

# GREENWAYS

Newsletter of  
Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.  
Volume 2, Number 3  
Summer 1994

## 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 there, 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 boots, 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

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### Cedar Ridge Trail Open

Winding through approximately thirty acres of fields and woodland, Cedar Ridge Trail on VanDyke Road in Hopewell offers an opportunity to get a close-up look at many species of wildflowers, birds and butterflies. Black-eyed Susan, white yarrow, field daisies, red clover, wild roses, and four-o'clocks were among the many flowers in bloom throughout the fields. White cabbage butterflies, monarchs, and yellow and black swallowtails added color as they joined the bees in gathering nectar from the blossoms. A red-tail hawk flew from its lookout post in the far corner of the field as we approached, and further along on the trail we found a discarded feather, perhaps from the same hawk, caught by a multi-flower rose bramble. Cedar Ridge is open to the public and offers an easy walk. Call 452-1441 for directions and a trail map.

### McBurney Woods Trail Created

On June 4, D&R Greenway, Eastern Mountain Sports and a group of volunteers gathered in celebration of National Trails Day, to create a one mile trail through the 177-acre wooded tract. Logs were cleared and undergrowth trimmed to create the meandering trail and a small area was cleared to provide parking. Work continues on the trails and we hope to have a formal opening in the next few months.

### We Need Your Help We're Moving...

Although still awaiting final approval, we're making plans. We need help with packing, indoor cleaning, minor renovations, outside maintenance and yard work. Weekdays and/or weekends. If you can help please call (609) 452-1441. ♣

## Common Ground

### Green Acres Legislation Signed

In June, Governor Christie Whitman signed Green Acres legislation that included a \$2.5 million appropriation to Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc. This appropriation provides \$500,000 each for 5 different project areas. These moneys 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

through bargain sale agreements. These lands will link McBurney Woods, the 177 acre preserve currently owned by D&R Greenway, to the Sourland Mountain Preserve in Hunterdon County and Highfields.

Further south along the Stony Brook in Pennington and Hopewell, a second project will preserve 48 acres through a below market sale. This project will provide another link in the greenway of already preserved lands including Kunkel Park, the Baldwin Lake Wildlife Management Area, the Niederer Farm and the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association.

Our third Green Acres project is the Central Stony Brook region in Lawrence Township. This project includes a 36-acre farm bordering the Stony Brook. Connected to Rosedale Park, the farm includes forested floodplain and wetlands and nearly completes the connection to the

Transco preserve. Several smaller sites are included in this region also.

Cradle Rock in Princeton and Hopewell Townships is the fourth Stony Brook project. D&R Greenway plans to purchase 128 acres through a below market sale in order to preserve the remarkable rocky outcrops and boulder fields which climbers have made popular through the years. Endangered wild comfrey is found here among the boulders and black vultures have been known to nest in the outcrops as well.

Our fifth project builds on the Griggstown Greenway started with an earlier Green Acres grant. Last year D&R Greenway purchased a conservation easement on 35 acres in historic Griggstown. With the new grant, we hope to expand the number of preserved acres in order to develop a buffer along the canal between Griggstown and Six Mile Run. Preservation will help to protect the rural setting of Griggstown and the D&R Canal State Park, both of which are on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. ■

## 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 you own a house plus 10 acres of real property with a fair market value of \$500,000 at the time of your death. If the property passes to a beneficiary other than your spouse, the federal estate tax payable might be as much as \$275,000, depending upon the estate tax rate imposed for your estate (which can be as high as 55 percent). If your estate does not have sufficient liquid assets to pay the taxes, the estate might be forced to sell the property, incurring substantial costs as a result. Consequently, the beneficiary might receive \$200,000 or less after paying the taxes and the expenses of the sale. If, however, you bequeath such property to Greenway, your estate will be entitled to a charitable

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 carve out a portion to be retained for the benefit of your heirs and bequeath the balance to Greenway. Let's assume the same facts as in the above example, except that you want one of your heirs to receive the house plus 3 acres of land with a fair market value of \$360,000. Under your Will, you can give the house and 3 acres to the heir and bequeath the balance of the land (with a fair market value of \$140,000) to Greenway. As a result, your estate will save as much as \$77,000 in estate taxes. No brokerage

fees will be incurred. You will need to obtain a survey during your life 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 heir inherits the house and all of the acreage and has full beneficial use of the property. However, neither your heir nor any transferee of his or hers can develop the property and the land is preserved in perpetuity.

A bequest in a Will is a fairly simple way to avoid estate tax and to benefit Greenway at the same time. However, it is important that your Will be carefully drafted to maximize the charitable deduction. For additional information, please contact D&R Greenway or your attorney. ■

Marsha Beidler and Lisa Presser are attorneys with the law firm of Drinker, Biddle & Reath in Princeton, NJ.

## Volunteer Spotlight

People make the organization and 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 their 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.

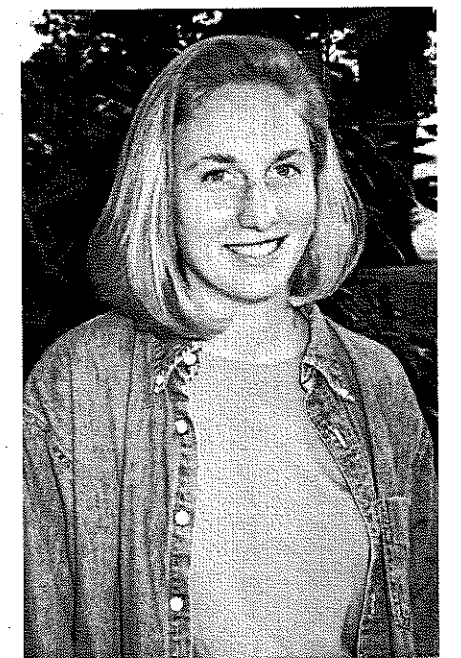
After a successful career in chemistry, marketing, product development, and health care culminating as president and owner of his own healthcare company, John Rassweiler decided it was time to phase out his leadership role in his business and pursue his personal interests in conservation, open space,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

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

A well developed and executed land management plan is an important component of land preservation and insures that the preservation goals become a reality.

Management plans are tailored to each piece of property depending on the terrain of the land, the specifications of the easement and public access. The plan for McBurney Woods includes mapping out and creating a trail, and a small parking area, as well as developing a long range management plan for the land. John is coordinating and implementing the plan, working with board members, contractors, local officials, and other volunteers, including his son, who was part of the group of volunteers who spent several hours on National Trails Day creating the trail in conjunction with Eastern Mountain Sports. John is thoroughly enjoying his work at McBurney Woods and now that the plan is well underway, is eagerly asking, "What's next?!" Kudos to you John, and many thanks for all you continue to do.

John lives in Princeton with his wife Ann, two of his four children and his two shetland sheep dogs, Hawkeye and Eager. ■



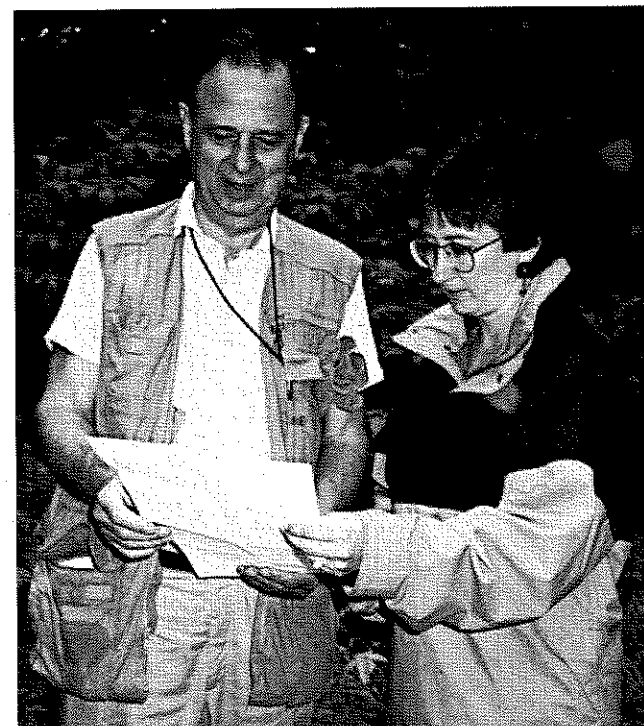
Elizabeth Guthrie

### 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 Hamilton/Trenton Marsh this summer. She found her experience to be invaluable. "What has been 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's wonderful knowing 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 Leck is always well received, and one for which I willingly juggle my schedule. Mary, a biology professor at Rider University, has been doing research at the marsh for the past 15 years and is familiar with the plants that live there. In the spring, I accompanied her as she counted seedlings and I was eager to join her for the plant survey in mid-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 stand 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 maturing marsh plants. Watching closely where Mary stepped, I placed my feet in the same space hers 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 study site. Brown masses of root clumps grew six to eight inches tall—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 ragweed, whose growth, but



Pickerel weed  
(*Pontederia cordata*)

fortunately not pollen, is more robust than the more familiar ragweed of the fields and roadsides. Another tall plant, tear-thumb, aptly named for the tiny bristles covering the back of its leaves and stem, pulled and scratched at anything brushing against it.

We were refreshed by and grateful for any wisp of breeze that came along, and delighted when it carried with it the musical song of a nearby marsh wren. In spring when he arrives, the male marsh wren stakes out his territory and may build as many as ten to twenty nests for the female to choose from. The football shaped nests are attached to reed grasses and cattail stems several feet above the ground. The nests not chosen by one mate may be chosen by another or used for roosts by the male or fledglings later in the year.

Honey bees buzzed the small orange flowers of jewelweed, also known as spotted touch-me-not. Whorls of two-inch-long bright red roots grew from the sturdy stalks of jewelweed to a height of about ten inches, marking the high water level of the incoming tide. These roots develop to help the plant take in sufficient nourishment.

The showy blue spikes of the flowering pickerel weed attracted yellow and black swallowtail butterflies and bees who drank the sweet nectar from the tiny flowers covering the spikes. The seeds of the pickerel weed can be eaten like nuts

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 less showy flowers were already developing into seed pods.

Large spatterdock leaves stood waist high on strong stem-like 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 membrane 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 inflorescence or flower clusters 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 they are still a little milky and not quite ripe to human taste. While red-winged blackbirds 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 sinking roots into its host to suck the nutrients it needs.

Exploring the marvels of the marsh doesn't have to be done on foot. It may be easier and more comfortable to explore by canoe, and most of the same 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 sunscreen and insect repellent and explore the natural world. It may be easiest to look from a distance, but it is always more interesting and rewarding to look closely at the midsummer marvels of the marsh. ♣

## Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Fall 1994 Calendar of Events

Autumn is a wonderful time to explore and learn more about the marsh. Events are open to the public and unless indicated, there is no 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 or the marsh, please call the Marsh Hotline at (609) 452-0525.

### Field Sketching at the Marsh

Saturday, September 17, 1994  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Discover the world around you by drawing and observing. The marsh offers a diverse setting of creeks, lakes and woodlands as well as historic buildings and wildlife amidst the seasonal changes of early autumn. Local artist Kathy Shumway-Tunney will lead us as we take a close-up look at nature and explore the secrets of the marsh. No experience is necessary. Bring your sketchbook, pens and pencils and enjoy sketching the marsh.

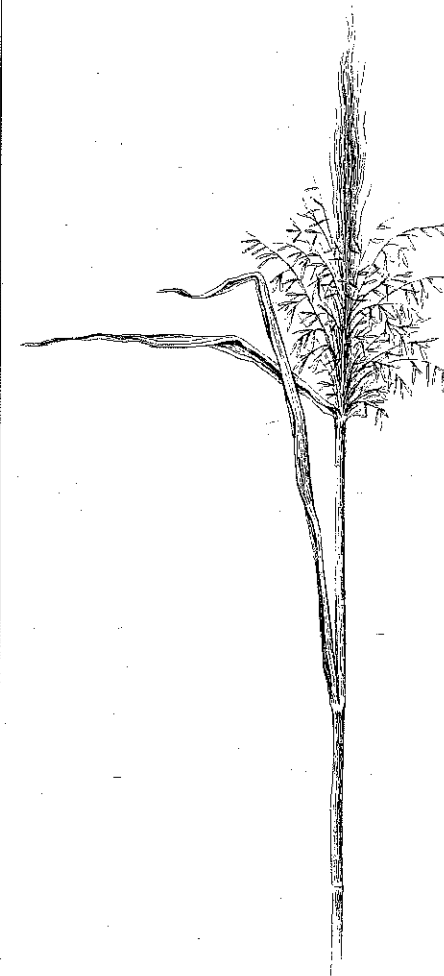
### Canoeing the Crosswicks

Saturday, October 1, 1994  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This tour of the Crosswicks offers a beautiful view of the marsh as well as a leisurely ride with the tide. The delicate flower clusters of wild rice tower overhead swaying gently in the breeze contrasting against the brilliant colors of the season. Autumn 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 fills the marsh and the banks of Crosswicks Creek. Tom Wilkins, an avid canoeist from Hamilton Township, will lead the trip and naturalist Wendy Whitelam will help us to learn more about the birds, plants and animals that live there. After exploring the marsh at high tide,

we will paddle with the tide back to Bordentown. The trip will last approximately four hours.

Registration is limited for this popular event and fills up quickly. Please reserve early so you are not disappointed. Cost is \$20 per person to rent a canoe or \$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. We will match singles with partners when possible.



Wild Rice  
(*Zizania aquatica*)

### 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 mist rising from the water or a ray of sunshine echoing from a leaf or a bird's wing. Nature photographer Phil Moylan will guide us, sharing tips on lighting, exposure, equipment and field techniques. Participants must supply their own equipment. Telephoto and close-up lenses and a sturdy tripod are recommended. Join us as we learn to capture the beauty of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh on film.

### 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 songbirds as well as migrating hawks, osprey, ducks and geese.

**Please note:** We recommend participants wear sturdy waterproof shoes or boots as well as sunscreen and insect repellent. Life jackets are required on the canoeing trips. ♣

D&R Greenway is able to make these events possible through grants from The William Penn Foundation, PSE&G, and Mobil Research & Development.

### 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 share them with, please give us a call at (609) 452-1441.

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

## Woodland Wonders: A Walk in the Institute Woods

Knowing the birds and animals of the woodlands often take a midday siesta to avoid the heat and humidity, we arrived early at the edge of the Institute Woods on a warm summer morning in July. The Institute lands include approximately 300 acres of woodlands and another 290 acres of open fields now lined with rows of corn "nearly as high as an elephant's eye." The well maintained paths invite a contemplative meander through the woods.

As we entered the woods at the head of Trolley Track Trail off of Olden Lane, the thick canopy immediately offered a respite from the warming sunshine. The morning seemed to belong to the wood thrushes; their musical warble not only greeted us, but continued to fill the air as we walked along the path that the trolley once followed on its way from Princeton to Trenton.

Everywhere the eye roamed the woodlands were filled with wonders. Within our first few steps, a variety of birds crossed our path. The female cardinal disappearing into the thicket prompted thoughts of a nest and young. A yellow-shafted flicker flashed its white rump as it flew to a dead snag presumably to find breakfast. We encountered the familiar scolding chirp of robins wherever the thickened canopy prevented the light from reaching the forest floor and thinned the undergrowth below.

Several vines seemed to stretch their lengthening tentacles out to us. Virginia creeper with its star-shaped compound leaf and the familiar poison ivy—leaves of three, let them be—were easy to identify along the path's edge.



Virginia Creeper  
(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

A grape vine tangled and wove itself among the tree tops and arching limbs of bittersweet grew in clumps knee to waist high.

A squirrel scampered down the trunk of an oak tree and searched the leaf litter for food just a few feet away from us, until we commented on how tame it seemed to be. Then, with a twirl of its tail it 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, mushrooms, wildflowers, discarded feathers, and a sky-blue piece of broken eggshell added rich color to the mosaic beneath our feet. Several Indian Pipes, unusual flowers in 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 zigzagging as it tried to avoid my next step. A green frog with large dorsal spots and a white belly leaped through the woodland grass to safety along the side of the trail. The damp air carried the rich aroma of wet white pine and the song of a wood pewee calling out its name.

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 Birch Trail, the name changed to Lady Slipper Trail as the birch died through natural forest succession and the lady slipper flourished. Alas, the flower met the same fate and the trail now bears the much less descriptive name of Middle Trail.

Along the Stony Brook, in the shade of many large trees, jewelweed 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 fallen branches stretching out over the water, several grackles sipped from the brook. A bluejay warned 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 deep woods for the field. The thick bushes along the field's edge were dotted with dragonflies. Twelve spot skimmers, white tails, a blue damselfly and others darted about feeding on other flying insects. We heard a twitching call from the underbrush and caught sight of a small masked warbler—the common yellow throat. In the thicket, we could see the wren-like movement of another bird. A "pish" 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 Princeton are nationally recognized as a valuable wildlife, open space, agricultural and historical resource. The Institute Woods are among the most renowned natural areas in central New Jersey and provide a critical link for migratory birds, a refuge and protection in the chain that connects the northern and southern poles of these birds' lives. Nearly 200 species of birds have been recorded in the woods, and close to 100 are known to nest in the area. There is also an unusual diversity of trees in the InSTITUTE Woods, owing to a complex interplay among its varied soils and patterns of drainage. The Woods create a favorite laboratory for ecologists and students of all ages and have a strong attraction for amateur naturalists.

### A Walk in the Woods

Saturday, October 15  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

D&R Greenway and the Central Jersey Sierra Club are cosponsoring a walk in the InSTITUTE Woods followed by an optional brown bag picnic lunch. The InSTITUTE Woods is among the best areas to see migrating warblers and enjoy the brilliant autumn colors. David LaMotte will lead us on a walk along the meandering paths. Meet at the Thomas Clark House parking lot on Princeton Pike. Call 452-1441 to register.

## In Perpetuity

*Continued from page 1*

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

Across the yard and closer to the woods, stands the original barn built of 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 is gone, the rest of 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 homestead was an active farm.

Originally farmed as hay fields, the fields left untouched for so many years have followed their natural succession back into woodlands and, except for a small open field by the house, the entire property is wooded. A professional forester has managed the property for many years. Towering white pines and spruce, with their gracefully draped boughs stand at the edge of the yard offering a home for feathered friends and shelter from the hot summer sun. Deeper in the woods, tall straight 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 strumming 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 Marino 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 tear trees down, rip up property with no respect for nature or the land, or the communities 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 the same 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*

protective cover of the thicket. A "tap, tap," called our attention to a hairy woodpecker who circled from the backside of a dead snag and picked at the decaying bark.

The most serendipitous moment came as we reached the stand of dead snags where a male pileated woodpecker made his home last year. As we observed the large hole marking the entrance to the tree cavity, a large brown bird flew silently through the woods and landed at the top of a snag on the far side of the clearing. With our binoculars, we easily identified the great horned owl, and then watched breathlessly, as the typically nocturnal predator surveyed the surrounding woodland, turning its neck nearly 180 degrees in one direction, and then twisting nearly the same in the other, all the while seemingly relaxed and unaware of us. We were thrilled.

When it seemed apparent that the owl was here to stay, we continued to talk quietly about the woodpecker, the crowd who came last year to watch it and the hummingbird who came, it seemed, to watch the crowd. In those same moments, to our utter amazement, a tiny hummingbird flew into the clearing and alighted at the tip top of a dead snag on our side of the clearing.

Here we gathered, at the same moment, in the same place—the majestic great horned owl, probably the largest bird to call the InSTITUTE Woods home, the tiniest feathered jewel of the woods, the ruby throated hummingbird, and two humbled observers, who watched in awe and stayed until both birds left.

As we turned back to 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. ■

## Volunteer for Open Space

Are you curious about how a land conservation organization works? Do you have talents you'd like to use in 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 participation and appreciate your support!



New England Aster  
(*Aster nova-angliae*)

## Help close the deal!

By becoming a member of our growing network of supporters, you can play an important role in preserving vital stream corridor lands throughout the region.

**Yes!** I want to help create greenways! Enclosed is my gift in support of D&R Greenway's work:  
 \$35    \$50    \$100  
 \$250    \$500    \$1,000  
 other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 My gift is covered by an Employer Matching Gift Program. The matching gift form is enclosed.

\*Contributors of \$50 and more will receive a set of wildflower notecards designed by Hopewell artist Heather Lovett. (According to IRS rules, the value of this gift, \$6.00, must be subtracted when calculating the tax deductibility of your contribution.)

*Also enclosed is a gift towards D&R Greenway's:*

Land Acquisition Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Management & Monitoring Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*I'd also like information about:*

volunteer opportunities  
 preserving my stream corridor lands  
 D&R Greenway footpaths  
 Hamilton/Trenton Marsh

*Clip and mail to:*  
 Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.  
 621 Alexander Road  
 Princeton, NJ 08540

## D&R Greenway, Inc.

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D&R Greenway began in 1987 as an alliance of regional nonprofit groups, and was incorporated in 1989.

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