

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.
Volume 15, Number 2
Spring 2008

2007 Accomplishments — 2008 Vision

- 10,000th Acre Preserved
- 10 Miles of Trails Cleared and Maintained
- \$3.3 Million Raised for St. Michael's Preservation
- 165 Meetings, Programs and Events Hosted

Our “numbers” for 2007 — and the accomplishments they represent — tell the story of a remarkable year for D&R Greenway Land Trust. We are very pleased to report to you, our donors and friends, the highlights of 2007 and to share our vision for 2008.

Also in this edition of *Greenways* we extend our deepest appreciation to all our donors, who in 2007 provided support for D&R Greenway's mission — to preserve and care for an interconnected network of natural lands, open spaces, and farms.

These preserved lands contribute to a healthy environment and help maintain a clean and abundant water

supply. They sustain biodiverse habitats for birds and wildlife, provide the landscape for trails and are the foundation for a sustainable agricultural economy. They are the “common ground” that give our communities a sense of place and help to bring people together.

Land Preservation

D&R Greenway led the preservation of 20 properties valued at \$29.5 million, including:

The Rocky Brook Greenway (Millstone Township, Monmouth County) – This landscape-scale project permanently protected 7 properties, encompassing 584 acres. A corridor of protected farmland and open space was established, connecting Perrineville Park to the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area.

High Falls (Delaware Township, Hunterdon County) – These 14 scenic acres of forested stream corridor were saved from development when D&R

Greenway provided a short-term bridge loan to the landowner. This allowed the transaction to close prior to the release of the approved acquisition grant from the state.

The Nature Conservancy Partnership (Sourlands: East Amwell, Hunterdon County; Hillsborough, Somerset County) – Two properties, comprising 150 acres of mature forest, were acquired by D&R Greenway in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, using funds provided by the 3M Corporation. D&R Greenway will be the permanent steward of these lands.

The 1,011 acres preserved in 2007 enabled D&R Greenway to reach a milestone 19 years in the making — the preservation of our 10,000th acre. As of this writing, we have led the preservation of 10,418 acres, encompassing 190 properties, since our founding in 1989.

Continued on page 2



Farmland in the Rocky Brook Greenway



The Lockatong Creek cascades at “High Falls”



Mature woodland in the Sourlands Greenway

Stewardship

Stewardship of the land encompasses a variety of activities that improve its quality; controlling invasive species and restoring native habitat are two examples. Stewardship also includes building and maintaining trails that provide people with safe and appropriate access to preserved lands. Our stewardship team spends most of their time in the field, working to enhance the conservation value and biological health of lands owned by D&R Greenway. They also annually monitor the 50-plus private properties under easement.

Sourlands Trails – A network of trails has been developed in our Northern Stony Brook Preserve, connecting lands owned by D&R Greenway. These trails also traverse county and state-owned lands, providing extensive walking and hiking opportunities. Information may be found on D&R Greenway's website www.drgreenway.org under the heading "Trails".

Stewardship Interns – We had two interns working with us during the summer of 2007. While most of their work took place in the field, they also assisted in cataloging the materials in our library and archiving preservation files. We would like to express our appreciation to the Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS) Program of the Princeton University Class of 1969 Community Service Fund for their financial support of the 2007 Upmeyer Internship for Land Preservation and Stewardship program. We are pleased to announce they will sponsor two Upmeyer Interns in 2008. D&R Greenway's Upmeyer Internship Fund also supports this program.

Volunteers – An ever-growing number of volunteer site stewards provided "on the ground" support, monitoring easements and managing invasive species. In addition, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton Day School, NJ Trails Association and several other organizations participated in enormously successful (and fun) group work days in the field.

If you are interested in becoming a site steward or organizing a corporate, school or organization work day, please contact Jim Amon, D&R Greenway's director of stewardship at 609-924-4646 ext. 124 or jamon@drgreenway.org.



D&R Greenway's GIS Technician Doug Carmody and Director of Stewardship Jim Amon stand in front of a deer enclosure installed on a D&R Greenway preserve in the Sourlands. This fencing will allow newly-planted native trees and shrubs to become established and thrive. It will also demonstrate the destructive power of the overpopulation of white-tail deer that roam the Sourlands.

Fundraising

We are deeply grateful to each and every one of our donors who provide such generous support throughout the year.

St. Michael's Property – Led by the members of the St. Michael's Preservation Committee, **over 800 individuals, families, foundations, non-profit organizations, community groups, local businesses and corporations together raised over \$3.3 million** to preserve these 337 acres in Hopewell. D&R Greenway expects to finalize the purchase of the property in 2008. Please note that the land will not be open to the public until the acquisition is completed.

Celebrate Open Space! – D&R Greenway's first evening fundraising event was a tremendous success,

generating \$172,000 in operating support. Save the Date: **Celebrate Open Space!** will be held again on June 14, 2008; please see the back cover of this newsletter for more information.

Corporate and local business support – Leadership gifts were received from: Educational Testing Service, PSEG, BlackRock, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Church & Dwight Co., Inc, Drinker Biddle & Reath, The Glenmede Trust Company, Tyco International (US), Inc., NRG Energy, Inc., Bloomberg, Julius Gross Decorators, Inc., Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Pepper Hamilton LLP and PNC Financial Service Group. In addition, several corporations collectively provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in pro-bono or in-kind support. Please refer to page 15 for a complete listing of these contributions.



Guests attending Celebrate Open Space! 2007 enjoy the view of Greenway Meadows from the Carroll K. and Frederick P. King, Jr. Terrace. Celebrate Open Space! 2008 will be held at the Johnson Education Center on June 14th. Please see the back cover for details.

Johnson Education Center

“The Johnson Education Center is becoming a vibrant, permanent base for strategic planning, staff education, evaluation of preservation goals, and the flow of preservation information to landowners.” — Ralph Siegel, Executive Director, Garden State Preservation Trust

Over 165 meetings, educational programs and events were held at the Johnson Education Center in 2007 including the following:

Conservation Tax Benefits Workshop

– Co-sponsored by the Garden State Preservation Trust, professionals experienced in the legal and financial aspects of conservation easements presented case studies focused on the latest tax laws that can benefit landowners who permanently protect their land with a conservation easement.

Whole Thinking Workshop – Co-sponsored by the NJ Historic Trust, this program brought together representatives from the conservation and historic preservation communities; local, county and state government; non-profit organizations and interested individuals. This round-table forum featured Peter Forbes from the Center for Whole Communities. The discussion focused on: developing a greater understanding of the elements that shape healthy and prosperous communities; considering the roles of conservation and education in fostering positive societal change; and, strengthening partnerships and goals for collaboration.

A New Way of Thinking About Land – Conservation Strategy and Finance – Co-sponsored by the Garden State Preservation Trust and the Mercer County Green Table, this program was presented by the author of *A Field Guide to Conservation Finance*, Story Clark. It offered proven tools and techniques for expanding and leveraging traditional preservation fundraising.

Exhibitions in the Marie L. Matthews and Olivia Rainbow Galleries presented art and special programs that complemented D&R Greenway’s preservation vision. All activities at the *Johnson Education Center* are designed to inspire a conservation ethic that results in an increased public commitment to land preservation and stewardship. 🌿



Lighting a Pathway to Preservation: 2008 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award recipient James A. Shissias (PSEG, retired) along with Celebrate Open Space! event co-chair Diana Moore hold aloft one of the lanterns that will help light D&R Greenway’s path to preservation. These lanterns, designed by “local luminaries,” will be sold during a silent auction on June 14, at D&R Greenway’s annual fundraiser. Also pictured are D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Mead, Celebrate Open Space! Co-Chair Avril Moore and D&R Greenway Board Chair Richard Goldman.

2008 Vision

D&R Greenway Land Trust’s preservation vision is one of verdant stream valleys, mature forests and productive farms. Our vision includes trails and open spaces where people can enjoy the natural world. The reality of state budget cuts and impending state park closings threatens this vision and we at D&R Greenway have redoubled our efforts to preserve and protect our regional landscape. Our 2008 accomplishments are already underway as we strive to:

- Share our Vision Map with local communities to encourage preservation
- Complete acquisition and begin to clear invasive species, create trails and prepare a farm plan for the St. Michael’s property in Hopewell
- Announce a new park created in Bordentown to serve the urban community
- Add new preservation lands to D&R Greenway’s Northern Stony Brook Preserve and Sourlands Greenway
- Partner with Mercer County and Friends for the Marsh to complete the design of the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh Interpretive Center
- Provide our expertise to help achieve preservation goals in the Mannington Meadows area of Salem County

- Connect the Sourlands to Hopewell Borough by establishing the Sourlands Foothills Trail on preserved lands
- Protect a new preserve on Hunterdon County’s Plum Brook
- Establish a Native Plant Nursery that will provide seeds and seedlings for D&R Greenway’s preserves and eventually for the public
- Create stewardship demonstration areas for landowners that illustrate land management techniques to enhance conservation values
- Showcase D&R Greenway’s preserved lands by offering tours to landowners and supporters
- Inspire a conservation ethic through leadership programs at the *Johnson Education Center* that engage thinking and action
- Exhibit art in the *Johnson Education Center’s* Marie L. Matthews Gallery and Olivia Rainbow Gallery that highlights the beauty of our lands and the importance of preservation and stewardship
- Celebrate the creation of Meredith’s Garden for Inspiration at the *Johnson Education Center* in memory of Meredith Peterson, a well-loved friend of D&R Greenway
- Increase our ability to care for preserved lands and to act quickly to save threatened lands by building reserve funds
- Reach the milestone goal of 200 properties preserved and begin planning for our 20th anniversary in 2009!

The 2007 Taplin Circle

Frank Taplin was a well-known and respected philanthropist who championed the cause of land preservation. His vision and leadership resulted in the permanent protection of two signature Princeton landscapes, the Institute Woods and Coventry Farm.

In 2004, D&R Greenway Land Trust honored Frank Taplin's memory and his wife Peg's continuing support of land preservation by creating the *Taplin Circle*, to recognize individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to

support D&R Greenway's critical work. Members of the *Taplin Circle* clearly demonstrate that they share Frank's commitment to preserving the land, the historic character and the natural resources of central New Jersey.

All members of the *Taplin Circle* are invited to a special reception each fall. We are grateful to Glenmede Trust, who generously underwrote the reception for members of the 2006 and 2007 *Taplin Circle* and to Dave and Mary Beth Reynolds who hosted the 2007

Taplin Circle reception on their terrace overlooking the St. Michael's property.

Taplin Circle members who make a multi-year capital campaign pledge are acknowledged at their pledge level the year the pledge is made, and in subsequent years they are acknowledged at their pledge payment level.

We would like to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to the members of the *Taplin Circle* for their leadership in supporting the work of D&R Greenway Land Trust.

Donations and Pledge Payments Received January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

*Denotes donors for the last 5 consecutive years
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TAPLIN CIRCLE LEGACY GIFTS (\$100,000 or more)

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Autumn foliage decorates Beech and Oak trees on Sally and Whip Buck's preserved land in Princeton.

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Preservation Focus:

Princeton Woodland Preserve

“The primary reason for our interest in land conservation is to avoid uncontrolled sprawl and to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. We simply want to conserve the natural beauty of open space.”

— Sally and Whip Buck

Sally and Whip Buck donated a conservation easement on their 27-acre property in Princeton to D&R Greenway in 2007. Located in the *Stony Brook Greenway*, the property contains a mature forest as well as areas of younger successional forest. All of the woodland has been affected by invasive and non-native plant species and deer browsing. At the request of the Bucks, D&R Greenway developed a woodland management and restoration plan for their property to:

- Control invasive and non-native plant species in each forest area.
- Plant missing and depleted species of native plants, shrubs and trees on the



property to restore the native understory and enhance wildlife habitat.

- Create deer exclosures to allow areas of the forest to regenerate with native plants, shrubs and trees, becoming seed banks for other parts of the property.
- Use this management and restoration plan as a model for other local landowners.

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The Trustees and Staff of D&R Greenway Land Trust sincerely thank all our donors. Your investment in D&R Greenway Land Trust enables our 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 and stewardship.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the 270 families, individuals, and foundations, including those from the Taplin Circle, who have supported D&R Greenway's work for five or more consecutive years. We are grateful for their unflinching generosity each and every day.

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Preservation Focus:

Bucks County Farm

The historic, 10-acre Hierl Farm in Bucks County was the first preservation transaction D&R Greenway completed outside the state of New Jersey. The story of how the land came to be preserved is best told in the words of Michael Hierl.

“I had been thinking about preserving our historic Bucks County farm for more than ten years, but never quite got around to taking the first step as I was concerned about the time it would take to work through all the details. After being introduced to D&R Greenway by Wade Martin, I was surprised to learn that the organization prides itself on making it easy for landowners to protect their land — with the right conservation solution for their own unique needs. D&R Greenway first helped our family consider all our options with respect to protecting our farm, then carefully guided us every step of the way through the process. As a result of their



expertise, we were able to complete a relatively complex transaction in a surprisingly short timeframe. At the end of the year, Buckingham Township was the grateful recipient of our conservation easement donation — and we were proud to know that we have preserved our beautiful farm for future generations to enjoy. Thank you D&R Greenway!” — Michael Hierl

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Preservation Focus:

Stony Brook Greenway

The 39-acre Wright Property in Hopewell Township is part of an unbroken, relatively mature woodland and wetland corridor buffering the Stony Brook. The property encompasses two of the Stony Brook's headwater tributaries and is adjacent to Rosedale Park and other lands owned by Mercer County. The land was preserved through the bargain sale of a conservation easement, with a provision for 14 acres of public access.

This project was the third preservation partnership for D&R Greenway, the Stony Brook–Millstone Watershed Association (co-owners of the easement with D&R Greenway), and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (a funding partner). Other funding partners were Pennington Borough, Mercer County and the NJDEP Green Acres Program.



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Preservation of the 100-acre Raymond Farm was completed in 2007, in partnership with Montgomery Friends of Open Space. (Photo courtesy of Kit Raymond)

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10,000 Reasons to Celebrate! Chair of the St. Michael's Preservation Committee Leslie Potter, D&R Greenway Board Chair Richard Goldman, U.S. Congressman Rush Holt, Cheryl Goldman and Emily Goldman at D&R Greenway's 10,000th Acre Celebration November 4, 2007.



An example of native tree plantings at D&R Greenway's Cedar Ridge Preserve.

Celebration Donation

To celebrate his Bar Mitzvah, 13-year old Sam Kauffman decided to do something a little different. He donated \$5,000 from the gifts he received to D&R Greenway. These funds will be used to purchase and plant native trees and shrubs in our Cedar Ridge Preserve in the Sourlands. Protective deer fencing will also be installed to safeguard these young plants and allow them to reach full and flourishing maturity. The end result will be enhanced biodiversity on the preserve leading to a healthier ecosystem. According to Jim Amon, D&R Greenway's director of stewardship, "The greater the diversity, the greater the splendor!"

If you would like to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary or honor a friend or loved one with a gift to D&R Greenway, please contact Barbara Simmons, director of philanthropy, at 609-924-4646 or bsimmons@drgreenway.org. Named gifts at the Johnson Education Center are also available.

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D&R Greenway's vice-chair and founding member of the New Jersey Trails Association Alan Hershey, and volunteers Peter Wood and Tom McCall clear boulders from a section of the new Fiddlers Creek Summit Trail on Bald Pate Mountain.

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Special thanks to our Willing Hands for their support at the Johnson Education Center.

Volunteers

D&R Greenway depends on our many volunteers who generously give of their time and talent to support our mission. Whether you are interested in working on the land as a Stewardship Volunteer or helping out with events and mailings as a member of Willing Hands — we welcome you! For additional information, please contact Jeanette Hooban at 609-924-4646 ext. 132 or jhooban@drgreenway.org.

Multi-Year Pledges for the Johnson Education Center and the St. Michael's Preservation Project*

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

The Bunbury Company, Inc.
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If you are interested in making a named gift, many opportunities are available. To explore your ideas, please call D&R Greenway's Executive Director Linda Mead at 609-924-4646 ext.120.

Upcoming events at the Johnson Education Center

EXHIBITION

Our Historic Landscape: Past, Present and ... Future?

May 20 – September 5, 2008
Marie L. Matthews Gallery

D&R Greenway Land Trust with the Historical Society of Princeton and the Princeton Photography Club present “Our Historic Landscape: Past, Present and ... Future?” — a special exhibition juxtaposing historic photographs of the area with contemporary views of the same locations.

The Marie L. Matthews Gallery and the other exhibition spaces at the Johnson Education Center are generally open to the public Monday – Friday, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Occasionally, the galleries are closed for meetings or other special events. Please call us at 609-924-4646 before you visit to confirm that all galleries are open.

OPENING RECEPTION

“Our Historic Landscape: Past Present and ... Future?”

Friday, May 30, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
RSVP to cedelmann@drgreenway.org or
609-924-4646.

PROGRAM

Lighting the Way to Preservation

Thursday, June 19
Reception 6:30 p.m., Program 7 p.m.

A panel discussion about the community benefits of preserving historic landscapes. RSVP to cedelmann@drgreenway.org or 609-924-4646.

Congratulations to *The Hopewell Valley News!*

On April 3 the New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) honored winners of its 2007 Better Newspaper Contest. *The Hopewell Valley News* received two first-place awards: Ruth Luse, managing editor, garnered first place for the HVN's Public Service entry, “Saving St. Michael's: A financial success.” Ms. Luse shares this award with Jack Koepfel of the Hopewell Valley Historical Society. Mr. Koepfel wrote the inspirational story about the former St. Michael's Orphanage and Industrial School.

We salute you, Ruth and Jack, and thank you for the support you gave the St. Michael's Preservation Campaign. Thanks to your efforts, and the commitment of the entire Hopewell community, St. Michael's 337 acres of natural land and farmland will soon be preserved, forever. 🌲



Buffering the Little Shabakunk Creek in Lawrence Township, these 32 acres were preserved in partnership with the Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation.

2007 Business Partners in Preservation

We would like to thank our 2007 Business Partners in Preservation, who share the same concerns about protecting our local environment, water supply and wildlife habitat as D&R Greenway's individual supporters. Through their financial and in-kind contributions sponsoring our work in communities including Princeton, Hopewell, Millstone, Lawrence, West Windsor, Bordentown, Hillsborough, Skillman and Montgomery, these local businesses and corporations clearly demonstrate their appreciation for the natural lands and open spaces and the quality of life in our region.

D&R Greenway encourages our supporters to patronize

these businesses in appreciation for the investment they, in turn, have made to the quality of life in our communities.

We would particularly like to recognize the significant in-kind contributions of several professional service firms who have provided extensive support on preservation transactions: DrinkerBiddle, \$77,347; Pepper Hamilton LLP, \$74,892; ENVIRON International Corporation, \$65,000; and Haveson & Otis Law Offices, \$10,000.

Our special thanks to Acadia Marketing, Design and Video for providing \$17,500 of support for the creation of communications materials.

Donations Received January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

*Denotes donors for the last 5 consecutive years
**Denotes donors for the last 10 consecutive years

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2007 Public and Non-Profit Partners in Preservation

Since D&R Greenway's founding in 1989 we have strived to build partnerships in order to leverage and maximize available preservation funds. We would like to thank the following state, county, municipal and non-profit funding partners for collaborating with us in 2007.

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Somerset County
Branchburg Township
Franklin Township
Hillsborough Township
Montgomery Township

We would especially like to acknowledge the NJDEP Green Acres Program and Mercer County for their ongoing and unflagging support of D&R Greenway's mission to preserve natural lands, open spaces and farmlands throughout our region.

Bucks County, PA
Burlington Township

NON-PROFIT PARTNERS

Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance
Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space
Friends of Princeton Open Space
Friends of West Windsor Open Space
Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation
Monmouth Conservation Foundation
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New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association
The Nature Conservancy



Flowering dogwood
(*Cornus florida*)

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Join us to Celebrate Open Space!

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Johnson Education Center, Princeton NJ

D&R Greenway invites you to *Celebrate Open Space!* with us. Enjoy a dinner inspired by colonial-era menus. Bid early and often during a silent auction of lanterns created by local luminaries — artists, designers, writers and public officials. These lanterns commemorate the patriots who attended the Continental Congress in Princeton 225 years ago, lighting the way to preserve our land and heritage. And dance the night away to the country-rock music of Michael Patrick and the Suburban Hillbillies.

Retired PSEG executive James A. Shissias will be honored with the *Donald B. Jones Conservation Award*, given annually to an individual who has displayed selfless generosity in his or her commitment to conservation efforts.

D&R Greenway would especially like to thank our *Celebrate Open Space!* committee: Co-Chairs Avril Moore and Diana Moore, Diantha Allenby, Kathy Bagley, Maynett Breithaupt, Sheryl Feinstein, Margee Harper, Mary Lou Hartman, Carolyn Hoyler, Laurie Lincoln, Alison Lorenz and Ann Thurm. They are planning a very special and festive evening that you won't want to miss!

Tickets to *Celebrate Open Space!* are \$150 per person and individual and corporate sponsorships are available.

Proceeds from *Celebrate Open Space!* support D&R Greenway's land preservation and stewardship mission and a portion of your ticket price or sponsorship is tax-deductible.

For more information, please contact Barbara Simmons, director of philanthropy, at 609-924-4646 ext 130 or bsimmons@drgreenway.org.



Committee members Laurie Lincoln and Carolyn Hoyler and co-chairs Avril Moore and Diana Moore invite you to *Celebrate Open Space!* 2008.

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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