GREENWAYS

Newsletter of D&R Greenway Land Trust Volume 26, Number 1 Winter 2017

Land Preservation Update

Since 1989 D&R Greenway has permanently preserved 293 properties, approximately 19,926 acres valued over \$399,000,000, an area more than 33 times the combined size of the World's two smallest countries (Monaco and the Vatican City)!

Everyone Can Make a Difference by Saving Land for Life

appiness 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."



Inside

- 2016 Donors, Partners and Volunteers
- · Changing of the Guard
- Lands Preserved Now... Protected Forever
- Technology Meets Nature
- Learn & Be Inspired

Did you know that preserving land provides financial rewards, too? "Open space has a tax benefit for municipalities and taxpayers compared to development," shares Marchand, formerly Princeton's mayor. "This includes no additional municipal costs for roads, police, schools and

Continued on following page



Land for Life — Now and for the Future

Call to Action:

Challenge Donor will Match Gifts toward Land for Life

MR 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.

Land for Life

Continued from page 1

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." "There are many organizations to support in our community but I feel D&R Greenway's efforts to protect Land for Life should be at the top of everyone's list because it benefits all of us and every living thing, now and forever," says Betsy Sands, D&R Greenway Trustee. "We know how important balance is to nature,

health and the future of our Earth."

"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!"



The Big Vision—Acres of Preserved Land

Land for Life—Acre by Acre

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

James and Kathleen Amon Kristin Appelget Kathleen Bagley Christopher Barr and Patricia Shanley Thomas and Abigail Barrows David Blair Xan Blake and Sam Wolthuis Brian and Shirley Breuel Bristol-Myers Squibb Charles Carmalt Thomas and Adele Cawley Joyce Copleman Patricia A. Cullen, Esq. and H. Stewart Wheller III Peter and Kristin Dawson Christopher and Donna DeGrezia Shawn and Robbie Ellsworth Jeff Emde Joe and Laurie Emde Stuart Essig and Erin Enright Firmenich Charitable Foundation Johan and Emily Firmenich Timothy Gardner and Meredith Asplundh Frederick and Irvine Gaskin

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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.

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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.

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Donald B. and Beverley Jones* Gabriella Klein* Lawrence Koplik 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

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.



Sky and Liza Morehouse with newly-elected trustee James Fiorentino (photo: Thomas Marshall)

The Taplin Circle

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)

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We miss our former Chair Brian Breuel (l) shown here at the 25th Anniversary Gala in 2014 (photo: Carl Geisler)

A Living Example of Land for Life

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



The Millstone River on newly preserved land

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 decisionmaking 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**

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- + First time donors
- * 5+ year donors
- ** 10+ year donors
- *** 15+ year donors
- **** 20+ year donors
- **** 25+ year donors



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.

Woodcock Walk Spring Breeding Display

Sunday, March 12, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. St. Michaels Farm Preserve (Aunt Molly Road) Leader: Emily Blackman, D&R Greenway's Land Preservation Associate

East Amwell History Cemeteries and Mills

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon Omick Woods at Rocktown Preserve Leaders: John Allen, East Amwell Historical Society, and Toni Robbi, East Amwell Environmental Commission

Ornithology for Families Saturday, May 13, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

St. Michaels Farm Preserve (Barn) Leaders: Kim Kurki, author, *World of Birds*, and Leslie Davis Potter, D&R Greenway

Business Partners in Preservation

Te encourage you to patronize our Business **V** 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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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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(l-r) Peter Lawson-Johnston speaks about Growing up Guggenheim with Linda Mead and former D&R Greenway Board Chair Alan Hershey

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.

Richard and Sally Chrisman Jack and Ronnie Cimprich Charles and Cindy Clark Thomas Clarkson and Kay Hancock Lewis and Lynn Coopersmith Jean Crane Elizabeth Cutler and Thomas Kreutz Mary Doscher Louise Dunham Peter and Landis Eaton Joanne Elliott Peter Erdman Peter and Shaness Farrell Joseph and Dorothy Feinberg Patricia Flores Ieremiah Ford Frederick and Gael Gardner Alexandra Gerry Joseph and Mary Giordmaine Curtis and Sophie Glovier Jay Gompper Jack and Norina Graham William M. Green Barbara Greer William Grun Lulie and Gordon Gund Ira Guterman John and Jill Guthrie Richard and Carol Hanson William and Barbara Happer Margee and John Harper Daniel Harris and Jane Buttars Robert and Stephanie Harris Lee Herrick Philetus and Nancy Holt Rush Holt and Margaret Lancefield Eleanor Horne Adrian and Diana Huns Robert and Maryann Isham Barbara Johnson Mary Ellen Johnson Carroll King Michael Koczwara and Barbara Taylor Andrew Kulley and Diane Montagne William Kurtz Peter and Dede Lawson-Johnston Mitchell Leibowitz and Sue Kirkland Simon and Carole Levin Harry and Ellen Levine Warren Libensperger Todd and Laurie Lincoln Andrew and Anva Littauer Patricia MacNeal Charles and Sharyn Magee Robert Mason Gregory and Anne Elise Matthews Linda and Stephen Mead Iacqueline Meisel John and Nancy Merritt David and Sally Mikkelsen Ioshua and Linda Milstein Bill and Susan Moody A. Perry and Elisabeth Morgan Susan Naquin Louis and Mary Nepote Edward and Greenie Neuburg Harry and Judith Pinch Allen and Rhona Porter Howard and Alex Powers

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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

Peter and Helen Goddard

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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)

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One Critical Acre Gives Shape to Preservation of Cultural Heritage

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

The Gift of a Beautiful View Helps One Couple with Retirement Goals

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 parttime 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 Wellers' estate, he had the experience of "converting land from private to public use," as Princeton acquired the Wellers' 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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D&R Greenway purchased this land to save it from development.

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To learn more: Cheryl Goldman, Sales Associate, Callaway Henderson Sotheby's International Realty, (609) 439-9072









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

Volunteers

D&R Greenway Land Trust especially thanks each of our volunteers for their unique partnership in our mission.

ART DOCENTS: Volunteers assist gallery open houses and special public openings at our Marie L. Matthews Gallery at the Johnson Education Center.

CAPITAL CITY FARM: Volunteers at Trenton's first urban farm plant crops and flowers, maintain and improve the landscape, and distribute produce and flowers to schools, senior centers, and hospitals.

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS: D&R Greenway is fortunate to have expert ornithologists who regularly identify and count bird species on our D&R Greenway preserves. This data is submitted to eBird.org at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a rich data source for basic information on bird abundance and distribution.

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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Revolutionary Land Protected: Title Reveals Bonaparte Connection

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 snap shut. 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.



Walking a trail trod by Native Americans (photo: Jay Watson)

2016 Partners in Preservation

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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D&R Greenway President & CEO, Linda Mead (c) with (l-r) Trustee Peter Dawson, Edie Howard, 2016 Donald 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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Environmental Leadership in the 21st Century—(l-r) NJ Senator Bob Smith, former NJ Governor Christine Todd Whitman with Gery Juleff, Kathleen Biggins and John Gattuso of the Green Hour (photo: Thomas Marshall)

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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 each year. (photo: Carl Geisler)

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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



(photo: Scott Greenwood)

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.



Mullica Bend Sunrise, Albert Horner

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

Educational and Community Events

Terrarium Building Workshop

Thursday, March 2, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. RSVP please.

Leader: D&R Greenway trustee

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.

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

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.



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

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.

The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes us Happier, Healthier and More Creative

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.



Hear how decoys have evolved over the past century and learn where you can see these waterfowl at the Abbott Marshlands.





One Preservation Place Princeton, New Jersey 08540 Tel (609) 924-4646, Fax (609) 924-5577 www.drgreenway.org

D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.

D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc., is a regional, 501(c)(3) nonprofit land conservancy dedicated to preserving and caring for land, and inspiring a conservation ethic.

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