In Perpetuity

Gibbons Donation Extends Greenway

Deborah Strom Gibbons loves her farm and wants the fields and woods to remain as they are today—open land where birds, wildflowers and trees flourish. And she’s doing her part to protect the Sourland Mountain region that she calls home. She shares, “The Sourlands are very precious and I’ve come to love them dearly. I want to make sure that the piece I own will always remain wild.”

Acknowledging the development pressures faced throughout our state, Ms. Gibbons explained, “Someday you’ll be driving down the road and see strip mall, strip mall, strip mall. Then you’ll see this and your grandson or granddaughter will ask, ‘Is that how it really was?’ You’ll be able to answer yes.”

Gibbons, a writer with published books on bird watching and women pioneers in the environmental movement, donated a conservation easement on her 76-acre farm on Ridge Road in East Amwell Township to D&R Greenway. The property includes approximately 25 open acres surrounding her homestead and 50 acres of woodlands. The conservation easement permanently protects the land and allows Ms. Gibbons to continue to live at the farm.

The Gibbons property is adjacent to protected lands in the Sourland Mountain Region including Highfields, the state-owned Lindbergh Estate. It also borders the Sourland Mountain Park owned by Hunterdon County along the Sourland Crest and is part of a long-term project to create a continuous park along the Sourland Mountain.

An adjacent 107-acre property on Featherbed Lane was protected in 1997 through a partnership agreement with state, county, and local groups. D&R Greenway acquired 70 acres through a NJ Green Acres non-profit matching grant. Another 37 acres was protected through the Green Acres State Acquisition program and will be managed by the Natural Lands Trust.

The protected lands are also linked to the Stony Brook Greenway, a ribbon of protected lands stretching along the 21-mile Stony Brook.

Continued on page 7
Common Ground

Voters Sound A Resounding Yes!

On November 3, voters sounded a resounding Yes! for open space across the Garden State. The state initiative to support a stable source of funding for the preservation of open space in New Jersey passed by a three-to-one margin, Mercer County's one-penny increase passed by 11,000 votes. Additionally, municipalities in the D&R Greenway region passed open space referendums. They include the townships of East Amwell in Hunterdon County, Franklin and Hopewell townships in Monroe County, Skylands in Somerset County and Hopewell, Washington, and West Windsor townships in Mercer County. Pennington Borough also approved a measure for open space funds. D&R Greenway contributed extensive time and effort to support the state-wide and local open space campaigns. On October 6, we hosted Governor Christie Whitman's press conference to kick-off the state-wide open space initiative with the Coalition to Preserve Natural Resources at the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. It was a great opportunity to share the mission with the Governor, Commission- er Robert Shinn and other state and local officials. Even the ospex (opposing above) Spring Lake in search of lunch during the tour seemed to join in and encourage our efforts.

We also sponsored a media tour of protected lands in the D&R Greenway. We enjoyed such fall weather and vibrant colors, dined near Washington's Table Rock and discovered beech drops, bluebirds and beautiful vistas of autumn splendor in central New Jersey. In talking with landowners, the reporters also uncovered the heart strings that tie us to the land and a sense of stewardship rather than ownership. Special thanks to Deborah Strome Gibbons and Dr. David and Peggy Donders for opening their homes and hearts to make the tour a great success! D&R Greenway also coordi- nated the Open Space Alliance, a regional committee of environmental- tal organizations that have supported the local open space measures with editorials, mailing, phone calls, pamphlets and volun- teer participation. Many thanks to all of the D&R Greenway members and volunteers who responded enthusiastically to our call for help. Your show of support was terrific and gratifying—and helped to carry the vote!

Over the past nine years, D&R Greenway has worked in partners- hips to preserve more than 2,600 acres in central New Jersey. The State Agronomy Program has been a major source of funding. Now we look forward to leverag- ing these increased open space funds to expand protected lands along the D&R Greenway. Stay tuned!

Trees Tease

Can you name a tree with "alligator bark," or any one of a handful of "bee trees"? How about explaining "heartwood" to your Valentine this February? You can be in the know by checking out the new field guide to trees published recently by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry.

The book, Trees of New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic States, in- cludes descriptions of 146 tree species. This easy to read guide includes a glossary of terms, a simple identification key, region maps, and fun fact fonts. It's a great resource for outdoor enthusi- asts, students, educators, natural resource professionals and others interested in trees, forests, and forestry.

Trees of New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic States, is available for $10 from the Forest Resource Education Center, 370 East Veterans Highway, Jackson, NJ 08527. Tel: (732) 835-9116.

Conservation Options

The Gift of Donation

By LINDA J. MEAD

The beginning of a new year is, for many of us, a time of reflection and introspection. Our wish list of tasks we'd like to accomplish, resolutions we hope to keep, and blessings that we are thankful for are long and thought-filled. For those of us who cherish open space, we have much to celebrate as we look back on 1998 and forward into the future.

The year 1998 will forever be known as the year that New Jersey voters supported a million acres open space initiative. Those of us who live in or visit the State Greenway region have sent a message that we care about our woodlands, farms, and the stream valleys that make our region unique. A commitment to land that gives us a place of identi- ty and belonging.

Several years ago, I heard Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. speak about land ethics, and the meaning of environmentalism. As a lawyer and defender of the Hudson River, he has studied the historical rights associated with the ownership of land, and looked at how we, as Americans, value land. Speaking of historical rights, he noted, "the people of the States own the rivers and the fish in the rivers. This right goes back to public trust laws from Roman Times." On the value of land to the American people: "Nature is the single most defining element of the American character. Americans have always gotten their identity from the land. It is not an accident that we chose to invent the Na- tional Park system—we (Americans) chose to memorialize the works of nature. We preserve nature because it enslaves us. When we destroy it, we diminish our- selves and our children’s future.” This struck a chord with me. Having had the privilege of work- ing directly with landowners over the past seventeen years, I am al- ways awed by the generosity of spirit and sense of stewardship that is evident in the decision for preserva- tion. A small list of landowners who donate their land or a portion of its value for preservation in New Jersey is one that I could hold much greater value than the dollar value associated with it. A landowner's connection to the land itself is real.

Aldo Leopold, father of land stewardship, spoke a truth when he said, "The places we save are the places we love," Deborah Strome Gibbons is a perfect model of this ethic. Her gift of a conservation easement to D&R Greenway on her 76 acres was given freely without financial remuneration. She protected her land because she cared about the land and wildlife, and wanted to see the land stay as it is beyond her lifetime. Deborah, however, would be the first to point out the tax benefits she received: an income tax deduction for the value of the easement, and the reduced value of her estate for inheritance tax. Don- nation of land also speeds up the process since D&R Greenway doesn't need to obtain government grants for acquisition. In fact, Gov- ernor Whitman's million-acre goal takes into consideration donated lands. The Governor is hopeful that more landowners like Deborah will come forward to generously donate the preservation of their lands.

As we celebrate our many bless- ings and hopes for the new year, we at D&R Greenway are espe- cially grateful for the opportunity to have friends like Deborah, whose gift of preservation benefits us all. "Environmentalism is about recognizing that we have a respon- sibility to our community and to the next generation. We can't sell the farm piece-by-piece in order to pay for the groceries."

-Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
April 17, 1997

To find out more about the benefits of stewardship to your land, contact Linda Mead at (609) 924-4446.

Strategic Plan Approved

In November, D&R Greenway’s board of trustees approved a strategic plan for the land conservation. Through the plan they reaffirmed the organization’s purpose of protecting land along the D&R Canal and waterways that flow through a 1,000-square mile region in central New Jersey; a region that includes portions of the watersheds of the Delaware, Raritan and Millstone rivers. Land preservation is accomplished through direct purchase, gifts, bar- gain sales, and conservation easements, and by assisting public and private partners in acquiring land for conservation. The board also committed to a proactive approach focused on creating opportunities by targeting lands and property seeking landowner commitments to land preservation. We plan to expand our efforts along the Stony Brook, Shipbuilding Creek, Woolsey Brook, the Mill- stone River, Simonson’s Brook, the D&R Canal, the tributaries of the D&R Greenway and other streams in our region. D&R Greenway is also looking to expand the greenway in the Sourland Mountain region link- ing preserved lands along the Northern Stony Brook to preserved lands along the Sourland Mountain. D&R Greenway is committed to providing educational opportunities to landowners about the natural, historical, and recreational values of the D&R Greenway region, thereby encouraging land preservation and stewardship. We will continue to and staff closely with the New Jersey DEP Green Acres program and local governments to identify protected project areas and targets for acquisition based on available funding.

Governor Christie Whitman tours the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh with Commissioner of Environmental Protection Robert Shinn (left), Hamilton's Mayor, Jack Rafferty (right), State Ornithologist Dr. Charles Lack (second from right), and school children from Kishwah Elementary School in Hamilton.
Management Plan Approved for Marsh

The 17-member planning team established to formulate a management plan to sustainably protect the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh has completed the final draft of the plan. Based on the work of the Marsh Task Forces and the outcome of the public forum held in March 1998, the committee developed a plan to optimize the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh's potential, while complementing other Delaware River initiatives including the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Designation, Mercer County’s Waterfront Park, the Heritage Trail, and the D&R Greenway.

The management plan for the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh supports a vision that:

- protects critical natural and historical resources,
- preserves valuable wetland functions,
- optimizes the educational potential of the Marsh,
- enhances recreational opportunities,
- establishes linkages with broader regional systems, and
- builds strong partnerships for long-term stewardship and management.

The plan addresses five key goals:

1. Preservation and Protection
   Preserve and protect natural habitats and historical resources and enhance land conservation values and awareness.

2. Stewardship
   Maintain the integrity of the natural and historical resources by striving to achieve a balance between protection, preservation, and human use.

3. Education
   Use the Marsh as an education site integrating the natural and human history and uniqueness of these urban wetlands in order to foster knowledge, understanding, and appreciation.

4. Recreation
   Provide and enhance appropriate recreational use by the public while minimizing negative impact on resources.

5. Management
   Establish an organizational structure to oversee the long-term stewardship of the Marsh.

The plan provides strategies for achievement of these goals and proposes methods of implementation to ensure the protection and long-term stewardship of this significant regional resource.

Success of the effort, the sheer number of strategies and tasks, and the complexity of the effort make it impossible to implement all of the strategies and tasks immediately. To make the process manageable, priorities for implementation to begin during 1999 have been identified as follows:

- Establish an independent management entity (e.g., nonprofit organization, public/private partnership, governing commission) to implement the management plan and coordinate individual and partner commitments.
- Establish partnership agreements (i.e., Memorandums-of-Understanding) to enable consistent management of marsh resources.
- Secure permanent protection, through acquisition and conservation easement, of critical marsh lands that are privately owned.
- Coordinate with regional programs (e.g., Mercer County’s Waterfront Park, the Delaware River Heritage Trail, and D&R Canal enhancements) to gain greater visibility for the Marsh and to support the goals of the management plan.
- Clearly identify appropriate access points and permitted activities, and prohibit uses incompatible with the management plan through signage and enforcement.
- Maintain existing enhancements through management and enforcement.
- Provide a facility to host visitors and to serve as a focal point for Marsh activities.
- Maintain and build an educational program at the Marsh by securing partner commitments to provide programming, and by making physical improvements that support educational objectives.

The balance of strategies and tasks developed to achieve each of the goals are delineated in the management plan. It is anticipated that these strategies and tasks will not be prioritized as to be implemented in
Preservation Partners Receive Award

The Woolsey Brook Partners in Preservation have received an Award of Special Recognition from the Delaware River Greenway Partnership. The award recognizes the recent acquisition and preservation of 167 acres of open fields and forests along the Woolsey Brook in Hopewell Township (See story in Greenways, Fall 1996). A public-private partnership, Woolsey Brook Partners in Preservation is led by Delaware & Raritan Greenway and includes the State of New Jersey, Mercer County and Hopewell Township.

In 1994, sixty-four acres further east along the brook were protected through a 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 preserved prime farmland and forest. D&R 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, Jacobs Creek and the Delaware River.

The Delaware River Greenway Partnership is a bi-state partnership of public and private organizations who seek to protect natural, historic, recreational and scenic resources along the Delaware River and its tributaries.

Save the Date

Mark your calendar and plan to join us in the Spring for special events:

An Estate Planning Workshop for Professionals will be held the morning of Friday, March 5 in Princeton. The program hosted by D&R Greenway includes a presentation by Steven Small, a nationally known expert in estate planning. This program is designed for attorneys, real estate advisors and financial planners.

On the afternoon of March 5, D&R Greenway is hosting an Estate Planning Reception for Landowners and their Advisors. Landowners are encouraged to learn more about protecting their family land and the benefits that accrue to them.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (609) 924-4464.

Management Plan

Continued from page 5

1999 will be addressed in the year 2000 and beyond. D&R Greenway extends our most grateful appreciation to the following members of the planning committee for their contribution in developing the plan: James Atwood, D&R Canal Commission; James Badgerly, NJ DOT; Merkly Chery, Trenton Open Space Advisory; David Cox, NJ DOT; Dennis Davidson, NJDEP Green Acres Program; Carol deGroot, Bordentown Township; Lisa Fritinger, Mercer County Planning; John Garcia, NJDEP Parks & Forestry; Sue Herron, NJDEP Parks & Forestry; Pat Kaefe, New Jersey Audubon; Mary Alessio Leck, Rider University; Donna Lewis, Mercer County Planning; Fawn McGee, Burlington County Land Use Office; Linda J. Mael, D&R Greenway; Carl Nordstrom, NJDEP Parks & Forestry; Joseph Oakley, Public Service Electric and Gas Company; James Panacke, Public Service Electric and Gas Company; Robert Presti, Mercer County; Patricia Orban Quinby, D&R Greenway; John K. Ruffley, Hamilton Township; Allen Scribner, Hamilton Township; Edmund Stiles, Rutgers University; Zigmunt Zalkind, City of Bovington.

We look forward to working together to implement the strategies and bring our vision to fruition.

For more information contact Pat Quinn, Director of Public Outreach, Delaware & Raritan Greenway, 570 Mercer Road, Princeton, NJ 08540. Telephone (609) 924-4464.

Gibbons

Continued from page 1

The headwaters of the Stony Brook lie in East Amwell and Hopewell Townships. The stream follows a winding course through farmlands, woodlands, and wetlands before it dips into Carnegie Lake in Princeton. Since 1992, D&R Greenway has preserved nearly 500 acres along the Stony Brook.

Through linking the Stony Brook Greenway and protected lands in the Sourland Mountain region, more than 1,000 contiguous acres of land have been permanently protected providing miles of recreational trails and important breeding habitat for birds that require deep forest sites to flourish.

"Preserving the land is not without costs," Ms. Gibbons explains. "But D&R Greenway has made it as uncomplicated as possible. I received substantial tax benefits from donating the conservation easement and I can continue to live here and enjoy the farm."

Kudos to Deborah Strom Gibbons for having the foresight to protect the open space and scenic farm vistas we have come to cherish. Her generosity benefits residents throughout our region.

TranSCO

Continued from page 4

Conservation Foundation, D&R Greenway monitors the easement annually. Wildlife enhancements at the site include the construction and monitoring of nest boxes for bluebirds, swallows, and wood ducks. Mowed areas are rotationally mowed to maintain habitat for songbirds, game birds, reptiles and small mammals. Forest stands are managed to provide diverse habitat. Recently the nature trail through the property was extended and is now a little more than a mile in length. Twice a year area school children visit the site to learn more about protecting wildlife habitat and the creatures who flourish there.

Congratulations TranSCO!

Common Snipe (Gallinago gallinago)

Membership counts!

Your contribution helps as preserve treasured 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.

$2500 Greenway Donor
$1000 Headwater Donor
$5000 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. Enclose the matching gift form.

Also enclosed is a gift toward D&R Greenway's

Land Acquisition Fund $__________
Management & Monitoring Fund $__________

I'd also like information about:
preserving our stream corridor lands
D&R Greenway trails
bequests and charitable giving opportunities

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Tel (area code)

Please make check payable to D&R Greenway and mail to: Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc. 570 Mercer Road, Princeton, NJ 08540
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, Kokatunt, 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 (12-14). $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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**Item / size** | **Quantity** | **Amount**
--- | --- | ---

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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.

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