



Trexler legacy under threat

PHLT seeks to save Scout camp from development

By Carol Hillestad
For Pocono Heritage Land Trust

Harry Trexler was a man of many interests.

Starting in the late 1800s, he founded or ran huge operations in and around Allentown: a nationally-known lumber company, one of the largest cement producers in the world, enormous farms and orchards. He was even a founder of Pennsylvania Power and Light.

Harry Trexler was an industry giant, extremely wealthy ... and at the same time, a dedicated, conservation-minded man.

He was the father of Allentown's public park system, owner of a trout hatchery, creator of the Trexler Game Preserve, and an avid outdoorsman who devoted huge sums to conserve land for the public to use and enjoy.

Continued on reverse



On the auction block? The families of people living here today donated hundreds of acres to the land Harry Trexler gave to the Boy Scouts. Their intent was to benefit the community and future generations. Please help protect it! (Carol Hillestad photo)



The spirit of Camp Trexler lives in the woods and water — and in the memories of generations of Scouts. (Photo by Robert Lubenetski, 13, a Boy Scout with Troop 431. Robbie earned his photography merit badge this summer and is a counselor-in-training at Camp Trexler.)

YOU SHOULD KNOW

If Camp Trexler land were converted to housing, dozens of homes could be built there under current zoning. In addition to traffic, road damage, sewage, and water issues, each school-age child would add \$22,000 to the school district's costs. Property taxes on the new construction would fall far short of that; shortfalls would be made up by other taxpayers.

If Camp Trexler land were converted to industrial use, such as a transfer station, heavy equipment like trash haulers would burden traffic and roads, create noise and air pollution, and damage quality of life for everyone.

For more than 30 years, Pocono Heritage Land Trust has helped landowners protect their property for the future. The land trust itself also holds more than 4,000 acres, protected in perpetuity. Camp Trexler adjoins land that the land trust has already conserved. Join us. Help protect this rare and beautiful place! For information: phlt.org.

YOUR VOICE COUNTS!

Tell the Boy Scouts Minsi Trails Council:

Keep your promise!

Work with Pocono Heritage Land Trust to protect Camp Trexler for good.

Email richardd.christ@scouting.org or call 610-264-8551.



FROM THE BOY SCOUTS OUTDOOR CODE

As an American, I will do my best to ... be conservation-minded.

From Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout, all Scouts vow to protect the natural environment. That includes saving Camp Trexler from development.



Save Camp Trexler

Continuing from front

He bought and preserved the land that would become Hickory Run State Park, one of the jewels of our state park system, welcoming 300,000 visitors a year.

In 1928, he — helped by neighboring families — donated 755 acres of springs, wetlands, wildlife and woodlands in Polk Township to be a wilderness camp, run by the Boy Scouts, for the benefit of future generations.

Camp Trexler still exists, one of the last stretches of pristine woodland in the township. But its founders' vision is under threat.

After 94 years, the place where thousands of Scouts made lifetime memories — hiking, fishing, learning to “be prepared,” to tell the truth and keep promises — may be going up for sale.



Bubbling sand springs, woods and wetlands, and miles of trails at Camp Trexler have instilled in children of all ages a life-long love of the natural world. This legacy of local families and Harry Trexler, who donated the land, is at risk. (Carol Hillestad photo)

It could become a housing development. A trash transfer station. It could be clear-cut and timbered, instead of remaining the beautiful, wild land Harry

Trexler and neighboring farmers intended.

There is another option.

Pocono Heritage Land Trust is working to acquire this property, conserve it permanently, and keep it open to the public.

No McMansions. No industry. Just the priceless land itself, a legacy of natural beauty for generations to come, as the donors envisioned.

Minsi Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America makes the decisions about this land. It is up to the board members to choose the path to the future.

Will they be true to the principles of Scouting and keep faith with the givers of this special place? Will they honor all those whose lifelong memories of camping here consecrate this land? Will the promise of Camp Trexler be kept?

Or not?



POCONO HERITAGE LAND TRUST

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:

PHLT, 1539 Cherry Lane Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____