

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.
Volume 14, Number 1
Fall 2006

D&R Greenway Partners with 3M and The Nature Conservancy to Expand Preservation in the Sourlands

In June of 2004, 3M pledged \$1.5 million to The Nature Conservancy earmarked for the preservation of central New Jersey's Sourlands forest. The Nature Conservancy sought the expertise of D&R Greenway Land Trust to determine where and how to apply the funds.

The 90 square mile Sourland region is one of the most environmentally sensitive areas in our state. The Sourlands contain the headwaters of 11 streams which are the source for much of the drinking water in central New Jersey. Its unbroken forests provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and wildlife, including 65 species of neotropical migratory birds. As a significant corporate presence in this part of New Jersey, 3M was committed to providing what The Nature Conservancy calls a "transformative" gift, one that would significantly accelerate the pace of land preservation and stewardship in the Sourlands.

Identifying Properties

The Nature Conservancy asked D&R Greenway for our help in determining the most effective way to express 3M's gift, based on our knowledge of the region and our strong reputation and relationships with landowners. According to Bill Rawlyk, D&R Greenway's Director of Land Preservation, "Many factors were taken into consideration when identifying potential properties for preservation. One of the most important of these was the presence of high quality intact forests and wetlands. Equally critical was each property's proximity to other protected lands. Contiguity of preservation enhances the conservation value of all the properties involved."

After weighing all the variables, D&R Greenway recommended six properties to The Nature

Conservancy and 3M. As all partners agreed, D&R Greenway initiated negotiations with each of the landowners and began to develop the total funding package for each property's preservation.

In the absolute, these six properties represent 287 acres of newly protected land. They are, however, important keystones that connect groups of preserved lands in adjacent townships or municipalities.

The first three properties to be preserved are the Belotti-Shulman property in Hopewell, the Hornickel property in Hillsborough and the Omick property in East Amwell.

"The Belotti-Shulman property is particularly significant," commented Linda Mead, D&R Greenway's Executive Director. "In itself, it is a beautiful 29-acre tract of old growth
Continued on page 2

Land Preservation Update

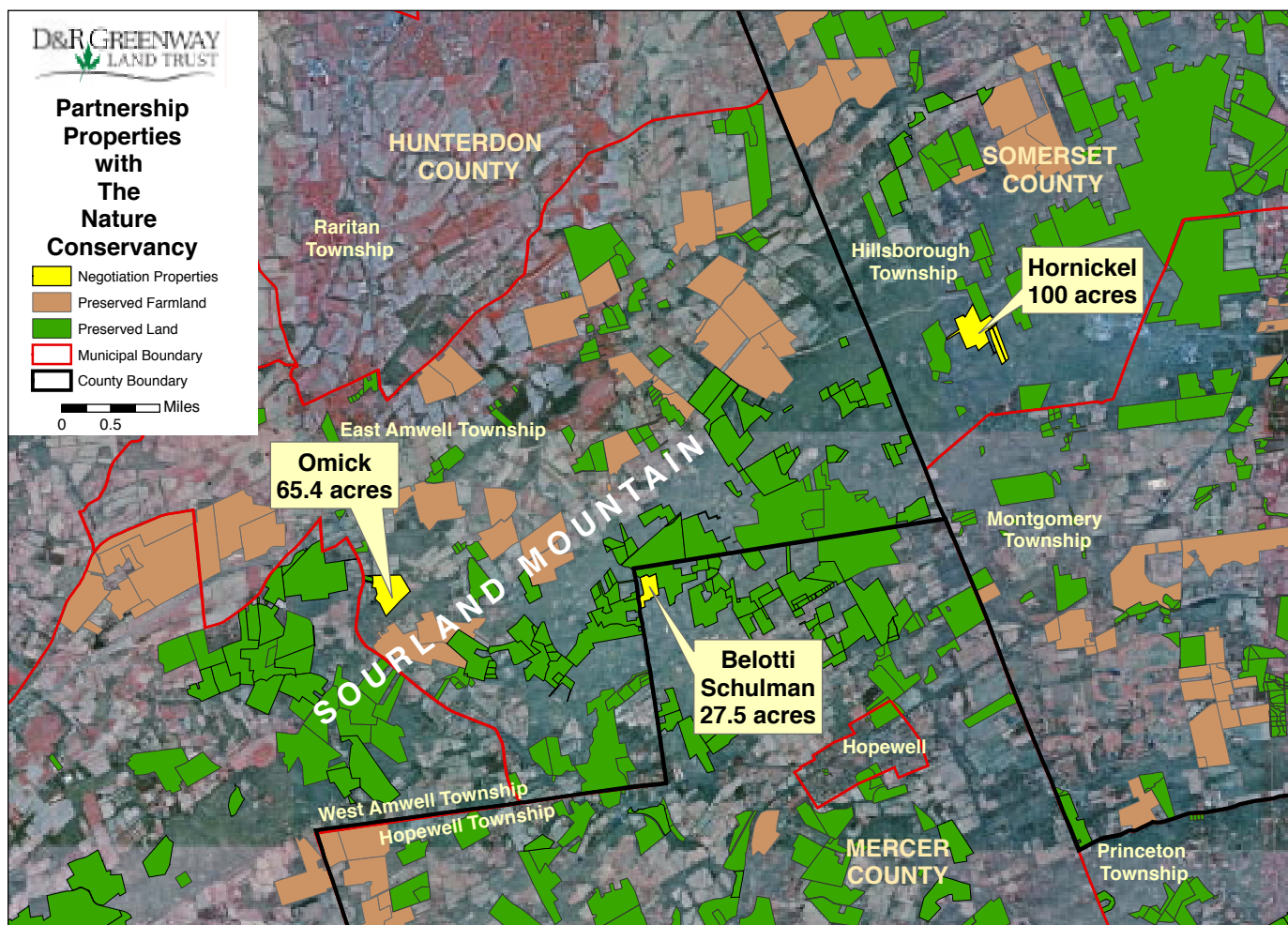
As of August 15, 2006, D&R Greenway has led the preservation of 8,780 acres valued at \$193.4 million, consisting of 156 properties.

Inside

- Special Section: Focus on Stewardship. Preserving land is the first step; caring for it is an ongoing and permanent responsibility. Learn about all the ways D&R Greenway stewards and protects the lands we are entrusted with.
- Thank you to our Taplin Circle, Business Partners in Preservation, and individual donors and volunteers.
- News and notes about our partner organizations.
- Fall programs and events at the Johnson Education Center
- New federal law gives fairer tax benefits for voluntary conservation easements



Jim Engel, Associate Director of Philanthropy, New Jersey Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Bill Rawlyk, Director of Land Preservation, D&R Greenway Land Trust, walking the Hornickel property in Hillsborough. The diabase boulder field they are standing in is a typical landscape in the Sourlands.



This map shows preserved forest, open space and farmland in the 90 square mile Sourland region. The properties being preserved in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and 3M are highlighted.

Expanding Preservation in the Sourlands

Continued from page 1

forest. It represents, however, the “missing link” that now provides an unbroken connection for over 2,620 acres arching across the Sourland ridge above Hopewell.”

In total, the Hornickel property is a magnificent, 100-acre forest that has been carefully managed for the past 50 years. “We are committed to preserving the land we have lived on and have grown to love,” said landowner Suzanne Hornickel. “We are delighted that D&R Greenway was able to structure a viable preservation transaction that will enable us to remain on our property, and also ensure its protection, forever.”

The Omick property in East Amwell is another 60 acre tract of

unbroken woodland. The abandoned mill ponds scattered throughout the property have evolved into sedge bogs that support communities of rare native plants. Kurt Hoffman, Mayor of East Amwell, declared “Thanks to the vision of D&R Greenway, the support of The Nature Conservancy, and the generosity of 3M an important ecosystem will be permanently protected and skillfully managed for future generations.”

3M’s funding enabled D&R Greenway to purchase the Belotti-Schulman property outright through a bargain sale agreement. Financing for the Omick preservation was sourced from East Amwell Township as well as from the 3M gift. When this bargain sale transaction is completed, D&R Greenway will hold the deed for this property as well and will direct the land usage of both properties in accordance with our own stewardship best practices and under the guidelines established by

the national Land Trust Alliance.

Somerset County provided the majority of the funding for the Hornickel property, with dollars from 3M closing the gap. While Somerset County will own the deed to the property, D&R Greenway has executed a management agreement with the county to provide the stewardship of the Hornickel land, which will be managed as forest with appropriate trail access.

Preservation and Stewardship

In allocating the 3M gift, The Nature Conservancy required that 10 percent of the total purchase price of each property be placed into endowment, to ensure perpetual stewardship of all properties preserved with 3M funds. “We believe that the careful management of natural resources on protected lands is necessary to assure the land’s long-term ecological health.

Continued on page 13

Focus on Stewardship

Defining and Delivering Stewardship

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “stewardship” as the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; *especially* the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.

In the case of D&R Greenway Land Trust, our stewardship extends over 46 properties on which we hold a conservation easement and 1,237 acres of preserved lands that we own outright. When you take into account the management agreements we have entered into with state, county or municipal entities, D&R Greenway has a moral, legal and ethical responsibility to protect and enhance the natural systems present on nearly 4,000 acres of land entrusted to our care. Clearly, stewardship is a vital and integral part of the mission of D&R Greenway Land Trust.

Jim Amon, D&R Greenway’s Director of Stewardship, views D&R Greenway’s role as a land steward on two levels. In the broadest sense, he defines stewardship as “caring for our properties so they function at optimum ecological levels.” Beyond this, he also views our stewardship respon-

sibilities as providing public access for appropriate use and enjoyment of these lands, without disturbing the optimal ecological balance.

Caring for the land to achieve its optimum ecological level often requires significant human intervention. In many cases, natural systems have been so damaged and fragmented that Mother Nature simply cannot heal herself. To address this, Jim has developed and is implementing specific management and restoration plans for each and every one of D&R Greenway’s properties. Invasive species need to be controlled and native species replanted and encouraged to grow in their place. These native species also provide biodiversity and create the best possible habitat for the insects, amphibians, birds, and mammals that call central New Jersey home.

With the help of many volunteers (including individuals, boy scouts and corporate community support), D&R Greenway has begun to construct new trail systems to provide the public with linked access to our preserved lands. The New Jersey Department



BMS volunteers clearing a path and laying out a section of trail.

of Environmental Protection is supporting our work to develop the Sourlands Foothills Trail, which

will begin in Hopewell Borough and extend up into the Sourlands. While creating new trails, we also provide the staff and resources to maintain the existing trail systems through our Cedar Ridge and Northern Stony brook preserves to keep them in ideal condition.

Permanently preserving the land is the first step; stewarding the land and its resources is an ongoing responsibility. Perhaps the simplest way to describe D&R Greenway’s stewardship practices is that we strive to enhance the conservation value of the land and the land’s value to the people whose tax dollars and personal contributions have helped to preserve it. ♣



Employees from Bristol-Myers Squibb spend a day clearing and building trails on preserved land

Stewardship of Conservation Easements

What is a conservation easement? It is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect the land's conservation values. A conservation easement allows landowners to continue to own and use their land and keep it intact. Eventually, the landowner can sell their land or pass it on to heirs and most importantly, future owners also will be bound by the easement's terms. In this way, a conservation easement has the power to protect a property from development, forever.

A conservation easement can be essential for passing land on to the next generation. By removing the land's development potential, the easement lowers its market value, which in turn lowers estate tax. Thus, creating a conservation easement can make a critical difference in the heirs' ability to stay on the land and keep the property intact.

The land trust holding the deed of conservation easement has the fiduciary and legal obligation for making sure the terms of the conservation easement are followed. Fulfilling this responsibility for the 46 conservation easements we hold is a stewardship priority for D&R Greenway Land Trust.

D&R Greenway Trustee John Rassweiler has been a member of our Land Management Committee since 1989, the year D&R Greenway was founded. This committee (with the help of trained volunteers) is charged with monitoring the land use on the



D&R Greenway holds the conservation easement to this 61 acre property in the Sourlands, consisting of scenic farm fields and woodlands. The owners continue to live there and enjoy their land.

properties where D&R Greenway holds a deed of conservation easement — a responsibility the Land Management Committee takes very seriously. According to John, “Landowners create conservation easements because they have a vision for how their land will be maintained. By our stewardship, including the enforcement of the terms of the conservation easement where necessary, D&R Greenway is carrying out the land-

owners' wishes, in perpetuity.”

The members of the Land Management Committee and volunteers inspect each conservation easement property annually. If they observe a violation, they take swift action to address and correct the problem. Typically, violations are not made maliciously; they are simple mistakes easily remedied. But if D&R Greenway does not keep on top of the small issues, the door is opened to more serious breaches of the terms of the easement in the future.

The Land Trust Alliance, the national convener, strategist and representative of more than 1,500 land trusts across America, has recently updated and revised their recommended Land Trust Standards and Practices. These are guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust, which is run legally, ethically, and in the public interest and conducts a sound program of land transactions and stewardship.

Our Land Management Committee reviewed the Land Trust Standards

D&R Greenway is looking for Volunteer Site Stewards to “Adopt a Preserve”

D&R Greenway currently holds 46 conservation easements on properties and owns 37 preserves outright, and we need help managing and protecting each and every one of them!

If you enjoy the outdoors, you are a perfect candidate. A site steward's minimum responsibility is to walk “your” adopted property four times a year and report what you see. Site stewards are welcome to do more — remove litter, help control invasive species, lay-out and construct trails, etc.

If you are interested, please contact Jim Amon, D&R Greenway's Director of Stewardship at 609-924-4646 or jamon@drgreenway.org.

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Focus on Stewardship

Landowners Contribute to Stewardship of Their Preserved Lands

Landowners who preserve their land with D&R Greenway do so because of their love for the land. The preservation process provides an opportunity to think about the future of the land and its stewardship challenges such as invasive plants, deer damage, encroachments and trail maintenance. D&R Greenway sets aside funds to ensure good stewardship, and we ask landowners who sell their land or an easement to help with this responsibility through a gift to our stewardship endowment fund. A landowner who truly understands the importance of this gift is Emmerson Bowes of East Amwell.

Emmerson and his wife Sheila permanently preserved their Sourlands property with D&R Greenway in December 2005. Their neighbors joined in to preserve contiguous lands by donating conservation easements on a total of four separate properties to expand the protection of the Rosmarie Dursch Preserve on Mountain Road.

As a resident of the mountain for more than 25 years and a member of the East Amwell Planning Board Committee and the Sourlands Planning Council, Emmerson knows firsthand about the damage caused by deer to the understory of the Sourlands forest. His contribution was designated to help with this problem, "I wanted to take action to show what the forest would look like if it were not overrun by deer. We set aside a portion of our gift to D&R Greenway to establish a demonstration area or areas with deer fencing to allow young seedlings to regenerate undisturbed and for wild flowers to return or be re-introduced. With restoration of understory, it is hoped to demonstrate that ground and understory nesting birds also benefit in the protected areas."

Emmerson and Sheila challenge others who are concerned about this and other stewardship issues to join them "We will match any donations up to the contribution we have made for development of deer exclusions and for D&R Greenway to expand its stewardship and educational activities."

If you would like to contribute to D&R Greenway's stewardship challenge, please contact Linda Mead at 609-924-4646. ♣



The new Rosmarie Dursch Preserve is a wonderful example of stewardship. Fred Dursch and his wife, Rosmarie, bought their 14 acres of Sourlands in 1972 and built a mountain house completely surrounded by forest. Fred carefully protected his magical woods, ensuring that the trees would grow and mature without any timber harvest.

Focus on Stewardship

Backyard Stewardship

Native plants are beautiful, functional, and environmentally smart additions to any property. They have many advantages. Native plants are well-adapted to our climate, resilient to temperature and rainfall fluctuations. When planted in the proper situation, they require minimal maintenance.

Because they evolved together over thousands of years, native plants create a harmonious viewscape when planted side by side. And, since native plants also evolved alongside native wildlife, they provide optimum conditions of food and shelter for the survival of local species.

Many native plants also attract enjoyable wildlife, such as birds and butterflies. Planting natives creates welcome oases for these creatures and will make your yard or garden a livelier and more pleasant space.

Begin by choosing the right native plants for your property, buying

healthy ones and planting them properly. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve's website (www.bhwp.org) has extensive lists of native plants suitable for a variety of soil, sun and other conditions, including deer resistant plants.

D&R Greenway Land Trust will be planting native trees, shrubs and perennials this fall at the Johnson Education Center. Some of these plants, which you may also find suitable for your garden include: White Flowering Dogwood, Serviceberry, Eastern Red Cedar, Witch-Hazel, Spice Bush, Hay-Scented Fern, Christmas Fern, and Jacob's Ladder.

Other good native tree choices are Sugar or Red Maples, White, Red or Pin Oaks.

By cultivating native plants, not only will you design a lovely, natural landscape, you will also make a positive contribution to the health and biodiversity of our region's ecology. ♣

Stewardship Spotlight: Marian Cartwright

Shortly after Marian and Gene Cartwright relocated to Princeton from Chicago they attended a presentation at the Princeton Public Library about D&R Greenway Land Trust. Marian recalls, "I was so impressed with the track record of D&R Greenway described by Linda Mead that I immediately wanted to add my energy and support to this wonderful organization — they really make a difference."

Marian became one of our stewardship volunteers. "I think central New Jersey's landscape is beautiful, with scenic natural areas that no one seems to know about or how to find. By caring for the land and building trails, I can help people discover and enjoy these hidden treasures that are virtually in their own back yard."

Working outdoors on the land is good exercise and good for the soul. Marian finds that a great camaraderie develops working side by side with others to make the world a better place. She states, "It's very rewarding at the end of the day to look at a trail section that's been built or a wooded section that's been cleared of choking invasives, and know that you have



Jim Amon, D&R Greenway's Director of Stewardship, Kathleen Amon, and Marion and Gene Cartwright enjoying the 2006 Greenway Gala.

made a contribution that will last into the future."

Volunteers are the backbone of any stewardship effort. According to Marian, "The land needs the support of local people, those who live in the area and will take the responsibility to care for it. Stewardship of the land doesn't come from public funds, it comes from the public."

By her actions, and those of other stewardship volunteers, Marian is working to establish a "culture of conservation" throughout our region. We at D&R Greenway are deeply appreciative of her commitment to the land and the expert knowledge of our region's ecology that she shares with us and her fellow volunteers. ♣

Create a Lasting Legacy of Open Space

We are proud to announce the creation of the **Land Legacy Circle** to honor donors who have included D&R Greenway Land Trust in their estate plans, through bequests, charitable remainder trusts, annuities or gifts of retirement funds. These gifts will help preserve and steward natural lands and open spaces — as a legacy for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Sometimes these types of gifts go unrecognized because they come at the end of the donor's life. The **Land Legacy Circle** provides a way for D&R Greenway to acknowledge and thank donors during their lifetimes. If you have made plans or provisions for a planned gift to D&R Greenway Land Trust, please notify Sophie Glover, Director of Philanthropic Support. We would

like to recognize your generous spirit as a member of the **Land Legacy Circle**.

Charitable Bequests

More than 80 percent of all Americans contribute to non-profit groups throughout their lifetimes, but according to research, only 8 percent of people choose to continue this support through a charitable bequest. Bequests are the most frequent type of planned gift made to charity. Your estate receives a charitable deduction for the full amount given, so your heirs pay no estate tax on the gift. Bequests also allow donors to make a significant gift without affecting current income or cash flow.

If you are considering a bequest to D&R Greenway Land Trust, please sample wording to give to your

attorney for inclusion in your will follows:

"I devise and bequeath to D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation whose address is One Preservation Place, Princeton, New Jersey, the sum of \$_____ (or _____ percent of my residuary estate) for its general uses and purposes."

Your planned gift to D&R Greenway Land Trust will help ensure that the things you care about today — a clean and abundant water supply, habitat that supports diverse populations of plants and wildlife and the historic character and quality of life in central New Jersey will be preserved and protected forever.

The Taplin Circle

Frank Taplin was a champion of environmental protection and land preservation. His vision and leadership, and those of his wife, Peg, resulted in the permanent protection of two signature Princeton landscapes, the 589 acre Institute Woods and Coventry Farm.

In 2004 D&R Greenway Land Trust honored Frank Taplin's memory and Peg's continuing support of land preservation by creating the *Taplin Circle*. Through the Taplin Circle, Frank's unwavering commitment to the protection of natural lands and open spaces will endure, fueled by the generosity and actions of other like-minded individuals. The members of the Taplin Circle set the standard for giving and demonstrate their own commitment to preserving the land, the historic

character and the natural resources of central New Jersey.

Annual membership in the Taplin Circle follows D&R Greenway's fundraising calendar year (November 1–October 31) and commences when a total contribution of \$1,000 or more is reached during this timeframe.

All members of the Taplin Circle are invited to a special reception each fall. This year's reception will be held on Sunday, November 5, 2006. *We are grateful to The Glenmede Trust Company, the sponsor and underwriter of this year's Taplin Circle reception.*

We would like to thank the members of the 2006 Taplin Circle for their leadership and generosity in supporting the work of D&R Greenway Land Trust. ♣

Taplin Circle Donations Received November 1, 2005 – August 14, 2006

TAPLIN CIRCLE LEGACY GIFTS (\$100,000 OR MORE)

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Peg and Frank Taplin

D&R Greenway Land Trust's Business Partners in Preservation

We would like to thank our 2006 Business Partners in Preservation, who share the same concerns about protecting our local environment, water supply and wildlife habitat with D&R Greenway's individual supporters.

Through their financial and in-kind contributions these local businesses and corporations clearly demonstrate their appreciation for the natural lands and open spaces and the quality of life in our region. ♻️

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Celebrate Open Space!

On April 30, 2006 D&R Greenway hosted *Celebrate Open Space!* and introduced our supporters and neighbors to the *Johnson Education Center*.

Greenway Meadows park, 55 acres of rolling fields, walking paths and active recreation preserved by D&R Greenway and partners in 2001, provided the perfect setting on a glorious spring afternoon.

We especially want to thank the local businesses who sponsored this community event, recognized above (*), and the following contributors who partnered with D&R Greenway by providing delicious food, live music and family activities:

- The Bent Spoon
- Cox's Market
- Mediterra
- Heather Barros / Art Collaborations, for children's art activities
- Jennifer Shue / Spruce of Princeton, for children's flower arranging
- The Arts Council of Princeton, for their assistance with the children's art show
- Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, for educational activities

- NJ Trails Association, for presenting information on hiking trails
- Natalie Cruickshank, for children's story time
- Roberta Hunter, for the children's nature walk
- Michael Gibney and Jake Morrow, for musical entertainment
- The Doctor's Band, for musical entertainment
- Brillman's Rental Barn, for providing discounts on rentals

- Princeton Township Mayor Phyllis Marchand graciously served as Honorary Chair of *Celebrate Open Space!*

Our dedicated and enthusiastic committee was co-chaired by Rosemary Blair and Mary Louise Hartman.

Special thanks to Joyce Copleman, John and Margee Harper, Hella McVay, Avril Moore, and John Rassweiler for their invaluable assistance in the Grand Opening of the *Johnson Education Center*. ♻️



Supporters enjoying Celebrate Open Space! Photo by Christopher Coucill.

Partners in Preservation for 2006

Our deepest thanks and appreciation to all our donors. Your generosity supports D&R Greenway Land Trust's mission to:

- Preserve and protect a permanent network of natural lands and open spaces, creating the conditions for a

healthy and diverse environment to flourish.

- Provide the public with appropriate access to these areas, encouraging active lifestyles and a greater appreciation of the natural world.
- Inspire a conservation ethic

promoting policies, educational programs and partnerships that result in a public commitment to land preservation.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your support.

Donations Received January 1, 2006 – August 14, 2006

TRIBUTARY DONORS (\$500 TO \$999)

Jacqueline Asplundh
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Princeton Township Mayor Phyllis Marchand, NJ State Senator Leonard Lance, D&R Greenway Board Chair Rich Goldman and Executive Director Linda Mead celebrate land preservation at the Greenway Gala.



2006 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award recipient Leslie Jones Sauer addressing guests at the Greenway Gala.

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Eugene Gladston and Mary Jane Stretch at the Greenway Gala.

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D&R Greenway Land Trust Board Chairman, Richard Goldman and Mary Lou Hartman enjoy the Greenway Gala in June.

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D&R Greenway Trustee Bob Harris, Stephanie Harris and D&R Greenway Trustee Hella McVay at the Johnson Education Center.

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D&R Greenway Director of Operations Laurie Emde and former D&R Greenway Trustee Tom Cawley toast the opening of the Johnson Education Center at the Greenway Gala. Tom provided invaluable technical support during the construction of the JEC.

Conservation Easements

Continued from page 4

and Practices, and John was pleased to report that D&R Greenway's current practices not only meet, but in many cases exceed, the national standards, particularly in regard to the monitoring and enforcement of conservation easements. "We have signed on to these national management guidelines," John commented, "and we are secure in our belief that we are in the top 2-3 percent of land trusts in the country regarding the rigorous practices we employ to safeguard the lands protected by conservation easements."

Stewardship has a physical manifestation — the act of tending and managing land to keep environmentally strong and healthy. There is also a "spirit of stewardship" in the fulfillment of a landowner's wish for the perpetual protection and care of a property they value and love. We at D&R Greenway take great pride in the fact that we are stewards of both — of the land and of the landowner's dream. ♣



Volunteers on a cold spring morning maneuver large boulders to create a permanent trail and stone steps at Baldpate Mountain. Fiddler's Creek Summit Trail was dedicated on National Trails Day in June.



Looking across the Sourlands and preserved lands of Mountain Meadows and the Amwell Valley.

Sourlands

Continued from page 2

This includes offering recreational opportunities for public enjoyment", said Dr. Barbara Brummer, State Director for The Nature Conservancy.

By placing the 3M's stewardship endowment in D&R Greenway's Land Management Fund, thereby entrusting us with the care and protection of these properties in perpetuity, The Nature Conservancy has provided the strongest possible endorsement of D&R Greenway's stewardship priorities and capabilities.

The Sourlands continue to be a priority focus area for D&R Greenway Land Trust's preservation efforts. These six new preserved properties will contribute to the ongoing partnership between D&R Greenway and the NJDEP Green Acres Program to preserve the land and natural resources of central New Jersey's last wilderness. We are deeply grateful to 3M, for their recognition of the vital need to protect this eco-region and to The Nature Conservancy, for calling on us to help realize 3M's goals. ♣

News and Notes from Partner Organizations

Partner Members of the Johnson Education Center

D&R Greenway encourages non-profit, educational, and municipal partners to take advantage of the resources available at the *Johnson Education Center*. For an annual fee of \$350, these organizations can have the use of the Neil Upmeyer Partnership Room or the Evelyne V. Johnson Stewardship Room for a maximum of twelve (12) regularly scheduled non-profit meetings per year during business hours (meeting not to exceed 2.5 hours) or use of the RWJ Auditorium for one public event, as well as the use of our technical and multi-media facilities and other benefits. Please contact Laurie Emde at 609-924-4646 or lemde@drgreenway.org for additional information.

Current Partner Organizations are: Community Without Walls – House III, Montgomery Friends of Open Space, New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition, Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia.

New Jersey Trails Association

The New Jersey Trails Association (NJTA) is a coalition of land preservation and conservation organizations spearheaded by D&R Greenway Land Trust. Their mission is to make accurate information about walking trails on preserved lands accessible to the public. At www.njtrails.org, you can download information on 35 scenic trails, including color maps, driving directions and other information. More new trails are being added all the time.

Forty-one volunteers from NJTA, partner groups and corporations recently completed a nine month project to create Fiddlers Creek Summit Trail on Baldpate Mountain. The mile-long trail starts at the base of the mountain and ends at the summit, the highest point in Mercer County. A professional trail-building consultant plotted the route of the trail and volunteers used a range of hand tools and techniques to create the path, moving 1,200 pound boulders, placing rocks and boulders to create steps, “sidehilling” (grading the slope to stabilize the trail and minimize soil

erosion) and finally clearing the trail of brush.

Thanks to Mercer County and County Executive Brian Hughes who obtained funds from the Federal Recreational Trails Program to support this project and to D&R Greenway Trustee Alan Hershey, whose leadership and enthusiasm inspired the volunteer effort. The final version of the trail map will be available on www.njtrails.org in October.

Friends for the Marsh

The Friends for the Marsh is an all-volunteer group organized in 2004, in partnership with D&R Greenway Land Trust. D&R Greenway has been active since 1993 in protecting natural lands and open spaces in the Marsh and surrounding communities. The main goals of the Friends for the Marsh are: to protect and preserve the natural, historical, and recreational resources provided by the Marsh; to promote research and actions that lead to enhanced stewardship within the Marsh; and to expand education, public awareness, and appreciation of the Marsh. For more information, please visit www.marsh-friends.org.

This past May, the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh was featured in a NJN Public Television documentary entitled *Turning the Tide*, which showcased the hidden beauties of the tidal areas in and around the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh and the Hackensack Meadowlands. D&R Greenway Trustee Mary Leck led the project's producer, writer, and camera crew on a canoe trip through the HTB Marsh and her insights and commentary provided a fascinating on-camera narrative.

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

On Saturday, November 18, from 10 a.m.–12 noon, naturalist Jeff Hoagland will lead a hike through lands preserved by D&R Greenway and partners in the Northern Stony Brook Greenway, in the Sourland Mountains above Hopewell. During this leisurely family hike, Jeff will examine and point out the myriad of “residents” who call the Sourlands home. Space is limited; please register in advance for this hike by calling the Watershed Association at 609-737-7592. ♣



John Flynn, Administrator NJDEP Green Acres Program, Linda Mead, Executive Director, D&R Greenway Land Trust, Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes and Bob Hiller of Hillier Architecture unveil a new sign that will identify lands preserved by D&R Greenway and partners — in this case, the Green Acres Program and Mercer County. Mr. Hiller, a supporter of D&R Greenway, was a key partner in preserving the 160-acre Coventry Farm in Princeton. His firm provided the initial concept for the sign.

Welcome to the Johnson Education Center

One Preservation Place, Princeton, NJ

The only resource of its kind in the state, the *Johnson Education Center* encompasses the tools, information, and technical expertise required to help our public and private partners preserve and protect land. It also provides a home for D&R Greenway Land Trust.

Since our grand opening on April 30, 2006, the Johnson Education Center has become an important resource for both the land preservation and stewardship community and area non-profits and community organizations.

We hope you will join us at one or more of our upcoming events — or stop in between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday–Friday, to view our art exhibitions, find maps of Princeton walking trails, and information about our partner organizations: New Jersey Trails Association and Friends for the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh.



UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

*Unless otherwise noted,
admission is free.*

Invasion of the Landscape Snatchers

Wednesday, September 27, 2006, 7 p.m.

The first event in the *J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Conservation Education Series*, an expert panel will discuss invasive plants and the restoration of natural landscapes.

The *J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Conservation Education Series* is generously funded through an endowment from

the J. Seward Johnson, Sr. 1963 Charitable Trust. These ongoing programs, workshops and seminars focus on land preservation and stewardship tools, techniques and best practices and are designed to inform the general public about the protection and management of land to meet conservation goals.

Global Warming and Community Ecology

Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 7 p.m.

Lecture and discussion on global warming led by Stephen W. Pacala, Petrie Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the Princeton Environmental Institute (PEI). This program is co-sponsored by PEI.

PEI coordinates environmental education, research and outreach activities at Princeton University. Its more than 65 associated faculty members in the natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities share a common interest in advancing environmental research and teaching and promoting environmental programs on campus and in the surrounding community.

Global Ecology: Preserving Linked Habitats for Species Survival

Sunday, October 8, 2006, 3 p.m.

Admission \$50

A discussion of international habitat protection led by Leslie Jones Sauer, an expert in the field of restoring and managing native landscapes.

Through innovative strategies and techniques, Leslie Jones Sauer has directed the reestablishment of natural systems in a wide range of sensitive, degraded, and developed environments. She is the author of *The Once and Future Forest: A Guide to Forest Restoration Strategies*.

Note: Proceeds from this lecture will fund D&R Greenway's International Sister Land Trust Partnerships with Amigos de Calakmul of Mexico, the Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

Cats and Birds Can Peacefully Coexist: How Preserving Jaguar Habitat in Central America Protects the Songbirds of the Sourlands

October 25, 2006, 7 p.m.

Admission \$10

Members of the Amigos de Calakmul of Mexico and the Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala will be at the Johnson Education Center leading a series of programs regarding efforts to protect the linked habitat that supports both jaguars and over 65 neotropical migratory birds.

In 2004, D&R Greenway Land Trust established the first International Sister Land Trust Partnership, creating a new model for land preservation, education and stewardship. The shared objective of this unique relationship is to protect North and Central American habitat and migration stopover areas for over 65 species of neotropical migratory birds.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Art on display in the Marie L. Matthews Gallery, and the Evelyne V. Johnson Stewardship Room, is available for purchase and 40 percent of the sale price goes to support the work of D&R Greenway Land Trust. The Olivia Rainbow Gallery displays children's art inspired by nature.

Galleries are generally open Monday–Friday, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Please call us at 609-924-4646 to confirm availability.

The Greenway Artists

Through October 15, 2006

An exhibition of works on paper and canvas, inspired by the beauty of the natural world. The Greenway Artists are a group of more than 30 individuals who demonstrate their love of nature and commitment to D&R Greenway's land preservation efforts in the beautiful works they create.

PAA and Preservation

October 22 – December 29, 2006

Works by the Princeton Artists Alliance Inspired by the Preserved Lands of D&R Greenway. Opening Reception Sunday, October 22, 3 p.m.–5 p.m. Princeton Artists Alliance and D&R Greenway Land Trust thank PNC Wealth Management for their generous support in sponsoring this event.

Admission to the opening reception is free; please RSVP by October 13 to 609-924-4646. ♡

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New Federal Law Gives Fairer Tax Benefit for Voluntary Conservation Agreements

Landowners who donate voluntary conservation agreements, also known as conservation easements, to D&R Greenway Land Trust are inspired to do so because they have a deep emotional bond with their land, and they wish to leave it intact as a legacy for future generations. But for almost all of our donors, donating a conservation easement is a major financial decision, and the federal income tax deduction that comes with a donation helps make easements possible for landowners in our community.

Congress recently passed a new law that *enhances* the tax benefits of protecting private land for many landowners. The legislation improves the tax incentive for conservation easements by allowing donors to:

- Deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year;
- Deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income if the majority of that income came from farming, ranching or forestry; and
- Continue to take deductions for as long as 15 years (up from 5 years) after the initial deduction.

Congress also passed tighter appraisal standards for such gifts and stronger penalties for appraisers who violate the standards.

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) led the effort to get Congress to approve

this new law. LTA is a national organization that sets national standards for conservation organizations like ours, provides training and networking opportunities, and represents the land trust community in Washington, DC. D&R Greenway is a sponsoring member of LTA and our staff has been on the program at their national conferences for 1,500 land trusts.

Congressman Rush Holt has been a strong supporter of D&R Greenway and the work of other conservation organizations. Our thanks to him for his help in winning this new assistance for conservation donors.

To learn more about these new developments, visit www.drgreenway.org or www.LTA.org.



Mary Pope Hutson, Vice Chair of the Land Trust Alliance, speaks to D&R Greenway supporters at the Johnson Education Center.

D&R Greenway Land Trust, 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



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