

## 2002 treaty signers gather for the future of the Rising Nation and the environment

BY ROBIN HOOSE

On Feb. 23, I drove through the fog, rain and snow to the Churchville Nature Center in Churchville, Pa. where organizational representatives who signed the 2002 Treaty of Renewed Brotherhood gathered to discuss their progress made thus far.

The attendees (approximately 20) gathered in the cozy library of the Nature Center, replete with a wood stove. Jim Beer (who was a guest at Villanova's Fall 2002 Native American Festival), welcomed everyone and introduced Robert Redhawk Ruth, chief of the Lenape Nation of Indians, Norristown, Pa. The talents, skills and interests of the attendees ranged from the artistic – poet, artist, playwright and musician, to researchers including the Bucks County Historical Society) to the Environmentalists.

conscience such as the Delaware River Greenway Partnership, and Native American Alliance of Bucks County. Representatives and Treaty – Signers from East Stroudsburg University and various Watershed Associations were also in attendance.

All those in attendance, whether representing treaty-signers or those with a deep concern for Native Americans, particularly the Lenape, converged to reaffirm their commitment to "support the Lenape people in one or more of the following ways:"

- hosting cultural/educational programs
- creating support for a Lenape cultural center
- assisting in Lenape language revival projects
- assisting in displays/exhibits of Lenape culture
- helping the Lenape people to obtain and/or protect sacred land sites
- encouraging updated

- attending Lenape functions
  - volunteer service and support
  - distributing information
  - financial assistance
- Of the many exciting endeavors that are in the works or on the drawing board are:
- A new 4th grade history book (to come off the press this summer) that includes the 2002 Treaty of Renewed Brotherhood and its history making implications;
  - The 6th Annual Project River Bright – 2003 Delaware River Cleanup;
  - Re-enactment of the Walking Purchase of 1737;
  - Rising Nation River Journey;
  - Lenape Nation University



The August 24th Treaty signing  
Pennsbury Manor - Morrisville, Pa.

- Fundraising "kick-off" for a Rising Nation (Lenape) Cultural Center. Everyone had an opportunity to introduce themselves and explain their interest and involvement, how they were moving forward and where additional assistance was needed. A short break was held for lunch and networking then the official
- p.m. when we adjourned for a tour around the Nature Center. I was honored and thrilled to be included in this outstanding group of individuals and I look forward to working towards some of the treaty goals – especially the Lenape Nation University Alliance. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in the Lenape Village at the Nature