

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.
Volume 4, Number 2
July 1996

In Perpetuity

Managed Care: It's for the Birds, the Bees, and the Bunnies

The breeze rustled the leaves of the oak and apple trees overpowering the music of the birds hidden in the canopy above. In each pause of the wind, their presence was revealed though, as the songs of a blue-winged warbler, Baltimore oriole, and common yellow-throat warbler reached our ears. To our left, straight furrows of plowed field stretched from fence row to roadway. In the orchard, bees fed on the sweet nectar of apple blossoms. Further along the trail, where the fields opened up a bit, eastern bluebirds and tree swallows staked out their territories, each pair claiming a nest box of their own. An eastern cottontail, seemingly unconcerned with our presence, took a few hops and continued feeding on clover. A mourning dove cooed from a distant perch as a northern mockingbird warned of intruders closer to home.

Just over the knoll, in sharp contrast to its natural surroundings, the pipes, steel, concrete, and stone of the Transcontinental Gas & Pipe Line Company (Transco) gas compressor station came into view. The 8-acre facility sits on a gently sloping grassy hillside dotted with nest boxes surrounded by woodlands sprinkled with wild leek, jack-in-the-pulpit, skunk cabbage and other wildflowers including the rare slender toothwort.

In 1991, when the compressor station was constructed on the property along Stony Brook in Lawrence Township, Transco acted on a business philosophy to not only protect, but also improve the quality of the environment where it does business. The station was integrated into its natural surroundings, successfully merging the interests of conservation groups, land trusts, and a major energy company to provide an area of protected natural resources. Transco donated to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, a 91-acre conservation and agricultural easement that included a habitat management plan. The easement provides protection of wetlands and other natural areas, enhancement of wildlife habitat, recreational areas and educational use.

In 1994, the easement was transferred to D&R Greenway who together with the Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation, monitors it annually.

Located across from Terhune Orchards, the property stretches from Cold Soil Road to Stony Brook and includes upland, floodplain and successional forests, grasslands, orchards, creeks and ponds. These varied habitats provide a valuable haven for wildlife including bluebirds, goldfinches, field sparrows, pheasants, screech owls and small mammals.

In a single week in May of last year, nearly twenty species were photographed on site including a Cooper's hawk. Affected by the use of pesticides

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Slender Toothwort
Cardamine angustata
(formerly known as *Dentaria heterophylla*)

Inside

- Art Exhibit Opens
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Highlights
- Upcoming Events
- Marsh T-shirts Available

PSE&G supports Hamilton/ Trenton Marsh

D&R Greenway received \$10,000 grant from Public Service Electric and Gas Company in support of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh outreach and education programs and our work to develop a coordinated management plan to permanently protect and preserve the marsh. PSE&G continues to be a key partner in the project contributing in-kind support as well.

Marsh Named Beneficiary of Septemberfest

Hamilton Township Mayor Jack Rafferty announced the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh project as beneficiary of this year's Septemberfest. The festival, which draws an estimated 100,000, will be held in Veterans Park in Hamilton on September 8. Look for the D&R Greenway booth at the festival and bring the coupon on page 6 for \$1 off a T-shirt.

Pedal for a Prize

Register for the Fourth Annual Hamilton Septemberfest Bike Tour to be held Saturday, September 7th. The bike tour includes 12, 30, and 50 mile tours and will benefit the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. Call 609/924-4646 for a registration form. Grand prize drawing is an adult Raleigh USA Bike. Bring your friends and join the fun!

Volunteer Needed

We are looking for volunteer office help for a few hours during the week. Please call 609/924-4646 if you can help.

Common Ground

Art and the Environment

D&R Greenway's second annual *Art and the Environment* program is an exhibit featuring the works of four well-known local artists. The exhibit, *Reflections Along the Canal: Delaware & Raritan Greenway*, recently opened at The Gallery at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

The works of the four artists, three painters, Dorothy Bissell, Sylvia Kokatnur, and Lucy McVicker, and photographer, Clem Fiori, feature the beauty of the D&R Canal and its watershed in different art forms and reaffirm the need to preserve central New Jersey's natural resources.

The exhibit runs through September 2. Gallery hours are

Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., weekends and holidays, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of art will benefit D&R Greenway's land preservation program.

Two complimentary programs will be presented. On Wednesday, July 24, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Clem Fiori will speak about how the environment has influenced his art. The second program on Wednesday, August 21 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. features Peggy McNutt, Executive Director of D&R Greenway speaking about preserving land in central New Jersey.

In October, the exhibit will move

to Prallsville Mills in Stockton and will include additional works by the four artists. An opening reception will be hosted on Friday, October 11. The show will run through October 26.

D&R Greenway has received generous support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation to develop this program and is very grateful to the artists, Pam Sherin, and Bristol-Myers Squibb, for their enthusiasm and support. Please plan to attend this outstanding show.

GIS Mapping

D&R Greenway has developed Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping capabilities. We purchased the computer hardware and acquired the necessary software through a donation from the State Department of Environmental Protection. A grant from The Conservation Fund's DuPont American Greenways Award Program (one of 53 awarded nationwide) provided funds to purchase digitized aerial photographs.

Using the GIS program ArcView 2, D&R Greenway plans to map the watershed of the D&R Canal State Park. This information will assist in the analysis of acquisition projects and the management and monitoring of acquired properties. We are collaborating with a broad coalition of nonprofits and government agencies to coordinate information and data.

Institute Lands Preservation Update

The Institute Lands Preservation Committee, a coalition of 11 environmental, cultural and civic organizations working with the Institute for Advanced Study, the State Green Acres Program, Princeton Township and Mercer County to preserve the 589-acre Institute Lands by purchasing the development rights and obtaining a permanent conservation easement, has begun its fundraising campaign. The current campaign focuses on raising \$2 million to repay a portion of the Green Acres loan to Princeton Township. If you are interested in more information, please contact Peggy McNutt at 609/924-4646 or Florence Kahn, Campaign Director, at 609/497-9744. ☛

Volunteer Spotlight

Ann Cohn

Many years ago when the Lawrence Township League of Women Voters provided information units on land use and land preservation they had no way of knowing they would fan a spark in Ann Cohn. Ann had long recognized the importance of land preservation and in response to what she learned about land use in New Jersey, she was called to act. She reached out to Delaware & Raritan Greenway to satisfy her need to help.

Since then, Ann has generously volunteered her time one morning each week to assist in our office with press clippings and our public outreach efforts. Her help has been invaluable to us.

Generous with her time and proactive in pursuing her interests, Ann has also volunteered, for the last three years, with the American Red Cross. This led to her recent appointment to a part-time position coordinating transportation of elderly and disabled people to medical appointments.

Ann shares her secret for time management, "Act on the things that are most important to you. If you really want to do something you will find the time, carve out a niche and make it happen." She continues, "It's very gratifying to work with people

and know that you are being of service to them."

In her free time, Ann plays tennis and does water aerobics. Ann has also pursued an Associates Degree in Fine Arts at Mercer County Community College.

Originally from Chicago, Ann came to Lawrence when her late husband took a teaching position with Trenton State College. Ann's has two children, a daughter living in New Jersey and a son attending George Washington University in Washington D.C., and two grandchildren.

Clyde Quin

Clyde Quin attended the first *Sounds of the Night Marsh* walk we sponsored at the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. While it took that event to bring us together, Clyde had caught the spirit of the marsh long before that walk. Having grown up in a neighborhood bordering the marsh, Clyde enjoyed these incredible wetlands as his boyhood playground.

It was then that he discovered the mysteries and magic hidden among the cattails and meandering tidal channels. Guided by Nathan Wyckoff, a naturalist with the Trenton Nature Club, Clyde developed a love of nature and a deep appreciation for the land.



Clyde Quin

Now, as a grown man, Clyde says, "I've gotten so much from the marsh. It's time to give back."

Usually not short on words, Clyde shares many colorful stories about his experiences growing up at the marsh and the infamous Abrams brothers who lived there during those years.

He attends many of our walks and has helped to lead a few as well. He is eager to share his love of the land and the wildlife living there. With a keen and experienced eye, he locates artifacts, migrating and nesting birds, raccoons and foxes and regularly reports them to the hotline so we can share them with others.

Clyde serves on the Education Task Force for the marsh and is always willing to help when he can. He participated in both the *Trash Stash* and *Marsh Madness* this Spring and also helps to maintain the wood duck nest boxes and walking trails in Roebling Park.

Clyde enjoys his work with Greenway as a chance to help the marsh. He is eager to protect and enhance the land that continues to delight him and provide him so many happy memories.

A life-long resident of Hamilton Township, Clyde worked with PSE&G as a chief stockman before he retired earlier this year. He and his wife, Rosemarie have five children and one grandchild.

Thank you to Ann and Clyde for taking an active role to protect and preserve our land and wildlife. We appreciate all you do! ☛

Northern Stony Brook Greenway

We are pleased to announce the acquisition of 83 acres along Stony Brook in East Amwell from the Marino brothers, Frank, Carl, and Joseph, as part of the Northern Stony Brook Greenway. The parcel is contiguous to McBurney Woods and was highlighted in the Summer 1994 *Greenways* newsletter.

The State Green Acres program provided partial funding for the acquisition and the Marinos donated the remaining property value to D&R Greenway. We are grateful for the generosity and dedication of the Marinos in preserving their land.

This acquisition brings the number of acres preserved by D&R Greenway to 261 in the Northern Stony Brook area.

Events

D&R Greenway is offering you the opportunity to explore and enjoy the trails in the Northern Stony Brook Greenway.

Cedar Ridge Trail Walk

Tuesday, August 6, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Don Freiday, Chief Naturalist for the Hunterdon County Park System lead this walk and help us learn more about the different habitats included along Cedar Ridge Trail on Van Dyke Road in Hopewell.

McBurney Woods Preserve Walk

Monday, August 19, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

This walk, led by Ted Stiles, professor of biology at Rutgers University and Vice Chair of D&R Greenway, will highlight the interactions between plants and animals and the importance of woodland habitats.

Pre-registration is required for both walks and group size is limited. Cost is \$2 per person for Greenway members, \$4 per Greenway member families, \$4 per nonmember and \$8 per nonmember families. To register, please use the Event Registration coupon on page 7. ☛



Ann Cohn (right) with Laurie Emde.

The Hamilton/Trenton Marsh

Highlights

Springtime is a busy time in the natural world with nest building, homemaking, and young to raise. There was a flourish of human activity at the marsh as well this spring. We welcomed many new faces as well as many familiar friends. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and participated in making our Spring programs so successful!

Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Trash Stash

On Saturday, March 30 D&R Greenway sponsored the first annual *Marsh Trash Stash*. The clean-up was a great success. Nearly two hundred volunteers representing twenty-one different groups and over fifty individuals generously shared their time, enthusiasm and muscle to pick-up an estimated fourteen tons of trash including 400 bags, more than 300 tires, forty 55-gallon drums, and other assorted items.

Volunteers included members of Girl Scout Troops 681, 647, and 1682, Boy Scout Troops 77 and 87, Del Rag Brownie Troop 1074, Cub Scout Dens 8 and 46, and Cub Scout Dens 3 and 4 of Pack 87. Other local groups helping included the Bordentown Regional High School Honor Society, Hamilton Environmental Youth of Nottingham and Hamilton West High Schools, the Steinert High School Ecology Club, Earthwatchers of Freehold High School, employees of Public Service Electric and Gas and Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation, members of the Sierra Club, New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, and the Mohawk Canoe Club.

Support for the cleanup was received from Hamilton Township, Bordentown Township, AmeriCorps, New Jersey Community Water Watch, The William Penn Foundation, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Mercer County Improvement Authority, and New Jersey Department of Transportation. Area vendors including Dunkin Donuts, Bordentown Bagels, Bagel Street, Italian People's Bakery and Deli, Acme Markets of Bordentown,

Hamilton, and Hamilton Square, Shop Rite of Bordentown, Pathmark of Hamilton, and Shop-n-Bag of Hamilton and Trenton contributed refreshments to fuel the effort.

Marsh Madness: A Community Celebration

On April 28, D&R Greenway hosted the first annual *Marsh Madness: A Community Celebration* to commemorate Earth Day, Arbor Day, and the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. More than 250 people attended and enjoyed the day's programs.

Families as nearby as Lafayette Avenue and as far away as New Brunswick and Toms River were on hand to enjoy the activities that included bird walks, a fishing contest, the how's and why's of spider webs, stories of the natural world, a demonstration of flintknapping, an up-close look at wildlife, tours of the Watson House, and a scavenger hunt for those with energy left at the end of the day.

The 'Fun with Fishing' contest brought out many aspiring anglers. Prizes were awarded to Kyle Cramer for the first fish caught, Daniel McCullaugh for the second fish caught and to Katie Mottola as the youngest participant.

Our sincere thanks to our spon-

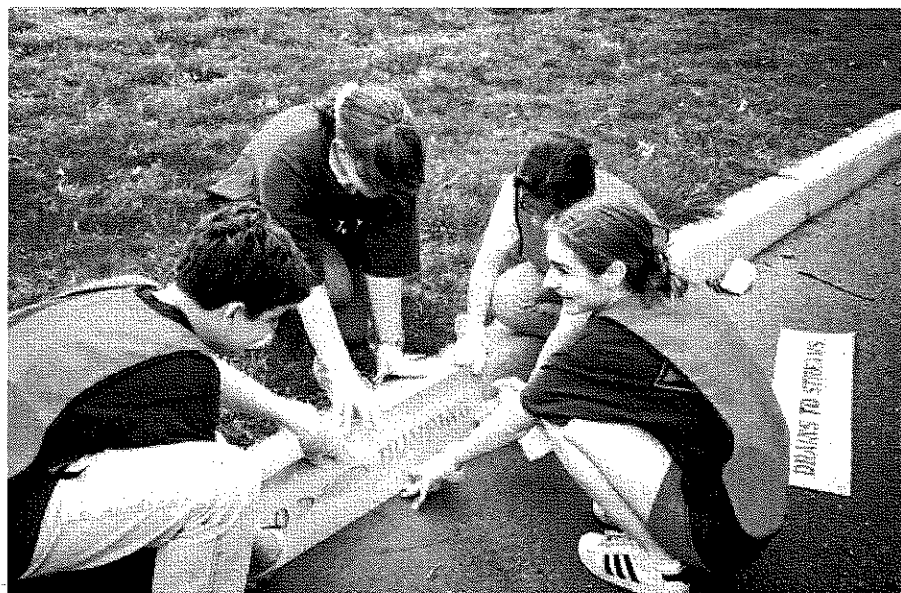
sors, The William Penn Foundation, Public Service Electric & Gas Company and Roma Federal Savings Bank. Thanks also to Brunswick Sports in Trenton and the Sportmen's Center in Bordentown for donating the bait and prizes for the fishing contest.

Many thanks to members of the Garden State Storytellers League, the Daughters of American Revolution, the Hamilton Township Historical Society, Hamilton Township Police, Bordentown Explorers, Mercer County Park Commission and all who volunteered as greeters, leaders, coordinators, and otherwise lent a helping hand to make the day so successful. See you again next year!

Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Storm Drain Stenciling

Hamilton Environmental Youth (HEY) of Nottingham High School and the Steinert High School Ecology Club painted the town this spring—with blue fishes that is—to help protect the water quality of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh.

In April members of HEY stenciled kicked off the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Storm Drain Stenciling Program and painted 70 storm drains with a fish symbol and wording that read "No Dumping—Drains to Streams." Later in June, the Steinert Ecology Club helped to spread the word and painted another 85 storm drains to alert the public about the dangers of this type of



Members of Nottingham High School HEY stencil storm drains for Hamilton/Trenton Marsh.

pointless or nonpoint source pollution.

Through in-school programs, posters, displays and announcements, fellow students were informed about the significance of the project and the meaning of the fish symbol. The students also shared their enthusiasm and knowledge with the community through a door-to-door outreach effort in neighborhoods where the stenciling took place.

Kudos to the students who participated and to Hamilton Township for their ongoing support.

Roebling Park Enhancement Project Underway

A major enhancement project is underway at Mercer County's John A. Roebling Memorial Park in the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. Initiated by two task forces working to permanently protect and preserve the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh, the enhancement project totals nearly \$50,000.

Established last year by D&R Greenway to address public access and recreation and protection of natural and historical resources at the marsh, the task forces have identified the enhancements as a priority in the program to protect and preserve the tremendous natural and historical resources the marsh harbors.

The improvements include attractive gates installed to secure the park and limit vehicular access to appropriate areas, grading the trail around Spring Lake and installing a concrete bridge across the spillway completing the trail around the lake. A concrete bridge has also been installed to reduce maintenance required on the bridge leading to the trails in the woods.

The enhancements will continue through the end of the year. An open area by Spring Lake that has been damaged by inappropriate vehicular use over the years will be restored and transformed into an attractive natural interpretive area serving as an educational resource to students and the general public visiting the marsh. Using all native species, a large island of plantings approximately 650' long and 30' wide will be installed, creating more natural trails along the lake and the shore of the north marsh. Plantings will be labeled enabling visitors to identify the same species found along other



PSE&G employees, Charlie Rosani and Doug Howlett, and Jesse J. Brown of Suburban Fence install a gate at Roebling Park

trails in the park. The plantings include shade and understory trees, shrubs, and perennials and will be installed in the fall.

The large trees and shrubs will be planted by the supplier. The Stony Brook Garden Club and D&R Greenway will work with area school students and community groups to provide and plant the perennials. Interested groups should contact D&R Greenway.

Members of the community are also invited to donate and dedicate plantings or benches in memory or honor of friends and family.

A walking path will be developed between the lake and the island of plantings. A second wider trail will follow the shore of the north marsh providing access to lookout platforms planned for the future. Maintenance will also be done on the loop trails through Watson Woods with wood chips and log bridges provided in wet areas.

Benches and boulders will provide seating for park visitors. The Mercer County Park Commission will provide entrance signs. Interpretive and access signage will also be provided through a grant to D&R Greenway from the National Park Service.

The enhancement project is made possible with a grant from MSM for the Mercer County Green Links Program and gifts and in-kind contributions of materials, equipment, and

services received from Hamilton Township, Mercer County, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Suburban Fence, The Whole Earth Center, Marturano Recreation Company, and the Stony Brook Garden Club.

State Record Tree Found at Marsh

The largest known persimmon tree (*Diospyros virginiana*) in New Jersey was recently discovered at the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh by Greenway volunteer and tree enthusiast, Joe Bird.

The persimmon is an indigenous species. Its wood has been used for golf club heads, and its fruit is valued by humans and wildlife alike.

At 4 feet above ground, the circumference of the newly found champion measures 67 inches, much larger than the current listed champion, which measures 42 inches. ❦

Upcoming Event

Canoeing in the Constructed Wetlands

Saturday, August 24
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us to explore the man-made wetlands at the marsh. Ninety-six acres of new wetlands were created when the Trenton Highway Complex was constructed. Already, natural forces are modifying the system of eight islands surrounded by tidal channels and a tidal marsh.

Members of the Mohawk Canoe Club will lead our trip. Drs. Mary and Charlie Leck, Professor of Biology at Rider University and Professor of Ornithology at Rutgers University respectively, will help us identify and understand the processes and activities at work in this new wetland area.

Registration is limited. The registration fee is \$20/member and \$25/non-member. Registration fee is \$5/canoe if you bring your own canoe. Maximum per canoe is two adults and two children under age 16. Children under 16 are free when accompanied by two adults. We will match singles with partners when possible.

To register, complete the coupon on page 7. ❦

Managed Care

Continued from page 1

similarly to the peregrine falcon, this hawk has become uncommon in eastern deciduous forests.

To develop and implement the wildlife habitat work on the site, Transco joined with several partners including the Wildlife Habitat Council, Rutgers Cook College Wildlife Department, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, D&R Greenway, Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation and the Washington Crossing Audubon Society.

The many activities that have been conducted on behalf of wildlife include selectively thinning trees in the succession forest to allow an understory habitat to grow in, strip mowing

grasslands on a two-year cycle to provide food, cover and additional nesting opportunities, pruning trees to increase vigor, replacing trees that have died, planting and rotating crops in the agricultural area for both food and cover. The ponds have been dredged to provide a variety of depths, basking sites for amphibians have been installed, and water flow has been altered to offer varying degrees of movement. Fruit trees on the site are being nurtured as a food source for wildlife.

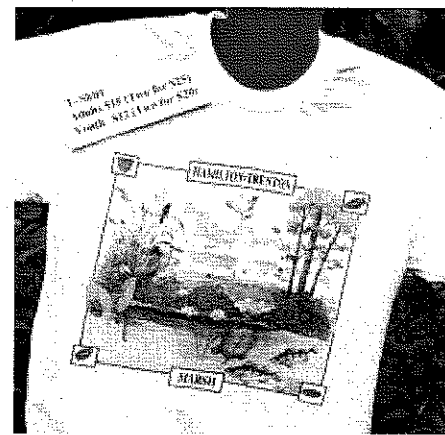
More than forty nest boxes were built to accommodate wood ducks, screech owls, bluebirds, swallows, woodpeckers and flycatchers. Nest monitoring in 1994 indicated half of the boxes hosted birds, with house wrens, bluebirds, and tree swallows all producing families. Perches for raptors were also installed in the wet meadow.

Additionally extensive landscaping was installed to soften the visual impression of the station, provide cover, berries, seeds and buds for birds and other wildlife.

From a regional perspective, the conservation easement provides a critical link in the Stony Brook Greenway and will always be available for wildlife as they travel the greenways of New Jersey and beyond.

Future plans include exploring how this property might serve as an active outdoor classroom to help people understand how nature and business can coexist and thrive.

We commend Transco as a leader and role model for its commitment to protecting the environment and integrating operations with the natural surroundings. Kudos for a job well done!



Dress to a T and show your support

D&R Greenway is delighted to announce the availability of T-shirts, sweat shirts, tote bags and post cards featuring the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. The attractive T-shirts, sweat shirts and totes feature an original design created especially for the marsh. Unveiled at *Marsh Madness* in April, they have been a hit with all ages. These items make unique and attractive gifts and are a great way to support the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh and D&R Greenway.

To order yours, complete the form below and mail with a check made payable to D&R Greenway to: Hamilton/Trenton Marsh, D&R Greenway, 570 Mercer Road, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Adult T-shirt
Hanes Beefy-T. 100% cotton. S, M, L, XL, XXL.
\$15.00, 2 for \$25.00, 2 or more \$12.50 each.

Youth T-shirt
Hanes Beefy-T. 100% cotton. L (14-16).
\$12.00, 2 for \$20.00, 2 or more \$10.00 each.

Adult Sweat shirt
Russell Activewear. 50%/50% cotton/polyester.
M, L, XL, XXL. \$22.00 each

Tote bag. Cotton canvas. \$12.00.

Style / size	Quantity	Amount
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Merchandise total \$		_____
Shipping & Handling (\$4.00 per address) \$		_____
Total enclosed \$		_____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Items can also be picked up at D&R Greenway's office. Please be sure to call ahead so we can pull your order together and save you a return trip.

Ticket to a T

Entitles holder to \$1.00 off one Hamilton/Trenton Marsh T-shirt



Save \$1.00

One coupon per shirt. Good only at Septemberfest, September 8, 1996.

Event Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

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

Cedar Ridge Trail Walk

Tuesday, August 6, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Number attending: _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

McBurney Woods Preserve Walk

Monday, August 19, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Number attending: _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Canoeing the Constructed Wetlands at the Marsh

Saturday, August 24, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Number attending: _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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

Delaware & Raritan Greenway Events, 570 Mercer Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

Our thanks to the following donors

(Gifts received from February 1, 1996 to June 31, 1996)

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Continued on following page

You can make a difference! Join today!

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
- 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



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Tel (area code) _____

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Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.
570 Mercer Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

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Heather Lovett, *Illustrations*
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Our thanks to . . .

Continued from previous page

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