

Grey Towers National Historic Site



2016 Accomplishment Highlights

The phenomenal staff, volunteers, and partners at Grey Towers have done it again! Another outstanding year of public programs, tours and events, conferences and meetings, Leadership Development sessions, and a variety of other special programs that have been instrumental in accomplishing the mission of perpetuating the leadership and conservation legacy of Gifford Pinchot and the Pinchot family. Listed on the following pages are some highlights that illustrate the depth and breadth of the variety of events that took place here during 2016, including a few of my favorites: another extremely successful Festival of Wood, 8K Race, Public Lands Day with ice cream social, and very popular lecture series throughout the summer. Once again, we could not have done it without our many wonderful partners but specifically the Grey Towers Heritage Association. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy 2017. Make sure you come to see us; we have something for everyone.

Bill Dauer, Director

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: The U.S. Forest Service staff at Grey Towers continues to build upon Gifford Pinchot’s leadership ethos and provide an intellectual and inspirational center for developing natural resource leaders.

Programs in 2016 provided opportunities for natural resource professionals, scholars and historians, and emerging leaders (interns/youth):

- New and expanded leadership programs at Grey Towers and across the Nation include the increasingly popular Leader as Convener workshop, Eastern Province of the Middle Leader Program, and Forest Service Roundtable opportunities.
- More than 2,600 natural resource professionals from Federal, State, local, and nongovernmental natural resource organizations used Grey Towers conference facilities to advance their leadership abilities and organizational goals through programs at Grey Towers.
- More than 580 Forest Service employees, ranging from middle level management and operational and leadership teams to Forest Supervisors, benefitted from meaningful leadership development programs.
- We welcomed the Forest Service Senior Leader program back to Grey Towers, with a record number of participants!



Conference participants enjoy a tour of Grey Towers.

- Grey Towers staff coordinated leadership development opportunities and retreats for other Forest Service staffs, such as the National Incident Management Organization. They also shared expertise and guidance with those who sought to build upon the success of the U.S. Forest Service Leadership Development program at Grey Towers regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- Hosted two academic professionals and environmental historians through the Scholar in Residence program, who were able to further their research of historic resource conservation events and their impact on future resource conservation.
- Provided immersion learning experiences for eight college student interns to strengthen their academic and career opportunities in forestry, environmental science, recreation management, museum sciences, horticulture, and landscape architecture.



A college intern works with historic artifacts at Grey Towers.

Looking Ahead: Grey Towers staff is working closely with agency leaders to coordinate, expand, and strengthen leadership development throughout the agency, including the expanded Leader as Convener workshop, and cultivating opportunities to introduce agency staffs to the Grey Towers' learning experience. A special focus will be on nurturing co-leadership relationships.

LANDSCAPE, PRESERVATION, AND ARCHIVAL CONSERVATION: The U.S. Forest Service staff at Grey Towers continues to focus on its core mission of preserving the historic integrity of the National Historic Site's buildings, landscape, and archival collection.



Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell helps plant the first Chief's tree at Grey Towers.

Progress in 2016 helped balance today's demand for multiple uses with maintaining the historic integrity of Grey Towers:

- Continued to preserve the architect-designed landscape at Grey Towers by restoring sculptures, the historic Long Pool and Garden, bluestone walkways, and other landscape features.
- With support from the partner Grey Towers Heritage Association, we continued to restore the Laurel Hill Cemetery on the grounds of Grey Towers by developing and installing stabilization devices for headstones and removing stumps and invasive plants. We also researched mid-1800s gravesites of a local family, which was interpreted into a popular public education program about cemetery preservation and mortuary symbols.
- Educated more than 10,000 visitors with a new curatorial exhibit, "Just Fishing Talk," that showcases Gifford Pinchot's enthusiasm for the sport. More than 100 items from the historic collection, including Pinchot's recently conserved Old Towne canoe, were exhibited in the Bait Box.
- Launched a U.S. Forest Service Chief Trees Initiative, with Tom Tidwell as the first Chief since Gifford Pinchot to plant a tree at Grey Towers. Ultimately, a tree will be planted to honor each of the 17 Chiefs of the U.S. Forest Service.



Above: Framed oil painting of Gifford Pinchot.

Right: Gifford Pinchot's silver fishing trophy.



- Partnered with the Pike County Library to exhibit artifacts from the Pinchot excursion to the South Seas in the 1930s.
- Inventoried and catalogued hundreds of donated historic Pinchot family materials, including photos, receipts, documents, books, and prints, and made these items available for research.
- Added new acquisitions to the collection, including a silver first place fishing trophy presented to Pinchot for Broad Bill and a large, framed oil painting of Pinchot, of which research of its history is ongoing.
- Provided technical expertise to U.S. Forest Service Heritage Program managers and regional historic preservation groups.

Looking Ahead: Visitors will appreciate new lighting at the Fingerbowl, Grey Towers' unique outdoor dining table; new visitor entry doors made to replicate the appearance of the mansion's original French doors; and conservation of prominent sculptures of turkeys and eagles originally placed in the landscape by Cornelia Pinchot in the 1920s.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION: The U.S. Forest Service staff at Grey Towers and key partners continue to interpret the lives and contributions of Pinchot family members through a dynamic public program that includes interpretive tours, programs, conservation education, and special events.

Programs in 2016 heightened the public's knowledge of the many accomplishments of Gifford Pinchot and his family and all that they contributed to conservation and social justice in the United States:

- Educated more than 16,000 visitors about the Pinchot conservation legacy through interpretive mansion tours and public programs. Introduced nearly 640 students, including regional students, young teens from an Upward Bound program from Maine, and 130 second graders from a Bronx, NY, public school, to forest history, stewardship, and fire education.
- Broadened understanding of Pinchot family contributions to conservation and social justice through a variety of public programs co-sponsored by partner Grey Towers Heritage Association, including town walking tours, lectures, films, forest education trail hikes, and arts programs.
- Strengthened community ties and educated new audiences with popular signature events, including the 2-day Festival of Wood (3,500 visitors), a re-creation of Gov. Pinchot's Ice Cream Social (900 visitors), 8K Race/Walk (109 participants), and Community Appreciation Day/Community Food Drive (1,000 participants).
- Improved program accessibility by obtaining devices to assist the hearing impaired and by translating interpretive materials into five different languages.

Looking Ahead: Development of self-guided interpretive opportunities, including family friendly programs offered through mobile phone apps, and increased accessibility options.



Smokey Bear visits a classroom.

ONGOING SUCCESSES:

- **Volunteers:** Community volunteers, groups, individuals, and student interns donated more than 3,500 hours to help the Forest Service accomplish its work in 2016. Key partner Grey Towers Heritage Association donated an additional 1,751 volunteer hours valued at \$40,407 to deliver public programs and leverage Forest Service funding and resources.
- **Native American Tribal Relations:** Collaborated with the National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap, to host tribal youth at Grey Towers and assist with production of “The Water Gap: Return to the Homeland.” This documentary focuses on the annual return of the Lenape Tribes to their homeland located in the Delaware and Hudson River drainage areas where Grey Towers is located.
- **Private Forest Landowner Education:** With partner Delaware Highlands Conservancy, strengthened the network of women forest landowners through the *Women and Their Woods* programs, including production and distribution of an empowering film; supported a dynamic web site that connects consumers to local providers of a variety of wood products; and coordinated with the Pinchot family and U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station to install and oversee hi-tech monitoring equipment at the Pinchot-owned Milford Experimental Forest, making this the only privately owned forest in the Forest Service Smart Forest network now providing real-time data for private forest landowners.
- **Water Quality Education and Protection:** With partner Pinchot Institute for Conservation, continued support for the Poconos-Kittatinny Cluster of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative to help protect, conserve, and safeguard the critical lands surrounding the Delaware River headwaters. As one of eight clusters, the Poconos-Kittatinny Cluster’s plan targets the lands most important to maintaining water quality and amplifies efforts to protect them. Seventeen conservation projects targeting water quality are designed to protect an estimated 10,000 acres and permanently conserve cold-water trout streams.



A young woman from the Lenape Tribe visits Grey Towers.



Women learn how to use a Biltmore stick to measure tree height.

Grey Towers National Historic Site • P.O. Box 188 • Milford, PA 18337 • 570-296-9630 • greytowers@fs.fed.us • www.fs.usda.gov/greytowers



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.