In Perpetuity

Woolsey Brook Greenway Expands

In July, D&R Greenway, in partnership with the state, Mercer County and Hopewell Township, preserved 167 acres of open field and forest along Woolsey Brook in Hopewell Township. This significant property is located next to the township complex in a rapidly developing area. By purchasing the land valued at close to $2 million from owners Martin, Janet and Howard Alliger, and by placing conservation restrictions on the property, D&R Greenway and our partners have ensured that the fields and forest are protected forever.

Woolsey Brook meanders through the valley on the west side of Hopewell Township, joining with the waters of Seminary Brook and several unnamed tributaries before pouring into Jacobs Creek and the Delaware River. It finds its life from waters gurgling from springs hidden in a mature forest of white, black and red oaks, red maples and hickory trees. The forest is filled with the songs of wood thrush, oven birds, woodpeckers, red-tailed hawks and screech owls. Raccoons, fox, deer and other mammals make their home in the forest along the singing waters of the narrow winding brook.

Each spring, skunk cabbage, may apples, and other wildflowers push their way up through the layer of dried, decaying leaves to carpet the woodland floor. By summer, a thick canopy shades the forest providing shelter from the blazing sun. In the fall, bright autumn colors cover the trees in the valley as wildlife prepares for winter.

Stretching beyond the forest that lines the creek are acres of fertile farm fields, their boundaries defined by thin fence rows of greenery and paved roadways. The scenic vista of farm field and forest provides tranquil relief, seems to slow the speed of life from 65 miles per hour on neighboring I-95 to a more comfortable pace of sustained living—the pace at which we can notice the red-tailed hawk circling overhead, the doe with her fawn grazing in the field, and the great blue heron fishing at the water's edge; a pace at which we more readily notice joy, the person sitting next to us, and the gratefulness in our heart.

As is often the case, when we look more closely we find other jewels as well. The large expanse of open space supports the biodiversity of a healthy environment. The vegetation growing on the slopes stretching from the top of the hill to the creek, anchor the earth in place, minimizing erosion,

Continued on page 5

Foundation, Corporations Support Greenway

Many thanks to The Baldwin Foundation Trust for their generous gift of $3,000 to D&R Greenway. The grant supports our operations and helps to protect valuable open space in our region. Greenway is also very grateful to Elizabethtown Water Company, who increased their corporate contribution to $1,250 in support of D&R Greenway's preservation initiatives in central New Jersey. A special heartfelt thanks to Deborah Strom Gibbons for hosting a Greenway neighborhood reception at her home in June. Deborah hosted a gathering of landowners living along Stony Brook and nearby Sourland Mountain who have an interest in preserving their land. Greenway Board and staff enjoyed the opportunity to promote the Greenway vision and meet neighbors who want to work with us to protect the land they love.

A big thank you to Dan Whitaker of Lambertville Station for benefitting D&R Greenway with proceeds from a dinner held in honor of Governor Christie Whitman. With flags flying and bands playing, the Governor pulled into the railroad station in Lambertville where she rallied the crowd in support of her open space initiative. Standing beside the D&R Canal, she announced new funding that will enable bike path improvements along the canal.

Water Trail Grant Received

D&R Greenway is the recipient of a $6,000 matching grant from the Federal Highway Administration through the National Recreational Trails Act to create a self-guided canoe and kayak trail at the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. The water trail will be installed during the next year along Crosswicks and Watson Creeks at the marsh.

Wish List

20–30 cup electric coffee maker, Photographer's light table.
Common Ground
A YES! Vote for Open Space

With an overwhelming majority vote, both houses of the New Jersey state Legislature approved Governor Whitman's open space plan in July. The measure is the first-ever long-term $1.8 billion plan to permanently preserve woodlands, farmlands and other open space in the state. Following a vigorous letter writing campaign by conservationists, the plan was unanimously approved in the Senate and by a 78-3 vote in the Assembly. It will come before voters in November.

The goal of the bill is to preserve one million acres of open space in the form of farmland preservation (500,000 acres), watershed protection (100,000 acres), greenways, trails and rights of way (200,000 acres) and recreational areas (200,000 acres) by dedicating approximately $98 million dollars a year from existing revenue to land acquisition. These funds in turn would be used to generate ready cash and finance bonds, closing close to $1.8 billion dollars in total over the next ten years to be leveraged in land acquisition.

Governor Whitman outlined this plan in her second inaugural address and has made open space preservation the central issue of her second term. When the resolution passed through the houses, Governor Whitman stated, "Future generations will look to the passage of this resolution as one of the most important and defining events in determining the quality of life in New Jersey for the next millennium." Kudos to Assemblyman Leonard Lance and Senator Donald DiFrancesco who were the prime sponsors of the bills for a stable source of funding. Leonard Lance spoke persuasively when introducing the bill in an Assembly Appropriations Committee meeting held a few days before the vote, stating, "I personally want to be remembered for this bill and the lasting legacy it will provide for future generations."

The new bills replace the Green Acres Bond Act programs which have provided an integral source of funding for many non-profit organizations and have consistently been supported by voter approval since their inception in the 1970's. This has been the major source of acquisition funding for D&R Greenway, enabling protection of 2,400 acres since 1969. Unfortunately, the funds from these programs are virtually tapped out.

The dedication of existing funds requires a constitutional amendment and voter approval. New

Continued from previous page

Jersey voters play a critical role in the success of this open space initiative when the plan appears on the ballot in November. Without additional funding, D&R Greenway and other land preservation organizations will no longer be able to leverage the funds necessary to acquire land for open space preservation.

This stable source of funding, if approved by voters in November, will make New Jersey a national leader in the race to preserve open space. According to the plan, approximately 40 percent of New Jersey's 4.8 million acres will be set aside for preservation, which is of particular importance for the most densely populated state in the country.

You can make a difference! The many D&R Greenway members who wrote letters and contacted their legislators indicating their support of the initiative in the summer will have their vote in July. Our work is not yet over. Promote the open space protection vote to your friends and family. On November 3, be sure to get out and vote. If you won't be in town on election day, mail in your absentee ballot. Let your voice be heard in support of preserving New Jersey's natural resources and your quality of life.

Greenway Board Undertakes Strategic Planning Process

Earlier this year, D&R Greenway's Board of Trustees and staff initiated a strategic planning process to review our mission, articulate our vision, set our goals and determine the strategies needed to achieve them. A draft plan was prepared by the board and staff at a retreat in June and again during the summer. The final plan is set for discussion and review by the Board. Stay tuned for more good stuff... there are visions of green dancing in our heads!

Management Plan Drafted for Marsh
The Hamilton/Trenton Marsh

Coordinated Management Plan Committee is reviewing a draft management plan developed during the past several months. Building on the foundation of goals and priorities established by the marsh task forces over the past several years and incorporating information gathered at the public forum held in March, partners have compiled the draft plan now under review.

It is anticipated that the final draft will be published in November, 1998.

River Sojourn a Success
D&R Greenway sponsored one day of a week-long Delaware River Sojourn this year. More than 60 people paddled with us to celebrate open space preservation in New Jersey and promote Governor Whitman's open space initiative. The flotilla of canoes and kayaks launched in Kingwood and proceeded downstream guided by Tom Wilkins, commodore of the Mohawk Canoe Club, with Chris Nielsen leading the River Safety Patrol. Dr. Mary Lock, professor at Rowan University and Bill Rawlyk, both Greenway trustees, provided commentary on the geology of the area, with the occasional legend of Devil's Tea Table. After lunch at Bull Island State Park and a presentation on the open space initiative by Greenway chair, Neil Umpierre, the entourage did a short portage and paddled the final distance on the D&R Canal, taking out at Prallsville Mills in Stockton.

Following a brief storm, the festivities continued with a picnic at Bull's Island campground. Later that evening Joe Dudis from the Garden State Storytellers entertained us with river tales and wild stories.

Condolences
Our deepest sympathy to the family of Margaret D. Wilson who died in August. Margaret and her husband, Dr. Emmett Wilson, Jr., have been supporters of D&R Greenway for many years. In 1993, they protected nearly thirty-five acres of land bordering the D&R Canal in Grisgottstown through a conservation easement donated to D&R Greenway. At the time of her death, she and her husband were working to protect an additional six and a half acres. Margaret, who held a Ph.D. from Harvard University, was a professor of philosophy at Princeton University.
Greenway, BEEs and Others Teach Teachers

D&R Greenway co-sponsored an exciting summer institute entitled "Watersheds, a Resource for Empowerment," for teachers in the Garden State. Working in partnership with BEEs, Inc. (Building Environmental Education Solutions), New Jersey Audubon, and GREEN (Global Riverine Educational Network), D&R Greenway provided a week-long education program designed to help teachers bring the classroom and their students to our communities. Eighteen teachers from across the state participated.

Using watersheds as a theme, teachers learned how to identify and integrate local issues into their curriculum, encourage their students to be active learners and practice workplace readiness skills, enable students to learn about career opportunities, and empower them to become involved and make a difference in their communities.

Teachers in the summer institute program went for aquatic creatures at the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh.

Many environmental leaders from the region participated in the program. In addition to lectures and classroom activities, the program also included a guided wetlands tour and field program at the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh and a tour of PSE&G's Mercer Generating Station. Greenway's participation was supported by a grant received from the Junior League of Princeton.

Greenway's BROOK owners benefited in two ways: they received compensation for a percentage of the value of their property and they achieved significant tax benefits. (See Conservation Options story on page 2.)

A deed of conservation restriction was designed and recorded by D&R Greenway to permanently protect the pristine property. Three-quarters of the property is restricted to passive recreation and use as a nature preserve protecting its wildlife habitats, scenic value and the water quality of the stream.

The remaining quarter includes the fields along Route 346 and is restricted to active recreation including ballfields and parking areas. Hopewell Township will own and manage the preserve.

In 1994, sixty-four acres further east along the brook were protected through a bargain sale and partial donation to D&R Greenway. With the addition of this recently protected property, the Woolsey Brook Greenway has expanded to include some 230 acres of prime farmland and forest.

Greenway continues to work with landowners in the area to protect the rural character of this region and the resource value of the Woolsey Brook.
Cedar Ridge Kiosk gets Facelift

The kiosk at the head of the Cedar Ridge Trail on VanDyke Road in Hopewell has a new look. The enhanced sign welcomes and guides visitors to this one-and-a-half-mile trail winding through 30 acres of forest and fields dotted with wildflowers along Stony Brook. The sign also includes a map of other Greenway trails in the area. Autumn is a great time to get out on the trail and enjoy the colorful wildflowers and leaves—check them out at Cedar Ridge Trail!

Upcoming Events

As the air turns crisp and autumn blazes in brilliant reds, yellows and oranges, it's a great time to get outside, explore and enjoy the wild outdoors. Along the waterways, turtles bask in the sunshine on the final warm days of fall. Wild animals forage and store food for the coming winter. Overhead, against a clear blue sky, you can catch a glimpse of the miracle of migration as wild geese, birds of prey and monarch butterflies ride the air waves to warmer climates. Keep your eyes, ears and hearts open so a bit of the wild seeps in and fills you too.

Paddling the D&R Canal

To help you enjoy the outdoors, D&R Greenway and the Mohawk Canoe Club are cosponsoring a series of trips on the D&R Canal led by Mohawk Canoe Club Commodore Tom. Continued on following page

Continued from previous page

Wilkins. Enjoy a leisurely paddle and the beautiful scenery along this historic waterway. These trips are open to the public. Canoe rentals are $40 for members and $50 for nonmembers. Maximum per canoe is two adults and two children under 16. Children under 16 are free when accompanied by two adults. We will match singles with partners when possible. Cost for companions to bring their own canoe is $10 per canoe. Registration is required at least two weeks prior to the trip and will be confirmed. A full refund will be made if notice of cancellation is received at least 72 hours prior to the program. Call (609) 924-4646 to cancel. No refunds will be given after that time. For more information or to register, use the coupon below or call the Greenway Hotline at (609) 452-0525.

Millstone to New Brunswick

Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
This early autumn trip is sure to suit your paddling fancy! Pass by the 18th century VanWykle House whose sacred grounds hold an 18th century family cemetery. Massive marble walls still span the preserved channels while evergreen hawthorns fill the steep cliffs on this section of the D&R Canal.

Lambertville to Trenton

Saturday, October 17, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Paddle the historic feeder canal from Freeman’s Eddy Access just south of Lambertville to Lower Ferry Road on the outskirts of the capital city. Paddle along New Jersey’s west shore and the Delaware River through an area steeped in history. We’ll paddle through the tiny village of Titusville and Washington Crossing State Park. Enjoy the scenic views of the Delaware River and the rock formations along the canal.

Membership counts!

Your contribution helps us preserve rented open space. Join today and make a difference. Members receive advance notice and discounts to nature walks, canoe trips and lectures, and our quarterly newsletter Greenways.

- $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
- $10 Other

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

Also enclosed is a gift towards D&R Greenway is

- Land Acquisition Fund $____
- Management & Monitoring Fund $____

I’d also like information about:

- preserving my stream corridor lands
- D&R Greenway trails
- volunteer opportunities

Event Registration

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

Paddling the D&R Canal:

- Millstone to Brunswick
  Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  Number attending: ______  Amount enclosed $ ______

- Lambertville to Trenton
  Saturday, October 17, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  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

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

New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide Available

The New Jersey Wildlife Viewing Guide was recently published through the efforts of the National Watchable Wildlife Program, a unique partnership initiative coordinated by Defenders of Wildlife. The New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife Endangered and Nongame Species Program provided major funding for the project from the sale of New Jersey’s Conserve Wildlife license plates. Published by Falcon Publishing Co., the guide contains detailed information on eighty-seven premier wildlife viewing sites in New Jersey. The guide includes maps and directions, access information viewing tips and color photos of New Jersey’s wildlife. The guide is available through area bookstores (ISBN 1-56044-569-6) for $10.95.

Tall Goldenrod (Solidago altissima)
Gifts that Support Open Space

Need a gift for that special person? How about yourself? Give a unique gift and support Delaware & Raritan Greenway at the same time!

Notecards
Quality note cards featuring artwork by Dorothy Bissell, Clem Fiori, Sylvia Cummings Kocamur, and Lucy Graves McVicker from our exhibit, Reflections along the Canal: Delaware & Raritan Greenway, are available.
Set of 4 cards, $6.00; set of 8, $12.00.

T-shirts and Tote bags
These attractive T-shirts and totes feature an original design created especially for the Marsh.

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

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

Tote bag. Cotton canvas. $12.00.

Post Cards
Six different cards featuring scenes at the Marsh are available; $.25 each, 5 for $1.00.


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Name
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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.

Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc.
570 Mercer Road
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
(609) 924-4646, Fax (609) 924-5577
Patricia Orban Quinby
Editor

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

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 Loven, Design
Heather Loven, Illustrations
Printed on recycled paper