In Perpetuity

Reflections Along The Canal: Delaware & Raritan Greenway

Delaware & Raritan Greenway is delighted to collaborate with four very talented local artists, painters Dorothy Bissel, Sylvia Cummings Kokatnur, and Lucy Graves McVicker, and photographer Clem Fiori, to offer the exhibit Reflections Along the Canal: Delaware & Raritan Greenway. Through the exhibit we share our collective enthusiasm and love of place, and our sense of purpose in fostering an appreciation of the landscape, our natural world and the importance of protecting and preserving this treasure that nourishes us as children and adults.

Strong ties bind the arts and the environment. Art often reaches us on an aesthetic level, instantly evoking emotions and recalling memories that reconnect us to parts of ourselves that are often difficult to access through other means. A rich playground to a child, the natural world also offers a refreshing respite in our harried, scheduled adult years.

Together art and the environment offer unique experiences. The photograph of the old mills that reveals their beauty and strength stretched before us in a still reflection of water, melds our human world with one of years gone by and the tranquil natural world. The painting that captures the summer sunlight, freed by reflection from the rippling surface of creek water below, to dance on the mottled trunk and branches of a graceful sycamore rooted on the bank, transports us to the creek of our memory. Instantly we feel the water flowing, the cool breeze stirring against our hot neck, and hear the bird song of the surrounding meadow. Through the well chosen words of the poet we feel the heartbeat of the frog and the heron, the rabbit and the great horned owl, the wood duckling and the snapping turtle as they struggle for life.

Though the forums for highlighting this relationship vary—poetry, paintings, photographs, music, sculpture, pottery and so on, the works of the artists speak to us on a deep level, renewing, refreshing, re framing our environment, ourselves and our views, uplifting us and life in the process.

During the past two years, the three painters, Dorothy, Sylvia, and Lucy have been painting en plein air at various sites along the D&R Canal. Clem, having recently completed his book, The Vanishing New Jersey Landscape, has for many years been photographing the D&R Canal and its watershed.

Inspired by the beauty of Prallsville Mills Across Wickecheoke Creek, Fall, 1995 by Clem Fiori

Art Show Expands and Travels

The exhibition, Reflections Along the Canal: Delaware & Raritan Greenway, is expanding and traveling to Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ. Additional art works by each artist, along with selections from The Gallery, will be shown at the Mills. The art works are for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefit D&R Greenway's land preservation projects. An opening benefit reception will be held Friday, October 11 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cost is $10 per member, $15 for non-members. The show runs through October 26. See Reflections on page 7 for more details.

Greenway Map Updated

We've updated our map of the Delaware & Raritan Greenway. The map includes waterways within the D&R Canal's 400 square mile watershed, preserved open space and current preservation projects. Many thanks to Peter Van Wallendael for his excellent drafting services. In response to the many requests we received for copies of the earlier version, we are making an 11" by 17" color copy available for purchase at $5.00 plus shipping. Please call us at 609/924-4646 to purchase yours.

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.

Wish List

D&R Greenway would be very grateful for donations of the following: 4-drawer file cabinets, used binoculars and slide projector in good condition, plates and bowls, 3" by 4" bulletin boards, and field guides.
Common Ground
Greenway Receives Green Acres Funds

O n August 28, 1996, Governor Christine Todd Whitman signed legislation appropriating $2 million in Green Acres bond funds to support land preservation in six of Delaware & Raritan Greenway’s projects areas. These funds are provided through the new Green Acres bond act approved last November and are in addition to the $2.3 million in Green Acres grants that D&R Greenway received in 1994.

D&R Greenway will use these funds to preserve several hundred acres of environmentally sensitive land along several stream corridors in the watershed of the D&R Canal. Projects include land along Moore’s Creek in Hopewell Township (part of Kauer Mountain), Woonsocket Brook in Hopewell Township and Simonson’s Brook in Franklin Township.

With this funding we are also able to preserve the Ingersoll Rand property in Montgomery Township. Ingersoll Rand was originally looking to build 200 homes on this 210 acre parcel. A coalition that includes D&R Greenway, Montgomery Township, Somerset County, Rocky Hill Borough, and the State of New Jersey is preserving approximately 170 acres of this tract for open space and farming and an approximately 95 acres in Rocky Hill for active and passive recreation.

Preservation of the Ingersoll Rand property enhances the linkage between the Millstone River Valley, the D&R Canal State Park and Piscataway State Forest, a goal that has been desired by planners, recreationists and environmentalists throughout central New Jersey.

Other critical areas that will be preserved with these Green Acres funds include several properties in the Northern and Central sections of the Stony Brook Greenway in East Amwell, Hopewell and Lawrence Townships.

Autumn Canal Tour

Delaware & Raritan Greenway is again hosting a guided motor coach tour along the western branch of the D&R Canal. Originally built to provide a transportation route between Philadelphia and New York City, the canal was the New Jersey Turnpike of its day. Instead of truck tracks and cloverleaf interchanges, however, small communities and turning basins grew along the canal’s route. The tour will include visits to Plainsboro Aqueduct, Port Mercer, Tennent, and Tamnobile. In addition to learning how the canal’s system of locks and aqueducts functioned and understanding its historical and industrial significance to our region, participants can take in the rich colors of the season and perhaps catch a glimpse of migratory waterfowl on the canal, while enjoying a short walk in one of New Jersey’s most scenic parks.

The tour also includes a hearty autumn lunch at Prallsville Mills and the opportunity to view our art exhibit, Reflections Along the Canal: Delaware & Raritan Greenway at the Mills.

“Through Their Eyes”—The Artists

T he exhibition Reflections Along the Canal: D&R Greenway project brought together four delightful, interesting and inspiring artists, Dorothy Bissell, Clem Fiori, Sylvia Cummins Kodakura, and Lucy Graves McVicker, whose souls, hearts, and work are firmly rooted in the land. In creating art, each draws on a solid foundation of land and vivid memories connecting them to the land. As adults, they yearn to hold onto that connection that share their great appreciation and love of the land through their work.

Dorothy Bissell

With a love of being outdoors and not having a studio in her home, Dorothy was the impetus for painting en plein air. It was through her personal involvement, purchases of delicious lunch and the opportunity to work in pretty areas along the D&R Canal and away from the telephone, that first Lucy, and later Sylvia, joined her to paint outside.

Dorothy’s connection to the land stems from growing up in Alabama where her family had a country home in the mountains that was like ‘joint family’ for her large extended family. Dorothy relates, “We kids ran up and down the mountains like Billy goats, swam and fished a lot, listened to music, picked blackberries and made jam, hunted Indian artifacts, read a lot and made our own amusement.”

Dorothy loves being outside and observing nature. “I began to feel like a caged animal when I’m inside too much and it’s so beautiful around here. New Jersey is so pretty.”

Dorothy’s mother was an artist. At six years old, Dorothy began taking painting lessons “from an eccentric old woman who was wonderful because no matter what I did she always said, ‘That’s perfectly beautiful. What great encouragement!” Dorothy went on to pursue a Fine Arts degree at Finch College and Parsons School of Design, where she eventually taught fashion design.

A member of Princeton Artists Alliance, Dorothy has taught at Princeton Art Works, provided workshops for troubled youth at a juvenile center, worked with patients to paint murals at a neuropyschiatric hospital, and in a more glamorous role, has traveled around the world painting art aboard cruise ships. She loves teaching outdoors and feels rewarded when she helps brighten others lives through her teaching and art.

Dorothy is a spontaneous painter, with her eye on the color for color. She paints “because I need to, I get a great excitement out of painting. It’s renewing and refreshing.” She feels that creating something gives you a big lift.

At sixty-six, Dorothy cut back. “Unless, of course, it’s perfectly dreadful, and then you go into the depths of despair, killing yourself. When you don’t like your own work,” she adds with a wry chuckle.

Clem Fiori

Clem Fiori has been exhibiting his photos for over twenty years in the Delaware and the Delaware & Raritan Canal for twenty years. Through his art and his photography experiments he has had for reaching influence in protecting and preserving open space.

Getting away from the notion of photography as a literal way of capturing the landscape. Clem uses new techniques such as his hand built- "Morton’s window", negative prints, and night photo where he ‘paints’ a selected image by opening the shutter and spanning a view with his lights to bridge the gap between painting and photography. Clem’s work, a blend of memory and intrigue by how it works, Clem is very interested in exploring how art evoloves from memory. In confronting his past, he “acknowledges that as we grow older we realize things—people, places, objects—we simply can’t have it, hold it, keep it, all. But we can honor it and make it meaningful by transforming it into art.”

Then, through art and our memory, we can hold on to the rituals we love.

Writing stories that relate to my personal past to accompany my photos shows a connection between person and place and emphasizes the importance of having places like this. Without these places, children will never have those experiences that are so meaningful to us. Clem shares, “One of the main roles I perceive for myself as an artist is to keep in the viewer’s eye that this is it. Our environment is changing, it’s getting worse, I use mechanical technology to put across the more human aspects of it.”

Sylvia Cummins Kodakura

Sylvia earned a degree in textile design from Philadelphia’s Institute of Design, and now works as a designer and art educator.

Reflections Along the Canal: D&R Greenway artists (left to right) Clem Fiori, Lucy Graves McVicker, Dorothy Bissell and Sylvia Cummins Kodakura.

Program Coordinator Hired

Delaware & Raritan Greenway is delighted to welcome Dani-Ella Betz as the full-time program coordinator for the education and public outreach programs for the Hamilton Branch.

Dani-Ella graduated from Rutgers University’s College of Science with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Ecology. She began her career as an intern with New Jersey Audubon’s Sew Ernesto Ecology Center in Ringwood, New Jersey where she conducted outdoor environmental education programs, organized group hikes, walks, and various public events and fund raisers.

Before joining D&R Greenway, Dani-Ella was an outdoor educator in Naples, Florida at The Conservancy’s Turlings Nature Center. She led various night programs and led a variety of outdoor excursions for the public such as canoe trips, bike trips, and walks. She also directed a summer science day camp program which was attended by 160 middle school students. In addition, Dani-Ella managed the volunteer program and trained and supervised a staff of interns.

D&R Greenway is expanding its educational programs with area schools. Dani-Ella will provide programs at the marsh as well as classroom programs and in-school assemblies. She is also coordinating our public events and service projects with local students, scouts and community groups.

Welcome Dani-Ella!
Artists

Continued from previous page

out of school, raised her children and didn't paint for thirty years except for her own Christmas cards and a two-week stint each year with two women painter friends and eleven children at a hunting camp in the Pocotops. While the children played in the creek and woods, the moms painted wildflowers.

A dozen or so years ago, a friend asked her to do a painting and the spark that had buried quickly for many years was ignited into a flame. Initially, Sylvia worked mostly in acrylics and oils, but then discovered that she liked the challenge of watercolors even more.

Sylvia paints, "partly because I can and because it's fun to try in a new way."

And when I paint, I feel restless and unhappy." Her love of the natural world was kindled as a child at her family's cottage near the Finger Lakes. "I always loved the pretty things in nature; she relates with sparkling eyes that easily betray how meaningful the place was and still is to her. Although a first reluctant to join the others painting plein air, her first experience easily convinced her of its merits.

"We went to Fort Mercer, climbed over the guard rails and set up to paint. We all brought along food and had a wonderful lunch. And the painting, I did the first time out with them is one of my favorites."

Inspired by Dorothy's love of everything around Stony Brook and Sylvia's colors, Bob then proceeded painting and painting things in a new way.

"There is always a bit of excitement when we get together, and it's fun to be with other women who are so delightful."

Sometimes it takes Sylvia a half day to find something she wants to paint. "I wonder around until I find something that fascinates me or has a strong personal appeal. It's usually lights and shadow that makes me want to paint something."

"I always have an image in my head of how I want the painting to turn out, striving to attain the sensation I felt when I first saw the scene. I try to capture the reason the image spoke to me."

"I don't know of anything else you can do that could give the same sense of pleasant failure," she laughs and goes on, "Not a total failure, but just that you haven't achieved what you want."

"I would really like to have a more spontaneous look, realistic and more colorful—painting outside does that automatically. I achieve a much more expressive look."

"I love to paint water so painting the canal is particularly enjoyable. Water is quiet, changes color, has a life of its own. It's very refreshing. It's easy for me to work, she shares and then adds with a laugh, "I'm not a Яcist for nothing."

Lucy Graves McVicker

Lucy grew up on a farm that shared a strong connection to the land. Her family had horses, two cows, which she learned to milk, and chickens. She recalls, "I remember watching my grandfather in his vegetable garden working the land so kindly and gently."

"I remember happy days as a three-year-old of playing in the stream, making her way along, stepping from stone to stone. It is through these experiences that Lucy feels so drawn to the brooks in our area today. Inside, the three-year-old is still hopping from rock to rock amidst the rippling water."

After receiving a B.A. degree from a liberal arts college, Lucy went on to pursue post-graduate work at Parsons and Rutgers University while raising her children. Balancing a very demanding schedule as mother, homemaker and artist, she pursued her love of painting.

Lucy is a member of the Princeton Artists Alliance, where she meets Dorothy, who coaxed her into painting in plein air. Although she was at first reluctant to leave the comfort and conveniences of her studio, Lucy loves painting outdoors very much.

"Nature gives me the first impression," she shares, "and I can not but want all does the creativity. I interpret the scene and then come along and fill in the way I feel it. Painting on plein air is as painting what you see—with a twist."

She also loves experimenting and painting with paint, ink, oil pastels, and mixed media and then letting the painting evolve. "At that point it's pretty abstract. Just let it speak to me and then if I see something at the painting, I encourage it to emerge into something recognizable."

After painting for two years, the artists were eager to share their experiences and their paintings. It was Lucy who conceived the idea of the exhibit when she received the invitation to the John Winward Lecture, DKR Greenway's first program in our arts and the Environment Series, and then led the way to making it happen.

All of the artists enthusiastically embrace the idea of developing an exhibit to share their work and experiences with a broader audience and at the same time, by donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of art to D&K Greenway, helping to protect and preserve the landscape that so meaningful to them.

This collaborative effort has been rewarding for everyone involved. With delight, each of the artists relate stories of shared joy in pursuing their work in each other's company. D&K Greenway has also enjoyed working with them. We are grateful for the beautiful and inspiring results of their labor and their active role in recognizing and supporting the Delaware & Raritan Greenway.

While this camaraderie makes for great relations and good times, their diverse views and styles create a show with tremendous energy. It's one you won't want to miss!

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Delaware River Near Stockton by Dorothy Bassall

Beden's Brook Spring by Sylvia Cummings Koknar

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The Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Fall 1996 Events

Fall is a great time to get outside and enjoy the natural world at the marsh. A great diversity of migrating birds stop to rest and refuel, the wild rice is in its prime, and the flaming autumn colors light up the waterways. Join us to learn more about and enjoy this regional treasure.

Events are open to the public. Registration is required and will be confirmed. The fee, unless otherwise noted, is $2/person for members, ($4/family); $4/person for non-members, ($8/family).

For more information or to register, call the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Hotline at (609) 452-0523. Register early; space is limited.

Migrating Bird Walk
Sat., Oct. 6, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
Autumn is one of the best times of the year to observe the greatest diversity of more than 250 species of birds recorded at the marsh. Thousands of migrating warblers, swallows, thrushes, sandpipers, herons, ducks, and geese stop at the marsh to rest and refuel each fall on their arduous journey to their winter habitat.

Lou Beck and Eileen Katz of Washington Crossing Audubon will help identify the birds we see and hear. Registration deadline is Sep 27.

Family Nature Walk and Scavenger Hunt
Sat., Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Bring your family of nature detectives together and we will explore the trail around Spring Lake using our senses to discover the hidden clues of life in the marsh. Clues such as deer tracks, rabbit and bird prints, spider webs, and feathers will help us explore the mysteries of the marsh.

Dania Elia Retz, program coordinator for the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh, will guide this tour. Registration deadline is October 11.

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Waterston House Tour and Woods Walk
Sat., Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Waterston House, the oldest standing house in Mercer County, is steeped in history dating back to 1708. Beautifully furnished with period pieces by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), this historic home is a local treasure. The house tour, conducted by members of DAR, will be followed by a nature walk and tour of Waterston Woods led by Joe Schmelz, Mercer County Park Naturalist. Registration deadline is October 25.

Explore the Mysteries . . . Discover Magic! An Armchair Tour of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh
Thu., Nov. 14, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

Have you always wanted to take a tour of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh without getting your feet wet? Now's your chance! Delaware & Raritan colors, local flora and fauna, presentation beautifully captures the natural world of the marsh. Join us to learn more about the plants, birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, and amphibians that make their home there. This program is free and will be held at the Hamilton Township Library, One Municipal Drive, Hamilton. Registration deadline is November 7.

Winter Tree Walk
Sat., Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-noon

Come out and share your love of winter and the outdoors and enjoy an interpretive walk at the marsh with Dr. John Kuen of Rutgers University. You will learn new skills in tree identification and discover the fascinating adaptations of trees which ensure their survival. Registration deadline is November 25.
Gifts, Gifts, Gifts

Need a gift for yourself or another special person? Now you can purchase a variety of unique and attractive items for friends, family and yourself and help to save open space, preserve our heritage and support environmental education programs in central New Jersey. D&R Greenway is pleased to announce the availability of several new items.

Notecards

Notecards featuring artwork by Dorothy Busell, Clem Forni, Sylvia Cummings Kokemur and Lucy Graves McVicker from our exhibit, Reflections along the Canal. Delaware & Raritan Greenway are available. One art work by each artist features the D&R Canal at four different locations—Prallsville Mills, Port Mercer, Griggstown and Blackwells Mills. Priced at $4.95, packets of 4 will be on sale at the Prallsville Mills exhibition for $5.00. Packets of 8 cards will sell for $10.00. After the show, the card packets will sell for $6.00 and $12.00 respectively.

T-shirts, Sweat shirts, and Tote bags

These attractive T-shirts, sweat shirts and totes feature an original design created especially for the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh.

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

Youth T-shirt, Hanes Beefy-T, 100% cotton. L, (4-6). $12.00, two for $20.00, or more $10.00 each.

Adult Sweat shirt: Russell Athletic 50% polyester, 50% cotton. M, L, XL, XXL. $22.00.

Tote Bag: Cotton canvas. $12.00.

Hamilton/Trenton Marsh post cards. Six different designs available. Cards cost $2.50 each, $5.00 for 8.

Event Registration

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

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

Benefit Reception for Exhibitions Reflections Along the Canal
Friday, October 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Number attending: Amount enclosed $___

D&R Canal Tour
Saturday, October 26, 9:30-2:00 p.m.
Number attending: Amount enclosed $___

Hamilton/Trenton Marsh programs:

Migrating Bird Walk
Saturday, October 5, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
Number attending: Amount enclosed $___

Family Nature Walk and Scavenger Hunt
Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Number attending: Amount enclosed $___

Water House Tour and Woods Walk
Saturday, November 2, 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Number attending: Amount enclosed $___

Arnhalde Tour
Thursday, November 14, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.
Number attending: Free

Winter Tree Walk
Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m.-noon
Number attending: Amount enclosed $___ Total enclosed $___

Please make check payable to D&R Greenway and mail to:
Delaware & Raritan Greenway Events, 570 Mercer Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

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.

$0.00

Headwaters Donor

$0.00

Tributary Donor

$250.00

Woodland Donor

$100.00

Trail Donor

$100.00

Wildflower Donor

$50.00

Maple Leaf Donor

$40.00

Family Membership

$35.00

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$20.00

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:

$0.00

Land Acquisition Fund

$0.00

Land Management Fund

$0.00

Contributions of $100 and more will receive a set of six fine art screen prints created by Hyrnanus artist, Hermod萱son. Donation is non-tax deductible to the extent allowed under law. (Deductible contributions are: $100-$999.99; $250-$299; $500-$499; $750-$749; $1000-$999.99; $2000.00 and over; $10,000 and over. For a detailed description of the artwork, please refer to page 1.)

I'd also like information about:

$0.00

preserving my stream corridor lands

$0.00

D&R Greenway footprints

$0.00

Hamilton/Trenton Marsh

$0.00

Calendar of Events

$0.00

Volunteer opportunities

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Telephone

Please make check payable to D&R Greenway and mail to:
Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc., 570 Mercer Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

Item / size
Quantity
Amount

Merchandise total $_____

Shipping & Handling ($4.00 per address) $_____

Total enclosed $_____

Reflecteds

Continued from page 3

the canal and their joy of painting and photographing, the artists were eager to share their works and experiences with a broader audience. When they approached D&R Greenway with their idea, it seemed a perfect fit for our Arts and the Environment Series.

Nourished by their passion and enthusiasm, the tiny seed of an idea was planted and what would have been simply a collection of fine paintings and photographs, blossomed into much more. Together, the artists, D&R Greenway and Bristol-Myers Squibb curator, Pamela Sherin developed a very successful exhibition at The Gallery at Bristol-Myers Squibb highlighting the natural connection between art and the environment and the need to protect our sensitive lands in central New Jersey.

Now the exhibition, Reflections Along the Canal. Delaware & Raritan Greenway, is expanding and traveling to Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ. Additional art works by each artist, along with selections from The Gallery, will also be on display at the Mills. The art works are for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefit D&R Greenway's land preservation projects.

An opening reception will be held Friday, October 11 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Admission is $10 for members, $15 for nonmembers. To register in advance, use the coupon above. Tickets will also be available at the door. The show will run through Saturday, October 26. Gallery hours are 1:00-4:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

As the land nourishes and influences the artists, they in turn, through their art, inspire an appreciation and value, nourishing and influencing the audience. And together, artists and audience influence the land and work to protect and hold on to that which we love.

DELAWARE & RARITAN GREENWAY NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 1996

DELAWARE & RARITAN GREENWAY NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 1996
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(Gifts received from July 1, 1996 to August 31, 1996)

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