

# GREENWAYS

Newsletter of  
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.  
Volume 23, Number 2  
Fall 2014

## Land Preservation Update

Since 1989, D&R Greenway has placed 261 properties, approximately 18,635 acres valued at \$377,178,086, into permanent preservation, an area twenty times greater than the size of New York's Central Park.

Every story you will read in this newsletter tells a tale of transformation. Forests and fields that might have been bulldozed transformed into 'green forever' places. A tangle of forest undergrowth cleared to make way for a new trail for you to enjoy. Communities transformed by people of preservation whose commitment leaves a legacy benefitting all of us. Among these stories is that of the Abbott Marshlands. A partnership that began with scientific discovery grew over twenty years, resulting in the Tulpehaking Nature Center, opened to the public October 11. Discover it for yourself at 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton, near the Watson House in John A. Roebling Park. Call (609) 303-0704 or visit [mercercountyparks.org/parks/tulpehaking-nature-center](http://mercercountyparks.org/parks/tulpehaking-nature-center) and plan your visit!

## A Dream Realized: New Tulpehaking Nature Center is Gateway to the Abbott Marshlands

Mary Leck was first introduced to the Abbott Marshlands by a student's independent study project. "Since then scores of students, from elementary to university, have come to learn about wetlands and the plants and animals that live here," says Mary, Professor Emeritus of Biology at Rider University, of the place she has devoted so much of her career and time to protect.

Her students have experienced the tides—including getting stuck in mud. They have marveled at the lush growth of plants—the wild rice grows more than 10 feet tall in a single season. "It was a group of students, twirlers and band members from Trenton Central High School, who totally got into exploring a new muddy terrain in hip boots and made me realize the educational potential



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of the marshlands for kids who live so close by."

A natural oasis, the marsh is as productive as a tropical rainforest. Speaking of D&R Greenway's twenty-year effort led by trustee Mary Leck to transform this area from a neglected trash site to a treasured resource, Linda Mead, D&R Greenway President & CEO shares, "We began by engaging the community in clean-ups and canoe trips to create awareness about this special place in our own backyard. That led to the dream of a place where people could come to learn and appreciate the special qualities of the Marsh."

Mercer County became a lead partner in 2006 when they purchased the site that opened this month as the Tulpehaking Nature Center, the educational gateway to the Abbott Marshlands.

Formerly the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, the name Abbott Marshlands pays tribute to Charles Conrad Abbott, a 19th- and early 20th-century naturalist, archaeologist and medical doctor who lived on the bluffs near the marsh and wrote about it extensively. With 3,000 acres

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## Tulpehaking Nature Center

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of tidal streams, rivers, marshes, swamps and upland forests, Abbott Marshlands—less than three miles from the city of Trenton—is considered one of the most significant wildlife habitats in New Jersey.

“Mercer County is excited to expand its robust nature programs to our new Tulpehaking Nature Center,” says Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes. “This beautiful new classroom and meeting space adds an important recreational resource, especially for children from nearby Trenton, and will serve as a window to one of our richest natural habitats.” Hughes credits the success of the project “to our steadfast public and private partners, especially D&R Greenway Land Trust and the Friends for the Marsh.”

### Connecting Visitors To Nature

Visitors to the Tulpehaking Nature Center will walk through a demonstration native plant garden filled with bluestem, switchgrass, blueberries and Joe Pye weed, plants that are indigenous to the Marsh. D&R Greenway’s stewardship team planted a butterfly garden under the big open classroom window. There is a gazebo for group orientation and educational programs, and rain barrels collect runoff from the gazebo roof. Nature Center Manager Kelly Rypkema envisions projects where participants can paint rain barrels,



*Kelly Rypkema explains characteristics of marsh insects to biologists of the future. (photo: Mary Leck)*

as well as guided tours, interactive exhibits and other hands-on programs.

“People connect to nature in different ways,” says Rypkema, who has a master’s degree in biology and previously worked as a naturalist at Heard Natural Science Museum in McKinney, Texas. “The goal is to whet appetites for what can be seen in the Marsh, where visitors can continue to explore, observe and discover,” says Rypkema.

### The Right Opportunity at the Right Time

How it all fell into place “is a great story,” says Lisa Fritzinger, Supervising Planner for the County, who manages open space acquisition and master planning for the Mercer County Planning Division. When D&R Greenway Land Trust secured \$500,000 from the New Jersey Green Acres Program for a nature center and Mercer County matched the funding, the announcement was made at Watson Woods in Roebling Park, a part of the Marsh. Several who attended noticed, just at the edge of the public land, a three-bedroom single-family ranch house on one acre for sale.

“Building a new structure in the Marsh could have been difficult because of it being wetlands and because of the archaeological importance, so this was the perfect solution,” says Fritzinger. “We went to the realtor and bought the property—it couldn’t be in a more ideal location.”

Many of the materials from the 1961 house were retained, such as hardwood flooring, a slate entryway and a fieldstone fireplace. The addition, with bamboo flooring, includes a screening room with an 80-inch LCD screen and seating capacity of 50, wooden banquettes, a double-vaulted ceiling and large windows for bird watching. There will be a library, a display of Native American artifacts dug from the property, a laboratory with microscopes and rotating exhibits.

### Honoring Native American Inhabitants

An archaeological study by Trenton-based Hunter Research found Native American artifacts, providing an important educational opportunity about the history. The Tulpehaking



*Marsh Girl in Blue (photo: Mary Leck)*

Nature Center honors the Native American inhabitants of the land 13,000 years ago—Tulpehaking means Land of the Turtle. The Abbott Marshlands logo includes four icons that represent the area: a heron, pottery, wild rice and a turtle.

“The story we’re trying to tell is that man has been here throughout time, and there’s a relationship between the land and the people,” says Fritzinger. “The land provided Native Americans and European settlers with food. We’ve altered the land, changing it over time. Through education, we want people to recognize the importance of the land and its resources and become better stewards to protect it.”

### Attracting The Next Generation of Scientists

The Tulpehaking Nature Center will be a destination for local students to become familiar with a natural landscape so that they can become the next generation of scientists, wetland managers, and citizens who understand why water and watersheds are so important. “Repeat visits are necessary for establishing strong bonds,” says Mary Leck. “I hope that some young person is so totally turned on by wetland plants that he or she devotes a lifetime to studying them. I hope, too, that the joy of seeing a spider web, a new leaf in the spring, or even ice left by the ebbing tide will be the experience of all who open their hearts to the rich tapestry of life and history found there.” ❧

# New Nature Trail Opens near Ringoes

Across Route 31 from a Revolution-era tavern operated by John Anderson, a Commissioned Captain in the Hunterdon County Militia, Omick Woods at Rocktown Preserve holds the feel of history. Pin oaks and tulip trees reach to the sky. Descending the slope, shagbark hickory, winterberry and spicebush become more prevalent. At the bottom lies a shallow bowl featuring a sedge meadow, created by the roots and rhizomes of Tussock sedge.

It is surmised that a sedge meadow existed here pre-settlement. A landowner built a berm and dam to slow the outflow of the stream, flooding the area to create a mill pond. When the dam eventually broke, nature returned the sedge meadow. The seed bank must have remained in the soil.

There is a layer of peat underfoot. Sensitive fern grows in amongst the Tussock sedge. Skunk cabbage, Willow herb and Tearthumb grow in the open meadow. Smooth alder is growing along the narrow stream. Lots of Clinton's wood fern and a large patch of Cinnamon fern can be found.

It is here that Gladys Omick preserved 65 acres of her family land in 2007 as a memorial to her late husband. Subsequently, D&R Greenway negotiated the preservation of 32 acres on the adjacent property and across Rocktown Road, expanding the preserve.

This spring, East Amwell volunteers joined D&R Greenway to open a 1.5-mile nature trail through the 97-acre Omick Woods at Rocktown Preserve. The trailhead is accessed from a parking area on Rocktown Road, about a ½ mile east of Route 31.

Alan Hershey, volunteer leader of the New Jersey Trails Association and a former D&R Greenway trustee, described the transformation process that began with trail design. Rough clearing was co-led by East Amwell project coordinator Toni Robbi. Trail construction by a highly experienced volunteer crew, working from September 2013 through May 2014, involved more than 900 volunteer hours.

Scout leader Derrick Rowe reports that Ringoes Boy Scout Troop 65 has "adopted" this trail. Scouts will be responsible for future improvements and the critical regular maintenance

needed to keep any trail accessible.

Funding for the preserve was provided by New Jersey's Green Acres Program, Hunterdon County, East Amwell Twp., The Nature Conservancy and

a generous donation by Mrs. Omick. Trailwork was supported by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions and East Amwell's Open Space Trust Fund. 🍂



*East Amwell leaders celebrate opening of the new trail. (l to r) Glorianne and Toni Robbi, East Amwell Committeeman Charlie Van Horn, Dick Ginman, D&R Greenway's Alan Hershey, East Amwell Mayor Dart Sageser, Kerry Miller of ANJEC. (photo courtesy of Alan Hershey)*

## Eagles Soar Over Preserved Landscape

Soaring high above the Neshanic River, a Bald Eagle can see all the way across the Amwell Valley: a multicolored mosaic of farms and woods surrounding both sides of the winding river.

This majestic vista is now preserved—for people and for birds. Surrounded by water on three sides, Boondocks Farm commands sweeping views of Round Mountain. Melissa Granskie's father bought the property in 1938. "I grew up on the farm, frolicking in the woods. We had horses, chickens—and I still love it. I wanted to preserve my Dad's legacy. There aren't many working farms left in Hillsborough. It's important to preserve farms for the community. As the bumper sticker says: no farms, no food."

The farm is 100 riverside acres of fields and forests in Hillsborough Township. Like the key piece of a jigsaw puzzle that reveals the big picture, its preservation completes a critical link in a protected landscape

extending from the Sourland Mountain Preserve north to the South Branch Raritan River, and west across the Neshanic.

D&R Greenway secured an agreement with Melissa Granskie and her husband to preserve their land, known as "Boondocks Farm" for its rural character. Somerset County was the lead partner, purchasing an agricultural easement. The Granskies' donated a trail easement that will one day enable people to enjoy the timeless beauty of this historic area.

D&R Greenway is working to facilitate the protection of large landscapes one piece at a time. Each property is unique, but the value of each individual piece in the mosaic—to people and to wildlife—is multiplied immensely when it's integrated into a large landscape. Connected land preserves the human connections necessary for a healthy agricultural economy and the ecological connections necessary for a healthy environment. 🍂

# People of Preservation Transform Communities: 25 Years Strong

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*—Margaret Mead

In 25 years D&R Greenway has grown from a volunteer grassroots to a nationally recognized land trust. What has remained the same is our mission: to preserve and protect the land.

The seed of what would become D&R Greenway Land Trust was planted in 1987 when a group of thoughtful people—Jim Amon, Rosemary Blair, Sam Hamill and Bob Johnston, with guidance from Donald B. Jones, Dennis Davidson and several others—came together to discuss the need for a land trust in central New Jersey.

These visionaries represented a partnership of organizations—the D&R Canal Commission, Delaware Canal Coalition, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Friends of Princeton Open Space and MSM (now PlanSmart NJ).

D&R Greenway Land Trust became a nonprofit organization in 1989, and immediately protected its first property. The Hamill family donated a conservation easement on 38 acres of their family lands in Lawrence Township, located on the Shipetaukin Creek. Sam Hamill remembers, “Some of the critical contributors who made a difference in the early days were David McAlpin, Lee Bullitt, Richard Forman and Kim Norton. Jim Sayen proposed that 40 percent of Princeton should be protected as open space, and we adopted that principle for the region.” Sam

*How do I feel about D&R Greenway today? It is one of my proudest achievements. I continue to be dedicated to the goals and efforts of this extraordinary organization and its enlightened leadership.*

—Rosemary Miles Blair, Founder

continues, “A turning point came when Bill Swain joined our Board of Trustees and showed us how to get a (land) deal done. Alan Hershey contributed his knowledge of how to run an organization and manage the finances.”

Strong, visionary leadership along with a dedicated Board of Trustees and staff has ensured a significant impact. Board Chairs Bob Johnston, Cate Litvack, Neil Upmeyer, Chuck Hartman, Rich Goldman, Alan Hershey and, today, Brian Breuel have provided the right leadership for the right time. Executive Directors Maude Backes Snyder, Peggy McNutt and current President & CEO Linda Mead have provided the know-how, dedication and guidance to grow the organization. The National Training Program for Land Trusts and Financial Advisors created by Linda Mead with Wade Martin now enables this local land trust to have a national impact.

In the beginning, our focus was

to protect clean water by preserving lands along the Delaware & Raritan Canal and its tributary streams. The watersheds of the Delaware and Raritan rivers are critically important to all of life—people, plants, animals—that live in our region. Our geography and mission, now expanded, includes farms for food and parks for people.

Fresh air and clean water, locally-grown food, wildflower meadows and deep forests for birds and wildlife, green places to play and renew—all are here today thanks to D&R Greenway’s work. They can be experienced first-hand by visiting:

- *The Institute Woods, Farm View Fields and Greenway Meadows* in Princeton
- *Carson Road Woods* in Lawrence Township
- *The Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve* in the Amwells
- *St. Michaels Farm Preserve* in Hopewell
- *Griggstown Farm* in Franklin Township
- *Goat Hill Overlook* in Lambertville

D&R Greenway Land Trust has been successful beyond the dreams of its founders. Today, it has preserved 261 properties totaling 18,635 acres valued at more than \$377 million. 🍀

*“Our successful partnership with D&R Greenway is based on the trust we have established with its knowledgeable and experienced staff. East Amwell’s conservation priorities are reflected in D&R Greenway’s vision for connected regional greenways and the goal of preserving and improving the Sourland forest. This is a partnership that works together to preserve our township’s environment and that of neighboring townships.”*

—Glorianne Robbi, Chair, Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee



Goat Hill Overlook, Lambertville

## *Celebrating People of Preservation*



*Celebrating People of Preservation: Special 25th Anniversary Partner Awards were presented at the 25th Anniversary Greenway Gala to: Bristol-Myers Squibb – Business Partner – represented by (l-r) Frederick Egenolf, Susan Voigt and Maung Min; East Amwell Farmland and Open Space Committee – Local Community – represented by Glorianne Robbi and Dick Ginman; by D&R Greenway Board Chair, Brian Breuel (c) and President & CEO Linda Mead. Standing between Brian and Linda is Betty Wold Johnson. They are joined by Donald B. Jones Conservation Award recipient (r) Richard Goldman, Esq. (photo: Carl Geisler)*

**W**HEREAS, Throughout twenty-five years, the leaders and members of D&R Greenway Land Trust have worked tirelessly and effectively in benefit of others and are recognized and saluted for their exemplary dedication and motivation that have contributed to its sterling reputation; and,

**W**HEREAS, The strength and success of the State of New Jersey, the vitality of its communities, and the effectiveness of our American society depend, in great measure, upon superb organizations, such as D&R Greenway Land Trust; now, therefore,

*Be it Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*

**T**hat this Legislature hereby honors and congratulates D&R Greenway Land Trust in recognition of its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary.



*Richard S. Goldman, Esq., of Drinker Biddle & Reath, was awarded the 2014 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award at the 25th Anniversary Greenway Gala on September 13. Rich (r) with his family and friends. (photo: Carl Geisler)*



*Brian Breuel and Linda Mead present the Land Preservation Award to Betty Wold Johnson who was recognized for permanently preserving her 700+ acre farm on the edge of Hopewell Borough through a gift of conservation easement to D&R Greenway. (photo: Richard Grant)*

# Vote YES on Question No. 2 this November to Protect Clean Water, Open Spaces, Farms and Historic Sites for Future Generations

This November 4, New Jersey voters will have a chance to vote YES on the dedication of state funds to protect clean water and ensure our children and grandchildren continue to have access to parks, open spaces, family farms and historic treasures.

This measure will ensure dedicated long-term funding for the now-depleted Green Acres, Blue Acres, farmland and historic preservation programs, and continue investments to improve water quality and support environmental clean-up projects.

D&R Greenway strongly supports this measure and urges a YES vote on Question No. 2 this November. This funding is critical to the continuation of our work to save parks for people, farms for food, and land for life.

Question 2 would dedicate 4% of existing corporate business tax revenues long-term to ensure reliable funding for land and water protection efforts. The state currently dedicates these funds to help pay for environmental programs for watershed management, underground storage tanks, brownfields

and public clean-up of polluted sites. The shift of funds to support open space funding will include a new way to continue critical programs including stewardship of our parks.

If passed, Green Acres, Blue Acres and farmland and historic preservation programs will receive approximately \$71 million annually for the first five years. In 2019, the dedication grows from 4 percent to 6 percent of the existing Corporate and Business Tax, resulting in \$117 million annually.

## Why Now?

All funds from the statewide bond measure that voters approved in 2009 are fully allocated. Put simply, there is no new money left for preservation programs in New Jersey, but tremendous needs remain.

According to a report by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, more than 650,000 acres still need to be preserved to protect water and natural resources and to provide recreational opportunities

to a growing population. At least 350,000 acres of additional farmland must be preserved to maintain a viable agriculture industry, according to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. 🌱

## What is Question 2?

It is important to note that the measure only changes the dedication of existing tax dollars and *does not increase taxes*. It will not affect voters' pocketbooks, but it will provide a positive impact on the quality of life for all who enjoy living in New Jersey, forevermore.

The 2014 John H. Rassweiler Annual Science Forum on Strategic Techniques & Innovations in Land Preservation & Stewardship

## Opportunities in Environmental Stewardship: The Value of Ecosystem Services

Presented in Partnership with Princeton Environmental Institute

Thursday, October 30,  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Speaker: Award-winning scientist  
Simon Levin

Simon Levin is the George M. Moffett Professor of Biology at Princeton University, and Winner of the 2014 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, for bridging ecological research and environmental policy, economics and social science.

Dr. Levin will speak about the economic values of ecosystems and impacts on how we manage our natural assets. 🌱



“Boondocks Farm” in Hillsborough (see page 3: Eagles Soar) preserved with Somerset County and some of the last State funding. A YES vote on November 4 will ensure we can preserve more farms and conservation lands.

Correction to D&R Greenway’s  
2013 Annual Report:

A donation was made by  
Celia D. Ryan in memory of  
Elizabeth Stetson-Petit.

# Immerse Yourself in the Land

Events are at no cost unless otherwise indicated. For gallery hours and to RSVP, please send a message to [rsvp@drgreenway.org](mailto:rsvp@drgreenway.org) or call (609) 924-4646.

## Art Exhibits

### “People in Preservation”

Through November 7

Celebrating visionaries whose personal commitment has led to preserved cherished land in our nation, our region and internationally. Featuring stories of:

- *Doug & Kris Tompkins*, Patagonia National Park
- *John D. Rockefeller, Jr.*, Acadia National Park
- *Teddy Roosevelt*, America’s National Park System
- *Murrell Butler*, Oak Hill Preserve, Louisiana
- *Mary Alessio Leck, Ph.D.*, Abbott Marshlands
- *D&R Greenway Founders and Wade Martin*, locally-important lands

### Special Closing Lecture and Reception Friday, November 7, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Sagamore Hill was the home of Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States, from 1885 until his death in 1919. During Roosevelt’s time in office, his “Summer White House” was the focus of international attention. New Superintendent of Sagamore Hill, Kelly Fuhrmann, will speak about current renovations and the inspiration of this special place.



Acadia National Park (Sand Beach by Ray Yeager)

### Botanicals Illuminated

November 14 – January 9, 2015

Opening Reception: Friday, November 14, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Fine art and botanical illustration honor New Jersey native species with appealing, scientifically valid work, so that the general public can more easily identify plants.

### Jay Vawter Decoy Exhibit

New fall exhibit of award-winning decoys in the Goldman Family Library, featuring carver Ben Heineman.

## Programs

### Roadside Geology Field Tour

Saturday, October 18, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Rain Date: TBD. \$60/person. Limited space, pre-registration required; w/lunch

David Harper, author of *Roadside Geology of New Jersey* will explain the extensive geological history behind New Jersey’s scenic landscapes. Participants will receive a detailed booklet to support their own future explorations.

### A Tale of Caution: The Los Angeles Water Crisis

Presented in Partnership with Princeton Environmental Institute

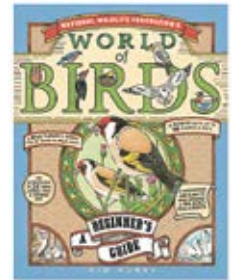
Wednesday, November 5, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Jenny Price, writer and research scholar at UCLA, and visiting professor in the environment and humanities, Lewis Center for the Arts and Princeton Environmental Institute, will share stories of community work to restore the Los Angeles River, and art’s role in celebrating the river as a public space.

### National Wildlife Federation’s World of Birds by Kim Kurki

Saturday, November 8, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Family Friendly

The author will read from and sign her new book. *World of Birds* is a smorgasbord of information about common backyard birds.



## On the Land

### Fall Landscapes at Cedar Ridge Preserve

Saturday, October 11, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Leader: Jim Amon, Retired Director of Stewardship

Experience meadows filled with goldenrod and flowers, cedar forests and one of the great trees of the region—a white oak that was a pretty good-sized tree when George Washington and the Revolutionary army crossed New Jersey.

### The Essence of Autumn Yoga Class

In partnership with YogaStream, led by Instructor Debbi Gitterman

Sunday, October 26, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

\$20 Suggested donation benefits D&R Greenway

Meet at the Johnson Education Center for an energizing outdoor class in Greenway Meadows Park along the Scott and Hella McVay Poetry Trail; inside in case of rain. Bring your yoga mat. Seasonal refreshments.

### Fall Native Plant Sales

October 17 and 24, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

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Princeton, New Jersey 08540  
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www.drgreenway.org

## D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.

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D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc., is a regional, 501(c)(3) nonprofit land conservancy dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of open space throughout New Jersey.

### D&R Greenway Staff

<i>President &amp; CEO</i> Linda J. Mead	<i>Land Protection Associate; Manager, Native Plant Nursery</i> Emily Blackman	<i>Curator, Marie L. Matthews Gallery</i> Diana Moore
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## Vote YES on November 4

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DEDICATING STATE FUNDS FOR OPEN SPACE, FARMLAND, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND CHANGING EXISTING DEDICATION FOR WATER PROGRAMS, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS, AND HAZARDOUS SITE CLEANUPS

- Do you approve amending the Constitution to dedicate certain State revenues each year for environmental programs?
- The Constitution now dedicates four percent of the money collected from the Corporation Business Tax to help pay for some environmental programs. This amendment raises the amount from four percent to six percent beginning on July 1, 2019.
- The amendment also changes, beginning July 1, 2015, some of the programs funded by the current dedication. The new dedication would be used mostly to preserve and steward open space, farmland, historic sites and flood-prone areas. Funds would also be used to improve water quality, remove and clean up underground tanks and clean up polluted sites.
- Lastly, the amendment dedicates money received from leases and other uses of State open space lands to pay for open space, farmland, and historic preservation.

## Your YES Vote is Critical

By voting YES on Question No. 2 this November, you can help protect clean water and our children's future.

Your yes vote will:

- Protect clean drinking water and New Jersey's rivers, lakes and beaches.
- Ensure future generations continue to have access to parks, open spaces, clean water and family farms.
- Protect quality of life by preserving our natural areas, farmland, parks and historic treasures.
- Continue critical funding to improve water quality, remove underground storage tanks and clean-up polluted sites.
- Dedicate a small fraction of existing tax dollars for Green Acres, farmland and historic preservation without increasing taxes.