

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.
Volume 3, Number 4
Fall 1995

In Perpetuity

Land Conservation: What's in it for You?

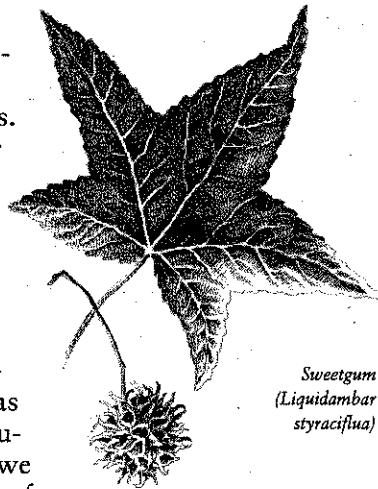
A breath of fresh air. Elbow room. An incredible view. A place to stretch your legs, peddle a bicycle, paddle a canoe. The opportunity to be lifted on the gilded wing of a red-tailed hawk soaring in the late afternoon sun or to pour your cares into a gently flowing stream and watch the water carry them toward the sea. Space to clear your head and gain a fresh perspective.

Enjoying nature's beauty, discovering nature's magic, being nurtured by nature, renews and nourishes the spirit. Important food for starved souls in our high tech, fast paced world of ceaseless cacophony, glitz, and gigabytes. Being in nature, participating in outdoor activities like hiking, birding, canoeing, picnicking and fishing provides the refreshment we need to re-create ourselves.

Open space enhances our quality of life and health in many other ways as well. Preserved stream corridors and wetlands protect water quality and quantity. Wetlands purify our water and recharge groundwater—for free. Plants and stream side vegetation filter runoff, absorb excess nitrogen, phosphorous and harmful pollutants preventing them from entering surface water and ground water systems. To the one million people who get their drinking water from the D&R Canal, the greenway buffering the canal has special significance.

Wetlands also help to stabilize soil, enrich it with organic matter, and extend its capacity to absorb and store water, thereby slowing runoff and helping to control erosion. Marshlands act as a tertiary water treatment system for municipal wastewater, a filtration process we would otherwise have to pay much more for.

Greenways along waterways also help prevent floods and the resulting damage. The ability of a natural floodplain or waterway to channel flood water efficiently, can cause a public emergency when development gets in the way. We need only look to the Midwest and California for two examples of the high economic cost and personal suffering of building in floodplains. Severely affected by flooding, the Sacramento River is reported to be the second most heavily engineered waterway in America, topped only by the Missis-



Sweetgum
(*Liquidambar
styraciflua*)

Continued on page 6

Inside

- Greenway receives Award
- McBurney Woods Update
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Marsh Update
- Calendar of Events

Need a Holiday Gift Idea?

Give a membership to Delaware & Raritan Greenway and your gift will last the whole year through. Members receive advance notice of, and discounts to events, our quarterly newsletter *Greenways*, and the joy of helping to preserve vital stream corridors and wetlands in central New Jersey. Giving a membership is easy—just complete the coupon on page 7 or give us a call!

Music Lovers – Mark Your Calendars!

On Friday, March 8th, a concert to benefit D&R Greenway featuring three folk musicians will be held at Princeton University. Leslie Tucker, of Lexington, VA, singing in her unique “smoke and honey” voice, seems poised to follow the path of artists like Mary Chapin Carpenter with the release of her recently acclaimed album, *In This Room*. Rockwell Church, the duo out of Washington, D.C. whose album, *Inches From the Ground*, was produced by John Alagia (who produced the first Dave Matthews Band CD) has already garnered national acclaim as one of the country's most exciting young acoustic groups. Hold the date, and plan to join us for a delightful evening!

Can We Count on You?

With your gift we are able to preserve stream corridors, wetlands and historically significant lands. These preserved lands protect our water quality, provide important habitat for plants and animals, preserve our history and culture and provide a place for us to play and enjoy nature. Please join us—complete the coupon on page 7 and mail your gift today! •

Common Ground

Greenway Receives Award

Delaware & Raritan Greenway received an Award of Recognition from Delaware River Greenway, a bi-state organization working to protect the Delaware River.

Greenway received the award in recognition of our program to raise public awareness to protect and preserve the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh and preserve open space and enrich the area in the field of environmental and cultural education.

Greenway received two nominations for the award—one from the Mercer County Board of Freeholders sponsored by Freeholder Linda Lengyel and one from the Washington Crossing Audubon Society.

To be successful, a project of this magnitude requires continued support and participation from many individuals. In accepting the award, project director Patti Quinby recognized and thanked several individuals and groups. She credited Jim Amon, Executive Director of the D&R Canal Commission and advisor to the Greenway board, as the first to recognize the tremendous resources the marsh harbors and convince the Greenway board to undertake the project.

The project has been made possible through generous funding received from The William Penn Foundation, Public Service Electric & Gas Company, the Delaware Estuary Program, the National Park Service, Mobil Research and Development,

and many other corporate and individual donors.

Special thanks go to Mercer County Freeholder Linda Lengyel, for sponsoring the nomination by the Mercer County Board of Freeholders and for her ardent support of open space and the successful Adopt-A-Park Program. Quinby also thanked the Washington Crossing Audubon Society, for the nomination and their participation.

In addition, Quinby recognized Mercer County Executive Bob Prunetti, the Mercer County Park Commission and the State Green Acres Program for their support in preserving and protecting the marsh as

well as the adjoining Crosswicks Greenway. Green Acres is actively involved in preserving several parcels at the marsh including the Bordentown Bluffs.

Hamilton Township Mayor Jack Rafferty continues to play a key role, promoting the marsh and assuming leadership roles on the task forces addressing public access and protection of resources. Hamilton Township also received an Award of Recognition from Delaware River Greenway for the 1995-96 Municipal Calendar featuring the marsh.

Quinby also thanked the many dedicated volunteers who continue to work tirelessly doing whatever needs to be done—mailings, guiding groups, water monitoring, cleanups, serving on task forces and many other efforts to promote, preserve, and protect the marsh for generations to come. ♣



Linda Lengyel, Mercer County Freeholder (right) presents resolution nominating D&R Greenway for recognition award to Patti Quinby (center) and Peggy McNutt.

McBurney Woods Preserve

Hikers and birders enjoying the main trail at McBurney Woods Preserve will notice a few additions to the forest these days as D&R Greenway is working to protect native hardwood species on the Preserve. As part of our plan to encourage slower growing indigenous trees, D&R Greenway has placed protective tubes around white, black and chestnut oak seedlings. The yellow net tubes will protect the young seedlings from being eaten by deer during the winter when browsing vegetation is scarce and the young tender shoots become

more attractive food. The tubes will slowly degrade over a few years and by then, the seedlings will have grown enough to survive. The reforestation project is supported by a grant from the Green Communities Challenge Grant Program sponsored by the State Forestry Services, Division of Parks and Forestry, NJ Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to the pilot reforestation project, D&R Greenway will be conducting a tree survey and producing a brochure about the trees in the Preserve. ♣

Winter Woodland Walk

Saturday, January 27, 9-11 a.m.

Join us as Don Freiday, Chief Naturalist for the Hunterdon County Park System, takes us on a walk through the Preserve. We'll learn about winter habitats and ecology, animal adaptations, identify weeds and trees and look for animal tracks. Space is limited and registration is required. The cost is \$2 per person for members (\$4 per member family); \$4 per person for nonmembers (\$8 per nonmember family). For more information or to register, call (609) 924-4646. ♣

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer opportunities are very diverse at D&R Greenway. Some are very visible, others less so. In this issue we feature two volunteers—Peg Benton and Joe Bird—who generously contribute their time and effort working behind the scenes. Both are willing to do whatever we ask and often extend the effort without being asked, just because they see something that needs to be done.

Peg Benton

Peg came to us in March of this year in response to an article she saw in the newspaper announcing volunteer opportunities for the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. Peg's roots are deep in the marsh. She grew up in Yardville and has happy memories of her mother and brothers taking her swimming as a child in Crosswicks Creek. These roots combined with her strong environmental interest and desire to see as much open space in New Jersey as possible protected and preserved, made the volunteer opportunity with D&R Greenway a perfect fit.

Peg works two or three days a week in the office taking and confirming registrations for events on the hotline. She also helps with mailings, the newsletter, photocopying and other needs that arise.

This isn't Peg's first volunteer position. She likes being a volunteer because volunteers are highly valued

and readily accepted. When she moved with her family to Maryland, she volunteered regularly at a Red Cross Blood Donor Center. A move to Minnesota followed. There Peg gave her time and energy to volunteering at a center for victims of domestic violence. Back in New Jersey, she looked for something a bit different.

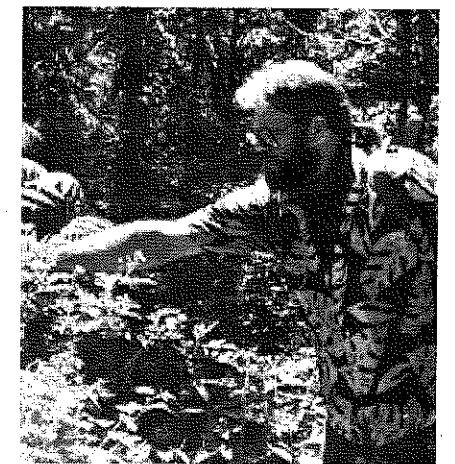
Over the years she had become more interested in the environment. A Beginning Birders course in Maryland got her hooked. "The instructor was great. He taught us about birds, habitats, geology, flowers, and history. Now I really enjoy birding." In her spare time Peg maintains a backyard birdfeeder and in warmer months nurtures petunias, vines, and perennials in her garden in East Brunswick. She also enjoys spending time with her daughter and her son and his family which includes two 'delightful' grandchildren.

Joe Bird

Quiet and friendly, Joe brought his love of the outdoors to D&R Greenway nearly two years ago on a nature walk at Cedar Ridge Trail. He continues to attend most of the walks, talks, canoe trips and other programs we sponsor. Joe is also a 'regular' at our trail maintenance and cleanup activities, and helps out in between as well. We also have him to thank for the maple leaf on our mailbox, the bird feeders and seed hanging from the larch outside of our office window and a multitude of other seemingly small efforts that add up to make a big difference.

Joe's not sure where or when his love of nature took root. "I grew up with an eastern window," he grins with a shrug. In college he studied political science and it's perhaps this interest that prompted his participation in the Mushroom Players, a street theater that specialized in political satire.

In 1982, inspired by a speech by Rolling Thunder, a Shoshone Indian, Joe joined a group from Mercerville and walked from Philadelphia to Arizona in support of the



Joe Bird

Navajo and Hopi Indians. While the trip was anticlimactic in that he was the only one to make it to Arizona, Joe has fond memories.

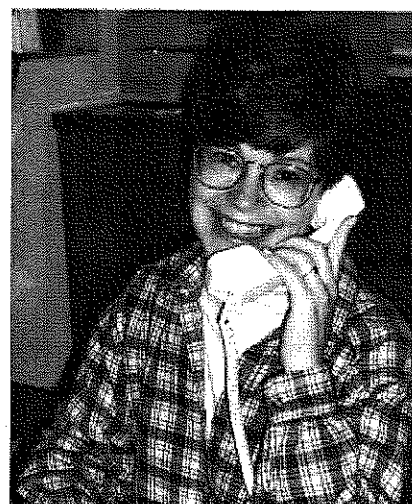
"It was great to see the country at four miles per hour. I was introduced to white mulberries in Ohio, saw walking catfish in Kansas, and while walking through Missouri we passed a newspaper machine and were surprised to find, on the front page, a photo of our group taken that morning."

Joe works as a tree climber for the City of Trenton. He is one step away from becoming a certified tree expert. This becomes obvious on a walk with Joe. While most of us rely on the leaves and/or fruit to identify trees, Joe is able to quickly identify most trees in our region by their bark and shape and the habitat in which they grow. What he doesn't know he meticulously researches in his rather extensive personal library.

This personal library is a result of another of Joe's hobbies—collecting plant and nature books. An avid reader, he loves to browse in new and used book stores.

Joe volunteers with Greenway because it's "easy." "Things need to be done and it's a vacuum I can fill," he relates. "It's only natural, like water seeking its own level." And he gets a sense of satisfaction in seeing the results of his labor. "Every time I go to the marsh and see the willow trees I've pruned and shaped, I feel good."

Thank you Peg and Joe for all of your efforts. We're glad you are a part of our team! ♣



Peg Benton

The Hamilton/Trenton Marsh

The William Penn Foundation Renews Marsh Support

D&R Greenway received \$65,000 from The William Penn Foundation in support of our public outreach and education program for the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. More than 3500 people have participated in the activities Greenway has sponsored for the marsh. Thousands more have become acquainted with the marsh through newspaper and television coverage and our other outreach efforts.

New Staff Members Announced

AmeriCorp member, Kevin Dooley joined our staff in September to support the marsh project. Kevin hails from Georgia, with a B.S. and M.S. in Geology from the University of Georgia. He is an AmeriCorp member working with New Jersey Community Water Watch. Kevin is already busy with our outreach and education programs and the water monitoring program.

More recently, Barbara Schiff joined our staff as a part time project assistant for the marsh. Barbara holds a B.S. in Environmental Studies and an M.S. in Natural Resource and Environmental Policy and Administration from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY.

We welcome Kevin and Barbara and look forward to sharing the fruits of their labor with you!

Task Forces Moving Ahead

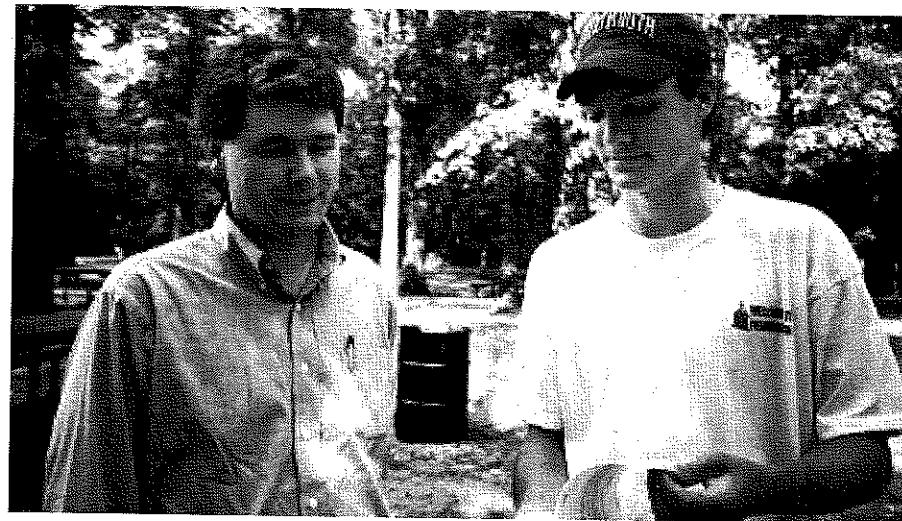
During the past several months task forces were established to address key issues at the marsh including: public access and recreation, protection of natural and historical resources, and educational programs, materials, and facilities. With representation from federal, State and local government, business and community leaders, educators, landowners, and community members, the task forces are making great progress in establishing goals,

identifying priorities and bringing resources to bear on the project. Several initiatives are underway to enhance public access, protect the tremendous resources the marsh harbors and to develop programs to share the educational and recreational opportunities with students and the community.

Scouts Spruce-up Picnic Grove

Over the summer the picnic grove at Watson Woods received a face lift when Eagle Scout candidate, Scott Lawrence of Lawrenceville, took on the task of refurbishing the area as his Eagle Scout project. Scott submitted a proposal to D&R Greenway, developed a project plan and timeline, secured resources, and then carried out the hard work to successfully complete the project. He directed other members of his troop in an ambitious effort to scrape, sand and repaint the picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles at the picnic grove. PSE&G provided trash receptacles and Mercer County Park Commission supplied paint and recycle receptacles. The scouts also conducted a cleanup in the area.

Scott was pleased with the project's outcome. Reflecting on the experience, he shared some important insights. "I've always had great respect for the environment. By



Scott Lawrence (right) reviews his plan with Don McCloskey of PSE&G.

doing the project I learned that respect is not enough and a person must make an effort to help preserve it. The project was a lot harder than I expected. A project of this magnitude is best completed with leadership, organization and determination. Things are not always going to go my way, but with effort any problem can be solved. A lot of people are willing to help—all it takes to get their help is to ask."

In addition to improving the picnic facilities, Scott provided a more attractive outdoor classroom for students who attended the programs at the marsh this summer. Kudos to Scott for a job well done!

Volunteers Sought for Trash Stash and Marsh Madness

D&R Greenway is looking for volunteers to help with two events in the spring. *The Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Trash Stash*, a marsh-wide cleanup, will be held on March 30.

On April 28 we will celebrate Earth Day, Arbor Day and the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh at *Marsh Madness: A Community Celebration*. This will be an all-day affair with activities for all ages. (See the events calendar for more info.)

If you or your group are willing to help organize, publicize, contribute resources or participate in these events, please call Kevin Dooley or Barbara Schiff at our office. We welcome your participation. ♣

Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar! The rich history and tremendous natural resources at the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh offer abundant educational and recreational opportunities. D&R Greenway is sponsoring a variety of programs for you to learn more about and enjoy these valuable wetlands. All events are open to the public. A nominal fee is charged to cover expenses associated with the events. Unless otherwise noted, cost is \$2 per person for members, (\$4 per member family); \$4 per person for non-members, (\$8 per non-member family). For more information or to register, call the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Hotline at (609) 452-0525 or complete and return the coupon on page 7. Register early; space is limited. Registrations will be confirmed.

Winter Walk at Watson Woods

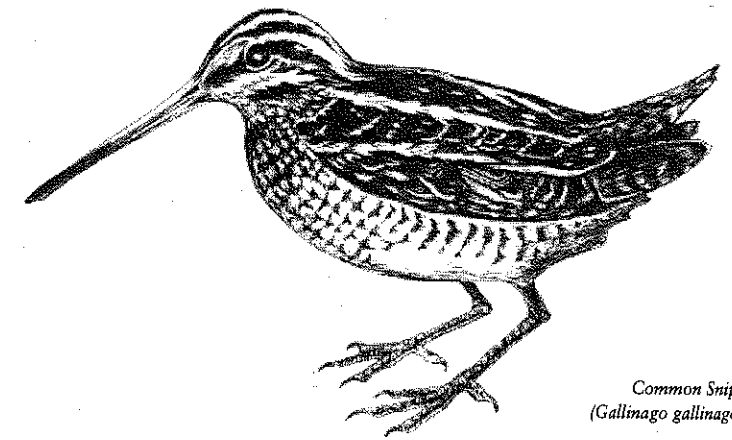
Saturday, January 13
10:00 a.m. - noon

Join us as we explore the woods in winter. The fallen leaves have exposed the bare bones of the trees. Learn to identify trees by their bark and shape. Observe the many species of birds that winter over at the marsh. Explore the forest floor for animal tracks and traces. Joe Schmeltz, Mercer County Park Naturalist, will lead the walk. Warm clothing and winter boots are recommended. Registration deadline is January 5.

Armchair Tour of the Marsh

Tuesday, February 6
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join your many neighbors and friends who have taken a tour of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh—without getting their feet wet. Now is your chance to enjoy this popular program. D&R Greenway's slide presentation will introduce you to the natural world and rich history of the marsh. The program is free and will be held at the



Common Snipe
(Gallinago gallinago)

Hamilton Township Library, One Municipal Drive, Hamilton. Registration deadline is January 30.

Winter Photography at the Bordentown Bluffs

Saturday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - noon

Join us for a tour of the bluffs and capture the magic of the marsh in winter. Maybe it's a frost rimmed leaf sparkling like diamonds, or the soft morning light filtering through the treetops, or perhaps the stark beauty of the cold winter marsh. Nature photographer Phil Moylan will provide 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. Registration deadline is February 16.

Abbott Farm Artifacts: A Behind the Scenes Tour

Saturday, March 16
10:00 a.m. - noon

Join D&R Greenway for a talk and tour of the artifacts and archeology of the Abbott Farm at the New Jersey State Museum. The boundaries of the Abbott Farm National Historic Landmark nearly coincide with those of the marsh. Abbott Farm is the largest Middle Woodland Indian site east of the Mississippi. Dr. Lorraine Williams, the New Jersey State Archeologist, will share the story of this historic landmark and lead a tour of the

New Jersey State Museum's collection of artifacts. Registration deadline is March 8.

Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Trash Stash

Saturday, March 30
9:00 a.m. - noon

Bring a friend—better yet, bring a group—and make the world a more beautiful place! Many people enjoy the marsh for walking, fishing, canoeing, birding and other activities. Unfortunately not all visitors carry out what they carry in. Join other "trash stashers" to spruce up the wetlands, woods, and bluffs. Join the fun and make a difference! T-shirts, prizes and refreshments will be provided. Individuals and groups are welcome. Call the hotline or Kevin Dooley at the office to sign-up or for more information.

Marsh Madness: A Community Celebration

Sunday, April 28
It's an all-day Affair

Celebrate Earth Day, Arbor Day, and the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh at *Marsh Madness: A Community Celebration*. We're planning tours, talks, walks, activities, exhibits, food, music, and entertainment for nature lovers, history buffs, and children of all ages. Watch for upcoming details. Give us a call if your 'mad about the marsh' and can share your enthusiasm by volunteering to help with this event. ♣

Land Conservation

Continued from page 1

Mississippi. Last year flooding there caused 12 deaths and \$300 million in damage.

Networks of open space support the intricate relationships between land, water, animals and people. Preserved natural areas along life-supporting waterways protect the vital areas that animals and plants need to flourish. Every day we face the loss of forests and fields to development, causing habitats to become broken and isolated.

These fragments support fewer species, limit the space for native plants and animals and are more prone to occupation by invasive species. Nest parasites, such as cowbirds, are more likely to penetrate forest fragments and fragmentation creates more forest edges where the predators of birds live.

Birds, whether nesting or migrating, consume large numbers of plant-eating insects. As their habitats die, trees and other plants may be more threatened by disease and insects. In a recent study comparing trees visited by songbirds with trees that had been sprayed with insecticide, researchers found that the birds were as effective as insecticides in keeping away pests. And they offer to us the added benefit of beautiful song and colorful intrigue. Birding is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the country today.

Many people enjoy the recreational opportunities that open space offers. It is estimated that more than 600,000 people visit the D&R Canal State Park each year. Outdoor recreation, natural and historical resources are increasingly important attractions for travellers. Visitors spend money on accommodations, restaurants, and shopping thereby impacting positively on local economies. In fact, recreational use of open space supports a

multi-million dollar ecotourism industry.

In a world driven by dollars and the bottom line, land conservation also makes economic sense. It is not only ecotourism that makes open space economically productive. Studies have found that open space preservation has a more positive impact on a community's economy than many conventional forms of suburban style development, even when land is preserved through public dollars.

Land conservation is often less expensive for local governments than the costs of expanded infrastructure, education, and other services associated with some developments, especially detached single family development. Also, giving land conservation a high priority encourages more cost efficient development that consumes less land, requires shorter roads and less pipe, and keeps natural systems such as wildlife corridors intact.

Many studies have shown that parks, greenways, and trails increase nearby property values, thus increasing local tax revenues. A study of the 1,300-acre Pennypack Park near Philadelphia showed that higher property values correlate significantly with proximity to the park.

Studies also indicate that "access to nature at the workplace is related to lowered levels of perceived job stress and higher levels of job satisfaction. Workers with a view of natural elements, such as trees and flowers, felt their jobs were less stressful and were more satisfied with their jobs than those with no view or those with buildings as their view. Furthermore, employees with nature views reported fewer ailments and headaches."¹ More satisfied employees are more productive and are more likely to stay on the job.

Protecting open space and preserving community resources

and natural features makes good sense—environmentally, economically and for our personal well-being. This does not mean that land conservation should be used as an excuse to exclude the diverse development needed to maintain a healthy community. Responsible land management involves deciding where and how development should occur, as well as where it should not. More and more studies show however, that preserving open space is not contrary to economic health, but essential to it. Land preservation is a sound investment for today and tomorrow. ■

1. *The Experience of Nature*, R. Kaplan and S. Kaplan, Cambridge University Press, p.162.



Black Oak
(*Quercus velutina*)

Canal Tour a Success

D&R Greenway's 19th Century Canal Tour was a great success! Although the weather was more brisk this year than last, the day was enjoyed by all. Jim Amon delighted the audience with colorful commentary and lore of the canal. Along with a hearty lunch at the Muletenders Barracks in Griggstown, participants enjoyed a tour of the museum next door and a leisurely midday walk along the canal. We are grateful to the J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Charitable Trusts for their support in making this event possible. ■

Event Registration

Mark your calendar and join us! Unless otherwise noted, cost is \$2 per person for members, (\$4 per member family); \$4 per person for non-members, (\$8 per non-member family). To register, complete the form below. For more information call the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Hotline at (609) 452-0525. Register early; space is limited. Registrations will be confirmed.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Please register me (us) for the events indicated below.

Winter Walk at Watson Woods

Saturday, January 13, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Number attending: _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Winter Woodland Walk at McBurney Woods

Saturday, January 27, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Number attending: _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Armchair Tour of the Marsh

Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Number attending: _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____ Free

Winter Photography at the Bordentown Bluffs

Saturday, February 24, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Number attending: _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Abbott Farm Artifacts: A Behind the Scenes Tour

Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Number attending: _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to D&R Greenway and mail to:

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Continued on next page

Yes! I'd like to help!

Enclosed is my contribution to help D&R Greenway preserve vital stream corridors and wetlands throughout central New Jersey.

- \$2,500 Greenway Donor
- \$1,000 Headwater Donor
- \$500 Tributary Donor
- \$250 Woodland Donor
- \$150 Trail Donor
- \$100 Wildflower Donor
- \$50 Maple Leaf Donor
- \$40 Family Membership
- \$35 Individual Membership
- \$20 Senior Citizen/Student
- \$15 Newsletter subscription
- Other \$ _____

- My company will match my gift. Enclosed is the matching gift form.

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

- Land Acquisition Fund \$ _____
- Land Management Fund \$ _____

Contributors of \$50 and more will receive a set of wildflower notecards designed by Hopewell artist, Heather Lovett. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. (According to IRS rules, the value of this gift, \$6, must be subtracted when calculating the tax deductibility of your contribution.) Note: If you do not wish to receive the notecards, check here: _____

I'd also like information about:

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



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Tel (area code) _____

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 570 Mercer Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

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Heather Lovett, *Illustrations*
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Continued from previous page

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