

NORTH COUNTY NEWS

http://www.northcountynews.com/news/ncn_news5.asp

November 15, 2007

Jayni and Chevy Chase talk "green"

Story and photo by Abby Luby



Jayni and Chevy Chase address the crowd at the Hudson Highlands Land Trust's Sustainability Expo on Saturday. Chevy Chase and his wife Jayni talked "green" to a packed house last Saturday at the Hudson Highlands Land Trust 3rd Annual Sustainability Expo, "Sustainable Living: You Can Do It!" held at The Garrison Restaurant in Garrison.

While Jayni Chase urged folks to become more environmentally aware, her husband spiced up the green speak with his own brand of humor reminiscent of Saturday Night Live. "I'm married to a woman who has borne me three beautiful daughters and somehow finds the time to take the stamps off envelopes for recycling," Chase cajoled his wife. "Seriously though, all this has changed my life."

In 1989 the Chases founded the Center for Environmental Education, a group that offers education materials and curriculum on everything from water cycling to sustainable economics. The group has evolved to Center for Environmental Education Online and their programs have been used mainly in California schools.

The Chases talked about their own environmental practices at home. They keep a compost, tankless hot water systems and drive hybrid cars.

Jayni Chase recounted their recent trip to Washington D.C. to talk to some representatives. "I have to bring Chevy along or else they won't listen to me," she kidded. "We were talking to the people in Washington about improving food in schools. We need to serve more locally grown food in our schools."

Chase said he has also become more political. "I've started going back to being a political correspondent on Saturday Night Live," he said. "Somehow the political landscape now mirrors what the political landscape was back then [1975]. I can do my 'news guy' routine and maybe effect some change."

When asked by another youngster where the Chases resided, Chase insisted that he actually lived in a chicken coop. "We really live in Bedford," he said. "We have about four buildings on our property which is pretty well wooded."

"But we do try to get involved with the community," added Chase. Recently the Chases tried to convince a Las Vegas businessman to be more environmentally sound in his new casino. "He didn't want to have a sign in the bathrooms saying 'if the towel is clean, please hang it up,'" said Jayni Chase.

"They want the sign that says 'toilet cameras for research purposes only,'" Chase chimed in. But the more serious message from the Chases was their concern for future generations. "We are banking on the backs of our kids and our grand-kids," said Chase. "We'll be dead and they will have to pay."