In Perpetuity

Preserving the Quiet Serenity of the Marino Farm

Seventy years ago, when Joseph Marino Sr. purchased the 114-acre property on Rileyville Road in East Amwell Township he bought it with a clear vision of preserving the land he loved. Now his three sons are carrying out their father's wish and the farm will soon become a link in the Northern Stony Brook Greenway stretching to the Sourland Mountain Reservation in Hunterdon County.

Joseph loved the land and the plants and animals who lived on it, and he instilled this love of the natural world in his three sons, Frank, Carl, and Joseph Jr., who in the family tradition, have passed it on to their children.

Digging through the historical records in Flemington, Frank learned that theirs was the third family to own the property since Native Americans made their life on the land. In the late 1700's, the Riley family bought the property from the Native Americans paying with hogs, sugar, and tea. The property was farmed by the Rileys for nearly two hundred years, passing down through generations until the last of the family members to farm passed away seventy years ago. The remaining children followed other professions away from the farm and the property was subsequently sold.

The new owner, a man from Brooklyn, had intentions of circumventing the laws enacted during the Prohibition Period and set up a still to make whiskey in the barn. The plan was short lived however, when the police discovered the still and the bootlegger was forced to sell. It was then that Joseph Marino Sr., who made his living in the shipping business and his home in Brooklyn, purchased the property. He was eager to establish a summer home for his family in the serene, rolling hills of Hunterdon County. For some twenty years, the FBI paid a yearly visit to the farm before becoming convinced that alcohol was no longer being made on the premises.

The Marino boys spent many happy summers at the farm with their mother, an aunt and her four children, and other guests. Frank recalls, “It was like having your own summer camp. We had apple fights in the orchard across the yard, spent hours jumping into the soft hay-filled mow, and days roaming and exploring the woods and creek behind the house.” Many fond memories were born and nurtured through the years, and have kindled a strong sense of place and love for the land in the three, who grew from young boys to men at the farm. Their father joined the family on weekends and whenever possible, and later, after he retired, moved to the farm permanently. Geni, the matriarch of the Marino family, still lives at the farm today.

The remains of the foundation are all that is visible of the first house the Rileys built deep in the woods behind the barn. In 1813, the Rileys built a second house closer to what is now Rileyville Road. This home consisted of one

Continued on page 7
Common Ground

Green Acres Legislation Signed
In June, Governor Chrystie Whitman signed Green Acres legislation that included a $2.5 million appropriation to Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc. This appropriation provides $300,000 each for 3 different project areas. These funds will help us expand the Stony Brook Greenway that we began in 1987 and build upon the greenway started in the Griggstown/Canal State Park area. The Stony Brook begins in the Sourland Mountains in East Amwell, flows through Hopewell and Lawrence, and empties into Carnegie Lake. Four of our Green Acres projects will enhance the greenway along the Stony Brook. The Northern Stony Brook project includes the headwaters of the Stony Brook and mature forests. Up to 200 acres will be partially donated by the owners.

Conservation Options

Bequests of Property
By MARSHA BEIDLER AND LISA PRESSER
There are substantial benefits to making a bequest under your Will, of part or all of your real property to D&R Greenway, Inc. Let's assume a person owns a house plus 10 acres of real property with a fair market value of $500,000 at the time of death. The property passes to a beneficiary other than your spouse, the federal estate tax payable may be as much as $275,000. On the other hand, if your estate deduction of $500,000, and no estate tax will be payable on the property. Further, the estate avoids the selling expenses. Finally, and most importantly, you and your family will have the enjoyment of knowing the property is passing to a worthwhile cause.
If you do not want to bequeath the entire property to Greenway, you can care for a portion during your lifetime to specifically describe the separate interests to be bequeathed to your heirs and to Greenway. However, no major or minor subdivision will be necessary. Another way to benefit Greenway, your family, and still get a charitable deduction for your estate, is to grant a conservation easement under your Will to Greenway. Your heirs inherit the house and all of the acreage and have full beneficial use of the property.

Volunteer Spotlight
People make the organization run, in a small nonprofit like D&R Greenway, volunteers play a vital role in our success. Several individuals have made major contributions, giving hours of time and effort over the course of the year. The work isn't always glamorous or easy—but we try always to make it fun. During the next few issues of our newsletter we plan to recognize these key volunteers and hope that you enjoy learning more about them.

John H. Rassweiler, Ph.D.
After a successful career in chemistry, marketing, product development, and health care culminating as president and owner of his own healthcare company, John Rassweiler decided it was time to phase out his leadership role in his business and pursue his personal interests in conservation, open space and environmental protection. What a formation decision that has been for D&R Greenway!

John approached us with an offer to help with our trails and quickly assumed responsibility to oversee the implementation of the McBurney Woods management plan.

Elizabeth T. Guthrie
It was another stroke of good fortune for D&R Greenway, when Liz Guthrie called early in May seeking volunteer opportunities to help her focus on ideas she would like to pursue through her urban studies major at Haverford College. Concerned about the lack of open space, particularly green space in cities, and frustrated with the hectic pace of development in the area, Liz was eager to learn about land conservation.

Liz helped to coordinate the events held at the Haverford/Trenton Marsh this summer. She found her experience to be invaluable and was among the most exciting so far, is learning about the many areas of natural habitat that are accessible in Mercer County, particularly the Hamilton/ Trenton Marsh. It is wonderful to know such beauty and space still exists because of organizations like D&R Greenway, I am glad to be part of the effort and hope to continue contributing to such a valuable cause. Thank you Liz, for your hard work and your flattering comments.

Liz, a life long Princeton resident, is the daughter of John and Jill Guthrie. She will be returning to Haverford this fall as a senior.

John Rassweiler and Peggy McNutt reviewing a proposed trail plan for the McBurney Woods.
Midsummer Marvels of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh

An invitation to walk the marsh with Mary Lede is always well received, and one for which I willingly juggle my schedule. Mary, a biologist professor at Rider University, has been doing research at the marsh for the past 13 years and is familiar with the plants from that time. In the spring, I accompanied her as she counted seedlings and I was eager to join her for the plant survey in July. It is always interesting to learn more about the animals, birds, and plants that live at the marsh. Each is a marvel when examined closely.

We donned hip boots and set out at low tide on one of the few days this summer with relatively low humidity. Still, the marsh was hot and close. Mary bushwhacked through the thick stands of plants, stepping from plant root to plant root, making a path just wide enough for us to pass through single file. At low tide the water drains from the higher areas and flows only through the meandering channels. Some channels were clearly visible, but caution was needed since many of the narrow channels and small mud holes were completely camouflaged by the leaves of the matting marsh plants. Watching closely where Mary stepped, I placed my feet in the same spaces she had just vacated.

As we walked, a pleasant fragrance was released from the circular stems and slender leaves of sweet flag crushed beneath our feet. All parts of this plant are fragrant including its inconspicuous green flowers which grow at a forty-five degree angle from the stem. The plant spreads by its underground rootstock which was once used to make candy.

Even though the thermometer climbed well into the upper 80’s, long sleeves and pants were appropriate for the occasion. The marsh plants were well developed and packed closely together. Many towered above our heads, others scratched at our arms and legs as we walked to the survey site. Brown masses of root clumps grew six to eight inches tall and were growing up, because they couldn’t spread out—to capture the moisture and nutrients the tide carried in.

We wound our way through stands of giant reed, whose growth, but

and the young leaf stalks cooked like greens. Deer also feed on this plant.

Another common marsh plant with similar growth habits is arrow arum. The arrow-shaped leaves of arrow arum have a more substantial constitution with a deep V notch at the petiole and deeply pointed tails. Blooming earlier in the season, the much smaller flowers were already developing into seed pods.

Unobservable from the ground high on strong-stemmed petioles. The yellow cup-like flowers were easily hidden by the much taller and larger leaves. A close look revealed several blooms and many developing seed pods. Inside the pods, small ball-shaped seeds were held in place by a cotton-like membrane. The pods and membranes decompose easily, releasing the heavier seeds to sink to the bottom, plant themselves, and mature into a future generation.

The first plumes of wild rice swayed gracefully on tall stems in the slightest breeze. Already towering over most of the plants, the delicate reeds had stiffened as the sun increased its strength. Some were blooming with tiny yellow male flowers below and less conspicuous female flowers above. The seeds, which form above, are a favorite of red-winged blackbirds, who prefer them while the rye still a little milky and not quite ripe to human taste. When the seeds are ripe, some birds were plentiful that day, the wild rice was still too young for them to harvest. An unusual plant that appears frequently throughout the marsh is dodder. This orange thread-like parasite, grows on other plants, twisting itself around and actually taking roots into its host to suck the nutrients it needs.

Exciting the marvels of the marsh and which we do not see on land. It may be easier and more comfortable to explore by canoe, and most of the other species are available for close inspection along the water channels. In addition, a great variety of birds can be seen feeding by the water including swallows, herons, and kingfishers.

The marsh teems with life in the summertime. Bring a good guide book or two and perhaps some sunglasses and insect repellent and explore the natural world. It may be easier to learn the names of the plants and insects, but it is also interesting and rewarding to look closely at the midsummer marvels of the marsh.

Hamilton/Trenton Marsh
Fall 1994 Calendar of Events

This is a wonderful time to explore and learn more about the marsh. Events are open to the public and are free of charge. However, group size is limited and reservations are required. Directions will be mailed to you after we receive your registration.

Registration deadline is one week prior to each event. To make reservations or to receive additional information about an event at the marsh, please call the Marsh Hotline at (609) 452-0525.

Field Sketching
Saturday, September 17, 1994
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Discover the world around you by drawing what you observe. The marsh offers a diverse setting of cattails, lakes and woodlands as well as historic buildings and wildlife sights as well as migrating hawks, osprey, ducks and geese.

Canoeling the Crosswicks
Saturday, October 1, 1994
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
This tour of the Crosswicks offers a unique and enjoyable experience. Canoeing the Crosswicks is also a wonderful time to see migrating birds as they stop to rest and refuel on their way south to their winter homes. The group will launch in Bordentown and ride with the tide as it flows to the historic Crosswicks Creek. Tom Wilkins, an avid canoeist from Hamilton/Trenton Marsh, will lead the tour.

Nature Photography at the Marsh
Saturday, October 8, 1994
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Learn how to capture that special feeling you sometimes get in nature—the magic of the moment. The trip will last approximately four hours. Registration is limited to this popular event and fills up quickly. Please reserve early so you are not disappointed. Cost is $20 per person or a canoe and $5 registration fee per canoe if you bring your own. Maximum per canoe is two adults and two children under age 16. Children under 16 are free provided they are accompanied by two adults.

Fall Migrating Birds
Saturday, October 22, 1994
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Thousands of birds migrate through the marsh each fall often stopping to rest and refuel on their arduous journey to their winter habitat. Join us as we explore the marsh for warblers, thrushes, and other interesting birds as well as migrating hawks, osprey, ducks and geese.

Marsh Brochure Available
A new brochure about the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh is available. Call us if you haven’t received your copy. Additional copies are available at no charge. If you have a place to display them or a group to give them to, please give me a call at (609) 452-1441.

Help us spread the word—encourage others to learn about and enjoy the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh.

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Help us spread the word—encourage others to learn about and enjoy the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh.
A grape vine tangled and wove itself among the tree tops and arching limbs of sweetgum grew in clumps knee to hip high. A squirrel scampered down the trunk of an oak tree and wreathed the leaf litter for food just a few feet away from us, until we commented on how tame it seemed to be. Then, with no more than its tail dashed off to the safety of the deeper woods, leaping from tree trunk to tree trunk never climbing more than two feet above the ground.

Hickory nuts, acorns, and the spiny fruit of the sweet gum were common among the leaf litter covering the trail. Here and there, mohawks, wildflowers, discarded feathers, and a sky-blue piece of broken eggshell added rich color to the moose, beneath our feet. Several Indian Pipes, unusual flowers that they grow without chlorophyll, pushed their nearly translucent white arched stems and hanging cups through the rich humus. A brown daddy-long-legs travelling in the same direction as we were, raced along signaling as it tried to avoid my next step. A green frog with large dorsal spots and a white belly leapt through the woodland grass to safety along the side of the trail. The damp air carried the rich aroma of white pine and the sound of a wood pecker calling out its names.

We left Trolley Track Trail and turned toward the deeper woods and the Stony Brook. Over the years, the name of the new trail has been changed twice to reflect the maturing forest through which it passes. Initially known as the Beech Trail, the name changed to Lady Slipper Trail as the beech died through natural forest succession and the lady slipper flourished. Also, the flower met the same fate and the trail now bears the much less descriptive name of Middleditch Trail.

Along the Stony Brook, in the shade of many large trees, jeweled stood three to four feet high topped with tiny orange flowers. Chickadees flitted about and called from the undergrowth. On the far bank of the Stony Brook, perched on the falls, blackbirds stretching out over the water, several grackles sipped from the brook. A brooklist warbled of our intrusion. The rich, raspy call of the scarlet tanager announced its presence, but the beautiful red bird with black wings remained hidden. We left the woods and we used the field. The thick bushes along the field’s edge were dotted with dogwoods. Two tufted antinomas, white tails, a blue damselfly and others darted about feeding on other flying insects. The insect hum building call from the underbrush and caught sight of a white-tailed deer. The common yellow-throat, in the thickets, could have seen the wire-like movement of another bird. A “pizz” brought the bird out to investigate and a female yellow-throat flitted from the Continued on facing page.

The Institute Woods and Farmlands

The woods and farmlands at the Institute for Advanced Study in New Jersey are nationally recognized as a valuable wildlife, open space, agricultural and historical resource. The Institute Woods are among the most researched natural areas in the country. New Jersey has long been a critical link for migratory birds, a refuge and a home in the chain that supports the southern poles of these birds. Nearly 350 species of birds have been recorded in the woods, and over 150 of these are regular visitors. The Institute Woods are a critical component of the complex interconnection of species and patterns of drainage. The Woods create a favorable environment for ecological and genetic diversity and age of the area has a strong attraction for both scientific and naturalist.

A Walk in the Woods

Saturday, October 15 9:00 AM-Late 3:00 PM

315.623.6313

D&R Greenway and the Central Jersey Sierra Club are co-sponsoring a walk in the Institute Woods followed by an optional brown bag picnic lunch. The Institute Woods possess the best areas to see migrating warblers and enjoy the brilliant spring flowers and the new growth. There will be a guided walk on a walk along the meandering paths, meet at the Thomas Chalet in the Thomas Chalet or one of the parking lots. Call 315.623.6313 to register.

In Perpetuity

Continued from page 1

downstairs with a large walk-in fireplace and two bedrooms upstairs. As the family expanded, the house grew also, and in 1850, 4 rooms were added.

Across the yard and closer to the woods, the stands the original barn built by heavy oak timbers, cut from the land, fastened by mortise and tenon and pegged. Although the ramp once used to pull the horse drawn hay wagon into the barn the building stands much as it did during the time when the cows walked in single file to their designated stanchions in the bottom of the barn and the homemade was an east front.

Originally farmed as hay fields, the fields left untouched for so many years have found their natural succession, with a small open field by the house, the entire property is wooded. A professional forester has managed the property for many years. Topping white pines and spruce, with their gracefully draped boughs standing at the edge of the yard offering a home for feathered friends and shelter from the hot summer sun. Deeper in the woods, tall oak and hickory stretch to the sky. The understory is thick and easily hides the birds and animals who call it home. A small stream trickles through the woodlands and follows a meandering course on its way to the Stony Brook. Throughout, the streaming of a chorus of cicadas is carried on the breeze, announcing the fullness of the summer season.

Distressed and concerned with ongoing development, the three Martino sons are eager to see the property preserved in perpetuity. Frank speaks for himself and his brothers when he says, “People don’t realize what’s happening. They shear trees down, rip up property with no respect for the land or the community, in which we live. Once its gone, it’s gone. You can’t replace a two hundred year old tree or the beauty of open fields or woodlands with a housing development. This land is so beautiful and has been kept nearly intact as it was years ago, and our hope is that it will be kept the same way in the future. Our intention is to preserve the land and make it available for people to enjoy.”

Woodland Wonders

Continued from previous page

The woodlands were wondrous. When it seemed apparent that the owl was pondering the question of what to talk about with the woodpecker, the crow came last year to watch the hummer and the hummingbird came, it seemed, to watch the crow. In those same moments, to our utter amazement, a tiny hummingbird flew into the clearing and alighted on the top of a dead snag on our side of the clearing.

Here we gathered, at the same moment in the same setting to talk about the woodpecker, the owl that came here last year to watch the hummingbird and the hummingbird, it seemed, came here to watch the crow. In those same moments, to our utter amazement, a tiny hummingbird flew into the clearing and alighted on the top of a dead snag on our side of the clearing.

As we turned back the trail, we noticed for the first time, the heat that had gathered around us. We were grateful for the cool breeze that tickled our hot necks and refreshed our moist faces, and for the gifts that were ours that morning. We were thrilled.

Volunteer for Open Space

Are you curious about how a land conservation organization works? Do you know someone who might be interested in helping out in the community service? D&R Greenway is seeking volunteers to help in our office. We will also need help preparing for our upcoming office move. Call us today— we welcome your help and appreciate your support!

Help close the deal!

By becoming a member of our growing network of supporters, you can help in the preservation and protection of vital natural areas by purchasing critical corridors of land in the region.

Yes! I want to help create greenways! Enclosed is my gift in support of D&R Greenway’s work:

$35  $50  $100
$200  $500  $1,000

other $

My gift is covered by an Employer Matching Gift Program. The matching gift forms enclosed.

*Constitutional $50 and more will result in a set of woodland designed by a renowned horticulturist. Enclosing $100, Davis, $250, $500, or $1,000, $50, $100, or $200 will result in a set of gift cards of $50, $100, or $200, respectively. Some work will be sent with the gift cards of $50, $100, or $200, respectively.

Also included in this gift is a gift towards D&R Greenway’s 2015 Annual Fund.

Ludocia Fund $ Management & Monitoring Fund $ I’d also like information about: volunteer opportunities preserving my stream corridor lands D&R Greenway headquarters watersheds the initiative for snow and ice Haddam Landing Marsh Clip and mail to: Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc. 621 Alexander Road Princeton NJ 08540
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Patricia Orban Quinby
Editor

Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc., is a regional, 501(c)(3) nonprofit land conservancy dedicated to preserving open space along the Delaware & Raritan Canal and its twenty tributary streams throughout central New Jersey.
D&R Greenway began in 1987 as an alliance of regional nonprofit groups, and was incorporated in 1989.