In Perpetuity
Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.: An Historical Perspective

During the past year, Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc. has experienced several significant changes. Along with a completely new staff and a new office, we have new projects underway and many new members. While it is important to focus our energies forward, it is also important to remember our roots. In remembering these roots, we affirm our founding purpose and goals and find the rudder that helps to steer the ship and keep our organization on course.

Delaware & Raritan Greenway began in the mid 1980s when a group of citizens, concerned about the loss of open space in central New Jersey, determined to organize a regional land conservancy. As is usually the case in the creation story of any organization, a key person acts as the impetus and provides the farsighted vision. That person in this story is C. McKim Norton and D&R Greenway grew from his vision of how central New Jersey could retain the most vital part of its natural heritage in the face of rampant suburban sprawl.

“Kim” Norton convinced a critical group of the region’s environmentalists and planners that the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park should be seen as the basis for an open space network that could tie together larger, already preserved spaces and the smaller remnants of woods or fields that were left in development’s wake. With its watershed of 400 square miles extending from the Sourland Mountains to the coastal plains, Norton envisioned the D&R Canal as the spine to which the region’s open spaces are attached just as arms and legs are attached to the human spine.

The value of this vision was grasped and articulated by Sam Hamill, then of Mercer, Somerset, Middlesex Regional Planning Council (MSM), Rosemary Blair, then of the D&R Canal Coalition, Bob Johnston, then of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Laurie Kerr, of Friends of Princeton Open Space, and Jim Amon of the D&R Canal Commission. With others, this group forged the structure of Delaware & Raritan Greenway as a vehicle to realize Kim Norton’s vision.

Begun as an alliance of nonprofit organizations and launched with a gift of $10,000 from Friends of Princeton Open Space in 1987, D&R Greenway became a special project under the auspices of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. Our mission was threefold:

- To acquire land and conservation easements by purchase or gift, and to preserve, protect, improve, conserve and manage these properties.
- To engage in education and other activities designed to enhance the protection of the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational values of the Delaware & Raritan Canal Park.

Continued on page 7

We Have a New Home

In mid-October the offices of D&R Greenway moved to 570 Mercer Road in Princeton. Thanks to the help of a few hard working volunteers including Joe Bird, Alan Hershey, Kate Litvack, Brownlee Taylor, and Harry and Carol Turner, the yard was spruced-up and the house readied for occupancy on very short notice.

A special thanks goes to the Turners for fixing the garage door and providing gutter guards to direct the thousands of falling maple leaves over, rather than into the gutters. Through a very generous donation from PSE&G we received several desks, chairs, and other office furniture to furnish our more spacious quarters. We are also very grateful for Carnegie Carpet Outlet’s generous donation of new carpet.

We still need bookshelves, a pencil sharpener, file cabinets, and an easel. Other items on our wish list include a toaster oven, area rugs, floor lamps, dishes, hand towels, a ladder, paint, paint brushes, broom, sponge mop, bucket, flashlights, pruning shears, and a snow shovel. Please keep us in mind as you clean out your attic and garage.

We are also looking for someone to assist us with snow plowing. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please call.

Our new address is
Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.
570 Mercer Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
Tel (609) 924-4646
Fax (609) 924-5577.

If you visit, look for the ‘Greenway leaf’ (courtesy of Joe Bird) on our mailbox. •
Common Ground

In Memory of Donald B. Jones, Esq.

It is with great sadness that Delaware & Raritan Greenway learned of the death of longtime board member and friend, Donald B. Jones. Donald served as a board member of D&R Greenway since its inception and made a tremendous contribution throughout New Jersey's non-profit preservation efforts. "I like the rural scenery and good architecture," he once said. "I guess I'm a sucker for saving New Jersey landmarks." Born in Morris, Donald graduated from Yale University and Yale Law School. In 1953 he moved to Delaware Township with his wife Beverly, where he owned and operated the 250-acre Brook Hollow Farm. Jones was the president and counsel of Charles Jones, Inc., a Trenton computer corporation dealing with title searches and related aspects of legal and real estate services. The family business dated to 1906, when his father, Charles, started a legal search firm; Donald formally established it under its present name in 1937. Under his guidance, Charles Jones, Inc. installed equipment that by 1972, made the company a leader in the field of computerized search systems. But to a wider public, Jones was best known as a determined preservationist who spent much of his time and money over the last 35 years to save what he called "those lovely old landmarks." Among the New Jersey structures he saved were the Green-Sargentville Covered Bridge, named after families in that area and the last of its kind in the state; the Locktown Church in Hunterdon; the Prallsville Mills in Stockton; and the Tudor mansion in Trenton which once belonged to the family of John A. Roebling, the builder of the Brooklyn Bridge. All were restored and are used as cultural and educational centers. Along with working as an active trustee of Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Donald served as Commissioner on the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission, member of the New Jersey Tideland Resources Council, vice president of Hunterdon County Planning Board and chairman of the County Shade Tree Commission, a member of Delaware Township Planning Board, chairman of Delaware River Mill Society, Delaware River Watershed Association, a trustee and past president of New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and a former member of New Jersey State Water Supply Advisory Council and New Jersey State Clean Water Board. Donald was past president of Yale Law School Association of New Jersey and a member of the Hunterdon County Bar Association and the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Delaware & Raritan Greenway board and staff extend their sincere sympathy to Donald's family. He will be missed.

Volunteer Spotlight

While he considered becoming an architect, he chose instead to pursue the field of graphic design. Thanks to family and friends, he gained exposure early in the field. Although his "flashy" portfolio took him to the city, upon graduation from Carnegie Mellon University in 1972, the birth of a child and "desperation for a blade of grass" soon brought him back to the country. In 1977, Malbon accepted a position with Princeton University and since the mid-1980s has served as Associate Director for Publications. He's helped Princeton keep pace with the rapidly advancing technology in the fields of graphic design, typography, and printing, as they moved from traditional methods to desktop publishing. Malbon accepted the challenge eagerly and enjoys his role as his department's computer expert. The role of "Mr. Fix-It" fits him well and he's happy doing what he's doing. "I like working with people, helping them to solve their problems and get a job done. The process of putting words on paper and producing multiple copies is a satisfying one. I'm always learning something new." He's long left his early ambition to be an architect, although from his perspective he sees many similarities. "I can build things that don't cost a lot of money, and don't take a lot of time," he adds. "Mistakes aren't the end of the world either."
Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Update

Funding Renewed

D&R Greenway is grateful to The Will and Jenny Whiteside Foundation and the Bahna Foundation for generously renewing their funding of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Preservation Program. At a program review meeting in mid-August, $65,000 for each of the next two years. This support will enable us to continue a unique blend of conservation outreach and education programs already underway at the marsh and to work more closely with public officials and landowners to develop and coordinate a management plan to permanently preserve and protect these valuable wetlands.

Slide Presentation and Brochure Available

Through generous funding from the Delaware Estuary Stewardship Council, D&R Greenway has developed a slide presentation and brochure about the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. The 30-45 minute slide presentation describes the rich natural, historical, and recreational resources of the marsh. The brochure provides information about the project and encourages people to visit the marsh and participate in its protection.

Prime Time Focus

Late in the summer, the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh was the focus of the Prime Time camera crew of WWLL TV Channel 6 in Philadelphia. A special thanks to all of the volunteers who participated: Hamilton Township Mayor John Rafferty, Dr. Mary and Charlie Leck, Molasko Canoe Club members Tom Williams, Elaine Goodfellow, Harry and Carol Turner, Ruth Gibson, and Dottie Dree for providing us with the expertise that helped us understand the marsh and Dr. Dora Zonneveld of the Williams Institute of New Jersey State Museum in Trenton. The program aired on October 1.

Prime Time has agreed to allow D&R Greenway to show the program for educational purposes. A limited number of copies are available for loan.

Jennifer Feerick Joins Staff

Jennifer Feerick, an AmeriCorps Volunteer with the New Jersey Community Water Watch Program (NJCWW), joined the Greenway staff as an intern in September. Jennifer is expanding our public education and outreach program to help increase awareness of the tremendous resources of the marsh. In addition to speaking with community groups and school students, she is coordinating the stream monitoring program, organizing cleanups, and creating a community water watch group.

She is one of 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers who will provide services in public safety, health, education and the environment in President Clinton's national service program. Jennifer is from New City, NY, and is a recent graduate of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, where she earned her Bachelor's degree. She is currently working at Envirostor (formerly Environmental Studies Concentrating in Policy and Management). Welcome Jennifer!

Water Monitoring Volunteers Sought

Continuing the effort initiated by the Delaware Riverkeeper, D&R Greenway began a water monitoring program at the marsh in October. As a part of this program, Hamilton/Trenton Marsh provides important ecological functions. The marsh filters drinking water for area residents, contains floodwaters, absorbs and filters a substantial amount of storm water runoff from the streets and buildings of Trenton and Hamilton before it enters the Delaware River, serves as part of the water filtration system for the Hamilton Township Water Pollution Control, and provides food for the plants and animals in the entire Delaware Estuary. In addition to weather conditions, wildlife and other visual aspects, the monitoring includes testing for nitrates, phosphates, dissolved oxygen and the water's pH levels. The data gathered will help to characterize the health of the marsh. This information will be helpful to public officials and landowners who want to develop a management plan (including land and water use policies for the marsh).

Monitoring sites have been established on Crosswicks and Watson Creeks. We are looking for individuals, community, high school, and environmental groups to participate in monitoring teams. Volunteers need to be available for two hours once or twice a month to monitor the sites. There are many opportunities to participate. If you are interested call Jennifer at (609) 924-4646. Clean water is important to everyone. Your help will make a difference.

Field Scout Rediscovers Backyard Treasure: Senior Project Focuses on Marsh

BY AMY FRANK

It can be a grueling process deciding what to do for your senior project as a Girl Scout. But for Alyza Stajza, 17, of DeWittville, it was simple. She only had to look to her own backyard. A descendant of a family that has resided in the DeWittville area for nearly 100 years, Stajza decided to research, write and publish a book about the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh, a 1,250-acre freshwater marsh on the Delaware River, which borders her town and the neighborhoods of Laurel Trace, White City and Broad Street Park. For her efforts, she won the Girl Scout's Gold Award, leaving a legacy for future girl scouts to follow.

In her book, Rediscovering Your Back Yard, Stajza traces the rich history of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh area, and discusses some of the plants and wildlife that thrive in the marsh. She also explores the importance of marshes, pointing out that marshes are productive ecosystems which serve as food for many animals and help control flooding during storms.

Stajza said her inspiration for her project came from several articles that she had read in local newspapers about the marsh and a desire to "make more people aware" of the marsh's quiet beauty.

"I wanted to make sure that people will stay interested in the marsh forever to keep it going, so it doesn't die," said Stajza. "More than 30 members of Stajza's maternal family were born and raised in DeWittville and have enjoyed the wonders of the marsh. Her great-great-grandmother immigrated to this area from Austria-Hungary at the turn of the century."

Researching, writing and printing the book took Stajza from August 1993 until April 1994. She read books at the Hamilton Township Library and at her high school, The Lawrenceville School, where she currently is a senior. She also participated in a marsh walk sponsored by D&R Greenway. The project proved to be a learning and growing experience for Stajza."

"I need to build my writing skills," she said. "This helped because I could write about something I like."

Stajza wrote the book during her Christmas break and put the finishing touches on it during her spring break. With the assistance of JoAnn Adams, community service director with The Lawrenceville School, she printed about 100 copies, which were distributed to the contributors, the Hamilton Township mayor, the Girl Scouts, the Hamilton Township Historical Society and D&R Greenway. She also sent copies to the Hamilton Township schools hoping that the book could be worked into the elementary curriculum.

The future looks promising for Stajza. In the fall, she plans to go to college and study chemistry and classics. Thanks to her interest, the future for the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh also looks brighter. Her book is helping to spread the word about the biological richness of the marsh land. Her efforts combined with the work of members of D&R Greenway are helping to ensure that permanent protection for the marsh as a someday achieved. Her work will help protect the cattail rabbits, the opossums, the raccoons, the squirrels, the snakes, the great blue herons and the wood ducks that live in the marsh. Her work will help protect the grey birch, the sassafras, and sumac as well as preserve an important piece of our heritage.

Stajza spent 12 years with the Girl Scouts, performing community service, studying the environment and developing a keen appreciation for nature.

"All these years built up to this," she said.
The Battle of Princeton was fought in the early morning hours of January 3, 1777, near Princeton, New Jersey. It was a turning point in the American Revolution, marking the first major battle of the Continental Army against the British. The Americans, led by General George Washington, managed to defeat the British army and secure a victory that boosted morale on both sides.

The Revolutionary War could not have been won at Princeton, but it could easily have been lost. For months during the hard year of 1776, the American commander, General Washington, had experienced a pattern of defeat and retreat. Badly beaten in late August at the Battle of Brandywine, Washington moved his army across to Manhattan. He hoped to hold the rugged heights at the northern end of the island. But by October, he was forced to abandon this position. The American Army again retreated across the Hudson River into New Jersey. Through late November and the first weeks of December the army fived across the state, finally crossing the Delaware River to Pennsylvania.

Wars were more leisurely in the 18th century. On December 12, the British commander, Sir Walter Howe, ordered his army into winter quarters. He left a thin line of British and Hessian troops spread across New Jersey and along the east side of the Delaware River. The British commander, Sir Walter Howe, prepared to sail for England. Nevertheless, Washington's position was perilous. Desertion and disease had taken a severe toll on his ragged army. The enlistments of many soldiers who had stayed up were at the end of the year. Hoped-for reinforcements from state New Jersey and Pennsylvania were slow in arriving. A discouraging and fearful Congress left Philadelphia for Baltimore.

Rather than giving way to despair, Washington planned a bold stroke. On Christmas night he crossed the Delaware and surprised the Hessian garrison at Trenton. In a complete victory, the American army captured valuable supplies and most of the Hessian troops, some 900 officers and men, and returned to Pennsylvania. On January 1, 1777, encouraged by recollections of the arrival of reinforcements, Washington once again crossed the Delaware, hoping to gain control of central New Jersey.

But the action at Trenton had electrified the British. Abandoning his plans for home leave, Cornwallis hastily led his army from New York toward Trenton. At dusk on January 2, the British Army faced the Americans in a brief skirmish, which ended with the British retreating. Cornwallis sent him a position to win. Mercer's men were routed, but Washington won by the sounds of battle, turned toward the battlefield, and by personally rallying the troops. After a successful artillery attack next to the Thoms Clarke House. This fortunate position allowed him to soundly defeat the British.

The action at Princeton enabled Washington to continue the war with his army intact. The British were never again able to control New Jersey, the vital link between the northern and southern colonies. A National Park Service survey has shown that at least all of the critical Revolutionary War Battlefields have been built upon or are surrounded by modern construction. Princeton is a rare exception. Although the Princeton Battlefield Park preserves only a part of the historic area where the engagement was fought, the land where Washington developed his course of action, where his army marched and maneuvered under the influence of the terrain and circumstances before and after the battle, remains in much the same rural and open state as it was in the 18th century. Encircled by modern developments, this enclave of nature, which was not the same as it was in the field of the American history in its fight for freedom and human dignity.

This article was excerpted from materials compiled by the Institute Lands Preservation Committee.

Historical Perspective

Continued from page 1

- To provide opportunities for the general public to enjoy access to these lands and to assure that the natural resources and the open space scenic values of the Delaware and Raritan Canals Park and its adjacent areas are preserved for the future. Current projects include lands along the Stony Brook, Cradle Rock, Shipetaukin, Griswoldtown, the Washington/Trenton Marsh, and the Institute Woods and Farmlands in Princeton.

Canal Tour a Success

The tour of the "Best of the West" at the Delaware and Raritan Canal held on November 11 was a great success. Blue skies and warm temperatures made a perfect fall day. The scenic drive was made even more enjoyable by the colorful stories of rich history provided by tour leader, Jim Amos. D&R Greenway is grateful for the support for this event provided by the J. Seward Johnson Charitable Trust. We will be offering another tour next year so watch the newsletter for another opportunity to join the fun.

Shipetaukin Woods Preserved

Earlier this year, the Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation acquired Shipetaukin Woods on Carter Road. One of several adjacent or overlapping properties in northern Lawrence that include Tether Lake and the Transcontinental gas pipeline site (for which D&R Greenway holds an 85-acre conservation easement), the 63-acre tract contains wetlands, and the headwaters of the South Branch of the Shipetaukin River.

As the new owner of the land, the Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation will be perpetually open for hikng, bird watching, photography and other forms of passive recreation. The conservation group purchased the land from a group of investors who had planned to subdivide the land and build houses. Fifty percent of the purchase funds came from the New Jersey Green Acres Nonprofit Acquisition Program. The remaining 50 percent was matched by donations and pledges from Mercer County, Lawrence Township, foundations, corporations, businesses, and residents.

"We're thrilled with the success of this public/private venture and that we were able to preserve the land," said Foundation President, Joyce Cosgrove. "It worked because everyone contributed a little bit." For more information call 936-9714.

Need a holiday gift idea?

Stuff aocking with beautiful wildflower note cards designed by Hopewell artist Heather Laverne. The cards depict wildflowers found along the Delaware & Raritan Greenways. Cards are available in sets of six or eight.

I'd like to order wildflower note cards.

- 6 cards of $6.00  
- 2 each: truly lily, slender rockrose, spring beauty, fringed loosestrife

- 8 cards of $8.00  
- 2 each: true lily, slender rockrose, spring beauty, fringed loosestrife

I've enclosed my check for:  

Help close the deal!

By becoming a member you can play an important part in preserving vital stream corridor lands throughout the region.

Yes! I want to help create greenways! Enclosed is my gift of:  

- $50  
- $100  
- $250  
- $500  
- $1,000  
- Other  

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

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

- Land Acquisition Fund  
- Management & Monitoring Fund  

I'd also like information about:

- preserving my stream corridor lands  
- D&R Greenway Forecast Properties  
- Hamilton/Trenton Marsh  
- Delaware & Raritan Greenways, Inc.

Address

City

State Zip

Telephone (area code)

Please make check payable to D&R Greenways, Inc. in my name.

Delaware & Raritan Greenways, Inc.
570 Mercey Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
Our thanks to...

HEADWATER DONORS

$500 to $999 Gifts
Ms. Kate Buttolph, Mr. Robert C. Johnston

$250 to $499 Gifts
Mr. Edward T. Cone, Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Stokes

$100 to $249 Gifts
ORGANIZATIONS: Telephone Pioneers of America–Trenton-Burlington Lifetime Members Club
INDIVIDUALS: Ms. Peggy McNutt, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur P. Morgan, Mr. Henry S. Patterson II, Mr. & Mrs. James T. Powers, Mr. John Waterbury, Fred and Lois Yapel

Gifts to $99
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Bergquist, Ruth & Bill Besser, Mr. Raymond A. Bowers, Mr. Edwin G. Carman, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas M. Clark, Mr. John Clarke, Mrs. Joyce Copleman, Ms. Susan Deckert, Mr. Frank Dello Stritto, Miss Donna Dipietro, Charles and Shirley Fisher, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Genung, Mr. Michael Gimpel, Mr. Al Goldberg, Dr. Eric L. Hagestad, Dr. Janice Bush, Mr. Benjamin Hart Jr., Ms. Cynthia K. Hoffman, Ms. Elaine Kastor, Drs. Mary and Charlie Leck, Mr. Billy Malloy, Mr. & Mrs. Julio H. Menendez, Ms. Julia Peterson, Ms. Judith PINCH, Mr. & Mrs. John Rassweiler, Ms. Denise Reid, Mrs. Mary Tanner, Ms. Kathy Trenner, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Tunison, Harry & Carol Turner, Ms. Barbara Westegaard, Ms. Wendy Whelkam, Mr. & Mrs. Lucas Wilmerding III, Drs. Emmett and Margaret Wilson, Joseph and Elizabeth Witt, Mr. & Mrs. John Zuck, Ms. Elizabeth Zaic

Gifts in Kind
Jim Amon, Joe Bird, Carnegie Carpet Outlet, Central Lewmar L.P., Bob Johnston, Lyons Graphics, Tom Poole, PSE&G, David Sarnoff Research Center, Bill Swain, Harry & Carol Turner, Sharon Walsh

Volunteers
Vern Applegate, Joe Bird, Edwin Carman, John Cavallo, Howard Davis, Dottie Dree, Amy Frank, Ruth Gibson, Alan Hershey, David LaMotte, Beth Lawrence, Mary & Charlie Leck, Kate Litvack, Mimi Lorefantieli and the Bordentown Historical Society, Mahlon & Heather Lovent, Mike Mahen, Merven Society Children of American Revolution of Princeton, Phil Moyer, John Mills, Nate Mills, Elaine Poinsette, PSE&G Employees who built duck boxes to be installed at the marsh, John Rassweiler, Joe Schneltz, Kathy Shumway-Tunney, Ted Stiles, Brownlee Taylor, Harry & Carol Turner, Tom Wilkins, Lois Yapel, Scott Yorkus

Happy Holidays from D&R Greenway!
May hope, peace, love and joy fill your days in this holiday season and all through the new year!

Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.
570 Mercer Road
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
(609) 924-4646
Patricia Orban Quinby
Editor

Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc., is a regional, 501(c)(3) nonprofit land conservancy dedicated to the preservation of a continuous open-space network enveloping central New Jersey's waterways and unified by the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park.

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