

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
D&R Greenway Land Trust
Volume 26, Number 2
Summer 2017

Land Preservation Update

Since 1989 D&R Greenway has permanently preserved 295 properties totaling 20,165 acres of land worth over \$400 million dollars. Stretched into a four-foot wide footpath, that pathway would be longer than the Appalachian Trail!

A Clear Picture of the Land and Life we Love

Picture this: you are walking along a trail on a D&R Greenway preserve. It's a sunny day. You hear the sound of water flowing over rocks. You feel the coolness of the shade from towering tulip trees. You stop for a refreshing drink of water and bite into a juicy Jersey tomato from D&R Greenway's Capital City Farm. The cares of the world are gone from your mind. You might even hum a tune from a song released in the 1970s, *I Can See Clearly Now*. Your clarity comes from experiencing the direct effects of nature—and of D&R Greenway's mission to preserve and care for land.

This summer, D&R Greenway passed a new milestone—20,000 acres of land preserved.

That's an area twice the size of all of Princeton and just slightly less than

Manhattan Island. All 20,000 acres put together make a square 5.6 miles on each side; stretched into a 4-foot wide footpath, it's longer than the Appalachian Trail. You could fit eight-and-a-half Round Valley Reservoirs into it—more than 468 billion gallons of water.

Numbers don't tell the whole story. The land that D&R Greenway preserves provides the essential ingredients of life. To continue thriving on Earth, humans need clean air and water, nourishment, a diverse web of other living creatures, and places that keep us physically and emotionally healthy—and we need each other.

Why we do what we do is the story of life itself. Land gives life to the planet. D&R Greenway preserves land for the life we love.

Continued on page 4



Proudly Announcing

Reaccreditation awarded August 2017
with no expectations for improvement!

"Accreditation recognizes that D&R Greenway has demonstrated sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship. It ensures the places people love will be conserved forever." —Tammara Van Ryn, Accreditation Commission

Inside

- Recognizing Community Donors to Land for Life
- A Vision for the Future
- St. Michaels Farm Preserve Expanded
- Art, Talks and Field Tours



For Sale: 52 Acre Farm in Hopewell purchased with D&R Greenway's Land for Life Revolving Land Fund to prevent development. Contact Linda Mead to learn more. (photo: Survae.com)

Our Community Supports Land for Life—A Sustainable Future for D&R Greenway's Mission: Preserve, Protect and Inspire

We are grateful to all who contributed to D&R Greenway's successful "Land for Life—Acre by Acre" campaign. Your support ensures that D&R Greenway will remain an impactful, stable and proactive organization that can carry out its

mission to preserve and care for land, and inspire a conservation ethic, now and forever.

Thank you for sharing our vision of green places for people and nature, farms for food and clean water and fresh air. Through Land for Life,

D&R Greenway established a Revolving Land Fund that will continue to grow in the future to support protection of important conservation lands, farms and community preserves. To learn how you can join with us, contact Linda Mead or Leslie Potter at 609-924-4646.

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Kristin Appelget
Theodossios and Elaine Athanassiades
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St. Michaels Farm Preserve



Cadwalader Park, Trenton

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Christopher and Donna DeGrezia
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Firmenich Charitable Foundation
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Timothy Gardner and Meredith Asplundh
Jeanne Garner
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Richard and Elisabeth Ginman

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William A. Grun
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Janet Haring
Margee and John Harper
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Robert and Stephanie Harris
Mary Lou Hartman
Ash & Marion Harvey
Robert Heil
Isaac and Joann Held
Alan Hershey and Phyllis Frakt
Stephen Highcock and Cynthia Dixon

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Michael and Carol Hollander
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Cynthia Jaworsky
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Livingston and Maria Johnson
Estate of Robert Johnston
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Todd and Laurie Lincoln
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Walter H. Lippincott
Daniel and Bobette Lister
Andrew and Anya Littauer
James and Cate Litvack
Salim and Patricia Lone
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Capital City Farm

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 Marianne Mantell
 Michael and Ann Mantell
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 Mathematica Policy Research
 Joseph and Tamera Matteo
 Donald and Donna McCloskey
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 Yolanda Whitman McPhee
 Linda and Stephen Mead
 Douglas Meckel and
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 Mary M. Michaels
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A Vision for the Future

Life takes us down paths that, once taken, determine our future. Twenty years ago, I opened the door into the kitchen of a Sears Roebuck cottage on Mercer Road in Princeton. With unmatched furniture and 1960s paneling, that little house was home to D&R Greenway.

It was 1997. I had been saving land across the Delaware River in Pennsylvania for a decade when I became the third executive director of D&R Greenway. The enthusiastic passion of the Board of Trustees enticed me to join with them to make an impactful difference in New Jersey. The potential to create and implement a future vision was palpable. Now, twenty years later, I can see clearly the difference we've made.

Speaking with those who visit and partner with us at our permanent home—the Johnson Education Center,

opened in 2006—is especially rewarding because I see the meaning this special place brings into peoples' lives and the accomplishments of collaboration. Walking trails at our St. Michaels, Cedar Ridge and Sourlands preserves, I am awed by the beauty and benefits of nature that will always be here because we cared.

Our Land for Life campaign provided the opportunity to meet with many of our donors and hear their dreams for the future of D&R Greenway. As we embark on our next Strategic Plan and create a vision for our collective future, I hope you will let me know what is important to you. Let's look to a green future and create it together.

Linda J. Mead

Linda J. Mead, President & CEO
 lmead@drgreenway.org



A Clear Picture

Continued from page 1

CLEAN WATER...

It's fitting that our preservation history began by saving headwaters of the Stony Brook. Land containing wetlands and forested first-order streams remains one of our top conservation priorities. Protecting water at its source is essential to ensuring water quality downstream. Trees, plants and soil on protected land replenish ground and surface water, filter contaminants and absorb stormwater. Communities benefit from reduced cost of water treatment, as well as protection from flooding.



Marsh mallow at Mannington Meadows

CLEAN AIR...

To understand how preserving land benefits clean air, just Breathe! There is nothing like fresh air, naturally filtered by trees, to demonstrate the impact of preserving land. Trees, and the soil



beneath them, are marvelously effective at filtering particulate pollution. One study found that trees remove 17.4 million tons of particulate matter in a year, for a \$6.8 billion reduction in health care costs—and avoidance of 850 deaths. D&R Greenway's 2,000+ preserved acres in the Sourlands enables thousands of trees to serve as health care providers.

NOURISHMENT...

Of the 20,000 acres we've preserved, 8,000 are farmland. We've been at the forefront of preserving land that is the foundation of a local "food shed." People have rediscovered the unbeatable taste and the health benefits of food produced by a farmer whom they know and trust. Helping farmers stay close to markets boosts our local economy, reduces energy use, and nurtures bonds of community among farmers and customers. Our preserved farms range from family produce and pastures for grazing animals in the countryside to the 2-acre Capital City farm in the heart of Trenton.



New York ironweed at Cedar Ridge Preserve

BIODIVERSITY...

Every acre of land contains over 43,000 square feet; 20,000 acres is 871 million square feet. Each square foot is just a slice of the Earth's biosphere: the thin membrane that supports life on the only planet where we know life exists. The biosphere begins beneath the soil, home to literally billions of organisms per cubic foot, all of them creating nutrients essential to life. Eminent biologist Edward O. Wilson writes, "When you thrust a shovel into the soil..., you are, godlike, cutting through an entire world.... the most vital place on Earth for human existence."



Monarch butterfly (photo: Tasha O'Neill)

Above-ground, in Cranbury, Hopewell and Princeton, we've created places for plants and their pollinators to flourish: meadows full of purple coneflowers, yellow black-eyed Susans, pink milkweed, orange butterfly weed, yellow goldenrod, white asters, red cardinal flower and blue lobelia. For every color there is a flower and for every flower there are hundreds of hungry bees, butterflies, moths and even hummingbirds that feed on the plants nectar. Worldwide, pollinator populations are in freefall, endangering not only wild plants but also the 60 percent of food crop plants that depend on their services. Our preserves help support a vital food web.

"Nature is always lovely, invincible, glad, whatever is done and suffered by her creatures. All scars she heals, whether in rocks or water or sky or hearts."

— John Muir

Migrating neotropical birds, those harbingers of spring and bringers of song, follow insect populations as they head north in spring to their breeding grounds. D&R Greenway's forested preserves provide insects what they need to feed and reproduce: leaves, flowers, and trees. The birds come to feast on the insects, continuing the circle of life.

Our preserved oasis near Trenton, the Abbott Marshlands, is the northernmost tidal freshwater wetland on the Delaware River and home to an amazing variety of amphibians, plants, and aquatic animals. Once derided as disease-infested swamps that had to be drained and covered over, wetlands are now understood to be among the most biologically productive ecosystems on Earth.



Walking through the meadow at Cadwalader Park, Trenton

HEALTH AND HEALING...

Not so long ago in human evolutionary history, land was the default case, not something we had to set aside and save. Human sensory systems are tuned to resonate with the land we've evolved to need. Our noses recognize the scent of geosmin, the chemical substance linked with wet earth, the source of life, at one part in a trillion. The retinal system in our eyes scans landscapes in fractal patterns that enable us to discern both the forest and the trees... as well as a leaf and the whole sky beyond it. We are drawn to those patterns in nature, and in art: we call them beautiful. In the words of poet Gary Snyder:

This living flowing land
is all there is, forever,
We are it
it sings through us...



Goat Hill Overlook, Lambertville

No wonder that, as more and more scientific studies are proving, people respond to green space physically and mentally. Simply looking at images of natural landscapes reduces blood pressure, improves mood, accelerates healing. Even better for our health, though, is direct experience of nature. Sight, sound, smell and physical activity are good, but it is the complex experience of all of these at once—the experience of place—that does us the most good. Finland's public health officials advise spending at least 5 hours a month in the woods to stave off depression. Try "forest bathing," the Japanese healing practice of spending time in expanses of hinoki pines. D&R Greenway's public preserves are perfect for bathing in Northeast hardwood forests, replete with sharp tannin aromas of oak leaves, lush humidity of fern-carpeted rocky woods, and the sweet song of wood thrushes like the jingle of bells on the wind.

D&R Greenway's preserves include 30 miles of trails to walk, hike, play and explore: to engage in the activity embodied by the Norwegian word "friluftsliv," literally "free air life," which might be translated as "having fun outdoors." And as if fun weren't

enough, it's good for us. Physical activity in nature decreases activity in our neural centers for anxiety and depression. It makes us resistant to ruminating on negative thoughts. Nature changes our brains for the better.

COMMUNITY...

Humans' remarkable success on planet Earth can be attributed in no small part to our astonishing capacity for community. We are said to be a hypersocial species. Research shows that nature contributes to the social glue, increasing our sense of empathy and instinct to cooperate. One study found that after just one minute gazing up at tall trees people were much more likely to help someone in need. Our bodies reinforce the social effects: the more socially connected we are, the lower our stress levels and inflammation: in other words, we lead healthier lives.

Every square foot of these 20,000 acres of D&R Greenway-preserved land creates a link in a network of community that connects people to each other, and to the life that land makes possible.



Expansion of St. Michaels Farm Preserve Honors Children

When D&R Greenway joined with the community seven years ago to preserve our St. Michaels Farm Preserve, a celebration was held on the land. Children ran through the fields, enjoying the freedom of open space. Watching nearby was a former resident of St. Michaels Orphanage, with tears running down his cheeks. Asked why he was crying, he said, "For many children, the years spent at the orphanage were lonely. Today, my tears of pain are turned to tears of joy. This land has come full circle as a place where children can laugh and play."

The story of St. Michaels Farm Preserve began with children, and D&R Greenway Land Trust's preservation of the final 20 acres that complete this Hopewell preserve reminds us that the story of preservation is about the future.

"We purchased these last twenty acres from the Catholic Diocese of Trenton this spring," says D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead. "Our mission to inspire a conservation ethic is best represented by the children and families who will walk this preserve and learn to care for the natural world. These young people will carry our mission into the future."

To that end, St. Michaels Farm Preserve will honor children in several meaningful ways. Historic remnants and artifacts that tell the story of children who once lived here will grace a quiet place for healing and reflection. Pathways will lead into the farm, where

a barn is topped with a weathervane depicting four children holding hands.

The story of St. Michaels began at the end of the 19th century. In response to the crisis of poverty, disease and overcrowding in cities, the Catholic Church provided homes for orphans and children whose parents could not care for them. The Diocese of Trenton built the St. Michaels Orphanage adjacent to the borough of Hopewell, NJ—on property recently acquired by D&R Greenway. The facility operated until 1973, housing more than 400 children at its peak.

"Try to envision a crowd of 10,000 who came to attend the groundbreaking in 1896, with a parade of 3,000 people marching here from the Hopewell Train Station," recounts local historian Jack Koeppel. "Orchestras played, choirs sang and officials delivered in-depth speeches on the subject of child welfare."

Ex-heavyweight champion of the world Jack Dempsey visited the new orphanage, mounting the steps to address an adoring crowd as the band played. "I suppose you are all planning to be someone worthwhile when you grow up," he told them. "Whether a firefighter, doctor or lawyer, success depends on clean living. Do not smoke or drink, and be obedient to those who have charge of you." He shook the hand of each child and distributed candy into every hand.

St. Michaels Farm Preserve was created in 2010 by D&R Greenway and local citizens who donated their personal



funds, together raising \$11 million, to prevent an immense development that would have destroyed the small-town character of Hopewell Borough. Supporters included children who understood the importance of keeping open space in their community.

With the newly preserved property, St. Michaels Farm Preserve is expanded to 415 acres. "We have had our eyes on adding this parcel since we closed on the larger preserve," says D&R Greenway Vice-President Jay Watson. "The Diocese could have sold it for development. It was our persistence that put us in a position to complete the deal."

D&R Greenway has become known for its ability to act quickly to raise dollars that enable preservation in times when public funding is reduced, as happened here. "Many may not remember that the Diocese kept these 20 acres intending to build a parish house on this site," says Linda Mead. "When they decided to divest themselves of this property, it was only natural that it become a part of our preserve and a special place to honor the many children who lived here for nearly a hundred years."

The new open space parcel will serve as a transition from Hopewell Borough to the farm preserve. D&R Greenway will enhance the pedestrian entrance to the preserve and create a park-like, peaceful setting as funds become available to support the vision.

"I am sure that stories and images will continue to be discovered about this property, and we will capture, honor and share them as appropriate," says Jay Watson. "This is a story much larger than the 20-acre parcel. This land has been a fixture of the community for well over a century." 🌱



St. Michaels Orphanage at the turn of the century (foreground); farm preserved by D&R Greenway in 2010 (background).

Learn and Be Inspired: Walks, Talks and Art

Events are free to attend unless otherwise indicated.

For gallery hours and to RSVP: rsvp@drgreenway.org or call (609) 924-4646.

Art Exhibits

The Same Moon: Diverse Voices of Nature

August 28–October 27

Opening reception: Friday, September 29, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Artists: Kenneth J. Lewis Sr., Nancie Gunkelman, Chih Yu Fan

Different artistic perspectives are unified in their celebration and appreciation of nature. Includes art specially shipped from China for this exhibit.

"All the diversity, all the charm, and all the beauty of life are made up of light and shade." —Leo Tolstoy

Olivia Rainbow Gallery

New Jersey's Threatened and Endangered Species

In partnership with Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey

September 7–October 17

Fifth-grade winners of *Species on the Edge* art and essay contest from every county in the state.

Predators and Prey

Fine-art carvings of raptors and songbirds

On private loan from Curator Jay Vawter for a limited time.

November 6–December 28, 2017

Opening reception: Friday, November 17, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Special guest: Master Carver
Greg Pedersen of British Columbia

Life-like and large-as-life carvings by internationally renowned artist Greg Pedersen include a 30-in. tall Harris hawk, a full-size merlin, and ten miniature raptors. Over a dozen songbirds include Carolina wren, cedar waxwing and American warbler. Get a close-up look at these prize-winning carvings set in finely detailed natural habitats. This special exhibit is on view for two months only.



Special day trip

Journey Through the Heart of the Pinelands

Thursday, September 28, 8:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m.; Rain date: October 5

Leaders: Albert Horner, award-winning photographer; Barbara Solem, historian and author.

Tickets: \$185 fee (per person) includes bus, entrance fees, box lunch and dinner, and supports D&R Greenway's mission. Limited to 26 participants. *Walking shoes recommended.*

Travel with us to explore the forgotten towns and historical sites of New Jersey's Pinelands with photographer Albert Horner and local historian and author Barbara Solem. Step back in time at forgotten towns that once thrived in the Pine Barrens, such as the Forks, Hog Wallow, Atsion Mansion and Batsto Village. Experience some of the fascinating places made famous in John McPhee's book, *The Pine Barrens*. Bring your camera to capture the unique flora and fauna and natural beauty of this ecologically sensitive region.

Signed books will be available for purchase:

Barbara Solem—*The Forks: A Brief History of the Area, Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens and Batsto Village: Jewel of the Pines*

Albert Horner—*Pinelands: New Jersey's Suburban Wilderness*

Reservations are required and are first-come-first-served with payment. Please RSVP by September 20, 2017. (Tickets refundable through Sept. 19.) Purchase tickets at www.drgreenway.org



Albert Horner photographing the beauty of the Pinelands (photo: Art Danek)

Walks and Talks

Second Weekend Walk

Sunday, October 8, 10:00 a.m.–noon
Cider Mill Preserve, Cider Mill Road,
East Amwell

Talk: Living Parks

Thursday, December 7, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Speaker: E. Timothy Marshall, Fellow,
American Society of Landscape
Architects

New York City's Central Park and Trenton's Cadwalader Park, both designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, have endured as "living parks." Learn how park planning has responded to the demands of today, using NYC's Highline and our local Mercer Meadows as examples. Tim Marshall, ETM Associates, has created significant national and international public spaces, designing them to suit the neighborhoods they serve.

Fall Native Plant Sales

Friday, Sept. 15, 3–6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m.–noon

Fridays, Sept. 22, 29 &

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 3–5 p.m.

See our catalog at:
www.drgreenway.org

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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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Save the Date

Saturday, October 28
6:30 – 11:00 pm
Location to be Revealed

Get Down to Earth at
D&R Greenway's
Inaugural
Revolving Land Fund
Property

D&R Greenway's Masquerade Ball

Come in costume and enjoy the spirits of the evening

It's the Only Masquerade Ball in Town – Don't Miss the Fun!

For more information visit www.drgreenway.org