by the following firm, and may not reflect those of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.*

## The Gift of Life: Using Life Insurance to Make a Meaningful Charitable Donation

Larry J. Pauley, CFRE  
Executive Vice President  
Ford Thompson Consulting  
St. Petersburg, FL

Life insurance is an ideal medium with which to make a charitable donation. There are a number of ways to donate life insurance, which I'll explain later, and people do so for a variety of purposes. In general, the main reasons are to:

- ✿ make a substantial gift without using assets immediately on hand,
- ✿ avoid paying income taxes on the built-up value on an existing policy, and
- ✿ find a new use for a policy that no longer serves its original purpose, such as one you bought for your children during their youth.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Since charitable donations are so important—particularly during slow or depressed economic climates, such as they one we're in now—it is worth the effort to make a gift, whereby the money is more valuable in the hands of a charitable organization than in your own. For nearly all donations, the tax deductions allowed yields you more in tax savings than you give up, and there are other ways to stretch your gift as well. One important mechanism for extending the significance of your donation is to make it in the form of life insurance.

Life insurance policies are sub-

stantial assets. Given this, they have become an increasingly popular form of gift among those who seek to make a meaningful difference without noticing a sizable dent to their checking accounts. The IRS allows you to donate most kinds of policies—whether fully paid-up, partially paid, or newly purchased—specifically for the purpose of making a charitable donation.

Many people donate policies which, while still valuable, no longer fill their primary purpose. These people have had the good fortune of seeing their children grow up and become educated, and therefore, no longer need the protection that life insurance offers.

During times of specific campaigns, such as a charity's capital or endowment campaign, a gift of life insurance also provides you with an opportunity to convert a series of regular donations into a single, sizable endowment.

### HOW IT WORKS

Below are examples of the sorts of circumstances where life insurance can be an ideal medium for giving.

**Pat K.**, a registered nurse, had regularly contributed a percentage of her income to a charitable organization. While these charitable contribu-

tions were worthwhile, she wanted to see that she had made some tangible difference. Because she couldn't spare major capital, a large gift seemed out of the question. By purchasing an insurance policy for the organization with small monthly payments on the policy, she could see how great an impact her contributions would truly make.



Larry J. Pauley

**Joan B.**, a board member of a large charity, worked full time on its behalf without pay. She knew she'd be an expensive asset to replace, if someone had to be hired, and that her departure would cause a difficult transition. Solution: she gave her organization a life insurance policy on herself. Only then could she contemplate retiring some day, knowing that her work would be carried on.

**Helen and Jim S.**, a couple that operated their own business, wanted to sell their operations and invest in a diversified portfolio. By selling their business, however, they would expose the lion's share of their assets to taxation. Since the couple had been critical to the success of the business, they had insured themselves heavily. By

giving away their policies, they reduced the taxable gain on the sale of their firm.

## TAX IMPLICATIONS

Since the world of life insurance is nearly as complex as the world of taxation, it is not possible to comprehensively summarize the tax implications of a gift of life insurance. My advice is that you get some expert advice on how to structure your donation. The Pinchot Institute's Kendra Miller can give you referrals to a tax attorney as well as information on the Institute's specific policies for accepting such gifts. In general, however, there are two simple rules.

1. If your life insurance policy is fully paid-up, then you can deduct the replacement value of the policy in the year in which you make the donation.

Keep in mind that if you choose instead to cash in the policy, you will have to pay tax on the difference between the total of your premiums paid and the proceeds. As you can see, the policy really is worth more in the hands of a charitable organization, than in yours.

2. If premiums are still being paid on the policy, you may deduct a figure slightly in excess of the cash value, known as the "interpolated terminal reserve." However, you cannot deduct more than the total of all premiums paid, less any dividends.

If the value of the policy contributed (whether fully paid or not) exceeds half of your adjusted gross income, you will have to carry the excess of that donated amount forward on your taxes for up to five years. Similar restrictions apply when the premiums you continually pay on a gift of life insurance exceed 20% of your adjusted gross income. To avoid this limitation, you can donate the amount of the

premiums donated, and let the charity pay the premiums.

In either instance, no estate taxes will be levied on the donated policy. Usually, the value of the donated policy will not be included in your estate. Even in the event that it is included, it will be offset by an estate tax charitable deduction.

## OTHER ADVANTAGES

In addition to those noted above, there are other advantages to donating a life insurance policy to a charitable organization.

✿ If you have a good income, but not large assets that you're able to part with, a gift of life insurance can provide you with an affordable means of creating a valuable asset for the charity of your choice.

✿ A life insurance policy can easily supply the capital you need to endow a special project or to create a memorial fund for a loved one.

✿ With some types of new or existing policies, it is possible to discontinue payments without diminishing the current value of your donation. Dividends flowing from some policies allow you to pay the policy off relatively quickly.

✿ If you want to leave a portion of your estate to a charitable organization, but you don't want to alter your will, you can transfer ownership of all or a portion of your life insurance policy, and name the organization as beneficiary.

✿ Bequests in a will often require an immediate sale of valuable assets to meet the estate's cash requirements. To avoid this necessity, you can establish a life insurance policy that, after donation, adds no cash burden to an estate.

✿ In cases where the recipient does

not immediately cash in the policy, leaving a donation of this sort provides a promise of funding for the charity's future plans and, in some cases, can help endow it in perpetuity.

✿ Suppose an organization depends on your regular gifts for a specific program or general operating support. If something should happen to you, that program may be severely curtailed or even eliminated. A life insurance policy allows you to secure the future of the program you've been supporting for years, thus enabling you to establish a legacy for the charitable organization.

## THAT "EXTRA" POLICY

Does your portfolio include a policy you bought under far different circumstances? Perhaps when you were younger it seemed sufficient, but subsequently, you've had to buy a more extensive policy.

Perhaps you bought a policy to provide funds to cover the taxes on your estate. If you've followed recent tax law changes, you know that estate taxes have been reduced quite significantly and, for many estates, eliminated. As such, you may not need the policy anymore. It may make sense, from the perspective of tax planning, to use the policy to reduce your current income tax burden by making a charitable contribution. During economic times such as these, charitable organizations would greatly appreciate such a thoughtful gift.

For most people who donate life insurance policies, the chief advantage is that it allows the donor to transfer a low-cost asset into a substantial charitable donation. For many of us, making a significant philanthropic contribution is an important life achievement—one that requires care and planning.

A member of our staff will gladly confer with you and your advisors to find the most effective means of leaving the gift of life—one that uses life insurance to ensure a lifetime of service on the part of a charitable organization.

*Mr. Larry Pauley, CFRE, organized Ford Thompson Consulting in 1984. As Executive Vice President, he holds total accountability for all phases of daily operations and travels throughout the country to provide counsel to clients. Mr. Pauley has extensive background in philanthropic fundraising and direct mail marketing for both for- and nonprofit organizations.*

*As a frequent lecturer, he has spoken at regional and national conferences for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, The American Red Cross and The Association for Healthcare Philanthropy. Among his numerous accomplishments, Mr. Pauley has received the Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) designation from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.*

*Ford Thompson has provided counsel to nonprofit organizations since its inception. Primary services include consultation on gift acceptance policies and procedures manuals, gift annuity programs, and executive recruiting. The company also produces the Professional Enrichment Series for planned giving advisors, custom planned giving quarterly newsletters and brochures, provides direct mail services, on-site consulting and training for client staff and boards of directors, and conducts feasibility studies.*



## WITH SINCEREST GRATITUDE

*At a time with nonprofit organizations across the country are either downsizing or closing its doors, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation is extremely grateful for the generous unrestricted and programmatic support received between January 1–June 30, 2003, which was provided by the following thoughtful donors:*

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# THE PINCHOT LETTER

## News from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation FAX / MAIL-IN RESPONSE FORM

- I would like to be notified via email of new issues of *The Pinchot Letter* available on your website.
- Please add my friend or colleague to your mailing list to receive *The Pinchot Letter*; their contact information is below.
- I would no longer like to receive *The Pinchot Letter*, please remove my name from your mailing list.

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Company \_\_\_\_\_

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Additional remarks/ comments/suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you! Please fax or mail this form to:

Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
 1616 P Street, NW  
 Suite 100  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 Fax: 202-797-6583

# IN YOUR OPINION...

In 2001, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation received an overall superior rating from Dunn & Bradstreet, the leading provider of business information worldwide. In addition to hearing the thoughts of the surveyed organizations, we would be delighted to learn yours.

How did you initially hear about us?

\_\_\_\_\_

If you could characterize us in three words or less, which would you choose? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In your own words, please describe what we're trying to accomplish?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this something you believe in?

\_\_\_\_\_

In your opinion, what are our strengths? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Our weaknesses? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time and attention. Please fax or mail this questionnaire to:

Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
 1616 P Street, NW  
 Suite 100  
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 Fax: 202-797-6583



# CONTINUING THE PINCHOT LEGACY

HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN FOREST CONSERVATION?

## Partner with us by making a fully tax-deductible gift to:

- ✿ The *Working Capital Fund* — to help us provide decision makers with timely information and analysis on key issues in natural resource policy.
- ✿ The *Pinchot Institute Legacy Fund* — planned/deferred gifts for an endowment to ensure our long-term financial well-being.
- ✿ The *101 Scholarship* and *Mortimer Garden* funds — to offer internships and scholarships to future natural resource professionals.
- ✿ The *Grey Towers Fund* — to offer training workshops, educational conferences, and to assist with other initiatives at Grey Towers, the Institute's home.

OR

- ✿ Become a *Pinchot Associate* and receive advanced notification of our activities and publications; special mention in our printed materials; and invitations to events held in your community, Washington, DC and at Grey Towers.

## *Other tax-advantaged ways to help us conserve America's forestlands are to:*

- ✿ Contribute in-kind goods or services to the Institute.
- ✿ Donate online on a secure server via our website, [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org).
- ✿ Have your employer maximize your investment through its matching gift program.
- ✿ Donate appreciated securities through your broker or a donor advised fund, like Fidelity Investment's *Charitable Gift Fund*.
- ✿ Establish a future or planned gift from your assets that would offer you exceptional benefits, such as a guaranteed income for a fixed number of years after retirement.

For more information on these and other ways to make an investment towards the future of America's forests, please contact Kendra Miller at (202) 797-6580 or [kmiller@pinchot.org](mailto:kmiller@pinchot.org).

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## PINCHOT INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION

Leadership in Forest Conservation Thought, Policy, and Action.



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