



Barrett conservation easement

A daughter's gift to the past ... and to the future

By Carol Hillestad

For Pocono Heritage Land Trust

We humans love to belong — to families, clans, societies, friend groups, clubs and congregations of all kinds.

Some of us also long for another kind of connection: a connection with the natural world, with its rhythms and peace, its forests and wetlands and wildlife, its profound beauty.

A few of us are able to live this way. Not just famous thinkers like Thoreau at Walden, but also folks right here in our neck of the Pocono woods. Marsha Hallett's mother was one.

Jean Dietz was a college professor, the kind of teacher students remember for a lifetime and sometimes call to say "you changed my life." She commuted to the city campus for decades, but lived in rural Barrett Township, Pennsylvania — in a simple, uninsulated cabin,

Continued on reverse



The Hallett conservation easement protects the water of Mill Creek, and helps keep it clean and pure. Here, Mill Creek (left) enters Brodhead Creek. (Carol Hillestad photo)

FROM RESORT TO PRESERVE

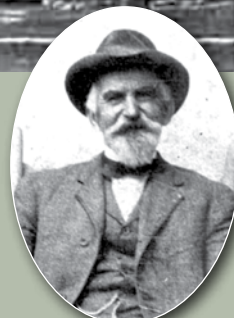
The land Marsha Hallett has preserved was once part of the early resort industry in Barrett Township. In the mid-1800s, her great-great-grandfather Henry Price established Price's Mountain House — which included an inn, cabins like the one Marsha's mother lived in (which is being restored), and fully equipped tents for camping. The new railroad brought tourists by the thousands to the Poconos, seeking clean air, pure water, and unspoiled nature.



Above: Price's Mountain House

Right: Cabins from the resort days are still present on the property.

Far right: Image of Henry Price, courtesy Marsha Hallett



ABOUT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements that permanently protect the conservation values of a property by limiting how the land may be used, in perpetuity. Each conservation easement is unique, tailored to the wishes and needs of the property owner. Pocono Heritage Land Trust has worked with landowners throughout the Poconos and today protects more than 5,000 acres in our area.



Conservation easement

Continuing from front

on the marshy edges of a fen.

“Our family has been here for generations, and this land was my mother’s true home. She loved it,” Hallett said. “So do I, and so do my children. Preserving it took time. But thanks to the land trust, now I know all this beauty and wildlife is protected. Permanently protected.”

In 2023, working with Pocono Heritage Land Trust, Hallett placed a conservation easement on 29 acres of water and marsh, pine and spruce, conserving this unique habitat — including part

of the fen. The property protects the water of Mill Creek.

Keeping the land in its natural state and undeveloped keeps water safe and plentiful for every nearby landowner, as well as trout, eagles, waterbirds, the forest itself and every living thing — all the way downstream to Brodhead Creek and beyond.

The land Hallett loves is a place where the chattering mind settles, the breath slows, and nature takes over. It still belongs to her. Yet in a very real way, she has kept it safe for her mother, generations of her family — and all of us who care about the natural world.

WHAT IS A FEN?

Fens are a kind of wetland, formed over thousands of years. A fen hosts diverse and often rare plants and animals while capturing and storing carbon, providing natural climate protection.



*“Spring Fen”
by Marsha
Hallett, acrylic
and gouache*

“Preserving it took time. But thanks to the land trust, now I know all this beauty and wildlife is protected. Permanently protected.”

MARSHA HALLETT



ABOUT CONSERVING LAND

Founded in 1984, Pocono Heritage Land Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Pocono region by conserving land and inspiring people to care for, enjoy and explore their natural world. PHLT works cooperatively with landowners to preserve their property and leave a legacy of protected natural habitats, healthy forest, clean waterways and open space for future generations.

You can help Pocono Heritage Land Trust protect land for the future. Learn about membership and volunteer opportunities at www.phlt.org.

PLEASE DONATE to preserve important lands and natural resources in the Poconos, for generations to come.

- \$25** provides supplies for one trash cleanup day, or one planting of wildflower seeds for meadow habitat restoration.
- \$50** buys tools for managing invasive plants on volunteer days.
- \$150** prints 500 trail brochures to guide visitors on preserves.
- \$500** builds a streamcrossing bridge to improve trail access.
- \$1,500** covers the cost of an appraisal, the first step in acquiring new land for preservation.
- \$3,000** funds construction of a sign kiosk on a new preserve.
- \$5,000** enables development of a new nature trail network, including trail marking, clearing, signage and maps.

Donate online at phlt.org/donate.html

or clip this form and send it with your check made out to Pocono Heritage Land Trust to:

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