

# The Grey Towers Legacy



## Information and Calendar of Events



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USDA Forest Service

2011

## Restored Locust Allée Completed in 2011

*U.S. Forest Service Can Now Welcome Guests to Grey Towers in the Tradition of the Pinchot Family*

When Cornelia Bryce married Gifford Pinchot in 1914, he brought her to his family home in Milford, PA, to begin their life together. One of her first impressions of Grey Towers was that of a “dreary castle on the hill” and that she would have to “jazz it up!”

Part of this effort was to create an entrance that was better suited to their active lifestyle and prodigious entertaining than was the winding, meandering carriage drive that better fit the lifestyle of the earlier generation. (Today that carriage drive is mimicked by the pedestrian pathway between the parking lot and the mansion.)

Thus came the plan, in 1915, to construct an allée (rhymes with



*The Black Locust Allée, circa 1930s. The restoration will re-create this entry to the estate.*

“allay”), a French term that refers to the part of a formal garden that is both a promenade and an extension of the view. It usually ends in a terminal feature, such as Cornelia’s “turnaround wall,” or extends into apparent infinity at the horizon. The literal translation is “a walkway lined with trees and shrubs.”

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ARRA Projects Foster a Learning Environment for U.S. Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Students

Some of the ARRA projects were accomplished by Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (JCCCC) students as required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) legislation. Nearly 100 Job Corps students from throughout the country, representing 13 JCCCC and one contract Job Corps center, gained valuable, on-the-job experience while working on Grey Towers’ projects that will help them when they enter the workforce.

The Job Corps students also gained a sense of pride and stewardship from working on a site of national historic significance. “I was nervous when I first arrived, but now I feel like I can come back and say

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Job Corps students paint the shutters.*

## Additional Rehabilitation, Renovation, and Improvement Projects

### Stone Wall and Masonry Repairs

- Repairs to and restoration of stone walls, including the walled garden and the wall along Old Owego Turnpike and stone staircases
- Stucco refinishing of the Garden Shed, Milkhouse, and Gatehouse

### Roadwork

- Asphalt resurfacing and regrading

### Tree Work

- Hazard tree mitigation
- Historic tree pruning and cabling
- Organic debris removal

### Roofs

- Repair flashing, gutters, and heat tape
- Wood roof replacement on Icehouse, Pool Pavilion, and tool shed (near walled garden)

### Storm Windows/Panels/Doors

- Storm panel installation

### Electrical Utility Upgrades

- Exterior lighting and electrical service
- Electrical supply protection
- HVAC improvements and upgrades

### Fence Repairs/Gate Installations

- Repair fences and install gates in various locations

### Replace Landscape Stairs

- Replace wooden stairs behind mansion to upper parking lot

## Restored Locust Allée (continued)

### Cornelia's Allée

Cornelia chose more than 70, 20-foot-tall black locust trees and planted wide borders of herbaceous plant material and shrubbery between the trees to provide natural “walls” and to draw the eye to the entrance of the mansion.

For the Pinchots, the new Black Locust Allée created a more stately approach to the mansion, much more fitting for a Governor's home. It served to welcome thousands of visitors during the most active days at Grey Towers.

Over the years, the condition of the Allée declined. In 1963 the Forest Service removed the herbaceous material and shrubbery, paved the dirt drive, and covered over the cobblestone gutters to modernize the approach to the mansion for its new intended use as a public conference and education center.



Contractors remove unhealthy black locust trees.



Contractors plant new trees and shrubs along the allée.

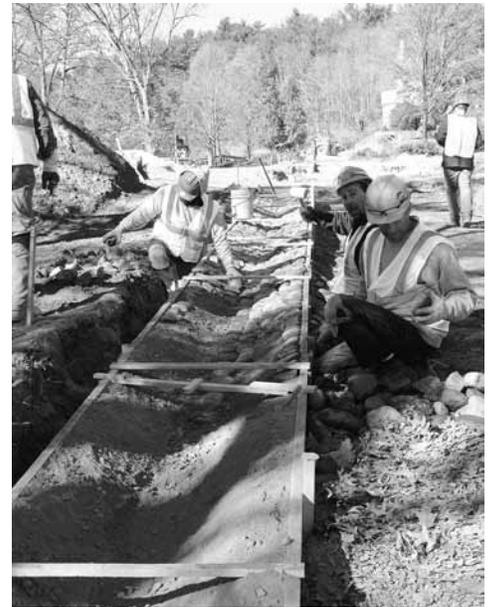
The nearly 95-year-old black locust trees began suffering from root compaction and became a serious safety hazard, with large limbs often coming down upon the main visitor walkway. Over time, more than half of the original black locusts were removed due to premature aging caused by the severe growing conditions. The remaining trees had reached the end of their life cycle and would surely die within the next 10 years.

### The Allée Today

When funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act became available to Grey Towers in 2009, we identified the Black Locust Allée as one of our most critical restoration projects. Grey Towers was granted \$1.2 million to complete the project, which included:

- Removal and replacement of 40 black locust trees with 76 black locust trees.
- Planting of 71 flowering dogwood trees; 28 shrubs (including rhododendron, mountain laurel, and lilac); and 200 herbaceous perennials in 20 varieties, such as phlox, lily, delphinium, and iris.
- Construction of cobblestone gutters using river rock and laid in the original pattern, which was discovered during demolition.
- Installation of an environmentally safe, nontoxic, nonhazardous, and nonflammable Enviroseal road surface, a new type of soil stabilizer that, when mixed with soil and aggregate from the estate, will create a “dirt” road that is as durable as concrete and will give the appearance of the original dirt drive.

Completion of this project not only restores the drive to the appearance of its heyday, but visitors can now more fully appreciate and imagine how the Pinchot family used the estate when they lived here.



Cobblestone gutters were reconstructed using river rock laid in the original pattern.

## Volunteer Positions Available

Have a passion for history? An interest in conservation? Do you love to garden? Enjoy talking to people? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you might enjoy volunteering at Grey Towers. Opportunities exist for volunteers to:

- Give interpretive tours
- Work in the gift shop
- Help with gardening and landscaping
- Participate in research and curatorial work
- Help with Grey Towers maintenance and facilities

Throughout the year, Grey Towers relies on its volunteers, who contribute thousands of hours. Volunteers have an opportunity to share years of valuable experience, skills, and knowledge. And it's a rewarding experience—Grey Towers volunteers are invited to two volunteer appreciation and recognition events each year and can earn incentive gifts.

For more information, call 570-296-9630 or send an e-mail to [greytowers@fs.fed.us](mailto:greytowers@fs.fed.us) with the word “Volunteering” in the subject line.

## ARRA Projects (continued)

I painted here and I left my mark for other people to enjoy,” said Kendrick Moore, a 23-year-old North Carolina student from the Flatwoods JCCCC in Coburn, VA.

This unique Job Corps-U.S. Forest Service opportunity, funded by the ARRA, offered the students a distinctive, real-world experience while providing the Forest Service help with a much-needed maintenance task.

“This was a very unique job for us,” said Frank Sikora, the Union Painting Instructor at Keystone Job Corps, a Department of Labor contract center in Drums, PA. Sikora supervised one of the Job Corps crews at Grey Towers. “Besides this being the biggest job we ever had, the experience really helped heighten the students’ knowledge of things other than painting. They learned the history, and to respect the antiques and property, and to work with the Forest Service personnel. They knew they weren’t just slapping paint on the walls.”

Students from Mingo (MO), Jacobs Creek (TN), Flatwoods (VA), Great Onyx (KY), Golconda (IL), Trapper Creek (MT), Blackwell (WI), Frenchburg (KY), L B J (NC), Ouachita (AR), Pine Ridge (NE), Boxelder (SD), and Cass (AR) Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers and the Keystone Job Corps painted interior



*A Job Corps student paints a window frame.*

walls in the mansion and outbuildings, and exterior woodwork on all buildings, including the historic shutters on the mansion. They also repaired masonry walkways and structures.

The Grey Towers project was supported by the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades and the International Masonry Institute. Both organizations provided professional instruction and supervised the Job Corps Center students involved in the painting and masonry work done at this historic site.

In addition to gaining work experience and honing interpersonal skills, the students also learned a bit of Forest Service and conservation history. While all were impressed with the size of the mansion and quality of the furnishings, some also were intrigued by the Pinchot family history.

“At first I thought, WOW, I never saw a house like this,” said Ponice Graham, of Valdosta, GA. “Then I thought, WOW, this is the same stuff that the family had when they lived here. And then I learned more about the family and I thought, WOW, this family worked hard for everything here, they had passion.”

“When I was painting I felt like I was giving something back,” Ms. Graham said. “I felt good doing it for the family. I felt like they would appreciate it if they could see it.”

*Editor’s Note: The U.S. Forest Service and Job Corps have a longstanding partnership throughout the Nation. The Grey Towers ARRA project, initiated by Forest Service Job Corps’ Natural Resource Liaison Donn Christiansen and staff at Grey Towers, represents the mutual benefit and gain that a productive collaboration such as this can create. Throughout the spring and summer of 2011, ARRA funds will be used to create additional jobs and real work experiences for more Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students at Grey Towers.*

## Curator’s Corner

### Child’s Chair, Condolence Cards and Letters Added to Grey Towers Collection

The U.S. Forest Service recently received items that help illustrate the Pinchot family’s history and bring it to life:



- A child’s chair dating back to the mid-19th century that reportedly belonged to Gifford Pinchot was recently donated to the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers for inclusion in the permanent collection. According to the donor, it was purchased at auction by a founding member of the “Friends of Central Park” organization. The initials “G.P.” are carved in the frame of the chair. The Pinchot family lived in New York City in the 19th century, and more research will be conducted to determine its authenticity.

- Approximately 1,000 condolence cards and letters received by Cornelia Pinchot upon her husband Gifford’s

death were recently donated to the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers by a Pinchot family member. The collection has been re-housed and inventoried, and staff members are looking into appropriate exhibit opportunities.



## Festival of Wood Promotes Goods From the Woods August 6–7, 2011



*The Festival of Wood helps us recognize the many ways we use wood in our everyday lives and how sustainably managed forests can provide that wood today while ensuring forests for the future.*

The Festival of Wood—August 6–7, 2011—is fast becoming an educational program that helps thousands of people make the connection between a sustainable marketplace and sustainable management of forests. Since 2004, we have successfully expanded the festival's activities, programs, and events to help celebrate our natural and cultural heritage of wood. Most events are free!

Highlights of the 2011 Festival:

**Unique wood crafts** and art are exhibited, sold, and demonstrated. Some examples include wood furniture, pipe boxes, Shaker boxes, sawdust folk art, wooden snowflakes, wooden bowls, wood turning, fretwork, and hand-carved sculpture. Co-sponsored by the Pocono Arts Council, the crafts component illustrates how beautiful objects that we use in our everyday lives are created from wood.

**Children's activities** include games and toys using wood and wood products. Children can build bluebird nest boxes (from wood, of course!) and learn about habitat conservation. Live amphibians and reptiles will visit.

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

**Free music** with wooden instruments will be provided each day.

**Educational exhibits** and handouts will be presented by a variety of organizations and agencies. Topics will include reintroducing the American chestnut, the next generation of landowners, tree identification, U.S. Forest Service wood technology initiatives, and reducing your carbon footprint.

**All three floors of the historic mansion** are open for visitors both days. The fee is \$4 per person.

The Festival of Wood is a collaborative project of the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers, Grey Towers Heritage Association, Pocono Arts Council, and many community partners.



*Visitors look over educational material at the Festival of Wood.*

## CONSERVATION LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT GREY TOWERS



**Teachers:** Plan a field trip for hands-on education on our Forest Discovery Trail.

### **Natural Resource Professionals:**

Research, reflect, or write using the inspirational ambiance of Grey Towers. Options include participating in a U.S. Forest Service detail opportunity (570–296–9630) or the Edgar Brannon Conservation Fellows Program (202–797–6580/[www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org)).

**College Students:** Check out our internship opportunities [www.fs.fed.us/gt/internships](http://www.fs.fed.us/gt/internships).

### **Graduate Students/Historians:**

Live and work at Grey Towers while completing your research project. Contact the Forest Service historian ([lbramwell@fs.fed.us](mailto:lbramwell@fs.fed.us)) about the Scholar in Residence Program.

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

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### *What is Grey Towers?*

A 44-room French chateausque mansion that was built in 1886 by James Pinchot. Today it serves as an education and leadership development center for natural resources. Administered by the U.S. Forest Service, it was donated to the public in 1963 by Dr. Gifford Bryce Pinchot to carry on the legacy of his father, Gifford Pinchot, eminent conservationist and two-term Pennsylvania governor.



### *What did Gifford Pinchot accomplish?*

As founder and first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot introduced and implemented the groundbreaking concept of conservation—the sustainable use of our natural resources. An eminent conservationist, he helped create the National Forest System, which today comprises over 190 million acres. Gifford, a two-term governor of Pennsylvania, and his wife, Cornelia, made tremendous changes in the economic, social, and political climate of the Commonwealth.

### *Who were some of the other Pinchots?*

James and Mary Pinchot, Gifford's parents, built the house in 1886. James grew up in Milford and became a wealthy businessman who made his fortune in wallpaper. As patrons of the arts, James and Mary were supporters of the Hudson River School, and James was co-founder of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. James had a strong conservation ethic and vision for the Nation, and both

parents encouraged their son, Gifford, to pursue forestry as a career. Amos Pinchot, Gifford's brother, was his political confidante and advisor, a lawyer who helped found the American Civil Liberties Union. Their sister, Antoinette, married a British diplomat and focused her energies on social causes in Europe, including running the American hospital in France during WWI.

### *Were the gardens at Grey Towers always so lavish?*

No. Although the grounds included a large rose garden and apple trees when James and Mary Pinchot lived here, Grey Towers was mostly a working farm. It wasn't until Gifford and his wife, Cornelia Bryce Pinchot, moved to Grey Towers in the 1920s and 1930s that the gardens, under Cornelia's planning and vision, began to take shape. Working with landscape architects and designers, Cornelia added all the plantings and stone features in the landscape, including the buildings. She and Gifford planted over 100 trees.

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

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

### *Who can use the Conference Center at Grey Towers?*

Any natural resource agency, group, association or organization that is working on conservation or has as its mission natural resource conservation may use the conference center at Grey Towers.

### *What can I do at Grey Towers?*

Visitors are encouraged to join us on a guided tour of the first floor of the mansion and the grounds. You also can walk around the grounds, see the historic gardens, or take a hike on our Forestry Trail. Free visitor films are shown

throughout the day. There are a number of public programs planned throughout the visitor season. Grey Towers also hosts school programs, conferences, and leadership development programs.

### *Can I have my wedding or take wedding photos at Grey Towers?*

As nice as the landscape is, it is not within the scope of our mission to host weddings or other private social functions. There are a few locations in the landscape outside of the historic corridor where we allow wedding photos, as long as they don't interfere with our primary functions and use. Use of these locations must be approved in advance.

### *How do we get to the falls?*

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

### *Is Grey Towers haunted?*

There have been no documented sightings of ghosts, though some claim to have "felt" a presence. It depends on your personal interpretation and beliefs.

### *Why isn't there a dining room in the house?*

Grey Towers served mainly as a summer home. Gifford and Cornelia Pinchot spent a lot of time outdoors. The outdoor dining table, also known as the Fingerbowl, served as their dining room and is the most popular feature in the landscape.



## 2011 is the International Year of Forests

### Grey Towers Provides Historic Setting for Global Leadership Training

To nurture and develop leadership in key forested countries around the world, three partners—the Rights and Resources Initiative, the U.S. Forest Service, and Megaflorestais—brought together 18 emerging natural resource leaders from 10 countries to take part in a leadership training course at Grey Towers.

The course, *Global Issues in Governance of Natural Resources: New Leadership for New Challenges*, is a new approach to developing the next generation of leaders of public forest agencies and preparing professionals to deal with the increasingly complex challenges that exist in landscape-scale forest settings.

Megaflorestais is a new network of public forest agency leaders dedicated to facilitating mutual learning among its members, advancing international dialogue and exchange on forest governance, and sharing learning about technical issues.

Today's changing global markets and political structures create new and very large challenges for achieving peace and prosperity in forest areas. These emerging needs, combined with a complex international setting, demand different leadership skills from global public agencies.

Grey Towers was the ideal location in which to engage this next generation of forest leaders. The ambiance of the home and grounds encouraged robust, honest, and transparent discussions as well as the sharing of ideas. This setting also brought to life Gifford Pinchot's historic legacy of nurturing dialogue that is informative, thought provoking, mutually enriching, and focused on solving problems.

"The same innovation that Gifford Pinchot used when introducing the concept of forestry in the U.S. parallels what these leaders are facing today," said Luke Bailey, Senior Associate of Policy Analysis with the Rights and Resources Initiative. "This isn't so much about passing on the technical fixes as it is to demonstrate the many different types of solutions to the same challenges that they share."

Perhaps it was the irony of the meeting place: when Gifford Pinchot wanted to introduce forestry in America, he had to travel to European nations—where forestry already was being practiced—to learn about forestry techniques and principles. Now, more than 100 years later, representatives of the world's most heavily forested nations gathered at Pinchot's home to discuss some of the 21st century's most complex forestry challenges.

The agenda included guest speakers, lectures, and small-group dialogues. Course participants also had the opportunity to tour nearby woodlands to see firsthand some of the challenges currently facing natural resource managers and landowners in the Northeast United States. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources virtually rolled out the "green carpet" for the visiting international professionals. They introduced them to issues faced today and some innovative responses, as well as the different ways that State and Federal management agencies work together to improve forest landscapes in the United States and the public benefits that they provide.



*The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness of sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests.*

*Visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) to find information regarding events being organized throughout the International Year as well as interactive Web tools and resources to promote dialogue on forests. The site offers a global platform to celebrate people's actions to sustainably manage the world's forests.*

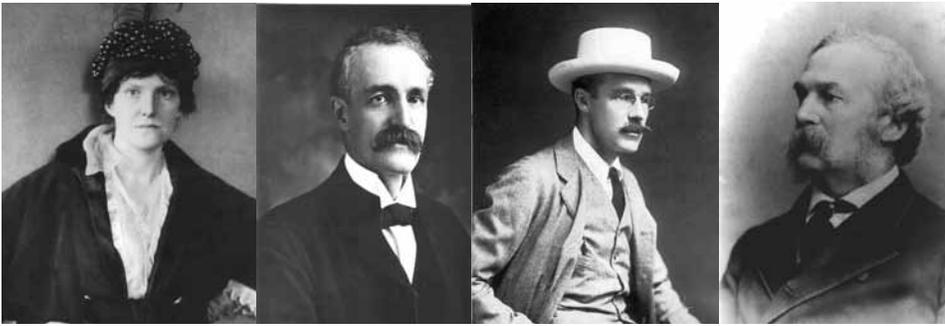
Finally, there was the camaraderie shared by men and women drawn together by their love and knowledge of the forest.

"I think I speak for the group when I say that the most rewarding part of this seminar was really getting acquainted with their peers from around the world," Bailey said. "Unlike many international events where forest service agents attend as official representatives of their country, the informal discussions held at Grey Towers led to personal connections between participants and allowed for frank discussions about the challenges they are facing in their countries. We were very privileged to have such an engaging and sophisticated group."



*Participants in the 2010 Global Leadership training enjoy the Grey Towers lawn.*

## New Conservation History Lecture Series Launched in 2011



Cornelia Pinchot

Gifford Pinchot

Amos Pinchot

James Pinchot

### *The Pinchots: One Family, One House, One Legacy*



This year, the Grey Towers Heritage Association will introduce a Conservation History Lecture Series at Grey Towers. This inaugural season will highlight key Pinchot family members and their groundbreaking accomplishments and contributions, many of which are still relevant today. Join us as we learn from their actions, ideals, and ethics, and see how history can be used to address present-day conservation issues.

#### **Cornelia Pinchot: Radical Feminist or Governor's Wife?**

This biographical program highlights the life of Gifford Pinchot's wife and how her strong viewpoints influenced both of

their lives. In light of Cornelia Pinchot's work as a suffragette who helped get women the right to vote, we can re-examine how women—as a strong block of constituents—can bring about change in a society.

#### **Gifford Pinchot and The Greatest Good**

Gifford's "Greatest Good" philosophy influenced formation of the U.S. Forest Service and continues to be its mantra today as this national agency manages 193 million acres of public land. What can we learn from Pinchot's vision of creating sustainable communities?

#### **Amos Pinchot, the Rebel Prince**

At the risk of alienating himself from his family and his niche in society, Amos

Pinchot fought vehemently for basic human and civil rights. Today we can learn from Amos and his attitude that as a society, we must first help people meet their basic human needs. Once these needs are met, then people will think about the environment.

#### **James Pinchot, the Real Father of Conservation?**

It was James Pinchot who asked his son, Gifford, "How would you like to be a forester?" This question helped usher conservation and scientific forestry into America. Today we can learn from James and his altruism as well as how he used the arts as a medium to build awareness of the environment.

The 2011-2012 Lecture Series coincides with the release of a new, beautifully illustrated 16-page booklet—*The Pinchots of Grey Towers*—that illustrates the family members who lived at Grey Towers and how this home influenced their lives, careers, and accomplishments.

For more information about the Lecture Series, including dates and locations, call 570-296-9625 or visit [www.greytowers.org](http://www.greytowers.org).

### *Original Historic Apple Trees "Take Root" at Grey Towers*

A special cutting and grafting procedure has enabled the U.S. Forest Service to ensure that some of the apple trees planted at Grey Towers by Cornelia Pinchot in the early 1900s will live on well beyond their natural life cycle.

Fifteen apple tree saplings—created from cuttings taken from apple trees planted 80 years earlier by Cornelia Pinchot—were recently planted at Grey Towers to ensure that these original trees continue to live for future generations to enjoy.

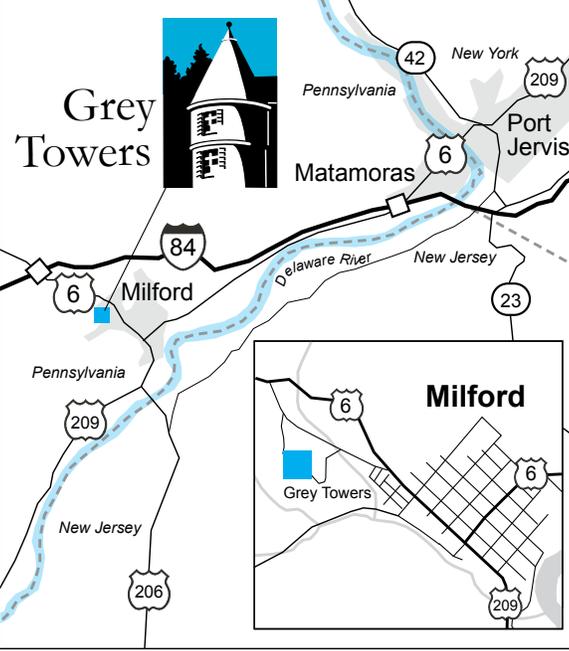
In a successful attempt to create a genetic match of the early 19th-century plantings, the U.S. Forest Service and the Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation in Brookline, MA, took cuttings from the historic trees and grafted them to apple tree stock. The new trees, *which took 6 years to propagate*, have a truly historic past and were planted in the original orchard grid pattern on the estate.



*Above and top right: Cornelia Pinchot planting apple trees at Grey Towers in the 1920s.*



*U.S. Forest Service personnel planting apple tree saplings created from cuttings taken from trees planted by Cornelia Pinchot in the 1920s at Grey Towers, 2010.*



**Grey Towers**

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### Photo Contest: Do You Have a Great Photo of Grey Towers?

The Grey Towers Heritage Association (GTHA) is looking for photographs of Grey Towers National Historic Site to develop signature items for educational and outreach purposes.

Novice, student, and professional photographers are encouraged to submit photos that capture the beauty of Grey Towers' grounds, landscape, buildings, and outdoor artifacts and features. Photos from all seasons are being sought that reflect the historic, natural, and conservation essence of Grey Towers.

"We know there are many people who enjoy taking photos of this beautiful place and are so happy to share their photos with others," said Barbara Buchanan, GTHA President. "We can create many products that will not only highlight these photos but will help expand the visibility of Grey Towers and educate others about the rich history that Grey Towers holds."

No fees will be paid for photos that are chosen and/or used. Instead, products will include photo credit and photographer

contact information. Photographers who submit photos that are chosen for use will enter into an agreement with the GTHA that allows for multiple uses of the chosen photo(s).

All photos should be at least 8 by 10 inches at 300 dpi and in JPEG format. Send all submissions via e-mail to [projects@greytowers.org](mailto:projects@greytowers.org) by June 1, 2011. In addition, include this required information with each photograph:

1. Photographer name, phone, address, and e-mail
2. When the photo was taken (approximate time of year or month/year)
3. Your suggested short title for the photo

Photos that either include people or do not meet the above criteria cannot be considered for use.

The Grey Towers Heritage Association, a 501c-3 nonprofit organization, works cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service to assist in education, improvements, conservation, and promotion of Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, PA.

For more information about the photography project or if you have other questions, contact the GTHA at 570-296-9625 or send an e-mail to [info@greytowersheritage.org](mailto:info@greytowersheritage.org).



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