Congratulations, Linda Mead, on National Conservation Award

Delaware & Raritan Greenway's Executive Director, Linda J. Mead, received the prestigious International Paper Conservation Partnership Award for 2002 on June 25 in Washington, D.C. at a special luncheon at the National Press Club. The award, now in its fourteenth year, is presented by The Conservation Fund and is accompanied by an unrestricted grant of $10,000.

In announcing the award, Lawrence Selzer, President of The Conservation Fund, wrote to Linda, "The award demonstrates the positive value of cooperation, rather than confrontation, in protecting habitat and open space. In making their decision, the judges felt that through your vision, leadership and dedication you showed how much can be accomplished through partnerships and collaboration."

Noting the more than 100 nominations received from across the country, Mr. Selzer added that, "You were chosen in recognition of your innovative leadership and for forming partnerships with business, public agencies, residents, government and conservation organizations."

Dennis Davidson, Deputy Administrator of New Jersey's Green Acres Program, was one of many in New Jersey to recommend Linda for the award. He said, "D&R Greenway has become a critical partner in reaching the State's ambitious open space goals in New Jersey. They know how to get things done, with their success rate growing to the highest level in the State. (The Green Acres Program) will continue to

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Foundation Support

D&R Greenway announces new contributions that support our land preservation mission:

The Beneficia Foundation awarded a grant for $15,000 to support our land preservation activities.

The Mary Owen Borden Foundation has awarded D&R Greenway a grant of $20,000 to promote land preservation in central New Jersey.

The Bunbury Co. gave a grant of $5,000 in support of our daily operations.

The John R. and Dorothy D. Caples Fund awarded a grant of $2,500 in support of our land preservation mission.

The Larsen Land Foundation made a contribution of $4,900 for general support and a separate contribution of $10,000 in support of D&R Greenway's Galas for Greenway Kickoff.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc. has granted $2,680 in support of D&R Greenway's work at the Hamilton-Trenton Marsh.

A very special thanks to ETS and Eleanor Horne for hosting D&R Greenway's Galas Kickoff event on June 9 in support of land preservation in central New Jersey. ¶

George O'Brien, President of International Paper, Linda Mead, Executive Director, D&R Greenway, Stephen Mead, Peggy Mcgarvey, Linda's mother.
National Award

Continued from page 1

support D&R Greenway in protection of the qualities that make New Jersey a special place to live.”

New Jersey Congressman Rush Holt wrote, “Linda recognizes that successful conservation depends on developing partnerships involving many parties who are broadly representative of the community. Her partnership with Bristol-Myers Squibb in preserving the 186-acre Carson Road Woods property in Lawrence Township and her close working relationship with UBS Paine Webber in advising landowners about the estate planning possibilities that accrue from donations of property both exemplify the sound principle of partnership development.”

As a direct result of Linda’s accomplishment over the past several years of partnership and cooperation for land preservation, the New Jersey Green Acres Program announced a staged release of all land trusts across the state reveals D&R Greenway to be at the top of the list in successfully completing transactions with Green Acres money to achieve land preservation results. D&R Greenway has been granted more state funding for land preservation than any other organization in New Jersey.

This national award is especially significant in that it recognizes Linda’s and D&R Greenway’s land preservation efforts in one of the most densely populated regions in the country, where high land values make land preservation challenging. Linda’s award focuses national attention on an area of New Jersey that is critical to the state’s preservation efforts, where green belts are an integral part of local communities in which people live and work.

At the National Press Club luncheon in Washington D.C., Linda lauded the staunch support of the board of D&R Greenway as well as her hard working, professional, and experienced staff as integral to her own success. The staff was on hand to see her receive the award along with Board Chair Chuck Hartman, Princeton Township Mayor Phyllis Marchand, Board Advisor John Harper, and D&R Greenway Strategy Committee member Wade Martin. Friends and family were also there to applaud her well-deserved award.

In recognition of D&R Greenway’s role in preserving land critical to The Crossroads of The American Revolution and central New Jersey’s place in our revolution’s heritage, the staff saluted Linda with three “hip, hip, huzzahs” and tossed D&R Greenway hats into the air. The event was a huge success.

On June 26, over eighty Princeton area supporters, municipal and county representatives, State of New Jersey Green Acres employees, and a myriad of reporters braved the heat to celebrate Linda’s award on the grounds of Greenway Meadows, in front of the 100-year-old barn acquired when the property was saved for preservation in 2001.

In her remarks, Linda indicated that the barn will become the permanent home for D&R Greenway once funds are raised for its renovation. As a salute to the success of partnerships and cooperation, she remarked “...the barn will be a vital center for land preservation, a place where local communities and grassroots groups can accomplish collaborative preservation initiatives. This barn represents how far D&R Greenway has come over the past decade. It stands as a symbol of partnerships and cooperation represented by preservation of Coventry Farm, Carson Road Woods, and Greenway Meadows. Without D&R Greenway’s preservation efforts, the barn itself would have been torn down to make way for residential development on this property.”

In recognition of the urgency to preserve land in central New Jersey, Linda announced her own personal contribution to the barn renovation as a gift, thus exciting all, challenging the community to join her in this endeavor. Congratulations, Linda!

NJ Green Acres staff congratulate Linda newly appointed Administrator Joy Watson, Deputy Administrator Dennis Davidson, Lisa Stern,法人 McGee, and Sue Seyboldt

Conservation Options

D&R Greenway Preserves Unique Rhododendron Garden

In early July, D&R Greenway partnered with Mercer County to preserve a 20-acre property that represents another first for our organization. Fred Vahalos oversaw the preservation, through an estate sale of his uncle’s world-class rhododendron collection on a 20-acre property in Washington Township, Mercer County with an added benefit: the property will be used by the local schools as a hands-on classroom for high school students.

Speaking of his family’s motivation to sell the land for preservation, despite the fact that it is easily accessible from I-195 and highly developable, Fred explained, “Jo and Joe’s labor of love will last forever.” Fred was speaking of his aunt and uncle, Josephine and Leon Heuser, who owned the property for the past 40 years while growing the rhododendron collection that has become world-known.

Leon Heuser was a chemist with the Squibb Company where he received the patent for filtering a penicillin for commercial use, making it widely accessible as a medicine. In his forty-five years with Squibb, he traveled worldwide and received a total of six patents. He retired in 1972 to his real love, the propagation and growing of rhododendrons.

In keeping with Leon Heuser’s interests in education, the property will be used by the Upper Freehold School District as a workshop for their nationally recognized agricultural curriculum. High school students will benefit from an indoor facility with propagation benches to be located at the existing loam on the property. A partnership with the American Rhododendron Society will provide students with expert advice on the management of the rhododendron collection. Trails will be open to the public on weekends. Dr. Robert Connelly, Superintendent of the Upper Freehold Regional School District stated, “We see this as a great enhancement of our agricultural program. Because of this unique opportunity, we will be able to add four additional agricultural courses to our program, as well as enriching our science program.”

Above, Mercer County Executive Robert Prineetti, D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Moad, Washington Township Committee Member Jack Moshuda, Upper Freehold Deputy Mayor Bill Miscasi, Superintendent Dr. Robert Connelly, Upper Freehold School District.

Right, Landowner Fred Vahalos and daughter Marissa

Today, there are over 100 hybrids on the property, created from 25 original cultivars. Rhododendrons create a mass of pink, purple, white, yellow, and reds from April into June. Josephine and Leon Heuser worked together to provide rhododendron from their property to Princeton University, Mr. Heuser’s alma mater, and to many of the grand estates in Princeton. Leon Heuser was responsible for registering one new hybrid, Dexter’s Honeydew, an ornamental variety that can be found on the property. Josephine was known as the “Rhododendron Queen” and founded Princeton Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

To see the property first-hand, sign up now for D&R Greenway’s Rhododendron Tour Gala, May 17, 2003—during the height of the blooming season. Tour the gardens to view rare Dexter and Gable rhododendron varieties and walk the trails on guided tours led by experts from the American Rhododendron Society. The society will also be selling young specimens of the rhododendron varieties on display. Join us for a lovely spring day and help us celebrate a unique partnership that honors the Heuser’s commitment and the future of new gardeners as they learn to love the land on a Greenway-protected property.

If you would like more information about this Gala, or would like to order tickets, please call Nancy Breden at 609-924-4446.
New D&R Greenway Lands
Preserved, January – July, 2002

The last six months have been extraordinarily busy at Delaware & Raritan Greenway with the completion of seven land transactions in central New Jersey. More than 1,000 acres, valued at over $3 million, has been added to the permanently preserved open space in central New Jersey. New D&R Greenway lands preserved in 2002 include:

- Close to twenty acres of deep woods habitat in the South Mountain, a place critical for neotropical birds that migrate from Central America and depend on our woods as their breeding grounds;
- Sixty acres of fields and woodlands along Moore’s Creek that creates a protected corridor connecting Hunterdon and Mercer counties;
- The final link in connecting Howell Living History Farm and Baldpate Mountain, the Birum property, protected in partnership with Mercer County, includes a Revolution-era farmhouse and the maple sugaring grove for the farm;
- The well class Indian Run Rhododendron Nursery in Washington Twp., where a unique partnership will result in the creation of a hands-on classroom for high school students and schoolchildren;
- Another 100 acres of wetlands and woods that increases our Northern Stony Brook Preserve to over 1,360 acres;

More than 80 acres of meadows and cedars woods along the Stony Brook at D&R Greenway’s Cedar Ridge Preserve, a pioneer land preservation initiative of Walter Fullam and his family.

- Facilitated with Franklin Townships 40 acres of fields and forests opened up by the D&R Canal and Griggstown to connect with other lands preserved by the township in the Rockaway Valley.

We invite you to hike D&R Greenway’s trails at our Cedar Ridge Preserve located on Van Dyke Road in Hopewell, and at our Northern Stony Brook Preserve accessed from Mountain Road at the border of Hopewell and East Amwell townships. Enjoy the beauty of nature, and feel good about the legacy of land you are helping us to protect.

Common Ground

Funds Needed to Complete Preservation Link on Rosedale Road

D&R Greenway, in partnership with the Rosedale Road Open Space, is seeking to close a gap of $12,000 to complete the preservation of the Robert Wood Johnson estate lands on Rosedale Road in Princeton. The 14-acre woodland stream corridor provides the viescape along Rosedale Road across from the new Princeton Township Park, Greenway Meadows. Last year, D&R Greenway spearheaded a partnership with the state, county, Princeton Township and local citizens that resulted in the preservation of the sixty acres dedicated as Greenway Meadows. The remaining 14 acres directly across from the new park and next to Johnson Park School is now under threat of development unless we can raise the purchase price of $80,000 to protect this land forever.

The fourteen acres of land is heavily wooded with a mature canopy of large oaks, maple, hickory, and ash. It serves as a wildlife migration corridor and an undisturbed habitat for woodland wildlife. Species include a variety of forest breeding birds such as ovenbirds and other warbler species, owls, woodpeckers and wild turkeys. This property also has several areas of wetlands and streams. Sloping gradually to the Stony Brook, it provides a woodland buffer protecting the lower Stony Brook watershed.

The property’s immediate proximity to Johnson Park School will enable the school children to extend the school trails into the woods behind the school building and to utilize the woods as an outdoor classroom. There is also access directly from the public bike trail along the Stony Brook. With preservation, the property will expand the Princeton D&R Greenway, protect water quality and biodiversity and provide educational and passive recreation opportunities.

Commitments for major funding are already in place from the NJ Green Acres Program and Mercer County. The Walk for Open Space, organized by Princeton Day School’s environmental club, raised $12,000 that will be matched by D&R Greenway for the preservation of the 14 acres. What remains is a $51,000 gap.

Our deadline for raising funds is September 15. The preservation of this land offers many benefits including: protecting our environment and water; creating nature education opportunities for our children; and providing passive recreation for us all.

If you would like to participate in this effort, please contact Christofferson at 609-924-4646. We need your help now.

Carpe Diem:

D&R Greenway Supporters Seize the Day for a Wonderful Gala Kick-off Celebration

June 9 was a wonderful day for Delaware & Raritan Greenway and our many benefactors. The fun show down on a beautiful setting at the Chauncey Conference Center at ETS in Princeton. As close to 300 supporters enjoyed a lovely reception under the trees, the prestigious Donald B. Jones Conservation Award was presented to Pam Mount, former Mayor and current Deputy Mayor of Lawrence Township. And, perhaps most spectacular of all, the event raised over $132,000 to support D&R Greenway’s land preservation efforts.

Van Zandt Williams, recently retired Vice President of Development at Princeton University, was this year’s Honorary Chair of the Gala Kick-off Event. Carpe Diem was the theme of his remarks, as he spoke of the important role D&R Greenway plays in enhancing the quality of life in our communities by preserving open space for everyone’s benefit. Executive Director Linda Mead highlighted D&R Greenway’s record-breaking year in 2001, with 1,126 acres preserved and 14 properties protected. She noted the importance of both proactive planning and collaborative partnerships as factors that enable D&R Greenway to move quickly to protect endangered land.

As an example, Linda mentioned the recently preserved 183-acre Carson Road Woods property in Lawrence Township. Linda noted that just one year ago, immediately after the 2001 Gala Kick-off event, the first meeting of the coalition to preserve Caron Road Woods was held. Six short weeks later, the funds were raised and the land was protected. Carpe Diem indeed.

The high point of the day was the presentation of the Donald B. Jones Conservation Award by Chuck Hartman, D&R Greenway board chair, to Pam Mount. Chuck cited Pam’s tireless efforts to preserve Carson Road Woods, spearheading the coalition of private, public, and corporate partners, with D&R Greenway facilitating the fundraising. Accepting the award, Pam spoke of her personal commitment to protecting land and the environment.

acknowledged the unique contribution that D&R Greenway’s expert and dedicated staff bring to the technical aspects of land conservation and preservation. Pam complimented D&R Greenway’s ability to create innovative solutions, bringing together partner organizations and combining funding resources in ways that individual municipalities and grassroots organizations are not able to do on their own.

Good Time Galas for the Greenway Co-chair Sophie Glover invited everyone to participate in the silent auction. Original art created and donated by leading local artists, and for the first time, a custom-designed canister called “The Greenway Model” donated by Paint Island Canoe and Kayak, were all on exhibit in the garden, ready for some friendly, competitive bidding. Sophie also urged all guests to “seize the moment” to sign-up for many of the wonderful Galas scheduled throughout the year.

D&R Greenway would like to thank ETS in Princeton, who generously hosted our event, and to Eleanor Home, ETS Executive Vice President, and Board member of D&R Greenway, for her extraordinary support for open space in central New Jersey.

Save the date: next year’s event will be held the weekend of June 8. We hope to see you there.
Our festive fall Galas are about to begin!

The 2002 Good Time Galas for the Greenways is in full swing, raising money Gala-by-Gala to support D&R Greenways ongoing efforts to preserve our most precious and limited natural resource—our land. Autumn is the perfect time to experience the beauty of our preserved open spaces and these Galas were especially created to show-off the season’s colors to their best advantage. Choose one or take them all, each is a different expression of fall fun and celebration of our special land.

For more information, please call Nancy Breden at 609-924-4644. Or, you can use the enclosed reply card and envelope to send in your reservation and payment for the Galas of your choice.

Family Portraits at Meadowgate Farm
September 7, 2002, 2 pm
Have a Family Portrait taken by local photography legend Pryde Brown against the charming backdrop of Meadowgate Farm in Lawrenceville. Pick your favorite location and Pryde will capture your family, or just your children, in a black and white portrait ready in time for holiday cards. Afterwards, enjoy an afternoon exploring this special place. Visit the birds of alpacas from South America and search through woods and fields on a scavenger hunt adventure. Light refreshments will be served. Price per family: $50.

Track the Treasured Trails
September 14, 2002, 10 am
Hike through the preserved woodlands and fields of Princeton with Professor Lincoln Hollister as your guide to the geologic history to our area. The trek will start at

Galas sponsors Craig and Ellie Drerdorff and Nancy and Emilie Schoffelen

Mountain Lakes Preserve and end at Princeton Academy (a distance of approximately 4 miles). After taking in a morning of amazing meadows, fields and streams, relax with a picnic lunch at The Sign of the Fox Farm. Price per person: $50 Price per family: $100.

1st Annual Great Greenway Balloon Festival
September 29, 2002, 4:00 pm
This Gala is sold out! We invite you to come to Coventry Farm, in the heart of Princeton Township, to watch the hot air balloons expand and lift-off. Price per person: $10 (children under 12 free)

The Rapture of Raptors
October 5, 2002, 2:00 pm
Due to unprecedented demand, this sold-out gala has been expanded to accommodate more guests. Join local falconers Jay Gomper and Carol Katona for an afternoon at Spedden House, a property preserved by D&R Greenway that now serves as its temporary home. The art and spirit of falconry requires knowledge of raptors, skill in their handling and a daily commitment to feeding, care and environment. Watch both falconers and falcons in action and you’ll appreciate the lifetime of training required of these magnificent birds. Light refreshments will be served. Price per person: $50.

Money in the Meadows
October 12, 2002, 9:30 am
Capture spectacularly colorful landscapes at an outdoor painting workshop taught by prominent local artists. Be inspired by the beautiful, preserved open spaces and spectacular surroundings at Cole Farm in Hopewell. Demonstrations in oil, watercolor and pastel will be followed by two to three hours of painting and critiquing. Bring your own art supplies; your instructors will provide light refreshments. Price per person: $75.

Octoberfest
October 19, 2002, 12 noon
Celebrate the season family-style at our Second Annual Octoberfest at the McDougald Barn in Pennington. Enjoy the sights of this lovely preserved farm, while you picnic on spicy chili and old-fashioned southern barbecue. Sample the best in local brews as you dance to Dixieland jazz. Bring the kids time-honored activities such as sack races and pumpkin decorating (plus many prizes) will keep them happy and busy. Price per person: $75; per family $200.

Sourlands Lecture
November 10, 2002, 4:00 pm
Join Jim Luce, Princeton Professor Emeritus and author of the recently published New Jersey’s Sourland Mountain and learn about the history of this environmentally sensitive and historic area. Once bare of trees and covered with Peach Orchard communities, the mountain now contains significant, untouched bands of forests, perched wetlands and pastures. After the lecture, your host, Andrea Bonette, will be serving cocktails at her home in the heart of the Sourlands, preserved by D&R Greenway in 1999. Price per person $35.

We also have three Galas scheduled for Spring 2003: A Family Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, A Hike on Bald Pate Mountain on May 4, and A Tour of the Rhododendron Garden at Indian Run Nursery on May 17. (See Conservation Options in this issue of Greenways for the story of how D&R Greenway helped preserve this world-class property.) Details about these spring Galas will be published in our winter newsletter. Enjoy the Galas and thank you for your support of D&R Greenway and land preservation in central New Jersey.

Committee member Tasha Sanion and Board member Megan Thomas

Supporter Cheryl Mill and John Pallat (thank you to John’s wife Carrie for taking all of the photos of the Kickoff event—no photo of her!)
How We Thank You to our Donors

Delaware & Raritan Greenway relies on contributions from you to support our efforts to preserve and protect open space in central New Jersey. Because every dollar earmarked for land acquisition is directed toward that goal, without your contributions we could not support our professional staff, who are critical to negotiating and executing our land preservation successes. Publicly acknowledging your generosity we express our gratitude you are very important to us.

Starting with this issue of Greenway, our donors’ names will be published within the time frame of gifts received since previous newsletter and then again at the end of the year in our annual donor report. This will allow us to publicly THANK YOU in a more timely fashion. For gift-related operations, Delaware & Raritan Greenway presents three major fund-raising events a year:

* The Annual Appeal comes to all of you in the form of a letter and requests our successful land transactions for the year. It is mailed in mid-November.
* The Spring Appeal comes as a letter and requests more details and information about our on-going efforts to preserve land. It is mailed in mid-June.
* The Good Time Galas for the Greenway, held in mid-March to both our corporate and individual supporters. These events support our annual Kickoff event, the Donald B. Jones Award, introduction of the 14 fundraising Galluses for the Greenway, and our major costs to continue preserving land in central New Jersey.

THANK YOU for helping keep central New Jersey green and healthy for you and your children.

**Donations Received June 1-30, 2002**

**DREGR Greenway Gala Artists:** Grace Prentice Johnson, Nancy Lee Kern, Marie Sturken, Margie (Margaret) Morgan, Rosemary Blair, Anita Benemerito, and Margaret Kennard Johnson
Delaware & Raritan Greenway Benefits from PDS’s Walk for Open Space

Three hundred people participated in the First Annual Walk for Open Space organized by Princeton Day School’s EnAct (Environmental Action) Club. D&R Greenway was one of five beneficiaries of the Walk, conceived and run entirely by high school students.

Delaware & Raritan Greenway received almost $12,000 in support of its land preservation efforts in central New Jersey. These generous contributions will support the protection of fourteen acres of woodland along Rosedale Road linking Johnson Park School with Greenway Meadows.

These funds will be matched by a generous supporter of D&R Greenway, bringing a total of almost $25,000 to the purchase of the fourteen acres.

Liz Cutler, faculty advisor for The EnAct Club said that the organization, fundraising, publicity, and logistics for the Walk were accomplished solely by the students. "Planting seeds for skills needed by our future environmental advocates is a major goal for members of The EnAct Club," she said.

In recognition of PDS’s extraordinary student involvement and support of open space in central New Jersey, including Coventry Farm, Linda Mead presented The EnAct Club with a plaque honoring their achievements, “When you return for an alumni weekend 50 years from now, you will be able to point with pride at the beautiful places your actions helped preserve.” On behalf of D&R Greenway, Linda also recognized the Board of Trustees of PDS for their role in preserving Coventry Farm in 2001.