Everyone Can Make a Difference by Saving Land for Life

Happiness is a quality we all strive for in our lives. Popular books published on this topic over the past few years identify, among others, an essential ingredient to happiness: being a part of something bigger than ourselves.

You are invited, through D&R Greenway’s Land for Life special fundraising effort, to do just that—join us in a big vision of preserving and caring for land that will make a difference in the lives of people, birds and wildlife, now and in the future.

Why Land for Life? Because without all the benefits that preserved land provides—fresh air, clean water, plants and wildlife, farms for food, places to play and renew, trails for hiking and cycling—we would not have quality of life or even life itself.

“Land for Life—there are so many ways to interpret that phrase,” says D&R Greenway Board of Trustees Chair Phyllis Marchand. “I have experienced the importance of walks on our preserved lands as a prescription for physical and mental health—our Poetry Trail is the best medicine! Ask your children and grandchildren what the phrase ‘Land for Life’ means—the answers can only be inspiring.”

“Our work has changed the landscape of New Jersey forever,” says D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead. “Look at places like Capital City Farm in Trenton that provides food and a welcome open space in a populated urban community. Greenway Meadows in Princeton, St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell and the 300+ acre United Water Company aquifer lands in West Amwell illustrate the many facets of preservation. All of these are critical to the lifeblood of the community by enabling food, water and a healthy environment in which to live.”

Land for Life — Now and for the Future

Call to Action: Challenge Donor will Match Gifts toward Land for Life

D&R Greenway is preparing for a green future with “Land for Life” and we need your help!

Our goal is to raise $400,000 by the Fourth of July. These funds will help us protect and care for land that benefits us all.

A generous supporter is matching gifts toward this goal. Every dollar counts!

All Land for Life supporters will be invited to a unique celebration on the land.

You can contribute to Land for Life by calling Leslie Potter or Linda Mead at 609-924-4646, or go to our website to make your donation: www.drgreenway.org.
numerous other services. Quality of life benefits include less traffic and flooding from run-off, and more land for the community to enjoy. “What really drew my wife, Emily, and me to D&R Greenway is not only the commitment to preserving land but the organization’s approach to stewardship,” says D&R Greenway Trustee Johan Firmenich. “Land for Life is a way for D&R Greenway to fully commit to its vision to permanently preserve land. As the artist and musician Prince famously said, ‘Forever; that’s a mighty long time.’ This is about preserving and stewarding land for the next generation and the generations after that one.”

“We want to strengthen our vision by engaging more people as partners,” says Mead. “The time to preserve land is now—in 30 years our state will be the first to be ‘built-out’ with today’s open lands either developed or protected. The future is up to all of us.”

“Can you imagine what our region might be like if it weren’t for the 20,000 acres preserved by D&R Greenway? “Give a gift to yourself and your family by supporting Land for Life,” says Betsy Sands. What a lasting legacy… a gift of open space and fresh air!”

We offer our sincere appreciation to these supporters who made an early gift or pledge to Land for Life to secure the future for D&R Greenway’s work to enable green places for people and nature, farms for food and clean water and fresh air. Thank you to the following donors who have contributed to the vision of Land for Life.

Anonymous (2)  
James and Kathleen Amon  
Kristin Appelget  
Kathleen Bagley  
Christopher Barr and Patricia Shanley  
Thomas and Abigail Barrows  
David Blair  
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Daniel and Charlotte O’Connell  
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Kim and Loraine Otis  
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Jeanne Perantoni and Bruce Jordan  
Thomas Poole  
Ashton and Marion Harvey  
Estate of Robert C. Johnston  
Carroll King  
Wendy and Grant Kvaheim  
Charles and Mary Leck  
Ron LeMahieu  
Kathleen Levin  
Harry and Ellen Levine  
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Daniel and Charlotte O’Connell  
Adoeye and Judy Olukoton  
Kim and Loraine Otis  
John and Caroline Pallat  
Jeanne Perantoni and Bruce Jordan  
Tom Brian and Alberta O’Connell  
R. David Reynolds
Planned Gifts to Land for Life Generate Preservation Power

Planned gifts, such as charitable annuities, trusts and bequests, may be counted today as part of D&R Greenway’s Land for Life special fundraising effort.

Some surprises have already come forward including, “gifts of land and estates, even houses that can support our mission,” shares Linda Mead. “D&R Greenway understands real estate, so a planned gift of property with life rights or as a bequest fits beautifully with who we are. And the added benefit of gifting real property to D&R Greenway is that the land can be permanently preserved in a way that it is not when gifted to another type of nonprofit focused only on its financial value.”

Anytime is a good time to make a difference by establishing a planned gift. D&R Greenway trustee Gene Gladston announces, “I have made a planned gift to D&R Greenway because our planet cannot provide us with breathable air and drinkable water unless enough land is preserved for it to do so.” He continues, “D&R Greenway is the foundation for my charitable giving—and it should also be yours.”

D&R Greenway Extends a Warm Welcome to our Newly Elected Trustees

Julia S. Benedict, Realtor, Gloria Nilson & Co., formerly Digital Marketer for AOL and Discovery

Michael R. Bramnick, Esq., Senior Vice President, Chief of Staff & Chief Compliance Officer, NRG Energy

James Fiorentino, Renown Award-winning Artist, widely collected in museums and private collections

Kenneth K. Guilmartin, Composer, Founder & Artistic Director, Music Together, LLC

Joan V. Ruderman, Ph.D., Senior Biologist, Princeton Environmental Institute; Director Emeritus, Marine Biological Institute, Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Thank you to Ted Thomas and Liza Morehouse who have completed their Board terms. We are grateful for their leadership, vision, energy and devotion to D&R Greenway’s mission.

The EverGreen Circle

People who make a planned gift to D&R Greenway are recognized in our Evergreen Circle. This important group of foresighted individuals and couples have thought about how they can have an impact on their community long after they are gone.

Anonymous
Brian Breuel
Ruth L. Chartier
Virginia Craig
Thomas and Lynn Ebeling
Richard and Elisabeth A. Ginman
Eugene Gladston
Richard Goldman
Lilian Grosz
Margaret T. Harper
Peter W. Hedges
Alan M. Hershey
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Nancy R. Johnston
Robert C. Johnston
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Gabriella Klein
Lawrence Koplisk and Sarah L. Roberts
Scott and Hella McVay
Stephen A. and Linda J. Mead
Thomas Poole
John Rassweiler
R. Scott Sheldon
Richard D. Smith
William M. and Linda Swain
Megan E. Thomas
Edward and Penny Thomas
Mary Jane Trimmer
Ann Harris Yasuhara
*deceased

Thank you to these generous supporters for leaving a legacy of land to future generations. To join them, contact D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead, or Director of Development Leslie Davis Potter at 609-924-4646.

Anonymous
Brian Breuel
Ruth L. Chartier
Virginia Craig
Thomas and Lynn Ebeling
Richard and Elisabeth A. Ginman
Eugene Gladston
Richard Goldman
Lilian Grosz
Margaret T. Harper
Peter W. Hedges
Alan M. Hershey
Roberta F. Holden
Jennifer Holloway
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John Rassweiler
R. Scott Sheldon
Richard D. Smith
William M. and Linda Swain
Megan E. Thomas
Edward and Penny Thomas
Mary Jane Trimmer
Ann Harris Yasuhara
*deceased

Sky and Liza Morehouse with newly-elected trustee James Fiorentino (photo: Thomas Marshall)
Frank Taplin was a well-known and respected philanthropist who was an early advocate for land preservation. His vision and leadership resulted in the permanent protection of two signature Princeton landscapes, the Institute Woods and Coventry Farm.

In 2004, D&R Greenway Land Trust honored Frank Taplin’s memory by creating the Taplin Circle, to recognize individuals who contribute $1,000 or more annually to support D&R Greenway’s critical work. Members of the Taplin Circle share Frank’s commitment to preserving and caring for land.

All members of the Taplin Circle are invited to a special reception annually where they hear about the accomplishments that their support made possible, and learn about upcoming projects before they are publicly announced.

Please note that Taplin Circle members who have made a multi-year pledge are listed here at their most recent pledge payment level. Multi-year pledges in effect in 2016 are noted on page 10. We express our deepest thanks to these individuals for their leadership in supporting the work of D&R Greenway Land Trust.

To request a correction to this donor list, please call D&R Greenway at 609-924-4646.

---

**Donations Received January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016**

+ First time donor

**TAPLIN CIRCLE LEGACY GIFTS**

Anonymous +
Betty Wold Johnson
Betsy and Jeffrey Sands and the George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation

**TAPLIN CIRCLE ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES ($50,000 TO $99,999)**

Edward Matthews
Lisa and C. Schuyler Morehouse and the George G. and Elizabeth G. Smith Foundation

**TAPLIN CIRCLE STEWARDS ($25,000 TO $49,999)**

Anonymous
Shawn and Robb Ellieworth
Richard S. and Cheryl Goldman

**TAPLIN CIRCLE LEADERS ($10,000 TO $24,999)**

Anonymous (3)
Thomas and Meg Gorrie
Alex and Laura Hanson
Richard and Carol Hanson
Mary Lou Hartman and the Charles and Mary Louise Hartman Fund
Adrian and Diana Huns
Carroll King and the King Family Foundation
Wendy and Grant Kralheim
Paul and Lynn Spagnoli et al.
Edward and Penny Thomas and the Penny and Ted Thomas Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Van Zandt and Myra Williams and the Myra and Van Zandt Williams, Jr. Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation

**TAPLIN CIRCLE CONSERVATORS ($5,000 TO $9,999)**

David Blair
Christopher and Barbie Cole and the Griffin-Cole Fund
Patricia A. Cullen, Esq.
H. Stewart Wheller III
Samuel Hamill, Jr.

**TAPLIN CIRCLE BENEFACORS ($2,500 TO $4,999)**

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Christopher Barr and Patricia Shanley
Xan Blake and Sam Wolthuis
Thomas and Lynn Ebeling
Ashton and Marion Harvey
Russ Holt and Margaret Lancefield and the Russ Holt & Margaret Lancefield Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Charles and Sharyn Magee
Wade and Lee Ann Martin
Linda and Stephen Mead
Nelson Obus and Eve Coulsdon and the Leen Foundation
Jeanne Peratoni and Bruce Jordan
Liesl Davis Potter
George and Barbara Rowynak
Carl Seiden and Vanessa Sandom
Lawrence and Donna Steele
C. Barmwell and Barbara Straut
Jacqueline Stigl
Anne Williams and Antonio Elmaha and the New York Community Trust

We miss our former Chair Brian Breuel (l) shown here at the 25th Anniversary Gala in 2014 (photo: Carl Geisler)
Pretty as a picture, six lushly wooded acres line a placid stretch of the Millstone River in Cranbury Township. The floodplain, thick with sweet gum, pin oak and red maple trees, mirrors the verdant landscape on the opposite bank in East Windsor Township. A bald eagle circles silently overhead; its reflection flickers on the river’s surface while fish shimmer in the water’s depths. It is the kind of place ideal for stopping to contemplate the complex web of nature from the uncomplicated, unceasing perspective of the river.

This hidden haven, tucked below Highway 535 (Old Trenton Road), has now been preserved for the public to enjoy. Princeton Land Partners, a private landowner, donated the six acres to D&R Greenway Land Trust, which will eventually convey the land to Cranbury for connection to the township’s greenway. East Windsor Township has preserved open space directly across the river, creating a contiguous protected landscape.

With the site’s triple conservation value for wildlife, water and people, accepting the offer to preserve the site was a no-brainer for D&R Greenway.

Within the forested landscape are floodplain forest trees, as well as open areas where specialized wetland wildflowers thrive, such as the bright red Cardinal flower, the stately Joe Pye Weed, ebullient pink swamp mallow (hibiscus), and the hidden yellow heads of sweet flag. The river, whose character in other places is anything but tranquil, is slow enough here that Great Blue Herons forage in shallows along the banks.

In addition to its value for wildlife habitat and recreation, the site protects water quality. The forested floodplain buffers stormwater’s effects on the Millstone, and more than half of the property is a designated wellhead protection zone for a public water supply.

“We often talk about the value of land preservation to protect water quality,” shares Linda Mead, D&R Greenway President & CEO. “This site is a living example that speaks to our founding values of protecting Land for Life.”

The owners approached D&R Greenway with the opportunity to preserve the property. Landowners seeking preservation, even those whose ultimate goal is public access or ownership, often seek to take advantage of the efficiencies that a nonprofit offers compared with a public entity, which may be less nimble in its decision-making and funding.

The decision was easy — but the preservation process was not without its challenges. With the site came a unique headache: how to remove the mass of non-hazardous construction debris (bricks and such) that had been historically dumped into the woods by illegal trespassers. The donor agreed to pay for its removal, but the dump’s location at the bottom of a steep drop precluded truck access from Highway 535 above. Obtaining access to the site from a neighboring site became a year-long project in itself— one accomplished only after a chance reading of an obituary yielded the key information that enabled D&R Greenway to locate the owner and negotiate the necessary permission for a contractor to enter the site and clean it up.

Although the site’s location on a floodplain would not permit development under current law, preserving it will ensure that it will stay undeveloped even if the law changes.

Through creative sleuthing and persistence, this new link in the Millstone Greenway will last as Land for Life forever.
## Corporate, Foundation & Non-Profit Donors

**Donations Received January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016**

### Legacy Gifts/ ($100,000+)
- George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation*
- The William Penn Foundation***

### Environmental Heroes ($50,000-$99,999)
- Bristol-Myers Squibb**
- George G. and Elizabeth G. Smith Foundation
- Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation****
- Larson Land Foundation***
- Princeton Area Community Foundation**

### Stewards ($25,000-$49,999)
- Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust

### Leaders ($10,000-$24,999)
- Firmench Charitable Foundation+
- NRG Energy

### Conservators ($5,000-$9,999)
- PSEG Foundation****
- T. Rowe Price Trust Company
- The Edward T. Cone Foundation*
- The Hyde and Watson Foundation
- The J.P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund*

### Partners ($1,000-$2,499)
- The Denver Foundation
- Essig Enright Family Foundation +
- Greater Horizons c/o Greater Kansas City Community Foundation*
- New Jersey Conservation Foundation – Franklin Parker
- PNC Wealth Management*
- Princeton Photography Club*
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program*

### Tributary Donors ($500-$999)
- Darwin Foundation*
- Edward E. and Marie L. Matthews Foundation*
- ETS Cares Campaign*
- Highland-Mills Foundation*
- Twin Chimney, Inc.

### Wildflower Donors
- The Benevity Community Impact Fund#
- The Blawenburg Band#
- Master Gardeners of Mercer County#
- Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter#
- Stony Brook Garden Club***
- Tex Williams Foundation#
- UBS Donor Advised Fund#
- US Charitable Gift Trust#

### BenEFactors ($2,500-$4,999)
- Community Foundation of the National Capital Region
- National Wildlife Federation*

### Benefactors ($2,500-$4,999)
- New York Community Trust*
- Schwab Charitable Fund
- TYCO*

### Conservationists ($500-$999)
- Dr. Mary Leck leads a teacher workshop at Abbott Marshlands (photo: Elise Fritzinger)

### Native Plant Sales

**Friday, May 19**
- 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 20
- 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**Fridays, June through August**
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

### Guided Public Walks

Public walks take place on the second weekend of each month. Space is limited — RSVP please.

Visit www.drgreenway.org for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woodcock Walk</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>Woodcock Walk Spring Breeding Display (Aunt Molly Road) Leader: Emily Blackman, D&amp;R Greenway’s Land Preservation Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Amwell History</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>East Amwell History Cemeteries and Mills Leader: Emily Blackman, D&amp;R Greenway’s Land Preservation Associate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ornithology for Families</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>Ornithology for Families Leader: Emily Blackman, D&amp;R Greenway’s Land Preservation Associate</td>
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Business Partners in Preservation

We encourage you to patronize our Business Partners in Preservation who are acknowledged on our website and at the Johnson Education Center. These business leaders recognize that our state’s remaining natural capital must be protected. Their support protects Land for Life.

$10,000+ Leaders

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Morgan Stanley
Pepper Hamilton LLP
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Firmenich

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Miele
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D&R Greenway Land Trust Newsletter • Winter 2017
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Richard and Cheryl Goldman
Robert C. Johnston
D&R Greenway through their steadfast support.

STEWARDS FOR 20+ YEARS
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Nancy Curtis
Robert and Mary Ellen Darretta
John and Margaret Delaney
Stephen Eaton and Sandra Jones
Verena Edwards

We especially want to thank those who joined us in the early years for seeding what has become one of the leading land trusts in New Jersey — D&R Greenway Land Trust.

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Donors who contribute consistently to support D&R Greenway’s mission clearly show their belief and confidence in our work. These donors are Stewards of D&R Greenway through their steadfast support.
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Kathleen Bagley
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Pulitzer-prize winning poet C.K. Williams’ family and friends dedicate the newest poem, “Garden” on our Scott and Hella McVay Poetry Trail at Greenway Meadows

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Byron Lum и Mo Lin Yee
A great time was had by all at the 2016 Masquerade Ball! (l-r) Phyllis Marchand, Betsy Sands, Linda Mead, Johan Firmenich, Gene and Wendy Gladston (photo: Carl Geisler)

We are grateful to the following supporters who have pledged a significant gift over two or more years, demonstrating their confidence in D&R Greenway Land Trust’s critical work.

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* Denotes pledges completed in 2016
In a state of 4.492 million acres, how significant can one acre be? The answer—in the case of the William Peters property—is that a single acre is important enough for D&R Greenway to take on a most unusual role in order to preserve it. The newly preserved Peters site opens the way for a trail that will draw attention to a nearly forgotten settlement: Honey Hollow, in Hopewell Township.

William Peters’ stone house along Church Road, between Washington Crossing State Park and Mercer County’s Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain, dates to General George Washington’s historic river crossing. A smaller-scale water crossing brought the possibility of preservation of the Peters property to the forefront.

Former D&R Greenway Board Chair Alan Hershey was reconnoitering along Fiddler’s Creek while designing the southeastern section of the Fiddler’s Creek Preserve trail. Alan recalls, “The existing hunters’ bridge was inadequate and would become dangerous. I suggested to Mercer County that we acquire a sliver of land from Mr. Peters so we could bend the route of the trail to the stone abutments of the old bridge on Honey Hollow Road.”

Mercer County began discussions with the landowner, but they reached an impasse.

That was when D&R Greenway agreed to step in, taking on the not-unusual role as preservation facilitator—but with the atypical responsibility of acting as seller’s representative. With Trustee Christopher DeGrezia of law firm Drinker Biddle representing Mr. Peters, agreement was reached for the County to acquire his one acre in November 2016.

D&R Greenway Vice President Jay Watson explains why D&R Greenway decided to get involved. “Many people in the preservation community tend to focus on preserving large tracts of land, but we cannot miss the opportunity to have that small transaction that makes a critical link or preserves a unique opportunity or habitat.”

Adding one acre to the Baldpate Mountain Preserve will enable the historic, abandoned Honey Hollow Road to be connected to the trail system. The old stone bridge abutments will be left as a visible link to the past, although a modern, sturdy bridge will actually carry the new trail over the creek. There are now 12 miles of trails in the Baldpate Preserve, and 2 miles in the neighboring Fiddler’s Creek Preserve.

Honey Hollow Road, vacated in 1944, was once the main thoroughfare for the settlement of Honey Hollow, which exists today only on old maps and as remnant building ruins hidden in the mountain’s woods. The road went from Church Road (named for a now-vanished church) up the side of what was then called Canoe Mountain, to the ridgetop where it met Pleasant Valley Road.

Folklore implies that Honey Hollow was the home of “free Blacks” beginning in the late 19th century, remaining vital until the 20th century. Henry Charlton Beck wrote of encountering Honey Hollow’s ruins, “broken walls with trees and brambles growing from the inside,” in his 1936 book, Fare to Midlands (republished in 1962 as The Jersey Midlands). Beck reported on his encounter with one Andy Williams, “a colored man” who had moved from “up the mountain” to farm on the edge of the State Park. According to Beck, Andy Williams recalled, “There was quite a settlement of colored people all in the Hollow there. Sure, they owned the places they lived in but they just moved away and left ‘em when farmin’ got too hard or they want to be in the city too strong.”

Other traditions (also duly noted by Beck) suggest that moonshiners took advantage of the thick woods to install stills in the ruined houses.

Who were the residents of the Hollow and what is the real explanation for the abandonment? And what was life like for its residents during the decades that it flourished? Mercer County recently engaged Hunter Research to perform historical and genealogical research to separate out fact from lore and discover more about the story of Honey Hollow.

“We have heard the lore of this settlement for a long time and engaging Hunter Research will provide provenance for a unique story on the mountain. It is our collective hope to provide interpretive signage explaining this unique community and diversify the stories told in our landscape,” says Jay.

“The richness of Mercer County’s history cannot be overstated,” said Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes, “and it’s truly exciting to discover the heritage of this settlement and its people. Our ultimate goal is to share the story of these early settlers and how they helped shape this great county.”

The original section of the Peters’ house dates back to the American Revolution.
For many years, John and Janet Powell enjoyed looking out their kitchen window onto open fields bordered by trees. They savored the beauty of “the red buds of the maple trees, lit like fire in the sun,” John recalls.

Now, their view has been preserved forever, and it can be enjoyed by everyone. D&R Greenway Land Trust, working with Mercer County through its Open Space Program, has facilitated the preservation of the Powells’ property, two lots along Snowden Lane and Poor Farm Road in Princeton.

The site adds 4.3 acres to Mercer County’s Herrontown Woods Preserve: 142 acres of forest that is part of 590 protected acres within the Princeton Ridge Conservation Area. The Princeton Ridge East Conservation Area Partnership (a collaborative land conservation group that includes D&R Greenway, Mercer County, Princeton, Friends of Princeton Open Space, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association) works to protect this unique landscape through cooperative stewardship of its biodiversity, and provides public enjoyment of the open space. The partners developed a Stewardship Plan that establishes consistent management principles for the properties independent of ownership.

From the Powells’ perspective, preservation was the right thing to do “for the neighbors.” Their strong sense of obligation to the community led them to decide that when they moved from the neighborhood, they would leave the neighborhood even better then when they lived there.

John Powell’s relationship with the Princeton Ridge community goes back long before he and Janet bought their house. In the late 1970s John answered a Town Topics help-wanted ad for part-time work — and “the rest is history,” John says. He began working with Jac and Cornelia Weller to establish a farm on the south side of Snowden Lane. In the 1990s, John and Janet acquired their property, and they farmed that as well. The beef cattle that grazed the land became a local landmark.

Years later, when John was the executor of the Weller’s estate, he had the experience of “converting land from private to public use,” as Princeton acquired the Weller’s property in 2001 to create Barbara Smoyer Park, which supports active recreation. “We grew crops there, and now we grow children—a nice crop too!” chuckles John.

When the Powells decided the time was right to start thinking about retiring to an independent living community, they decided it was also right to preserve the open space surrounding their house. “It’s beautiful, and our neighbors appreciate it too. We wanted it to stay that way.” Through their attorney, Rhinold Ponder, and the Friends of Herrontown Woods, the Powells made a connection to D&R Greenway. “We knew we were working with people we could trust who would stick with the process through the long haul,” says John. D&R Greenway assisted with dividing the open space lots from the house lot to enable preservation.

The Powell addition to Herrontown Woods creates the potential to connect Smoyer Park with expansive open space areas, where many miles of trails wind through mature upland forest. South of Herrontown Woods is D&R Greenway’s All Saints’ Preserve; to the north is Princeton’s Autumn Hill Reservation. The three properties are connected by a trail system. Herrontown Woods also includes the historic Veblen House.

For the near term the site will be maintained as open fields. D&R Greenway will steward the Powell properties until the County transfers all of Herrontown Woods, including the Powell additions, to Princeton.

The preservation of their property accomplished the Powells’ goals to leave their beautiful view for the benefit of others. As a bonus, the funds will help with costs of moving to their new community. “It’s other people who made this work,” says John. “The citizens in their foresight wanted the property preserved. And the neighbors are quite happy.”

“As the Powells retired from their farm to their future at Stonebridge, they found that the sale of their land for permanent preservation met both their personal and community goals” says Linda Mead, President & CEO. “Their choice for preservation created a legacy that many will enjoy — forever.”
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52 Acres, Single-Family Home with Separate Garage

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D&R Greenway purchased this land to save it from development.

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(photos: Coldwell Banker, top; Thomas Marshall, middle and bottom)
Volunteers

GUIDED WALK LEADERS: Second Weekend Walks inspire a conservation ethic by connecting people with the land. Volunteer leaders share expertise in science, culture and history.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY: Volunteers plant and care for more than fifty species of native plants. They assist spring and fall plant sales and Friday sales throughout the summer.

NEW JERSEY TRAILS: Led by former Board Chair Alan Hershey, volunteers from age 16 to 80+ move boulders, clear brush and build charming pedestrian bridges to create special places for people to connect with the land. See our website, www.njtrails.org.

STEWARDSHIP: Volunteers multiply the work of our staff, enjoying community spirit as they ensure this important work gets done. They remove invasive species, restore habitats with native plants, and maintain trails. Local organizations and corporate employees volunteer their time through “employee workdays.”

WILLING HANDS: Volunteers inspire a conservation ethic by assisting with education and art events at the Johnson Education Center, mailings, and community days that spread the word about D&R Greenway.

To learn about volunteer opportunities with D&R Greenway Land Trust, please call (609) 924-4646 or visit our website www.drgreenway.org.

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The tidal Crosswicks Creek winds through the Abbott Marshlands in Bordentown Township, coursing below steep tree-lined bluffs and turning back on itself before emptying into the Delaware River. Twice a day, the river flows into the creek and runs out again. This tidal freshwater infusion supports an astounding array of plants and wildlife.

The 3,000-acre Abbott Marshlands, two miles below head of tide at Trenton, contains the northernmost tidal freshwater wetlands on the Delaware River. These marshes have a remarkable biodiversity and “are among the most productive ecosystems in the world,” according to Rider University Botany Professor Emeritus Mary Leck, a former D&R Greenway Trustee.

In summer 2016, D&R Greenway acquired the Csapo property preserving 71 acres including spectacular bluffs. Leck has identified 159 species of plants on the Csapo property, including unusual plants such as Green Fringed Orchid and American Chestnut.

The site supports an amazing variety of wildlife, from the tiniest phytoplankton to the largest birds—sightings of Bald Eagles are not uncommon. Kingfishers nest along the bluffs; marsh wrens, in the tidal wetlands. The Csapo tract is part of the Delaware River estuary, which is critical habitat for species under extreme pressure from development and pollution, including the endangered Atlantic Sturgeon and Shortnose Sturgeon.

In a kayak drifting past wild rice nodding to tidal rhythms, or on a hike under a soaring canopy of venerable tulip trees, a visitor may be lulled into thinking that preservation was natural, if not inevitable. But it was D&R Greenway that made this acquisition possible by stepping in at a critical juncture.

One of the largest privately held tracts of open space in the Marshlands, discussions between the owner and those seeking to preserve it began in 2005. After 10 years, the window of opportunity seemed about to close, D&R Greenway, however, acted rapidly to acquire the site, when other agencies were unable to do so because of legal technicalities. Jay Watson, D&R Greenway Vice President, comments, “A key value that D&R Greenway brings is our ability to act quickly and use our own unencumbered funds to acquire sites in anticipation of future ‘buyouts’ by local conservation partners.”

Even so, unanticipated complications have the potential to kill a transaction at any time. In this case, a last-minute title flaw was discovered, and the title company deemed the tract ‘uninsurable.’

The seller was exacerbated by lengthy negotiations with other agencies, and we knew that we couldn’t go back to him to resolve the problem.

D&R Greenway’s Randy Pease began to examine the problem by drawing courses and distances from old deeds, which had to be converted from historic measurements of ‘rods and chains.’ We asked Harris Survey to review old surveys and deeds and walk the property to confirm Randy’s findings. Soon after, Kevin Harris called to say that he had traced title back to Joseph Bonaparte, a large landholder in Bordentown Township and, yes, Napoleon’s brother. We worked forward from those descriptions to obtain insurable title.

With this latest addition, key components of the Abbott Marshlands have been preserved. Increasing the protected area of such productive wetlands is of great ecological significance. Protecting the bluffs from development preserves mature woodland habitat and prevents erosion, which would degrade the steep slopes and send sediment into Crosswicks Creek, explains Mary Leck.

The property adds public open space to the Bordentown Bluffs area of D&R Canal State Park. Paddlers can explore the site from the water through Abbott Marshlands Paddle Tours (see page 22). It will be explorable on foot, as well.

“IT took an unusual commitment and added effort to get this to the closing table, but after all, we were preserving a tract of land that contained the same paths that Native Americans had walked for over 13,000 years,” said Linda Mead. “It was well worth the wait.”

Today we visit the Abbott Marshlands for recreation, but people initially used its rich biodiversity for food, clothing and shelter. They traced a trail between marsh and ocean, connecting hunting and fishing grounds. Archeological investigations of the Abbott Marshlands, including its bluffs—begun in the 19th century by Charles Conrad Abbott—have turned up thousands of artifacts, the basis for the 1976 designation of The Abbott Farm National Historic Landmark.

Visit the Tulpehaking Nature Center (157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton) to learn more about Abbott Marshlands natural and cultural history.
2016 Partners in Preservation

D&R Greenway Land Trust thanks our Partners in Preservation for their investment in our work. Land preservation is so much more than permanently protecting land from future development. These lands benefit all of us with clean water to drink, fresh air to breathe and fresh, local foods to eat. In addition, green spaces in nature have a positive effect on health including reducing stress, lowering risks from asthma, and lessening health disparities.

Perhaps the most significant benefit of preserving the natural and agricultural landscapes surrounding our cities, towns and villages is that it strengthens these communities by providing, quite literally, “common ground”—a shared continuity of experience with the land that extends across generations.

We would particularly like to welcome first-time donors to our organization. We are also grateful to the families and individuals who have provided steady support for D&R Greenway’s work through the years—see page 8 for acknowledgment of our Steadfast Stewards. We are thankful each and every day for your unfailing generosity.

To request a correction to this donor list, please call D&R Greenway at 609-924-4646.

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Christopher DeGrezia, Esq., President & CEO, Linda Mead (c) with (l-r) Trustee Peter Dawson, Edie Howard, 2016 D&B Jones Conservation Award recipient, Wade Martin, Vice Chair Christopher DeGrezia, Esq., Chair Phyllis Marchand and Lisa Butler, Esq. (photo: Douglas Abbott)

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Alan Grover
Ira Guterman
Carl and Carol Haag
Sharon Hallanan +
Doser Hammonds +
Margaret Harmens
David Harper
Ellen Heath and Robert Schuster
Charles Heitzmann +
David and Carol Heitzmann +
Lee Herrick
Stephen Hughock and
Cynthia Dixon
Colin and Margaret Hill
Jeff Hootland and
Michelle Hamilton
Ann Hoffenberg
Carol Hollingsworth
Tom and Karen Horn
John and Susan Horvath +
Stephen Horvath +
James Huffman and
Barbara Clements
Barbara Johnson
Grace and Jo Johnson
John Kalmbach
Michael Kane
Robert Karp and Linda Oppenheim
Mary Kaufmann +

At the 2016 Masquerade Ball, Phil Getty as the “Green Man” — an ancient symbol of the eternal cycle of nature who dies and is reborn (photo: Carl Geisler)
In Honor of Barbara Andrew:
Susan Spaeth
Bonnie Randall
Robert and Ellen Ginsberg
Park School:
T onya Parnak
Karen Holmes:
Phyllis and Sy Marchand
Joanne and Steven Samuel
In Honor of Jon McConaughy:
Ruth Gibson
Christine Fowler-Zelley
Patricia Flores
Charles and Shirley Fisher
Clem and Joanna Fiori
Karen Du Mars
Clem and Joanna Fiori
Charles and Shirley Fisher
Patricia Flores
Christine Fowler-Zelley
Ruth Gibson
Jack and Norina Graham

Lisa Granizio
Alice Grebanier
Scott Greenwood
Deborah Griggs
Alan Grover
John Hagan
Daniel Harris and Jane Buttars
Biernet Henskens
Ann Hoffenberg
Sharleen Holliday
Janet Horton
Haig and Carol Kasabach
John Kasner
Ed Kilbourne
William and Barbara Krisak
Chris and Leslie Kuenne
Charles and Mary Leck
Warren Libensperger
Byron Lun and Mo Lin Yee
James Malloy
John Maret and Pat Brundage
Steven Marx
Lawrence McKinney
Jonathan Michalik
Doug Miller and Tari Pantaleo
Marjorie Miller
Howard Minnaugh
Janice Montervino
Barbara Morrison
Horatio and Beth Nichols
Judith Norcross
Mark Peel and Anne Zeman
Kerry Perretta
Robert and Doris Petruska
Alexandra Pizzi
Clyde and Rosemarie Quin
Bonnie Randall
Carl Reasoner
Barbara Ross
George and Karen Sare
Patricia Sayles
Robert Schuster and Ellen Heath

In Memory of Elizabeth Stetson:
In Memory of Lee Tetzeli:
In Memory of John and Jill Guthrie:
In Memory of Charles C. Townsend:
In Memory of Diana Lidow:
In Memory of Leslie Davis Potter:
In Memory of Marsha Russo:
In Honor of Jon Watson:
John Thurber and Connie Clooman

In Honor of Betty: 
Marian Luizzi
In Honor of Judith: 
Susan A. Fink
In Honor of William: 
Margaret Lancefield

In Honor of Lilian Gross:
Kurt and Jacqueline Mislow
In Honor of Jon McConaughy:
Ruth Gibson
Christine Fowler-Zelley
Patricia Flores
Charles and Shirley Fisher
Clem and Joanna Fiori
Karen Du Mars
Clem and Joanna Fiori
Charles and Shirley Fisher
Patricia Flores
Christine Fowler-Zelley
Ruth Gibson
Jack and Norina Graham

In Honor of Robert and Caroline Phinney:
Verena Edwards
In Honor of Barbara Bikes:
Michael Brill and Karen Linder
Deb Brookway
Nancy Burns
Lisa Catara
Howard Chang
Allen Cohen
Pat Coleman
Joyce Copleman
Cynthia Coritz
Andrew Cosentino
Sean Cuddahy
Ann Darlington
John and Margaret Delaney
Phil and Kathy DeTanna
Bill and Joanne Dix
Terry Donofrio
Marsha Downschen
Karen Du Mars
Clem and Joanna Fiori
Charles and Shirley Fisher
Patricia Flores
Christine Fowler-Zelley
Ruth Gibson
Jack and Norina Graham

LiLLiPIES
Maddalena’s Cheesecake and Catering
McCaffrey’s Princeton Market
Merzert Country Park Commission
Olsson’s Fine Foods
Pennington Quality Market
Purple Martin Conservation Association
River Horse Brewery
Rojo’s Roastery
Song Bird Essentials
Terracycle

In-Kind Business Donations & Matching Gifts
Donations Received
January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

IN-KIND BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS
Back Brook Farm
Blue Moon Acres Farm
Bridge Musico
Cherry Valley Country Club
designing the WE
Doubling Brook Farm
Isles
Jersey Cider Works
John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State University
LilLiPIES
Maddalena’s Cheesecake and Catering
McCaffrey’s Princeton Market
Merzert Country Park Commission
Olsson’s Fine Foods
Pennington Quality Market
Purple Martin Conservation Association
River Horse Brewery
Rojo’s Roastery
Song Bird Essentials
Terracycle

Terra Momo Restaurant Group
The Brothers Moon
Willis Greenhouses
Young Audiences of New Jersey

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Matching Gifts Program
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The Merck Foundation
Morgan Stanley
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Tyco Employee Matching Gift Program

Special thanks to:
Princeton AlumniCorps for their partnership 2016 –17 Fellow
Kelsey Kane-Ritsch is Enhancing our Mission to Inspire a Conservation Ethic

In Memory of C.K. Williams:
In Memory of Charles C. Townsend:
In Memory of Elizabeth Stetson:

In Memory of Lee Tetzeli:
In Memory of John and Jill Guthrie:
In Memory of Charles C. Townsend:
In Memory of Diana Lidow:
In Memory of Leslie Davis Potter:
In Memory of Marsha Russo:
In Honor of Jon Watson:
John Thurber and Connie Clooman

In Honor of Barbara Andrew:
Susan Spaeth
Bonnie Randall
Robert and Ellen Ginsberg
Park School:
T onya Parnak
Karen Holmes:
Phyllis and Sy Marchand
In Honor of David and Karen Holms:
Tonya Parnak
In Honor of the Staff of Johnson Park School:
Robert and Ellen Ginsberg
In Honor of Mary Leck:
Bonnie Randall
In Honor of Andrew Littauer:
Susan Spaeath

In Honor of Jon McConaughy:
Jonathan and Pam McLean
In Honor of Linda Mead:
Bill Resor and Story Clark
In Honor of Robert and Caroline Phinney:
Verena Edwards
In Honor of Leslie Davis Potter:
Yuki Moore Laurenti
In Honor of Marsha Russo:
Robert Russo
In Honor of Jay Watson:
John Thurber and Connie Clooman
Technology Meets Nature: A New Way to Experience the Abbott Marshlands

Imagine making a journey back in time as you navigate Crosswicks Creek in the Abbott Marshlands, visiting the bluffs that witnessed Lenape Indian life and early English settlers. You hear the sounds of a railroad, summer insects and the call of an osprey as you learn about key events that shifted the course of American history and affect our lives today. As your watercraft becomes a time machine, you see and learn about what the area looked like in the 1800s.

This is exactly what you’ll be able to do when the TravelStorys app for the Abbott Marshlands Paddling Tour goes live this spring. Support from the William Penn Foundation provided funding for the new app, which is designed by land trust veteran Story Clark. Story’s intent for this interactive audio program was to “get people to look up from their cellphone, where they get much of their news and information, while using this common technology as a portal to learn about the natural world.”

D&R Greenway’s AlumniCorps Fellow Kelsey-Kane Ritsch worked closely with members of the Friends for the Abbott Marshlands Education Committee to write, edit and record 19 three-minute stories. You can download the app when in range of cellular data or wifi, and then listen on your smart phone as stories automatically trigger through use of GPS as you paddle through that area. No wifi reception is needed once the app is downloaded.

The engaging stories were compiled by archaeologists, ecologists, historians and others with special knowledge of the area. “The idea is to connect people to place, and to broaden the audience of people who become stewards through education and experience,” says D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead. “The stories relate to the places as you travel past them, in real time.”

For example, you will learn how the D&R Canal was built in the 1830s and provided a safe passageway for manufactured goods, coal, and people from Philadelphia to New York. The D&R Canal was one of America’s busiest navigational channels and occasionally surpassed even the Erie Canal in the amount of freight it transported.

You will also find the answer to a local mystery: why a section of the canal has been paved over.

Look up—did you know that Joseph Bonaparte, the younger brother of Napoleon, once had a palatial home up on the bluff? Following Napoleon’s defeat at Waterloo in 1815, Joseph fled to America where he purchased the Point Breeze Estate on Bordentown Bluff. He constructed a lavish three-story home and eventually his estate grew to over 2,000 acres, with winding roads, rustic bridges and even a lake for pleasure boats.

Voices heard in the app include Dr. Greg Lattanzi, the NJ State Archeologist; Mike MacEwan, a local educator; Kelly Rypkyma, Manager of the Tulpehaking Nature Center; and D&R Greenway’s Linda Mead who shares stories of preservation and local heroes. The Paddling Tour includes a map showing each of the story sites, as well as 86 images to enhance the experience. In addition to this water tour, there will be a land-based tour coming later this year for walkers and cyclists.

Dr. Mary Leck, a long-time advocate for protection of the Abbott Marshlands, collaborated on many of the stories. She shares her enthusiasm for the valuable experience that can be enjoyed through the new app: “For new visitors paddling on a sunny day, this is an opportunity to understand the ecological and culture significance of the area. At home or in the classroom, the voice narration coupled with photos can entice and enhance the experience before a canoe even launches.”

For many years, Dr. Leck studied the marsh with colleagues from around the world. “I will email a link to the app to former colleagues who undertook the first ecological studies in the 1970s, and to Tasmanian and New Zealand scientists who were charmed by ‘my’ marsh.” She continues, “The first marsh water trail brochure was developed by D&R Greenway in 1997—and now, we have an app. Imagine how we will learn about the Abbott Marshlands in another 20 years!”

The TravelStory GPS app is free and available through the App Store and on Google Play.
Learn and Be Inspired

Events are free to attend unless otherwise indicated.
For gallery hours and to RSVP: rsvp@drgreenway.org or call (609) 924-4646.

Art Exhibits

Nature’s Healing Gifts
with special exhibition Mystery and Magic – New Jersey’s Pinelands
by photographer Albert Horner
February 13 – April 7
Opening Reception: Friday March 3 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. RSVP please.
Multimedia works depict gifts from nature that have healed us for centuries and continue to sustain us.

Celebrate the Green
Friday, March 17 (St. Patrick’s Day)
The party begins at 7:00 p.m. at Music Together, Hopewell
Wear your green to celebrate green spaces and join in the shenanigans, good cheer, hors d’oeuvres, Irish music and dancing.
Tickets: $65 at www.drgreenway.org benefits D&R Greenway and VOICES

Olivia Rainbow Gallery
Student Art Exhibits

The Natural Way
February 27 – March 29
Mixed-media art by Hun School students

Natural Influences
March 30 – May 12
Celebrating April as Autism Month
Eden Autism Services students’ art

Honoring Hannah Suthers
Birdwoman of the Sourlands
May 15 – June 16
Portraits by Princeton Day School student Erica Walsh

A weathervane was erected by D&R Greenway in 2015 to honor the children of St. Michaels.

Educational and Community Events

Terrarium Building Workshop
Thursday, March 2, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. RSVP please.
Leader: D&R Greenway trustee Rich Goldman
Learn how to create a mini-ecosystem under glass and take yours home to enjoy!
$15 per person donation; limited to 15 attendees; materials provided.

Framing the Future: What Does the New Administration Mean for the Environment?
Wednesday, April 12
Doors open 6:30 p.m., program 7:00 p.m. RSVP please.
A thought-provoking discussion co-sponsored by D&R Greenway and the Green Hour. Space is limited.

Wednesday, April 26
Doors open 6:30 p.m., program 7:00 p.m. RSVP please.
Speaker: Author Florence Williams
The award-winning author sets out to uncover the science behind nature’s positive effects in her investigation that takes us from forest trails in Korea to islands in Finland and eucalyptus groves in California.
Co-sponsor: Princeton Public Library as part of its 2017 Princeton Environmental Film Festival.

Decoys & The Abbott Marshlands Timeline from Craft to Art
Wednesday, May 17
Doors open 6:30 p.m., program 7:00 p.m. RSVP please.
Speakers: Ron Kolbi, Owner, Decoy and Wildlife Art Gallery, Frenchtown; Jay Vawter, Donor, Vawter Decoy Collection at D&R Greenway
Includes presentation of a slide show: From Wood Block to Championship Saw Whet Owl by World Class Carver Pat Godin.

A Home in the Country:
St. Michaels’ Orphanage and Industrial School
Tuesday, March 21
Doors open 6:30 p.m., program 7:00 p.m. RSVP please.
Speaker: Jack Koeppel, Hopewell historian.
Did you know that boxing champ Jack Dempsey visited St. Michaels Orphanage, passing out candy to the children who lined up to greet him?
Join us for a fascinating evening of photos and facts depicting the history of the St. Michaels Farm Preserve and the children who lived there from 1898-1973.

D&R GREENWAY LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2017

♣
Imagine our region without D&R Greenway...

Preserve Now, Protect Forever.

The lands we protect are highly valued. But we all know their real value to the people who live and work here … Priceless.

Join us!

www.drgreenway.org