

CAPE LIFE

Sussex County Land Trust honors Freeman and Hudson

Sussex County Land Trust, during its annual celebration ball April 27, honored the open space and forward-thinking contributions of Josh Freeman and Craig Hudson with two special awards.

The preservation organization awarded Freeman its annual Steward of the Land Award for his commitment to the value of open space and conservation in the Sussex County communities conceived and constructed by the Carl M. Freeman Companies. Josh Freeman served as chairman of the company prior to his untimely death last winter in a weather-related helicopter accident near the company's Bear Trap Dunes community.

Freeman's wife, Michelle, accepted the Steward of the Year Award on behalf of her late husband.

"Josh had not yet reached the peak of his growing commitment to green building practices and proper care of the environment at the time of his death," said Michelle in her acceptance speech. She said her husband's awareness of the need for enlightened protection of the environment in the Freeman Companies' communities grew stronger every day. She noted that Freeman insisted on strict environmental practices related to construction and maintenance of its public golf courses at Bear Trap Dunes and Bayside and was proud that nearly three-quarters of the nearly

900-acre Bayside project will remain as open space. Golfing legend Jack Nicklaus designed the Bayside golf course and took special care to leave Bayside's wetlands and woodlands in their natural state.

The Bayside project also includes 287 acres of open space protected by a conservation easement created in partnership with Sussex County Land Trust. Josh Freeman approved a \$50,000 endowment fund to maintain that conservation easement and also pledged a \$500 contribution to the Sussex County Land Trust for every unit sold in Bayside. That money will go toward purchase of open space and conservation easements elsewhere in Sussex County and eventually will represent more than \$500,000 in contributions.

"Josh Freeman's commitment to the environment, open space and its proper care made him a visionary and leader in Sussex County," said Land Trust Executive Director Wendy Baker. "He was truly a steward of the land, and we're only sorry that he is no longer with us to continue his good work."

Sussex County Land Trust Chairman Dennis Forney presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to Craig Hudson who helped found the land trust and served as its first chairman. Hudson was unable to attend the event, due to a schedul-



Michelle Freeman, left, accepts Sussex County Land Trust's Steward of the Land Award on behalf of her deceased husband, Josh Freeman. Presenting the award is Sussex County Land Trust Executive Director Wendy Baker.

ing conflict, but he was represented by members of his family. Craig's father, Joe Hudson, accepted the award on his behalf.

A developer in Sussex County, Craig Hudson told Forney before the event that he and Preston Schell founded Sussex County Land Trust so there would still be open space to enjoy in Sussex County. "I love the land business," said Hudson, "but I knew that if everyone was like me, we

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At right, Joe Hudson, left, receives Craig Hudson's Volunteer of the Year Award from Sussex County Land Trust Chairman Dennis Forney.



Purchasing new patio furniture is a rite of passage

It's time to buy all that outdoor stuff for the summer season, like furniture, grills, chairs and miniature cement statues of frogs, lizards, gnomes and any other figure that excites those who grew up with bird baths and red globes atop pedestals as part of the everyday landscape.

The problem is you've been living with junk that is so old, guests often ask if you bought your summer patio furniture at a prison yard sale. You probably bought those cushions that come with a tag that indicates they may be used outdoors and now they are bloated like some body that has just been pulled from the East River in New York.

That's why you can never find anyone to help you at these home improvement stores; they've all called in sick from laughing so much over these tags that they



AROUND TOWN

Nancy Katz

have actually herniated their bladders.

Now I hate to editorialize, but if you had chosen the right profession, such as being a major dishonest Wall Street broker pilfering millions from the working

class or the head of a huge drug cartel, you could afford new things like outdoor patio furniture.

Instead, you have slugged it out all your life working hard and being honest. Now you are going to have to buy stuff that is made out of recycled chewing gum wrappers and environmentally friendly, which means it will disintegrate after the first acid rain shower.

Regardless, you are also going to have to talk your spouse into the whole concept of replacing a grill, furniture or anything else that will make your outside living space look like the back of a magazine photo in some run-down motel.

Men are usually the ones who will keep stuff forever, except trivial belongings like wives. Wives they will replace at the first sign of cracks in that Mary Kay

makeup or office secretaries who compliment them on their shirt and tie, whichever comes first. Just kidding, of course; anyone who can wear a pair of shorts until they become molecules of dust that float off into space is to be commended or committed, I'm not sure.

OK. So I went down to the local center and looked at some new patio furniture.

One thing I don't get is why there is something that turns me off at the sight of the clerk using bolt cutters so you can sit down and try the stuff out.

Now I noticed that a lot of the patio furniture today is some kind

of new fabric that looks like it came from the lining of the intestinal tract. It's sleek, taut, netlike in appearance and supposed to contour to the shape of the average person's body. This is a body, of course, that is completely foreign to the rest of us.

It's not exactly comfortable, but I have the feeling that bullets could bounce off this fabric.

I chose a very nice chair to try out; it was orange and looked as generic as those USA Today newspaper boxes. This is a very dangerous thing to do though. I will warn you now. Try to get out of one of these new-design chairs and you're better off just paying for it attached to your rear.

Some things about summer never change. It's a rite of passage. So is the new junk you will buy this year and put in a yard sale next year.

Cyclists visit Lewes on weight-busting East Coast tour

16,000-mile journey melting away pounds

By Molly Albertson
Cape Gazette reporter

At 390 pounds, Priscilla Houlston decided to make little

changes in her life to lose weight. She started walking in May 2006 but decided that wasn't enough. On New Year's Day 2007, Houlston and her husband, Morton, set out on a 16,000-mile journey around the United States walking and biking the nation's

borders.

They started in Key West, Fla., because of its warm weather and its location as the southern most point on the East Coast. From there, the couple is hugging the coastlines on scenic roads travel-
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Submitted photo

Priscilla Houlston takes a break from riding her bike in front of Hotel Blue in Lewes, where she and husband, Morton, stayed overnight April 21.

Sussex

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would develop every square yard of Sussex County. My goal with the land trust – all of us involved with the land trust – is to have a sustainable balance between development and open-space preservation. That's why Preston and I have pledged percentages from the sales of units in our developments – as have other developers – to the land trust for the purchase of land and conservation easements. We have also joined with the county and state for the purchase of development rights from farmers, so there will always be healthy amounts of open space in Sussex County. We are also fortunate that Sussex County Council has pledged a percentage of its surplus each year to the land trust to help with purchases. All of these initiatives together have made a real difference," said Hudson.

Hudson served as chairman of Sussex County Land Trust for five years.

At the celebration event held at Atlantic Sands in Rehoboth Beach, the land trust also unveiled its Sussex County Grand Preservation Loop initiative. That initiative aims to connect – through outright purchases along with conservation and agricultural easements – major Sussex County tracts of public and private open space.

Included in those major tracts are Prime Hook National Wildlife

Refuge, Redden State Forest, Nanticoke State Wildlife Area, Trap Pond State Park, Great Cypress Swamp, Assawoman State Wildlife Area, Fenwick Island State Park, Delaware Seashore State Park and Cape Henlopen State Park. Those tracts presently comprise about 40,000 acres of open space. Forney said the preservation initiative – with connecting links of at least 1,000 feet wide corridors, could eventually bring the total of protected open space lands to more than 100,000 acres.

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\$25,434
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