The PennEast Pipeline Company LLC has announced plans to build a 105-mile 30" natural gas pipeline that would stretch from Luzerne County PA to Mercer County, NJ and cross under the Delaware River. The maps released by PennEast, one of which is shown on the cover of this newsletter, trace the general route of the pipeline but do not show specific properties that will be affected. For a more detailed map showing the proposed pipeline route superimposed on a map of the Sourlands, visit our website, www.sourland.org. It is clear that Hopewell Township, West Amwell Township and Lambertville are along the proposed route. A list of resources and suggestions for residents follows this article.

While it is important to seek out information and assistance from these organizations, the most effective voices against the pipeline will be those of residents. Anyone interested in having a say as to whether or not a gas pipeline should be routed through the Sourlands should attend as many meetings as possible. By the time this newsletter goes to print, some of these meetings will have already taken place. Please check your municipality’s website and www.sourland.org for upcoming meeting dates and other action alerts.

Sept. 23 - Hopewell Twp. - Hopewell Valley Central High School - 7 pm
Sept. 29 - Delaware Tw.p - Sergeantsville Fire Company - 7 pm
Oct. 1 - Holland Twp - Whispering Pines Banquet Hall - 7 pm

PennEast has not yet filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission but there are many things you can do now, such as:

• Landowners, when approached by PennEast for permission to survey and for an easement agreement have a right to deny surveyors access to their land. They can send the pipeline company a deny or rescind form via certified mail. Find the form on this website: http://bit.ly/stoppenneast.

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Sourland Conservancy

Meeting information
Sourland Conservancy trustee’s meetings are held on the first Monday of even months at the train station in Hopewell Boro. You are warmly invited.

Staff
Executive Director: Caroline Katmann
director@sourland.org
908-428-4216

Executive Assistant: Margaret (Meg) Silverman
msilverman@sourland.org
908-428-4216

Officers
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Montgomery Twp.

Vice President: Tom Kilbourne,
Hopewell Twp.

Treasurer: Tom Seessel,
Hopewell Twp.

Secretary: Joanna Fiori
Montgomery Twp.

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Jennifer Bryson, Hillsborough Twp.
Tracy Carluccio, East Amwell Twp.
Marian Fenwick, Hillsborough Twp.
Jared Flesher, East Amwell
Cynthia Goldsmith, Hopewell Twp.
Michael Heffler, Lambertville
Tim Johnson, Hillsborough Twp.
Gary Johnston, West Windsor
Marcia Maguire, Hopewell
Peg Van Patton Hillsborough Twp.
Sandy Simpson, Hillsborough Twp.
Pat Sziber, Hopewell Twp.

Honorary Trustees
Joel Coyne
Jerry Haimowitz
Judy Jengo
Scott & Hella McVay
Chris Sturm

Message from the President
By Cliff Wilson

When I first joined the Sourland Planning Council Board of Trustees many years ago, I knew very little about the ecology of the Sourlands; I simply knew this was a natural place worth protecting. When I walked in the woods, it was all beautiful to my eye.

Now I know that it’s not all beautiful – or, I should say, that the beauty masks some ugly truths. Some of the outwardly pretty things simply do not belong here. Invasive plants interrupt the natural functions of the ecosystem and reduce biodiversity. When I see them now, they no longer appear beautiful.

I also now see what’s missing in the woods – there are no young trees, and I mean none. It does not take a scientist to grasp the implications of this for the survival of the forest.

There are two principal threats to the survival of the Sourland forest. The first is development. For the time being, the Sourlands are fairly well protected from large-scale development; all of the municipalities in the Sourlands recognize the environmentally sensitive character of the mountain, and have in place pretty good zoning and other regulations to prevent wholesale development. Rather, the threat is now from smaller-scale development – a new cul-de-sac here, a big solar array there, a new gas pipeline through the heart of the forest. We have taken to calling this threat “death by a thousand cuts.”

The second principal threat to the forest comes from the grotesque overpopulation of deer. Deer browse is to blame for the destruction of the forest understory and the complete lack of young trees. The most recent head count puts the deer population in parts of the Sourlands at more than 200 per square mile. For comparison, the population density that would permit forest regeneration is variously estimated to be between five and 15 deer per square mile.

A fundamental question facing the Sourland Conservancy is how much time, energy and resources to spend fighting each of these distinct threats. Certainly, we must remain vigilant in the battle against development, but, in my view, we must also immediately take bold steps to bring about a radical reduction in the deer population. I liken the deer problem to a terminal cancer; if we cannot effectively bring the problem under control, the forest will surely die.

While the entire Eastern U.S. forest faces an existential threat from the ravenous, unchecked population of deer, the Sourland Forest is particularly vulnerable due to its small size, its thin shape and the fragmentation of the forest by roads and development, making it especially hospitable to the edge-loving deer.

So what steps can we take to prevent the Sourland Forest from being the canary in a coal mine?

First, we can continue our efforts to expand recreational hunting in the Sourlands, by persuading more landowners to allow hunting on their properties, and to help them find qualified hunters.

Second, we can work for the passage of a new state law permitting the commercial harvesting of deer. As discussed in our Spring newsletter, this law is a common-sense step with very little downside and lots of potential benefits. Passage of a bill may take years, and even then its effectiveness will be tied to decisions made by the State during implementation. Still, it is the only measure on the horizon that has a real chance to make more than a marginal impact on the deer population in the Sourlands. In my opinion, the Sourland Conservancy -- despite its small size and regional focus -- should take a lead role in organizing support for this bill.

Continued on page 3.
To help the forest survive, we also need to consider taking on active stewardship projects involving deer exclusions (fencing) and the planting of native trees and shrubs. The Sourland Conservancy has not historically taken on this type of hands-on reforestation work, but I believe it is now incumbent on us to do so.

The Comprehensive Deer Management Plan we completed this year calls for bold action, and now it is up to us to follow through accordingly.

* * * * * * *

This is my last column as president of the Sourland Conservancy. It has been a great privilege to serve in this capacity. I am extremely grateful to our Board of Trustees, professional staff and volunteers for their hard work in growing the Conservancy and making it an increasingly effective advocate for the Sourlands, and to our members for their critical financial support. I will remain active in the organization and have great confidence it will continue to thrive under the new leadership to be chosen later this fall. Thank you!

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**COMMENT**

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3 Executive Director’s Report
By Caroline Katmann, Executive Director / Sourland Conservancy in 2014

5 2014 Candidates’ Questionnaire
By Andrea Bonette / “Briefly describe your attitude and past involvement with the preservation of Open Space.”

7 Open Space in New Jersey
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**REGULAR FEATURES**

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“...late afternoon light falls...”

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**Sourland Conservancy in 2014**

The Third Annual Sourland Spectacular was a huge success! On Sept. 6th, over 700 cyclists showed up for a day of serious cycling, good cheer and delicious refreshments at rest stops and farm stops; post-ride massages; and a gourmet luncheon that is unparalleled in the region!

The event’s main sponsors included 1st Constitution Bank, Pinnacle Therapy Services, ONE Center for Wellness, TayganPoint Consulting Group, Hopewell Valley Community Bank, Wheelfine Imports, Pedal & Stroke Cycling Studio, Sourland Cycles, Harlingen Veterinary Clinic and Bai Drinks.

The Sourland Conservancy would like to thank all of the volunteers and vendors who participated this year, and the amazing cyclists, of course! You all made this spectacular community event possible. See you at the 2015 Sourland Spectacular on September 12, 2015!

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**NEWS**

8 Welcome to Our New Executive Assistant
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**Sourland Cuisine - Venison Pot Roast**
Submitted by Meg Silverman / “I add more vegetables than called for in this recipe.”

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**In This Issue**
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**The Sourland Conservancy’s 2014 Train Station Series** started off with a bang when The Stoutsburg Cemetery Association presented A Proud Heritage: African American Presence in the Sourlands and Hopewell Valley. An overflow crowd of 80+ enjoyed the history, music and food of African Americans in the Sourlands during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Other important and popular “Sourlands-inspired” Train Station Series topics included Sourland Wildflowers by Rachel Mackow and Monarch Butterflies by Katherine and Kate Dresdner. Jared Flesher shared clips from his latest documentary film, Field Biologist, as he and naturalist Tyler Christensen discussed migratory birds in the Sourlands and Tyler’s work at the Nicoya Peninsular Avian Research Center in Costa Rica. The Sourland Conservancy’s Eastern Sourland Region Bus Tour was another popular part of the Train Station Series this year. The Tour ended with a visit and tour of the Lindbergh Estate in the Sourlands.

The Train Station Series couldn’t have ended in a more enjoyable and exciting way than with a trip to the Swallow Hill Alpaca Farm in Hillsborough! Proprietors Pat and John Flanagan once again opened up their barn doors to members and friends of the Sourland Conservancy and presented a fascinating talk on alpacas, fiber, and weaving. For many, the highlight of the farm visit was conducted by members of the Somerset County 4 H club who put a few alpacas through their paces on an agility course to the amazement of all!

The Sourland Conservancy greatly appreciates the generous donation of time and expertise by all of the Train Station Series presenters. Also, many thanks go out to all the Sourland residents and visitors who attended the Series. We hope to see you at the 2015 Train Station Series!

All proceeds from ticket sales to the Sourland Music Fest and Sourland Spectacular, and from donations made at the Train Station Series benefit the Sourland Conservancy. The Conservancy’s mission is to protect the ecological integrity, historic resources and special character of the Sourland Mountain region.

**Sourland Conservancy’s documentary film, “The Sourlands: A New Jersey Treasure”** premiered at the Off-Broad Street Theater in Hopewell on May 18th to a full-house of Sourland-supporters! A panel consisting of a few of the film’s “stars”, Jim Amon, Jon McConaughy, Cliff Wilson, Hannah Suthers and Michael Heffler, answered questions from the audience after the film. Delicious desserts were provided by Sourland Conservancy trustees and volunteers.

Other film showings include the Hillsborough Public Library on Sept 23 and Montgomery Lower Middle School on Oct. 15 and 16 for 5th and 6th graders and their families.

Our film gives an introduction to the Sourlands and is meant to inspire and move residents to appreciate this ecological oasis in the midst of the most densely populated state, and to work to protect it. To inquire about film showings for an interested group (school, library, scout troop, municipal boards or commissions, etc.) please contact us at director@sourland.org.

**The Sourland Conservancy continued to implement its Comprehensive Deer Management Plan** for the Sourlands in 2014. See the President’s Message in this issue for more information about the Plan. Find the Sourlands Comprehensive Deer Management Plan on our website, www.sourland.org. If you are a landowner interested in working with a hunter to manage deer on your property, please visit www.hunterconnection.org. Here, you will find profiles of hunters, as well as their credentials, who are looking for places to hunt in the Sourlands.

**The Sourland Conservancy Board of Trustees and Staff welcome Meg Silverman**, our new Executive Assistant. Meet Meg in this issue of the newsletter!

**THE POET’S CORNER**

*Each Leafless Tree*

by Jim Haba

Under a broken sky chilly late afternoon light falls past bright-edged clumps of cloud toward something moving within the world’s worn surface and for a moment reveals

in the now naked rhythms of each leafless tree passionate music, an angel singing

Photo by Clem Fiori
Every year, the Sourland Conservancy poses a few questions to municipal candidates in the Sourlands. The questionnaire below was sent to the following 2014 candidates. We will publish all responses received prior to the November 4 election on our website.

Dear Candidate:

The Sourland Conservancy has been working since 1986 to protect the ecological integrity, historic resources and special character of the Sourland Mountain region. We are the only grass-roots organization focusing on this mission. The Sourland Conservancy works to support our seven municipalities (Townships of East Amwell, Hillsborough, Hopewell, Montgomery and West Amwell and also Lambertville City and Hopewell Borough) in developing ordinances and policies to protect the portions which lie within the Sourland Mountain. You can find a great deal of information about the special character of the Sourlands and about the Conservancy’s education and advocacy efforts on our website, www.sourland.org. We have recently created a video about the Sourlands. We have also published several books, a map, and a stewardship handbook mailed to every Sourland household. All of our members as well as regional media, similar environmental organizations, and government officials receive our semi-annual newsletter.

We have developed a questionnaire so that our members may know where all our county and municipal elected representatives stand on issues of significance to our mission. We will publish our questions and the names of all candidates in the upcoming Autumn 2014 issue of the Sourland Journal newsletter. We will publish all responses received prior to the November 4 election on our website and encourage our members to read them.

Please send all responses, ideally by Tuesday, October 1, by email to director@sourland.org or by regular mail to Sourland Conservancy, 83 Princeton Avenue, Suite 1A, Hopewell, NJ 08525. We will make sure every response appears unedited (no more than 150 words on any one question please) on our website.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you feel the current level of Open Space funding in your county or municipality should (a) be increased; (b) stay the same; or (c) be decreased? How is this funding derived - from Open Space tax, from capital funds, or other?

2. Briefly describe your attitude and past involvement with the preservation of Open Space, wildlife habitat, natural resources, and/or places of historical significance in your town or county.

3. The current overpopulation of white-tailed deer poses a serious threat to the Sourland ecosystem. We have developed a Comprehensive Deer Management Plan for the Sourlands (see www.sourland.org) aimed at reducing the population of the deer to a level that would support a healthy forest. We plan to work with other environmental organizations to advocate for State legalization of commercial deer hunting in the Sourland forest. What is your position on commercial deer hunting?

4. What are some of the ways you would try, if elected, to support the protection of the ecology, history, and special character of the Sourland region?

Thank you for your participation.
Proposed PennEast Pipeline Threatens the Sourlands

Continued from page one.

- Landowners can post no trespassing signs.
- Yard signs used throughout a community can be a powerful organizing tool for those opposed to the pipeline project.
- Landowners should ask for all communications with the pipeline company to be documented in writing.
- Landowners who are opposed to the pipeline project should not sign or make any agreements with the pipeline company.
- Communities who negotiate with the pipeline company as an organized unit are more effective than trying to negotiate with the pipeline company as an individual.
- Citizens concerned about the pipeline project should petition the Delaware River Basin Commission to exercise jurisdiction over the PennEast Pipeline Project. Sign the petition at www.delawareriverkeeper.org
- At the township level, townships who are opposed to the pipeline project can pass resolutions opposing the project. Encourage your township committee to pass a resolution describing what is important to your town and why the town opposes the project.
- Find out if there are threatened or endangered species, such as the bog turtle, in your community along the pipeline route. This information is important and often missed by FERC.
- Now is the time to contact municipal, county, and state officials expressing your opposition.

Why is it important to oppose the PennEast Pipeline?

1. The proposed pipeline route goes directly through the Sourland Mountain region. This 90 square-mile "island of biodiversity" is characterized by a fragile ecological balance and the largest contiguous forest in Central New Jersey. The Sourland Mountain region's biological diversity, critical forest, wetland and grassland habitats, and uniquely valuable breathing space in this portion of Central NJ is seriously threatened by the devastation to the landscape that would occur with the proposed PennEast pipeline.

2. Currently, there are 8 newly proposed pipelines in New Jersey, 7 of them are in the Delaware Valley. Natural gas pipeline companies are in a rush to build pipelines in order to control the future of energy by promoting the use of more fossil fuels and preventing the development of renewable energy sources. Fighting the PennEast Pipeline is taking a stand against our continued dependence on fossil fuels.

3. It is much cheaper for PennEast to put a pipeline through open space than through an already developed area. Forty-one percent of the Sourland region is preserved - will this land be the target of future pipeline proposals? This pipeline is going through land that has been preserved through the efforts of NJ citizens who value the preservation of open space in order to protect critical habitat, support biodiversity, and maintain the beauty and recreational resources of our state for ourselves and for future generations!

4. New Jersey is quickly becoming the "Crossroads of Natural Gas", as pipeline companies rush to provide the means to transport the natural gas obtained through fracking in the Marcellus Shale beds of Pennsylvania. How many more will go through the Sourlands, threatening the very existence of this fragile ecosystem? We are told by the pipeline companies that this gas will provide cheaper and safer energy to NJ residents. This is not true! We do not know where this gas is going - its final destination could be other states and other countries.

More pipelines = more drilling = more pipelines = more drilling...

5. Saying NO to natural gas pipelines = saying NO to fracking and shale gas development.

Helpful resources:

- NJ Sierra Club – www.newjerseysierraclub.org
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network – www.delawareriverkeeper.org
- Berks Gas Truth – www.gastruth.org
- Pipeline Safety Coalition – www.pscoalition.org
- Gas Drilling Coalition - www.gdacoalition.org
- PennEast LLC – www.penneastpipeline.com

www.facebook.com/stopthepenneastpipeline

"The most effective voices against the pipeline will be those of residents."
Vote YES on Ballot Question #2

With Green Acres, Blue Acres, farmland and historic preservation money almost completely depleted, the programs that protect water quality, ensure access to parks and open spaces, guarantee availability of local farm products and secure our historic treasures have virtually come to a halt. New Jersey voters have the opportunity to get the funding flowing back into these programs by voting “yes” on Public Question #2, which calls for a dedicated long-term source of preservation funding.

The proposal calls for a reallocation of existing Corporate Business Tax (CBT) revenues already dedicated to environmental programs. It is important to note that this measure does not increase the burden on taxpayers—there is no increase in taxes tied to it. On November 4th, voters will decide whether to amend the state constitution to reallocate 4% of the CBT money, changing the way some programs are funded. The amount of the reallocation would increase to 6% beginning in July 2019.

It is estimated that this dedication of existing CBT revenues will provide approximately $71 million in preservation money annually for the first four years and $117 million annually thereafter. This is far less than the $200 million in annual preservation money approved by voters in 1998, which has expired. But it is enough to make significant strides in meeting preservation goals. Nearly 650,000 acres of undeveloped land and 350,000 acres of farmland await protection in New Jersey!

Another important thing to note is that the reallocation would continue to provide funding for critical environmental programs currently supported by CBT revenue including watershed management, underground storage tanks, brownfields and public cleanups of polluted sites. The measure will continue to provide funds for park improvements. Funding for stewardship of preserved land will also be included.

For the sake of clean water, habitat protection, scenic vistas, recreational opportunities, local farms and preservation of historic treasures—all of the things that we cherish in the Sourland Region—it is critical that we restore preservation funding for the long-term.

We urge you to vote “Yes” on Public Question #2.

Sourlands: A Threatened Treasure

Bus Tour of the Western Sourland Mountain Region
Saturday, October 25th, 2014
9:00 a.m. to noon (check-in starting at 8:30 a.m.)

• Experience the magic and rich history of the Sourlands, an unspoiled landscape of forested ridges, pastoral farms, and a special refuge for heroes, patriots, artists and even ghosts!
• Enjoy New England-like fall colors without a weekend-long trip. Visit the historic Holcombe-Jimison Farm.
• Learn the legends and lore of your own backyard paradise, home to numerous unique animals and plants. And learn about the Sourlands' unique environment and heritage -- and how to keep this special place special for future generations.

Tour sponsored by the Sourland Conservancy
Meet at East Amwell Township Municipal Building • 1070 Rte 202/31, Ringoes, NJ

Please register and pay in advance (includes $5.00 admission to Farmstead):
• Member: $20.00
• Nonmember: $25.00
• Become a member now, at New Basic Membership rate: $25 ($10 discount) and pay the member rate ($20) for the bus tour!

To register, go to www.sourland.org and click on Events, Sourland Bus Tour 2014. Scroll down to “Click here for bus tour registration.”

For more information please contact: Marcia Maguire, Sourland Conservancy ~ Tel: 609-466-0701
Sourland Cuisine:
Venison Pot Roast

Submitted by
Meg Silverman

1/2 cup plain flour
1 venison roast, 2-inches thick
1/4 cup celery, chopped
1 carrot, chopped
2 tablespoons onion, chopped
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 cup boiling water
1 cup red wine

Pound flour into meat. In a large skillet, brown meat in oil. Add vegetables, salt, pepper and 1/2 cup each of water and wine. Simmer, covered for 1 hour. Add remaining liquid and simmer until tender. Serves 4