

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.
Volume 4, Number 3
September 1996

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.

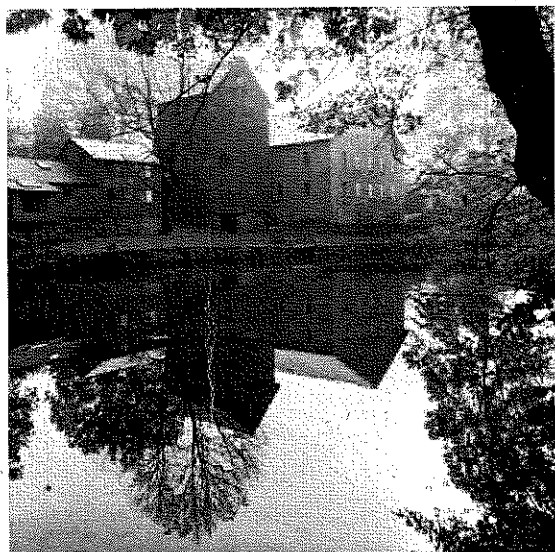
Strong ties bind the arts and the environment. Art often reaches us on an aesthetic level, instantly evoking emotions and recalling memories that reconnect us to parts of ourselves that are often difficult to access through other means. A rich playground to a child, the natural world also offers a refreshing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

Continued on page 7

Inside

- Greenway Receives Grant
- Autumn Canal Tour
- Coordinator Announced
- Artists Featured
- Upcoming Events
- Gift Ideas

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

On 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 project areas. These funds are provided through the new Green Acres bond act approved last November and are in addition to the \$2.5 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 Kuser Mountain), Woolsey Brook in Hopewell Township and Simonson's Brook in Franklin Township.

With this funding we are also able to preserve the Ingersoll Rand prop-

erty in Montgomery Township. Ingersoll Rand was originally seeking 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 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 the Sourland Mountain, a goal that has been desired by planners, recreationalists 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. The Stony Brook Greenway is D&R Greenway's model greenway project.

Twenty-one miles long, the Stony Brook flows through Hunterdon and Mercer counties and six municipalities. This vital stream corridor is teeming with life. Diverse flora and fauna live along the stream corridor and five species of freshwater mussels can be found in the Stony Brook, including the rare brook floater. As a matter of fact, Stony Brook is the only waterway in New Jersey where this mussel has been found.

To date, D&R Greenway has preserved more than 800 acres along the Stony Brook Greenway. ♦

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 stops 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, Trenton, and Lambertville. 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 migrating 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.

James Amon, Executive Director of the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission, will serve as the tour leader. The tour will depart from Princeton at 9:30 a.m. and return by 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$50 per member and \$55 per nonmember. Seats are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Use the coupon on page seven to register. ♦

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/Trenton Marsh.

Dani-Ella graduated from Rutgers University's Cook College with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Ecology.



Dani-Ella Betz

She began her career as an intern with New Jersey Audubon's Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, New Jersey where she conducted outdoor environmental education programs, interpretive 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 Briggs Nature Center. She led various 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!

'Through Their Eyes'—The Artists

The exhibition *Reflections Along the Canal: D&R Greenway* project brought together four delightful, interesting and inspiring artists, Dorothy Bissell, Clem Fiori, Sylvia Cummings Kokatnur, 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 fond and vivid memories connecting them to the land. As adults, they yearn to hold onto that connection and 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 persistent invitation, promises of delicious lunches 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 'grand central station' for her large extended family. Dorothy relates, "We kids ran up and down the

mountains like billy goats, swam and hiked 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 begin 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 for me." 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 neuropsychiatric hospital, and in a more glamorous role, has traveled around the world teaching 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 a keen eye for color. She paints, "because I need to. I get a great excitement out of painting. It's renewing and refreshing. The feeling of creating something gives you a big lift."

And then as an afterthought, "Unless, of course, it's perfectly dreadful, and then you go into the depths of despair, killing yourself or cutting off your ear," she adds with a wry chuckle.

Clem Fiori

Clem Fiori has been exhibiting his photographs of the New Jersey landscape and the Delaware & Raritan Canal for twenty years. Through his art and his work in the political arena he has had far 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 "Monet's window", negative prints, and night photos 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.

Conscious of the power of memory and intrigued by how it works, Clem is very interested in exploring how art evolves from memory. In confronting his past, he "acknowledges that as we grow older we lose things—people, places, objects—we simply can't have it, hold it, keep it all. But we can honor it and make it beautiful by transforming it into art." Then, through art and our memory, we can hold on to that which we love.

"Writing stories that relate to my personal past to accompany my photos shows the connection between person and place and emphasizes the importance of having places like that. Without those places our children will never have those experiences that are so meaningful to us."

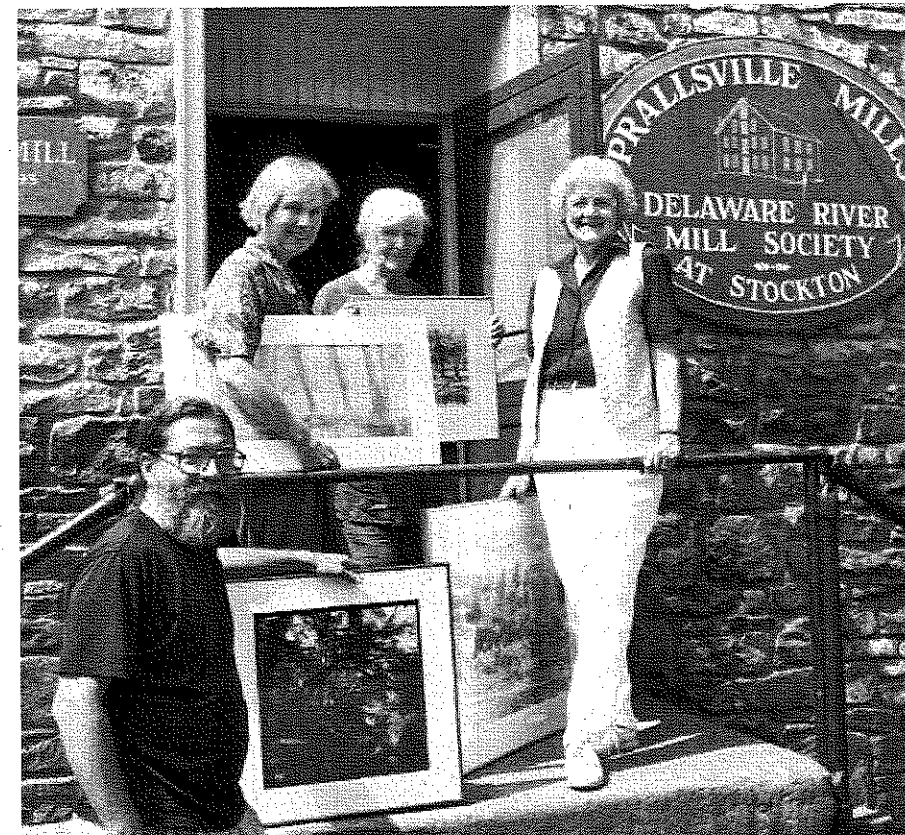
To Clem, "The main question is how to balance the natural and human elements. The canal is a perfect symbol for that. It was born as an economic and industrial tool, now it has evolved into something perhaps even more unique and valuable in that it is a connecting link between the human and the natural world."

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.' Once it's gone, it's gone for good. I use mechanical technology to put across the more human aspects of it."

Sylvia Cummings Kokatnur

Sylvia earned a degree in textile design from Pratt Institute. She married shortly

Continued on next page



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

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 Poconos. 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 burned quietly 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 to put it on paper. And when I don't 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 at first reluctant to join the others painting en plein air, her first experience easily convinced her of its merit.

"We went to Port 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 Lucy's colors, Sylvia began seeing 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 two other women who are so delightful."

Sometimes it takes Sylvia a half day to

find something she wants to paint. "I wander 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 sense of constant 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 paint water," she shares and then adds with a laugh, "I'm not an Aquarius for nothing."

Lucy Graves McVicker

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



Delaware River Near Stockton by Dorothy Bissell

Dorothy, who coaxed her into painting en plein air. Although she was at first reluctant to leave the comfort and conveniences of her studio, Lucy loves painting outdoors now.

"Nature gives the first impression," she shares. "But I can not let nature do all the creativity. I interpret the scene and then convey the way I feel about it. Painting en plein air is painting what you see—with a twist."

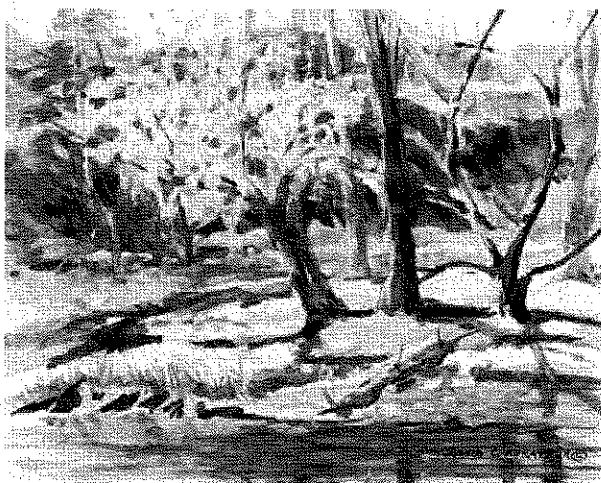
She also loves experimenting and playing with paint, ink, oil pastels, and mixed media and then letting the painting 'evolve.' "At that point it's pretty abstract. I just let it speak to me and then as I see something in the painting, I encourage it, tempt it to emerge into something recognizable."

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 Wilmerding lecture, D&R 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 embraced her 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&R Greenway, helping to protect and preserve the landscape that is 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&R Greenway has also enjoyed working with them. We are grateful for the beautiful and inspiring results of their labor and their active role in promoting 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! ■



Beden's Brook Spring by Sylvia Cummings Kokatnur

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 line 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 nonmembers, (\$8/family). For more information or to register, call the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Hotline at (609) 452-0525. Register early; space is limited.

Migrating Bird Walk

Sat., Oct. 5, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Autumn is one of the best times of the year to observe the greatest diversity of the more than 234 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 us identify the birds we see and hear. Registration deadline is September 27.

Family Nature Walk and Scavenger Hunt

Sat., Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Bring your family of nature detectives and together 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, teeth marks left on trees, spider webs, and feathers will help us explore the mysteries of the marsh. Dani-Ella Betz, program coordinator for the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh, will guide this tour. Registration deadline is October 11.

Watson House Tour and Woods Walk

Sat., Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Watson 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 Watson Woods led by Joe Schmeltz, Mercer County Park Naturalist. Registration deadline is October 25.

Explore the Mysteries . . . Discover the Magic! An Armchair Tour of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh

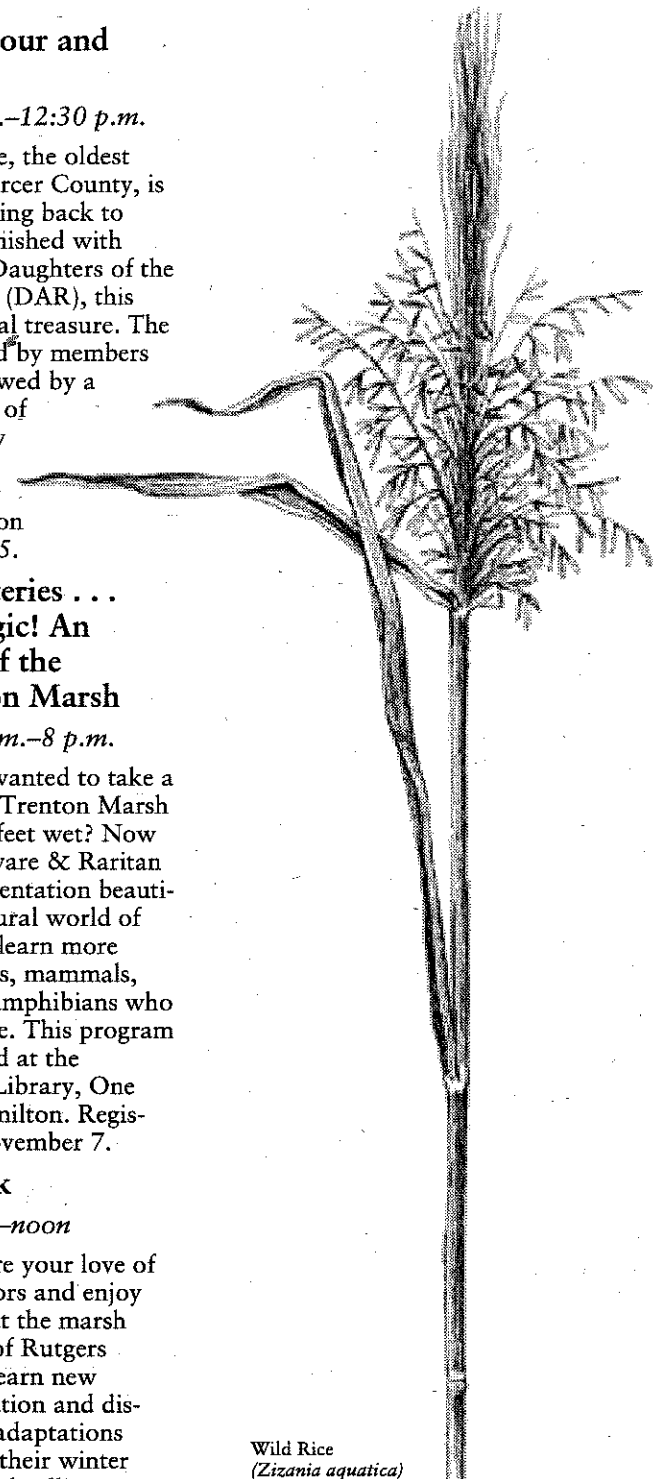
Thur., Nov. 14, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

Have you always wanted to take a tour of the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh without getting your feet wet? Now is your chance! Delaware & Raritan Greenway's slide presentation beautifully captures the natural world of the marsh. Join us to learn more about the plants, birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, and amphibians who 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 Kuser of Rutgers University. You will learn new skills in tree identification and discover the fascinating adaptations of trees which ensure their winter survival. Registration deadline is November 25.



Wild Rice
(*Zizania aquatica*)

D&R Greenway, Inc. Board of Trustees

Kate Litvack
Chairperson

Samuel M. Hamill, Jr.
Edmund Stiles
William M. Swain, Jr.
Vice-Chairs

Alan M. Hershey
Treasurer

Peggy McNutt
Secretary

Rosemary Blair
Katherine Buttolph
Beryl Robichaud Collins
Joyce Copleman
Alice Eno
Fred Gaskin
Richard S. Goldman, Esq.
Charles Hartman
Livingston Johnson
Robert C. Johnston
Harry Levine
Hella McVay
Thomas Poole
John Rassweiler
Gordon Smith
Lisa Stockman
Neil Upmeyer

ADVISORS

Edward W. Adams, CPA
James Amon
Dennis Davidson

DELAWARE & RARITAN
GREENWAY

STAFF

Peggy McNutt
Executive Director

Patricia Orban Quinby
*Director, Hamilton/Trenton Marsh
Project and Communications*

Dani-Ella Betz
*Program Coordinator,
Hamilton/Trenton Marsh Project*

Laurie Emde
Administrative Assistant

Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.,
is a regional, 501(c)(3) nonprofit land
conservancy dedicated to the preservation of
open space throughout central New Jersey.

Mahlon Lovett, *Design*
Heather Lovett, *Illustrations*
Printed on recycled paper

Our thanks to the following donors (Gifts received from July 1, 1996 to August 31, 1996)

Greenway Donors

W. Alton Jones Foundation

Headwater Donors

Elizabethtown Water Company, Merrill Lynch

Tributary Donors

Junior League of Greater Princeton

Woodland Donors

The Highland-Mills Foundation

Trail Donors

Mr. & Mrs. David Blair, Mr. & Mrs. John Borden, Thomas Cook, Mrs. Amos Eno, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Goheen, Samuel Hamill Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Ashton Harvey, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hegener, Mr. & Mrs. James Scott Hill, Mr. & Mrs. David Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Hallet Johnson Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Irving Kingsford, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Lambert III, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Lawson-Johnston, Mr. & Mrs. John Rassweiler, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Sanford, Gordon Smith & Kenette Sohmer, Caren Sturges, Summit Bancorp, Peter Taft & Mara Conolly Taft, Mr. & Mrs. Lucius Wilmerding III

Wildflower Donors

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ebeling, Amwell Valley Trail Association, Mr. & Mrs. T. Joseph Semrod, Dr. & Mrs. David Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Austin Starkey Jr., Judith Teller, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Thomas, Carol Zangara

Maple Leaf Donors

Henry Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Corson Jr., Howard Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Spud Grammar, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Harvey, Dr. & Mrs. Henry Horn, Mr. & Mrs. Ira Keats, Mr. & Mrs. Simon Levin, James McNutt, Susan Packer, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Sziber, Barbara Taylor & Michael Koczwar, Louise Tompkins, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Tritremmel, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Weeden III, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Whiteley

Memberships

Joseph Beke, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bertolino, Ursula Buchanan, Helen Crossley, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cumming, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Espenhorst, Kathy Fedorko & Peter Macholdt, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fisher, Marian Grover, Jeffrey Hartman, Lynn Hunt, Matilda Krebs, Dorothy Matsu, Mr. & Mrs. John Merritt III, Mr. & Mrs. John Piazza, Martin Rogoff, Owen Shteir, Althea Thornton, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Tunison, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Turner, Mr. & Mrs. David Young

Friendship Donors

Marybeth Carter, Dottie Dreas, Ruth Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Lawrance, Delyn McCosh

Memorial Gifts

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Latinsky in memory of Richard C. Craver

In-Kind

Peg Benton, Margery Miller, PDQ Press

Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.

570 Mercer Road
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
(609) 924-4646

Patricia Orban Quinby
Editor

Nonprofit
organization
U.S. postage
PAID
Permit no. 54
Princeton, NJ