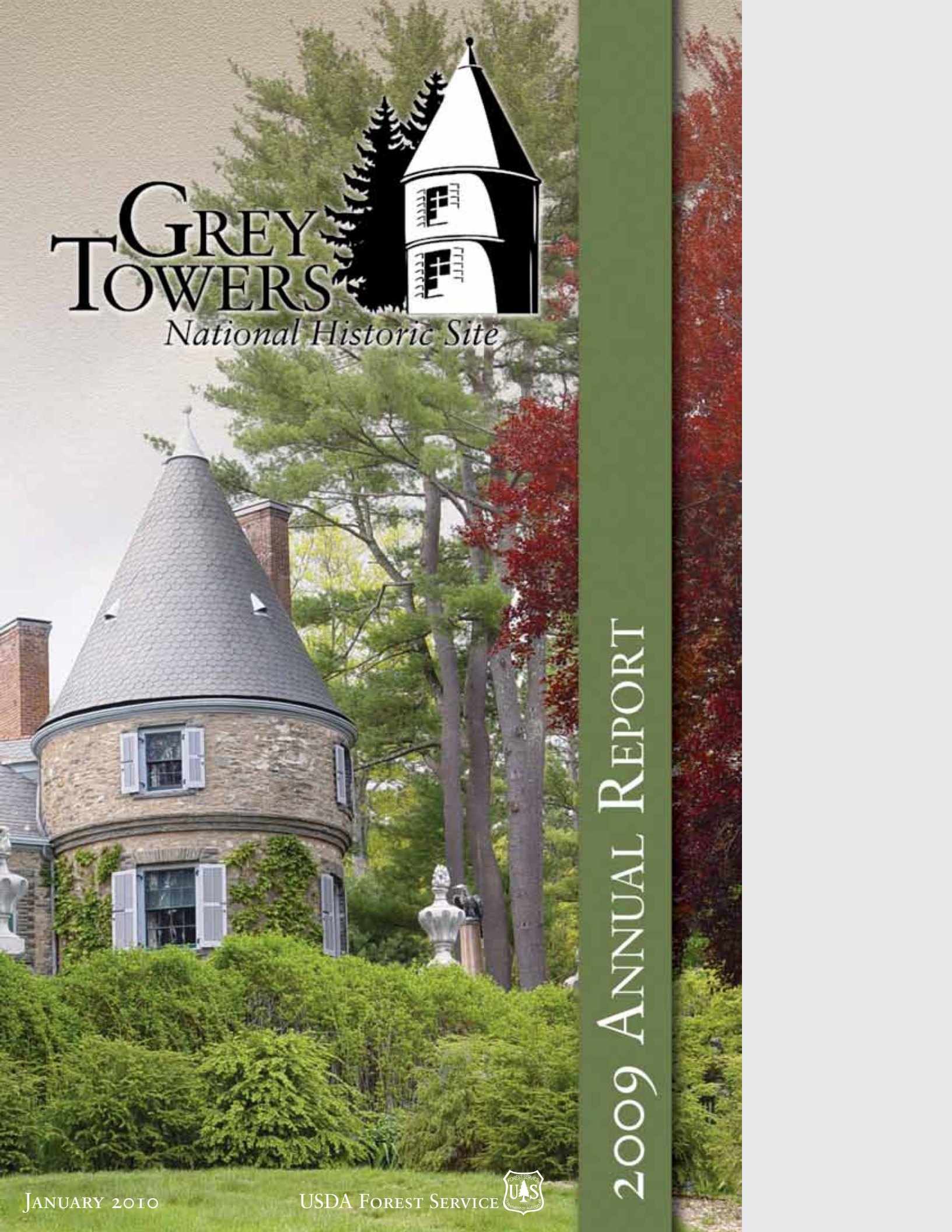


# GREY TOWERS

*National Historic Site*



## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2010

USDA FOREST SERVICE



*“The Pinchots rock!”*

— Chris  
Elkins Park, PA



*Gov. Gifford Pinchot’s popular ice cream social is re-created each fall by the Grey Towers Heritage Association.*

*Students learn forestry skills in the woods at Grey Towers.*



*Leadership Development Program participants often continue their conversations into the evening with dinner served around the Fingerbowl.*

*Artists find inspiration in the many unique landscape features.*



*The Fingerbowl outdoor dining table, with blooming wisteria, is the most popular feature in the landscape.*



*Interpretive tours illustrate how the Pinchot family lived.*





*Iris blooming in the Long Garden add to the beauty of the landscape.*

# GREY TOWERS

National Historic Site



Grey Towers had a remarkable year in 2009 and is poised for even greater accomplishments in 2010. It is my pleasure to share our recent accomplishments and to offer glimpses of what to expect in 2010 in the Grey Towers National Historic Site's 2009 Annual Report.

Our work at Grey Towers pays tribute to Gifford Pinchot's legacy by expanding upon our nation's early vision of forestry and natural resource conservation. Gifford Pinchot, often referred to as the Father of Conservation, spent much of his adult life at Grey Towers, his family's home. From this base, Pinchot and President Theodore Roosevelt developed their shared expectations of professional forest management and established the USDA Forest Service, for which Pinchot was named the first Chief in 1905.

In 1963, members of the Pinchot Family donated Grey Towers and the surrounding 102 acres of forested lands to the people of the United States so Gifford Pinchot's legacy and visions could be actively pursued by future generations.

The goals originally established for Grey Towers remain our priorities today:

- Conservation Education, Interpretation and Research related to Pinchot's work and to natural resource conservation, protection, management and use.
- Leadership Development within natural resource professions.
- Continuation of Gifford Pinchot's legacy, incorporating ecological, economic and social considerations in the pursuit of new strategies and solutions for natural resource issues.
- Preservation, use and maintenance of the Grey Towers' buildings, grounds and archives, while providing opportunities for public recreation and enjoyment.

The accomplishments highlighted in the following pages are the result of talented and enthusiastic partners, generous volunteers, dedicated staff and an agency whose commitment to Pinchot's vision continues to enhance forest management and conservation in a manner that contributes, as Pinchot would have wished, to the greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time.

*Nan Christianson*

NAN CHRISTIANSON  
Acting Director  
Grey Towers National Historic Site



## Grey Towers Leadership Transitions

Richard Paterson, the Director of Grey Towers National Historic Site since 2004, retired in 2009. Many conference attendees remember Dick and his wife Mary for their inspiring reenactments of James and Mary Pinchot, through which they interpret the elder Pinchots' efforts to support and guide Gifford's interest in forestry. Efforts to select a new Director are underway.

Positioning Grey Towers to take a more expansive role in supporting leadership development and promoting conservation stewardship, we now operate as a part of the Washington Office, and report directly to Robin Thompson, Associate Chief for State & Private Forestry.



*“Your enthusiasm and knowledge brought the Pinchot family alive!”*

—Alice & Ed  
Plainview, NY

*Children’s activities with wood are popular at the annual Festival of Wood.*



*Wood turner Don Naylor demonstrates his craft on a wood lathe at the annual Festival of Wood, which draws 3,000 visitors every summer.*



*Plein Air painting sessions, with artists inspired by the Grey Towers landscape, are co-sponsored by the “Come Paint with Me” group.*



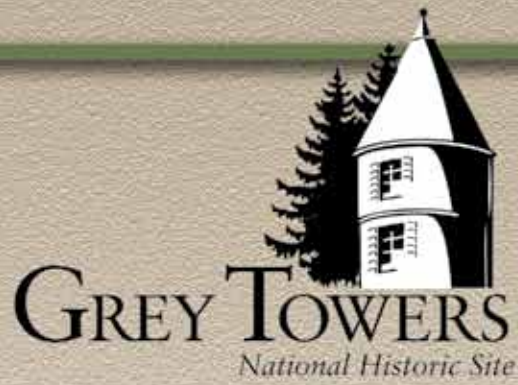
*Visitors learn from the Rough Rider president re-enactor how Gifford Pinchot and Theodore Roosevelt introduced conservation to America and started the USDA Forest Service.*

*“If the walls of Grey Towers could talk they would re-echo the brilliant conversations which took place there — literature, poetry, music, art, adventure and conservation.”*

—Mrs. Barnet Nover  
July 4, 1942



*Lee Salber of the Grey Towers' Interpretive staff instructs school children on tree identification along the Forestry Trail.*



## Conservation Education, Interpretation and Public Programs

Grey Towers' mansion, stone buildings and grounds inspire all who visit, and provide the setting for us to connect people's hearts and minds to the legacy of the Pinchot Family. Interpretive tours, public programs, guided hikes, school courses and community festivals bring the world of forest conservation to life for all who visit.

In 2009, we...

- Shared Gifford Pinchot's and the Forest Service's philosophy of forest stewardship with 16,000+ visitors through interpretive tours, public programs, guided hikes and presentations.
- Delivered curriculum-based conservation education programs to nearly 1,000 students with a deliberate shift toward secondary education students and teachers.
- Added historic and interpretive exhibits throughout the mansion and grounds, expanded visitor access to upper floors of the mansion, developed and offered themed interpretive tours that allow for greater depth of information.
- Improved access to and delivery of interpretive information, utilizing podcast and video downloads to web sites and playback hardware for new, closed captioned films.
- Communicated the sustainable forestry message to nearly 3,000 participants at the annual Festival of Wood and utilized the arts to awaken a sensitivity to resource conservation with musical, literary and dramatic programs.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2010...

- Our new secondary school forestry conservation courses will integrate math and science in students' field studies.
- A new introductory film will engage visitors in the story of Grey Towers and the Pinchot family



For additional information regarding Grey Towers' Conservation Education, Interpretation and Public Programs, contact Lori McKean, [lmckean@fs.fed.us](mailto:lmckean@fs.fed.us).



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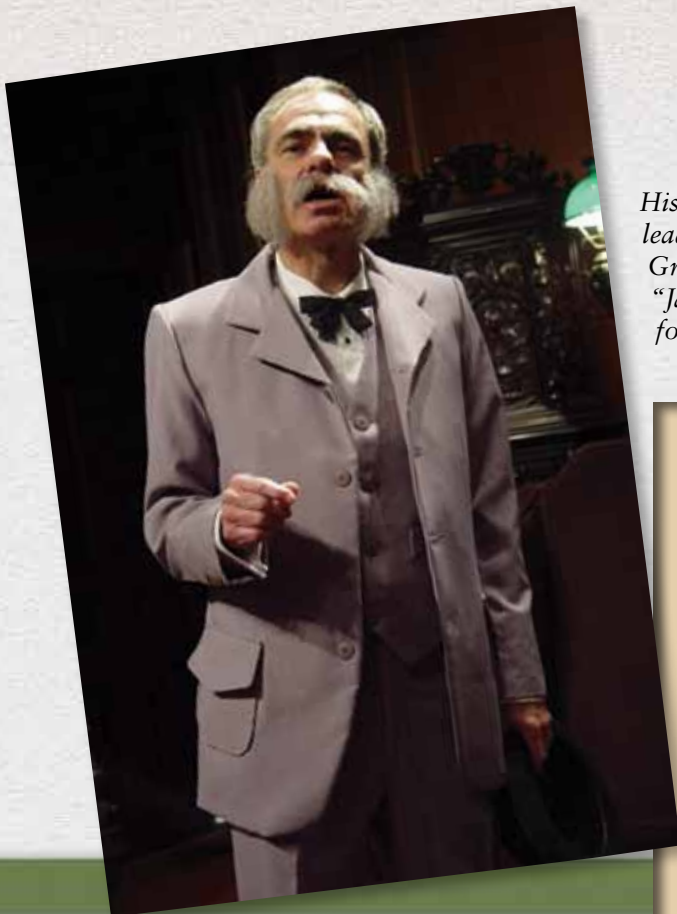
CONSERVATION EDUCATION, INTERPRETATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

*“My time at Grey Towers marks a really wonderful experience in my career. Thank you for making it memorable and meaningful.”*

— Forest Service 2009 Leadership Development participant



*The essence of place sets the Grey Towers' Leadership Development programs apart from other natural resource leadership development programs.*



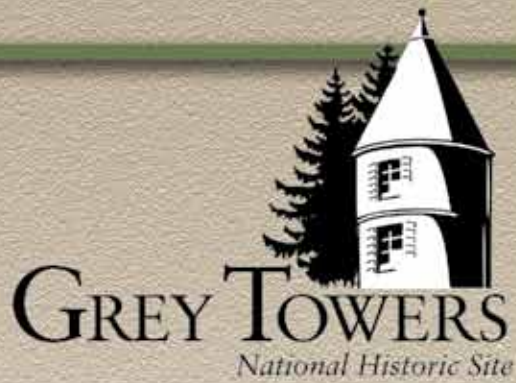
*History comes alive for some conference and leadership program participants, when former Grey Towers Director Richard Paterson presents “James Pinchot: The Real Father of Conservation” for visiting groups.*

*“Nine times out of ten, it is not ability which brings success, but persistence and enthusiasm, which are usually, but not always, the same as vision and will. We all have the ability enough to do the things which lie before us, but the man with the will to keep everlastingly at it, and the vision to realize the meaning and value of the results for which he is striving, is the man who wins nearly every case.”*

—Gifford Pinchot  
Training of a Forester  
1917



*Participants in workshops and leadership programs can meet in the Cornelia Suite, adapted from the bedroom and dressing room of Cornelia Pinchot.*



## Conservation Leadership: Development and Action

Never intended to be a facility focused only on its rich history, Grey Towers continues to proactively promote the Pinchot legacy through its Leadership Development Programs, use of conference facilities for conservation groups, and supported actions in the field.

### 2009 Accomplishments:

- Strengthened and streamlined delivery of services and business operations.
- Hosted 1,744 conference center participants, representing organizations such as The Pinchot Institute for Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, State Foresters' Associations, Forest-based to national agency leadership teams, and conservation-oriented think tanks.
- Delivered 24 Leadership Development programs with nearly 300 participants.
- Expanded the Grey Towers' Leadership Development menu to 9 diverse programs including Ranger Academy, Staff Officers' Leadership, Forest Supervisors' Roundtable, Forest Supervisor and Deputy Leadership Partnerships, Leadership Laboratory, Leadership Renewal, National Policy Seminar and Deputy Regional Forester programs.
- Introduced the new Facets of Leadership program, exploring Gifford Pinchot's success as a leader while delving into participants' individual leadership strengths.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2010...

- In partnership with the Forest Service Historian and the Grey Towers Heritage Association, Grey Towers is hosting a new Scholar-In-Residence Program to enrich the selected students' education and promote a more comprehensive understanding of Pinchot's work.
- Grey Towers will host an International MegaFlorestais Conference entitled 'Global Issues in Governance of Natural Resources: New Leadership for New Challenges' in April 2010.
- The Forest Service is initiating a five-year Strategic Plan that will guide Grey Towers through the United Nation's 2011 International Year of Forests and the 2013 50th Anniversary of Grey Towers' Dedication Ceremony.



For additional information about Grey Towers' Leadership Development & Business Management Programs contact Ellen Geis, [egeis@fs.fed.us](mailto:egeis@fs.fed.us).

For information about use of conference facilities, contact Andy Conrad, [kconrad@fs.fed.us](mailto:kconrad@fs.fed.us).



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*“The same kinds of intellectual dialogues that took place at Grey Towers when Gifford Pinchot lived here, are continuing today.”*

— Al Sample, President  
Pinchot Institute for Conservation



*Mature trees form the backdrop for dramatic stone sculptures throughout the Grey Towers estate. Both the trees and the stonework date back to Gifford and Cornelia Pinchot's era at Grey Towers.*



*Unique architectural features are both appealing and challenging when maintaining the historic integrity of the mansion.*

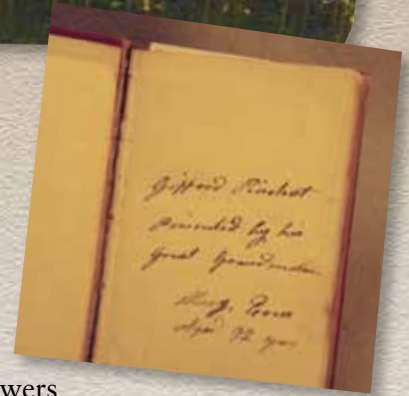


*Mary Eno's  
1859 Bible.*

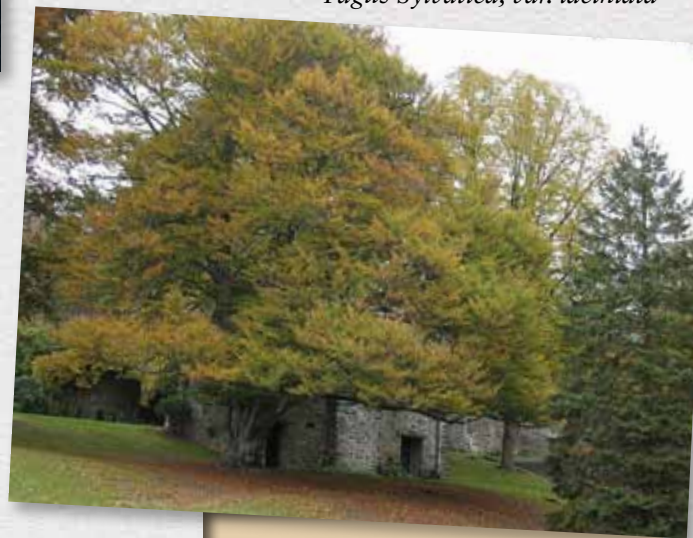
Several sets of poetical works belonging to the Pinchot Family, circa 1780's, were donated

to the Grey Towers

collection. These new additions include Geoffrey Chaucer, Samuel Butler, and Edmund Spenser; a complete 31-volume set of the 1894-1896 'The Temple Shakespeare' series, and selected works by Oscar Wilde, Lord Byron and Edgar Allan Poe. In addition, we received several Pinchot Family Bibles including Mary Eno's 1859 Bible with handwritten inscriptions and a pocket New Testament inscribed to Gifford by his 92 year old great-grandmother Mary Eno.



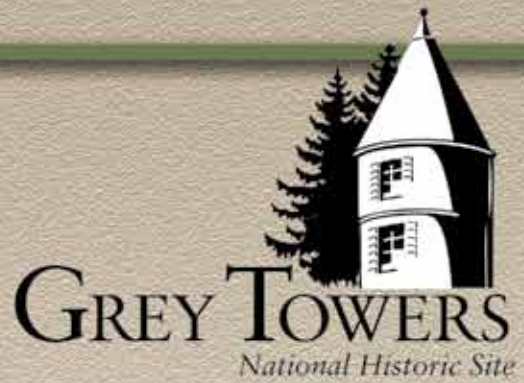
*Cut Leaf Beech,  
Fagus Sylvatica, var. laciniata*



*“By George I'd like to come back a hundred years from now and see my trees.”*

—Gifford Pinchot  
as spoken to Corvia Christian  
Campaign Manager  
1925

## Preservation and Use of Grey Towers' Archives, Facilities and Landscape



The majority of people who visit Grey Towers are drawn to the site by the magnificent mansion, the landscaped grounds and the rich history. While touring the site, visitors receive unanticipated glimpses into the Pinchot Family's lives and their work relating to forest conservation.

### In 2009, we...

- Successfully competed for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to:
  - Re-establish the historical landscape plantings along the Black Locust Allee leading up to the mansion.
  - Resurface the roads and restore the stone walls surrounding the Mansion.
  - Upgrade electrical and HVAC systems.
  - Repaint the interior walls and exterior trim and repair several roofs on the property.
  - Install storm windows throughout the mansion to improve energy efficiency.Our work in 2009 focused on design and contract preparations for these projects. Implementation work will be accomplished in 2010.
- Significantly advanced the preservation and access to archival material by:
  - Cataloging a significant donation of Gifford Pinchot papers.
  - Rehousing, labeling and creating inventories for archived materials.
  - Updating the historic library database.
  - Transcribing oral history interviews into electronic files.
  - Digitally scanning historic exterior and interior photos of the mansion.
- Completed extensive tree maintenance, removing hazardous trees and protecting historically-significant specimen trees.
- Improved our sustainable footprint by reducing consumption, expanding our recycling programs, replacing old Freon-based air conditioning units, and purchasing energy efficient utility vehicles.
- Implemented actions to address all safety issues identified in the 2008 Regional Safety Inspection.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2010...

In addition to completing our ARRA projects, we will repair the dam at the lower pond, develop a conservation plan for all outdoor sculptures, and replace the aging water system.



#### Contact Information:

Museum and Archives: Rebecca Philpot ([rphilpot@fs.fed.us](mailto:rphilpot@fs.fed.us))

Horticulture and Landscape: Elizabeth Hawke ([ehawke@fs.fed.us](mailto:ehawke@fs.fed.us))

Facilities: Ken Sandri ([ksandri@fs.fed.us](mailto:ksandri@fs.fed.us))



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*“Great tour and gratitude to US government for funding such a beautiful treasure.”*

— Alice  
Williamsburg, VA

## Partners, Volunteers and Interns

Partners, volunteers and student interns enhance both the capacity and the quality of all facets of Grey Towers’ operations. Our annual report ~ and the many accomplishments we highlight ~ are a result of these organizations’ and individuals’ commitment to Pinchot’s vision and work.

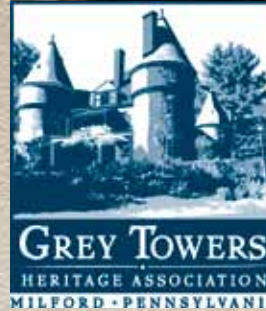


### Pinchot Institute for Conservation:

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation (PIC) works in partnership with the Forest Service at Grey Towers and throughout the country to advance conservation and sustainable natural resource management. In the local Milford, PA area, PIC is participating in the Common Waters Partnership to strengthen cooperation across political boundaries and to provide critical information and data for land use decisions in the upper Delaware River Basin. The first Common Waters Community Forum, hosted by PIC, provided an opportunity for regional stakeholders to discuss common interests and identify strategies for improving cross-boundary cooperation. Moving forward, the Partnership will release a summary of the forum, convene a community dialogue on Marcellus shale development, and develop a source water protection program for the Upper Delaware River watershed.



*Collaborative work occurring during the Common Waters Forum.*



*The Grey Towers Heritage Association co-sponsors outdoor music at Grey Towers as part of their community outreach and the Conservation and the Arts program.*

### Grey Towers Heritage Association:

With a strategic goal to enhance community relations and strengthen the conservation and culture programs at Grey Towers, the GTHA presented living history programs, re-created the Pinchot ice cream social, delivered a number of Conservation and the Arts public programs, supported the volunteer and intern programs; and produced a new Walking Tour brochure and wayside interpretive exhibits. They leveraged Grey Towers resources by coordinating public programs with existing community initiatives, thus tying in with regional tourism opportunities.



*William McMillian,  
interpretive volunteer*

### Volunteers donated more than 4,000 hours to Grey Towers in 2009:

nearly 2,500 hours donated by community members, assisting with visitor services, interpretive programs, archival and curatorial areas and in the landscape; and an additional 1,600 hours by college students, who provided help in the interpretive and horticulture programs.

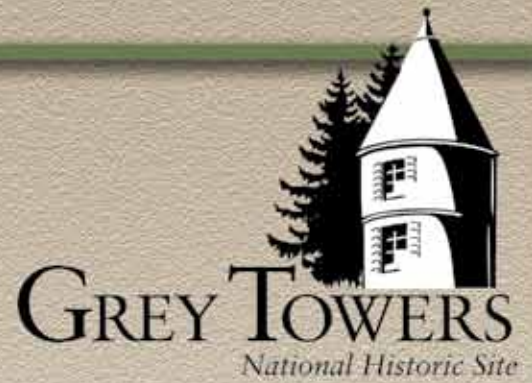


Botanist Ann Rhoads instructs participants on forest invasives during a “Women and Their Woods” program, a partnership between the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Grey Towers.



### Delaware Highlands Conservancy:

This collaboration saw successful initiatives for forest landowners, including a “Women and Their Woods” program that built a network of women forest landowners and helped address their concerns and educational needs, and a woodland owner program that focused on topics relating to next generation landowners. The DHC produced and distributed 8,000 copies of the new *Shop Local Save Land: Guide to Wood Products, Professionals and Resources*, to connect forest products suppliers and a sustainable marketplace.



### Forest History Society:

Accomplished agency history web site improvements  
([www.foresthistory.org](http://www.foresthistory.org)).



### Pocono Arts Council:

Facilitated the wood craft educational component of the annual Festival of Wood.  
([www.poconoarts.org](http://www.poconoarts.org))



### Student Conservation Association:

Provided opportunities for college students to enhance their academic knowledge with hands-on, work experiences in history, recreation, museum services, landscape architecture and more.  
([www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org))

*Grey Towers Horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke was assisted in the landscape by Student Conservation interns Kristen Prommel (left) and Ramoa Hemmings.*



### Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association:

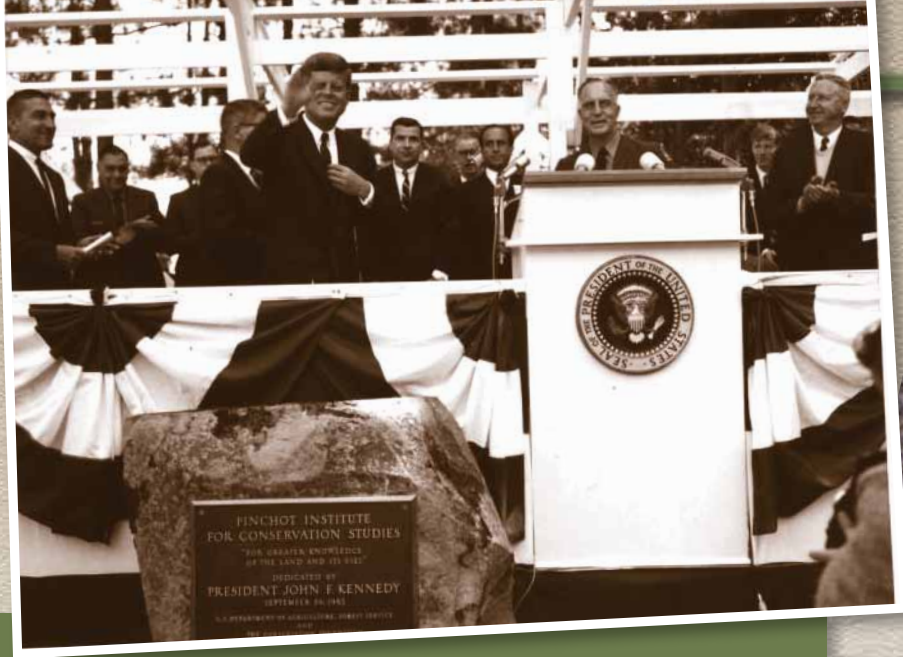
Assisted with interpretive and themed educational items offered for sale in the Grey Towers gift shop.  
([www.enfia.org](http://www.enfia.org))

### National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap:

Leveraged staffing and equipment capacity by sharing resources.  
([www.nps.gov/dewa](http://www.nps.gov/dewa))



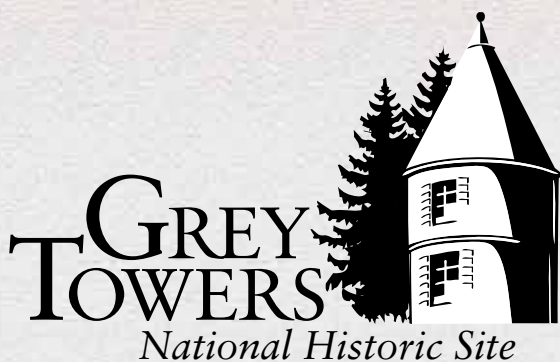
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*“Gifford Pinchot was more than a forester; he was the Father of American conservation. He believed that the riches of this continent should be used for all the people to provide a more abundant life, and he believed that the waste of these resources, or the exploitation by a few, was a threat to our national democratic life . . .*

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

— President John F. Kennedy  
Grey Towers Dedication Speech  
September 1963



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*“If we owe anything to the United States, if this country has been good to us, if it has given us our prosperity, our education, and our chance of happiness, then there is a duty rising upon us. That duty is to see, so far as in us lies, that those who are coming after us shall have the same opportunity for happiness we have had ourselves.”*

—Gifford Pinchot  
The Fight for Conservation  
1910

For information on this and other Grey Towers publications, contact Lori McKean, [lmckean@fs.fed.us](mailto:lmckean@fs.fed.us).