

Renovation of National Historic Landmark

Grey Towers is Rededicated

The Challenge

When the Pinchot family donated their family home to the American public in 1963, they envisioned a place where the conservation legacy of Gifford Pinchot could actively be carried on. Gifford Bryce Pinchot felt that Grey Towers, which provided inspiration for his father's groundbreaking ideas on forestry and conservation, could become a unique facility where great natural resource thought, debate, and progress could take place. The house, under the stewardship of the Northeastern Area, would provide that setting. The intellectual progress, under the guidance of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, would carry on that legacy and help advance Gifford's vision. Time and the elements, however, were taking their toll on the structure, which was deteriorating.

The Solution

In 1999 Grey Towers was closed for a \$12 million historic renovation to the house and grounds. On August 11, 2001, Gifford Pinchot's birthday, Grey Towers opened its doors to the public for the first time in over 2 years. Gifford Pinchot's grandson, Peter Pinchot, proclaimed that "the soul of Grey Towers is retrieved!"

Resulting Benefits

The "new" Grey Towers promises to expand the Forest Service's opportunities to interpret Pinchot's life and the roots of modern conservation. At the same time, the Forest



Visitors enjoy the grounds at Grey Towers during the reopening celebration.

Service will work with partners to help determine the future of conservation. This will be accomplished by building on successful leadership programs, such as Forest Supervisor Deputy Team Training, Forest Supervisors Leadership Council, and the Forest Supervisors Leadership Forum, and by enhancing and improving delivery of conferences and workshops, conservation education and interpretive services, and outreach programs.

Sharing Success

Grey Towers is a place where leaders, intellectuals, artists, and scientists can meet in a relaxed environment to think expansively and imagine new solutions to perplexing environmental and social problems. Peter Pinchot believes that within 5 years, "this site will be one of the most sought after places in the nation for convening deep, contemplative discussions about how we can bring our modern civilization into balance with the rest of nature."

"Grey Towers is more than a piece of our national heritage. It is also a piece of our future."

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth,
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USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

For more information, contact:

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
Phone: 610-557-4103
Email: kmaloney@fs.fed.us

Edgar Brannon, Grey Towers Dir.
151 Grey Towers Drive
Milford, PA 18337
Phone: 570-296-9634
Email: ebrannon@fs.fed.us