

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.
Volume 19, Number 2
Summer 2011

Green Acres...

We are fortunate to have the very first open space program established in America right here in New Jersey.

This year, the New Jersey Green Acres Program celebrates its 50th year. Since 1961, the State of New Jersey, through the people who work for Green Acres, has been hard at work ensuring protection of the fields, forests, stream valleys and parklands that make this a great place to live.

This edition of *Greenways* celebrates the foresight of those early pioneers who started the Green Acres Program and the many people whose hard work has continued to accomplish great things.

D&R Greenway's partnership with Green Acres goes back to our

own formation. Former Green Acres Administrator Dennis Davidson was one of our founders, encouraging a private organization for central New Jersey that could leverage the role of the State into bigger partnerships. In 1992, D&R Greenway was the first nonprofit organization in the State to complete an acquisition with a Green Acres nonprofit grant—establishing the heart of what is now our Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve. Today we continue to protect thousands of green acres every year through our partnership with the State.

Saving green acres is D&R Greenway's mission and passion. Thanks to our partners and supporters for joining with us to make sure this continues another 50 years—and beyond. ♻️

D&R Greenway's Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve: New Jersey's 'Central Park'

Forests are made of trees, but trees don't make a forest. The forest teaches us that the big picture is composed not of small pieces but of the connections between the pieces.

D&R Greenway Land Trust recently announced the renaming of its very first preserve to the Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve. Having grown from D&R Greenway's first acquisition, the Preserve now encompasses nearly 1,000 acres of contiguous forest in Hunterdon, Mercer and Somerset Counties—all owned and

managed by D&R Greenway. Together with connected land that has been protected by public and nonprofit entities, thousands of contiguous acres of forest are preserved.

The Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve is the result of 20 years of patient, piece-by-piece acquisitions that add up to a continuous whole. It was accomplished through a vital partnership between D&R Greenway and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres

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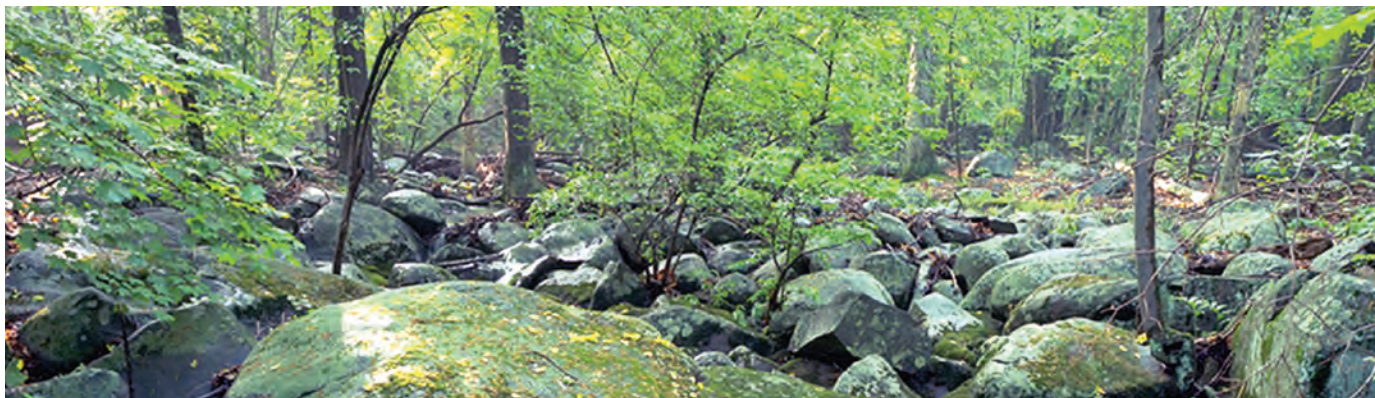
Land Preservation Update

Now Over 15,000 Acres!

Since our founding in 1989, D&R Greenway Land Trust has preserved 237 properties valued at \$328,794,211. These properties encompass 14,968 acres—the equivalent of 23.4 square miles. **By the end of June, we will close on our 238th property, adding 89 acres of permanently preserved land.** D&R Greenway is responsible for the perpetual stewardship and management of the 54 properties we own and for monitoring 53 properties we protect by conservation and farmland easements.

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A view into the vast forest of the Sourland Mountains in central New Jersey. Photo credit: © Philip Moylan

Sourlands Preserve

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program that has preserved not just land but large-scale *landscapes*.

"The Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve is New Jersey's 'Central Park,'" observes Linda Mead, D&R Greenway's President & CEO. "This landscape could have looked like everywhere else. Sprawling development would have destroyed a precious natural resource. Instead, we've permanently preserved a huge, old-growth forest that supports critical wildlife habitat, protects water quality and provides more than 8 miles of trails for the public to enjoy a unique natural area."

Rich Boornazian, Green Acres Administrator for NJDEP, comments, "The Sourland Mountain ecosystem is home to a wide diversity of plant and wildlife species. We are happy to partner with D&R Greenway, which has long recognized the Sourlands as an area worthy of preservation."

Ecological Importance

The Earth itself was the silent but essential partner in the preservation of the Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve.

New Jersey's Sourland Mountains are a unique habitat of global significance. Extending 20 miles northeastward from Lambertville into the heart of central New Jersey, the Sourlands cover 90 square miles and include 20,000 forested acres. The mountains, while not approaching Alpine height, rise sharply, several hundred feet higher than the valleys. They are composed of dense unyielding rock: magma that flowed from ancient volcanoes into fissures in shale and sandstone, then hardened into diabase and argillite. These hard volcanic rocks were highly resistant to weathering. Over millennia, the softer surrounding rock eroded away, leaving high ridges. Ice fractured the ridges into giant boulders that tumbled down the slopes. Covered with large blocks of impenetrable rock, the steep ridges held water, nourishing deep forests.

Just as they had resisted erosion, the Sourlands resisted settlement. Compared with the easily cleared land in the valleys, the bouldered ridges defied the early colonists' efforts to tame them. That is not to say that the mountains remained pristine wilderness. The Sourlands were logged and homesteaded, and mills sprang up alongside the swift streams, but clearing occurred in a piecemeal pattern that didn't significantly disrupt the continuous canopy of trees. As a result, the 20,000 acres of deep rich forest that met European settlers remained essentially intact. As extensive forests disappeared in the valleys, the Sourlands became "refugia," isolated places where populations

of plants and animals flourish despite the loss of most of their former range.

Each spring, songbirds undertake the arduous journey from their winter homes in the neotropical forests of Central America, to the woodlands of New Jersey. They've been flying north to breed for millions of years. Only in the last hundred years have they encountered fragmentation, a phenomenon that threatens their existence. Continuous forests have large interior areas, multi-layered with diverse plants from the ground to the tree canopy that provide food, shelter and cover. When forests are disturbed by development, clearing, or road-building, "edge" habitat increases along with the population of predator species. Deer, thriving on suburban gardens, deplete the forests of native groundcover and shrubs creating simplified ecosystems that don't support viable populations of forest wildlife such as the migrant songbirds.

With development marching relentlessly across New Jersey in the 1980s and 90s, even the resistant terrain of the Sourlands appeared vulnerable to loss. Without preservation, the cohesive Sourlands landscape would disappear. D&R Greenway, in partnership with the New Jersey Green Acres Program, took on the challenge.



Kentucky warbler, one of the neotropical migrant birds that depend on the Sourlands for survival. Photo credit: Sharyn Magee

D&R Greenway – Green Acres Partnership

In 2011, as Green Acres celebrates its 50th year of preserving land, D&R Greenway and Green Acres are celebrating a 20-year long partnership. The partnership literally began with the initial piece of what is now the Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve. The first site in the Sourlands acquired by D&R Greenway was the 179-acre McBurney Woods on Mountain Road in East Amwell Township. That 1992 purchase was also the first project funded by the Green Acres nonprofit matching-grant program. The former landowner donated the remaining 50% of land value to create the necessary match.

This property (known also as "Toothwort Woods," for the delicate spring wildflower growing abundantly on the site) is the heart of the new Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve. The vast area is now protected from development as a result of an ambitious vision and a long-range preservation cooperative to implement the vision.

In 2003, Green Acres created a Sourlands initiative to focus on the region. "From 2003 to 2007 we provided financial assistance to a large number of cooperative projects, to expand the protected area," notes Catherine Drake, who recently retired as a Green Acres project manager. "In most of these projects D&R Greenway was instrumental, either by acquiring sites directly, using Green Acres funding, or referring project partners to Green Acres. D&R Greenway worked to link properties together to create preserved habitat."

Jim Amon, D&R Greenway's Director of Stewardship, notes, "From every standpoint—ecological, recreational, visual—an unbroken tract of forest is better than a bunch of little fragments of forest." Viewing the multiple preserved pieces as an entire Preserve enabled D&R Greenway to begin managing the land as a coherent whole landscape: to see the forest as the connections between the trees.

Experience the Sourlands for Yourself

To walk the trails in the Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve is to journey into a forest *past* that, now, is also the forest of the *future*.

Here the forest teaches us what it can be. It is dense and dynamic. Mature trees tower overhead, to be sure, but young and middle-aged trees abound too; they are of diverse species, including oak, hickory, beech, and maple. The forest floor is littered with boulders, some as large as a car. Water meanders among rocks, here pooling into a swamp, there carving a new stream, to join the myriad tributaries of the Stony Brook that originate here. The volcanic rocks not only affect the water table; their minerals also change the soil chemistry, supporting a rich and varied community of plants including many not found in the wooded valleys below, and several state-listed threatened or endangered plants.

In early spring, ephemeral wildflowers such as bloodroot, trout-lilies, and wood geraniums burst into bloom before the trees leaf out, carpeting the forest in hues of white, yellow and purple. Vernal pools reverberate with the mating calls of spring peepers and wood frogs. As spring turns to summer, the forest becomes a dense curtain of green, and the songs of neotropical migrant birds such as

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Thank You to D&R Greenway's 2011 Business Partners in Preservation

LEADERS – \$10,000+

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
PSEG Services Corporation
Tyco International

CONSERVATORS – \$5,000+

Anonymous Business Partner
Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
The Glenmede Trust Company, Inc.
Novo Nordisk

BENEFACTORS – \$2,500+

Bloomberg
BOT Beverage
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Music Together LLC

PARTNERS – \$1,000+

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports
Julius Gross Painting & Home Improvement
Small World Coffee
Henderson Sothebys
Pepper Hamilton LLP

TRIBUTARY DONORS – \$500+

Drinker Biddle & Reath
Harris Surveying, Inc.
Stellitano Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
Martin Appraisal Associates

TRAIL DONORS – \$250+

Ferrara & Company
Woodwinds Associates and the deTuro Family
BTaylor Public Affairs
The Doggett Corporation
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OTHER DONATIONS

Pennington Bagel
Pennington Market
Princeton Innkeepers – Tiger's Tale Restaurant

*Special thanks to our Pro Bono lawyers at
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP and Pepper
Hamilton LLP, and to Woodwinds for
in-kind support.*

Thanks to our Down to Earth Ball In-Kind Sponsors

Acadia Marketing, Dale Schierholt
Camden Bag & Paper Co.
Cherry Grove Farm
Double Brook Farm
Griggstown Quail Farm & Market
Pennington Quality Market
Shoprite Wines & Spirits
Small World Coffee
Terhune Orchards
The Bent Spoon
The Catering Company
Triumph Brewing Company
Witherspoon Bread Company

Announcing Leslie Davis Potter as new Director of Development

On June 6, Leslie Davis Potter assumed a leadership role in raising support for D&R Greenway's mission. "I am so excited to be joining the team at D&R Greenway," says Leslie. "I look forward to building on the work we did together to save St. Michaels in Hopewell, when I served as the volunteer chair for private fundraising. D&R Greenway's stellar track record in preservation opens the door for so much more to come!"

As District Director for Rush Holt for nine years, Leslie managed the U.S. Representative's New Jersey office. She oversaw all district operations including staffing, scheduling, constituent services, outreach, coordination with the Washington office and the NJ political office. Leslie represented Rush within the district in his absence, and traveled throughout the 44 towns of the district to keep abreast of local issues and concerns.

As Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area for 17 years, Leslie managed four health care centers, developed programs and managed a \$2.4 million annual budget. In this role, Leslie increased private fundraising from \$19,000 to more than \$650,000 annually. She established an endowment to secure the future of the agency, conducted a successful multi-million dollar capital campaign and developed a donor base of more than 1,500 individuals. Leslie worked with family foundations, and established an annual luncheon that raised over \$100,000 each year and that is still one of the most successful nonprofit fundraising events in Princeton today.

D&R Greenway Board Vice-Chair Hella



Leslie Davis Potter receiving the 2007 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award on behalf of the Hopewell community for saving the St. Michaels land

McVay, who volunteered with Planned Parenthood in Trenton during Leslie's tenure, had the chance to observe Leslie as, in Hella's words, she led the organization with grace, clarity and energy.

As a resident of Hopewell, Leslie was a pivotal player in organizing the larger Hopewell community to support the acquisition of the St. Michaels property. "She engaged folks constructively and with élan," adds Hella. "She knows and loves the community here, and this new position is simply a continuum of a life of public service."

Leslie can be reached at 609-924-4646 extension 121 or by email at lpotter@drgreenway.org.

The D&R Greenway EverGreen Circle

The D&R Greenway EverGreen Circle was created in 2009 to recognize donors who have remembered D&R Greenway in their wills or revocable trusts, or who have made a planned gift to D&R Greenway through a charitable gift annuity, their retirement plan or by other means.

D&R Greenway is grateful to the following persons for their thoughtful and generous support in leaving a legacy for the land that will be entrusted to future generations.

To join with these foresighted contributors, contact D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead or Director of Development Leslie Potter at 609-924-4646.

FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE EVERGREEN CIRCLE

Anonymous
Ruth L. Chartier*
Virginia Craig
Thomas and Lynn Ebeling
Richard and
Elisabeth A. Ginman
Eugene Gladston
Richard S. Goldman, Esq.
Lilian Grosz
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Peter W. Hegener and
Rachel B. Kuhe
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Donald B. Jones* and
Beverly Jones
Nancy B. Johnston*
Gabiella Klein*
Lawrence Koplik and
Sarah L. Roberts

M. Scott and Hella S. McVay
Stephen A. and Linda J. Mead
John Rassweiler
R. Scott Sheldon
Richard D. Smith
William M. and Linda Swain
Megan E. Thomas
Ted and Penny Thomas
Mary Jane Trimmer*
*deceased

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports finds Unique Ways to tie Business Goals with D&R Greenway Mission

It's only natural that Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (BRMS) is a passionate supporter of land preservation and stewardship. They are among D&R Greenway's most consistent and creative Business Partners in Preservation.

For Scott Morris, Manager of BRMS in Princeton Shopping Center, open space is not an amenity. It's his lifeblood.

"If it weren't for our local recreational and outdoor venues, parks and green spaces, I wouldn't have a business!" Morris says. Blue Ridge Mountain Sports is dedicated to helping people have fun outdoors. In addition to selling recreational clothing and equipment, BRMS leads guided hikes and hosts outdoor education programs at the store.

That mission dovetails perfectly with D&R Greenway's vision of encouraging people to get outdoors and enjoy the natural world, to promote an ethic of caring for land.

"D&R Greenway fits with everything we stand for," says Morris.

BRMS partners with D&R Greenway in multiple ways, reflecting the varied outdoor activities that they help people get involved with—from gardening, hiking and trail building to whitewater paddling, mountaineering and extreme sports.

During Earth Week BRMS celebrated at its Princeton store by selling native plants that were grown at the D&R Greenway native plant nursery. Sales proceeds were donated to D&R Greenway.

BRMS sponsors the annual Banff Mountain Film Festival in Princeton. Films shown at the April festival featured rock climbing, mountaineering, kayaking, mountain biking, extreme skiing and explorations of the natural world. BRMS donates proceeds from ticket sales to D&R Greenway. Their most recent venture was a wilderness first aid class with part of the registration fee donated to D&R Greenway.

Thanks to all of these activities, BRMS will contribute at least \$2,500 to D&R Greenway in 2011. Linda Mead, President

& CEO of D&R Greenway, praises BRMS for its dedication to land preservation and stewardship. "Scott Morris, manager of Princeton's Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, has taken the initiative again and again to support D&R Greenway's work, noting how it ties directly to the store's goal to promote getting people on trails and into the Great Outdoors. BRMS has been an exemplary partner for more than three years with D&R Greenway, making a real difference in enabling protection of land and creation of trails for the public to enjoy." 🌿



Celebrating the Hopewell Valley Trail Run on June 4th is sponsor Scott Morris of Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, co-chairs Ian Goldstein and Sundi Culbertson, sponsor Cricket Allen of BOT Beverages, and D&R Greenway Chair Alan Hershey. Photo credit: Richard Grant

Be a Part of It

It's not too late to sign up as a 2011 Business Partner in Preservation!

Phyllis Marchand, D&R Greenway trustee and chair of the Development Committee, comments, "With our Business Partners in Preservation program, we recognize local businesses that share our commitment to the environment. We encourage our supporters to patronize these businesses who invest in the community through their support for our land preservation and stewardship mission."

D&R Greenway recognizes that community is all about creating and sustaining relationships. Business Partners are highlighted throughout the year. Perhaps the biggest benefit is being recognized by a community that is passionate about land preservation and supporting the local environment.

Small World Coffee is D&R Greenway's newest Business Partner in Preservation, having donated more than \$1,300 raised

from February's "Love Show," an annual exhibit at its Witherspoon Street café. "D&R Greenway has just done so much great work. I wanted to make more people aware of their accomplishments and mission and give our patrons the opportunity to support it," commented Small World-owner Jessica Durrie.

Princeton-based BOT Beverages has selected D&R Greenway for three years in a row to be their 1% for the Planet recipient. "We knew we wanted to give back locally," says co-owner Cricket Allen. "Having grown up in Princeton, I have seen what were once huge acres of land now dotted with housing developments." She continues, "D&R Greenway does a fabulous job of preserving land. They are community oriented in educating the public about the importance of native plants and trail preservation. It's a forward-thinking, well-managed organization that we want to contribute to."

Ken Guilmartin and Lyn Ransom of Music Together speak about how they first got involved. "Our new international

headquarters in Hopewell is built sustainably with green products," says Ken. He continues, "It was an easy step to become involved in D&R Greenway's acquisition of St. Michaels, which we were pleased to support by holding several benefit concerts. Families, music, land, nature—and their nurture—what a happy combination!"

Business Partners are recognized in *Greenways*, a newsletter that reaches more than 6,000 households three times a year; at special events; at the Johnson Education Center; in electronic media; and at our Down to Earth Ball and Greenway Gala events that are attended by hundreds of people. You can't afford NOT to take advantage of these opportunities!

By signing up now, businesses can attend the September 11 *Greenway Gala* where they will be able to interact with a large crowd of people who care about and support our region.

Contact Tiffany So at 609-924-4646 extension 125 or find information on www.drgreenway.org. 🌿

Donors Making a Difference: Alex and Laura Hanson

When Alex Hanson and his wife, Laura, go for walks on their 67-acre farm in Hopewell, they take in the vista over the alfalfa crop planted by a local farmer, a vista that grows richer as it changes with the seasons.

The Hansons are not the only ones who get to enjoy the view. Thanks to the Hansons' preservation of the property that borders Pennington Borough, for the past eight years area residents have been able to walk the loop that abuts the state-owned Lake Baldwin Wildlife Management Area and connects to the Stony Brook. With its balance of native species, the land recharges the aquifer and has a positive impact on the watershed. Linking together with the New Jersey Wildlife Management area, it creates a stream corridor for wildlife.

"We're proud that we did this and would urge others to do so," says Alex, a securities trader who joined the board of the D&R Greenway Land Trust in 2005 after preserving his land. "It was financially shrewd and the right thing to do for the quality of life in the region."

Alex describes the "bargain sale" that was entered into: "We were able to extract a substantial portion of the value of the land we had no interest in developing," he says. "We knew we would hold it for a long time. The way a bargain sale works is that we sell the property at a discount of the fair market value. D&R Greenway came up with 70% of the value in a payment by securing funds from the State, Mercer County and Hopewell Township, and we donated 30% of the value and received a tax deduction for that gift."



Alex Hanson hosted a Landowners and Partners Celebration for those who preserved their land with D&R Greenway in 2006.

The Hansons entered into a contract stating that neither they nor future owners can ever develop or sell the land for future housing; it will stay undeveloped and open in perpetuity as long as the American system of property rights prevail. The Hansons retain the right to farm 42 acres of the easement.

"I like that people can enjoy it as a recreation area, walking their dogs, and we still can enjoy the solitude," says Alex. "I feel like we're contributing to the health of the community, carrying on a rural tradition."

Alex and Laura bought the property in 1996 and built a house four years later. Farm fields comprise 42 acres, the home site is two-and-a-half acres, and the remainder is woodland. But when Alex first started to talk about preserving the land, allowing public access, there was a law on

the books that would make a landowner liable for injury sustained by a person entering the property.

Determined to not allow such a draconian policy to interfere with his plan, Alex wrote a bill that would free a landowner who granted public access from this liability, and sent it to his state senator and assembly person, then worked with legislators and conservation organizations to pass an amendment to the Landowner Liability Act in 2002.

During the entire process, Alex was so impressed by how well managed the D&R Greenway was, he decided to join the board. "It is run by caring and determined people who have had success with conservation and spread the conservation ethic throughout the state," he remarked. Prior to joining the Board, he helped to write the charter of the audit committee. As a board member, he represented D&R Greenway in a partnership with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation that was successful in encouraging recent amendments to the Farmland Assessment Act of 1964. This effort resulted in adoption of Woodland Stewardship Plans that conserve rather than cut forests to comply with the special assessment requirements. As chair of the investment committee, Alex is helping to grow D&R Greenway's endowment. "Across the organization, we're trying to use best practices, with a series of well-run committees, doing a professional job of managing resources consistent with the mission."

At 46, Alex represents a younger generation getting involved with D&R Greenway, and the organization's future leaders. The Down to Earth Ball, a farm party where guests wear jeans and boots, brings that generation together to learn about the preservation work underway, he notes. Other ways that D&R Greenway is attracting younger members is through lectures and events at the Johnson Education Center, trail building, and by creating places for visits from school children who, in turn, bring their parents.

"Alex cares deeply about the importance of saving land," says Linda Mead, President & CEO. "Alex and Laura have made financial gifts to D&R Greenway from their family foundation with a focus on making a difference in accomplishing preservation results." Alex and Laura Hanson are clearly model philanthropists, whose personal commitment to preservation is carried out in their private lives. ■



The Hansons' preserved land on Baldwin Lake in Pennington

Green Acres celebrates 50th anniversary and 20-year partnership with D&R Greenway

In 2011 the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program celebrates an historic milestone: 50 years of preserving land by and for the people of New Jersey.

The first statewide open space program established in the United States, Green Acres set a nationwide standard for public open space funding. As noted by NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin, "The idea of using public money to purchase open space and setting it aside for public conservation and recreation in perpetuity was groundbreaking." Since 1961, Green Acres has protected over 650,000 acres of open space. New Jersey voters have approved every successive Green Acres bond referendum, most recently in 2009, endorsing a total of \$3.1 billion in statewide open space funding.

For 20 years, D&R Greenway has partnered with Green Acres to preserve important landscapes. "We've had an excellent relationship with D&R Greenway," comments Martha Sullivan Sapp, Local and Nonprofit Assistance Bureau Chief. "It's a partnership in the true sense of the word: it's mutually beneficial. We provide funding assistance to D&R Greenway; they lead people to us and help us put deals together—even if they're not part of the project. When we need something, we call them."

What makes Green Acres so successful? Land, People and Partners.

Land

New Jersey residents are passionate about open space—perhaps because its potential disappearance is not an abstraction. The most densely populated state in the nation has preserved almost *one-third* of its land, including state, county and nonprofit open space, as well as farmland—not even counting the myriad municipal parks.

Green Acres is a powerful force for preserving an incredible variety of landscapes: 650,000 acres of mountains and rolling hills; vast pinelands and deep hardwood forests; seashore and bayshore; rivers and canals. "Some of the state's real treasures still exist because of Green Acres," comments Jay Watson, D&R Greenway's Vice President, who worked in the Green Acres Program for 24 years and eventually became its Administrator.



Greenway Meadows park behind D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center, protected by a public-private partnership led by D&R Greenway and Green Acres.

Jay retired from the NJ DEP in 2010 as Deputy Commissioner and brought his talents to the D&R Greenway staff.

Green Acres has created an online interactive map depicting all the preserved land in the state, as well as a searchable database of open space within each county (see related box for sources).

People

Yes, Green Acres makes money available. But Green Acres is not a bank account. It is *people* who work with governments, organizations and individuals to make land preservation happen.

The program attracts a cadre of dedicated professionals. Jay Watson notes, "The 'EQ' (Emotional Quotient) of Green Acres professionals is as high as their IQ. They get along with people; they're credible and they're creative. It's

a unique group of individuals who love what they do."

Fairness is a Green Acres hallmark. "There's something for everyone, from a policy and priority standpoint," Jay comments. "Big open spaces and small urban parks, in every corner of the state. The funding pot is divided up so everyone can participate."

Partners

From its beginning, Green Acres has worked with local governments to leverage state funds, providing matching grants to municipalities and counties. Planning Incentive grants, created in the 1990s, empower local governments to use Green Acres funds to implement approved open space plans, leveraging local tax funds.

For the past 20 years Green Acres has also partnered with nonprofit organizations. The Local and Nonprofit Assistance program directs public monies to local projects. Green Acres' first Nonprofit Assistance project gave D&R Greenway the opportunity to acquire the initial piece of the Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve.

Partnerships, as important as they have been in the past, are now essential to land conservation. "All the easy acquisitions have been done," notes Martha Sapp. "No one entity can do it alone—the cost of land is too high. It's much more complicated now; we have to cobble together large amounts of money. D&R Greenway facilitates acquisitions by putting partnerships together."



In 2007 then-Governor Corzine was joined by state legislators in signing the Green Acres and Farmland Referendum at D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center

Continued from facing page

Exemplary Nonprofit Assistance projects that D&R Greenway was instrumental in facilitating—the Sourlands, Princeton Nurseries, and Greenway Meadows preserves—are profiled in this newsletter.

The future

There is still much to be done at the state and local level. Green Acres seeks “To achieve, in partnership with others, a system of interconnected open spaces, whose protection will preserve and enhance New Jersey’s natural environment and its historic, scenic, and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment.” Interconnectedness is critical to preserving habitat. The open space map of the state reveals many gaps to be filled, and many opportunities for partnership. D&R Greenway expects to play a major role, along with Green Acres, in filling these gaps. 🍂

A Few Facts about Green Acres

- Green Acres funding has been used to preserve over 650,000 acres of open space.
- A total of over 1.429 million acres including farmland are preserved across the state, 30% of the total area.
- New Jersey voters have authorized \$3.1 billion in Green Acres funding, approving all 13 bond referendums put before them.
- Local governments have used \$1,103,496,124 in Green Acres funding to acquire 102,530 acres statewide.
- Nonprofits have used \$146,549,753 to acquire 38,739 acres statewide.
- The overall Green Acres nonprofit grants to D&R Greenway total \$13,776,024—the most awarded to any nonprofit in the State.

Sources: Green Acres website and staff

For further reading:

Green Acres program:

www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/

NJ Open Space map:

www.state.nj.us/dep/ga50/osmap.htm

Randy Pease, Esq. joins D&R Greenway as Land Preservation Specialist

After 18 years in the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office, the last 11 as transactional counsel to Green Acres, Randy Pease was looking forward to retiring and enjoying the outdoors with his wife: biking, kayaking, and relaxing in their house in Maine.

But when the opportunity arose to join D&R Greenway beginning June 8 as Land Preservation Specialist, Pease was “like a kid in a candy store,” he laughs. “I said, ‘oooo!’ and I grabbed the opportunity!”

D&R Greenway welcomes Randy as Green Acres marks its 50th anniversary, and as both organizations celebrate 20 years of an extraordinarily productive partnership. “Going from Green Acres to D&R Greenway is a natural and comfortable transition for me,” he says. “I’m looking forward to working with a standout nonprofit, doing work that taps into what I consider important.”

A graduate of Rutgers (1972) and New York Law School (1975), Randy worked in private practice before joining the AG’s Office. Randy’s Green Acres track record is awe-inspiring: he advised and represented the State in over 1,100 acquisitions, which invested more than \$500 million, preserving in excess of 120,000 acres of land.

Impressive as those numbers are, they don’t tell the whole story of the countless acres that could have ended up in the “loss” column without Randy’s creative



Randy Pease, Esq., new Land Preservation Specialist at D&R Greenway. Photo credit: J. Watson, Jr.

problem-solving orientation. He explains, “I look at difficulties as challenges, not impediments.”

Jay Watson, D&R Greenway’s Vice President and Randy’s long-time Green Acres colleague, comments, “I have always known Randy to be one of the most solution-oriented professionals that I’ve ever worked with. He has seen many unique and innovative projects presented to him through the years and instead of relying on the easy strict interpretation of a rule or law, he always understood the desired result, and he worked hard to

make a good thing happen if he could find a way. We are extremely fortunate that he joins D&R Greenway Land Trust as we continue our good work of protecting New Jersey’s remarkable landscape.”

As D&R Greenway celebrates the value of building preservation partnerships—past and future—Randy will bring a wealth of experience, having worked with every county and municipality in the state.

With his infectious can-do attitude, Randy will fit right into D&R Greenway’s culture. Martha Sullivan Sapp, Green Acres Local and Nonprofit Assistance Bureau Chief, observes, “Randy has the utmost respect and affection of everyone he has worked with at Green Acres. He was the closing attorney for State acquisitions but was always happy to help with projects being done by our local government and nonprofit partners. There was often a line outside his office door of people who wanted his practical advice and perspective on a challenging project.”

She continues, “Randy has the gift of seeing the whole picture, applying common sense and gentle humor, and guiding all parties to a successful acquisition where everyone feels like they won. We like to say that Randy turns ‘Rocky Road’ projects into smooth ‘Vanilla’.”

D&R Greenway’s new Land Preservation Specialist, Randy Pease, can be reached at 609-924-4646, extension 122, or by e-mail at rpease@drgreenway.org. 🍂

Sourlands Preserve

Continued from page 2

the Scarlet Tanager or Hooded Warbler supply a continuous soundtrack. Over 70 different species of birds make their home in the Preserve.

In such a lush environment it is a shock to come upon the occasional open area, a hole punched in the canopy by a fallen tree. Where light enters the canopy, seedlings fight for space, each seeking the ultimate prize of territory and the prospect of a place in the community. These light areas are part of what makes the Sourlands so valuable as habitat. In a typical edge-dominated fragmented woods, invasive species thrive at the expense of native woodland plants. Where invasive plants have taken hold in the Preserve, D&R Greenway has undertaken eradication and restoration to repair the forest. If these efforts continue to be successful, the canopy holes will continue to serve as essential incubators for new generations of native forest plants.

New trail guide available

D&R Greenway has produced a new brochure describing the Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve, including maps of the hiking trail system. The natural footpaths are open year-round. Parking is available in four locations.

The brochure is available from the D&R Greenway website, www.drgreenway.org.

Vision for the future

Within the larger Sourlands region, D&R Greenway's vision is to create a 20-mile-long Sourlands Greenway linked by trails and bordered by preserved farms and grasslands in the valleys. Green Acres has been the indispensable partner in accomplishing this remarkable vision, providing matching funds for 8,926 acres preserved by nonprofit organizations alone, plus funding State acquisition of 4,875 acres. D&R Greenway has preserved thousands of acres, including our Cedar Ridge and Cattail Brook Preserves as well as numerous parcels with East and West Amwell, and Hopewell and Montgomery townships. The Sourland Planning Council does important complementary work toward recognizing and protecting this sensitive resource area.

D&R Greenway's Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve is a milestone in a multi-party partnership to preserve an unbroken forest corridor, from the Delaware River to the Somerville area. It permanently protects a landscape that has much more to teach future generations about the importance of connecting all the pieces to provide value to the whole community. 🌿

Princeton Nurseries: New Jersey's Largest-ever Preservation Acquisition

State funding will help create the largest open space and farmland acquisition in the state's history—nearly 3 square miles straddling 3 counties, using a total of \$27.8 million. The deal will preserve wildlife habitat and farmland, and will add to parks and greenways along historic Crosswicks Creek. The 1,900-acre property to be acquired is land owned by the Flemer family, which operated Princeton Nurseries on the site until recently.

The transaction is significant for its size and complexity.

D&R Greenway Land Trust played a critical role that enabled the partnership for preservation. Board of Trustees Chair Alan Hershey explains, "Our role, though invisible in the funding partnership, was to create alliances between members of the family and the state funding agencies—Green Acres and the state farmland preservation program." He continues, "The ability to build crucial partnerships is an important key to D&R Greenway's success on many large-scale preservation transactions."

Green Acres will contribute \$7.2 million, and Monmouth and Mercer Counties and Monmouth Conservation Foundation will provide a total of \$9.2 million, to acquire 512 acres land for a state Wildlife Management Area and nearly 500 acres as additions to the Monmouth and Mercer County park systems. The State Agriculture Development Committee, along with Monmouth and Burlington Counties and Upper Freehold Township, will provide \$11.4 million to purchase farmland easements on 900 acres. Final closing is expected to take place in 2012.

"This is a truly beautiful landscape with scenic views and is a remarkable preservation opportunity right in the heart of the most densely populated state in the nation," NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin commented. "I commend the Flemer family and all of the partners for having the foresight to recognize its importance and then working together toward its preservation."

Bill Flemer noted, "It's a comfort to know that the land we cared about, and cared for, for so these many years, will continue to be treated with the same love and regard."

To pull off the deal required cooperation among partners with divergent missions yet convergent interests. Land saved from development is land saved from



Announcing the preservation deal during Earthweek are (l to r) NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin, Bill Flemer at the podium, Monmouth Co. Freeholder Lillian Burry, SADC Director Susan Payne, and D&R Greenway's Linda Mead.

development, but historically the agencies that fund agricultural preservation have different interests and goals than those that fund natural area preservation.

D&R Greenway played a vital role in facilitating the preservation partnership, initially by putting the parties together, then by providing essential diplomacy: communications and negotiations to make the deal happen. All partners played instrumental roles.

The scale of the deal is breath-taking in its scope, quality and diversity. Rich in wildlife habitat, the property boasts mature forests and wetlands as well as extensive grasslands that support many of the State's most vulnerable wildlife species. Nursery roads will augment trail systems in the county parks, connecting to existing greenways. The farmland is not only composed of prime soil, it lies in the heart of a thriving agricultural region where 15,000 acres are already preserved.

Bill Flemer observes, "Looking at the property as a whole, it's an amazing combination of agricultural and natural areas. We're hopeful that the property will be a demonstration of how public access to natural areas can coexist with productive farming. A good farm is a healthy balance between cultivated and wild lands, both of which New Jersey desperately needs. A good farmer has a degree of humility about his skill in managing land and will use natural areas as models."

D&R Greenway is working to model the approach of coexisting natural and agricultural lands in several of its own preserves, including the St. Michaels Farm Preserve—whose manager is Bill Flemer. 🌿

Wonder Full World: Announcing the Charles Evans Children's Discovery Trail

Soon the young and the young-at-heart will be able to explore and discover the wonders of nature on D&R Greenway's new Children's Discovery Trail. To be dedicated to the late Charles Evans, the new trail can be found on D&R Greenway's Drakes Corner Road Preserve in Princeton Township. Work on the trail, led by Director of Stewardship Jim Amon, is assisted by summer interns Eric Teitlebaum and Peter Smith of Princeton University and Emily Blackman who has a Masters in Wildlife Biology from North Carolina State University. The new trail will be open this coming fall.

Charles Evans was a philanthropist who enjoyed the relaxation and reflection he found in the outdoors. Mr. Evans founded the house of fashion, Evan Picone. Linda Munson, President of The Charles Evans Foundation, announced the foundation's gift at the April opening of D&R Greenway's art exhibition, "*Born of Wonder: Childhood and Nature*" also sponsored by The Charles Evans Foundation. Speaking about her own childhood inspiration for shepherding this project, Linda Munson shared, "As a girl of seven, gazing at hummingbirds flitting about gladiolas at dawn, I felt a strong connection with nature, and the powerful sense of self that nature conveys." Ms. Munson continued, "Just as with art, once children fall in love with a place,

they'll value it. They'll take care of it. And it won't disappear."

In response to emerging understanding stirred by author Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods—Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, D&R Greenway is encouraging the childhood-nature connection. Linda Mead, President & CEO, asserts, "We are creating places where children can experience the freedom of the natural environment, where their surroundings spur creativity and exploration. Our purpose is to spark a personal conservation ethic within today's children, our future leaders." The Charles Evans Children's Discovery Trail will be a permanent place where such sparks can take form.

The Joy of Discovery

Everything along the trail is natural, yet the experience is designed to be a process of discovery: of the world and of the self in the world.

The Charles Evans Children's Discovery Trail will be a half-mile meander on a property acquired by D&R Greenway in 2004 for permanent preservation. It traverses woods, moving into a wet, swampy area past highbush blueberries. With their twisty open branches, the shrubs here seem ideal for visualizing shapes into figures. The trail crosses a rock wall that marks the boundary for an old pasture.

Beyond the wall, diabase boulders proliferate; here children can climb over huge rocks perfect for playing King of the Hill. Continuing past a small pond for enjoying dragonflies and along a meandering stream for spying fish, the trail ends in a grove surrounded by old birch and oak trees. It's a place perfect for sitting and contemplating, perhaps writing poems or creating paintings or photographs that may find their way into a future art exhibition at D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center.

It is a bookend, in a sense, to the Charles Evans Overlook, also funded by The Charles Evans Foundation, dedicated just a year ago at our St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell. At this ceremony, Charles Evans' young granddaughter, Charlé Lily Evans, cut the ribbon. "With these gifts", explains Linda Munson, "the Foundation seeks to create something everlasting: a perpetual memorial to Charles Evans." The Charles Evans Overlook provides views of a large-scale rural agricultural landscape; the Children's Discovery Trail, a perpetual pathway into a small scale woods. "The site is perfect," comments Ms. Munson. "Like the Overlook, a place to love. So few children now wander around in woods, jump over streams and catch butterflies. This is a place for them to do that." 🌿

Second Annual Hopewell Valley Trail Run Winners Announced

For the second year, over 70 adult level trail runners and 25 children participated at the St. Michaels Farm Preserve on June 4. Awards were given to all who won based on time. Everyone won based on a great experience, camaraderie and fun.

Winners in the adult divisions

35-and-over male division and overall winner: Ray Zeimet

Second place winner: Joe Silva

35-and-over female winner: Nancy Seitsma

Second place winner: Sandy Bonasera

Under-35 male division winner: Carrick Porter

Second place winner: Akif Zamon

Under-35 female winner: Shannon Hawrylo

Second place winner: Laura Noonan

Youngest finisher: Alek Michelson (Age 9)

Winners in the children's Fun Run

First boy and overall winner: Kyle Howard

Second boy winner: Isaiah Poole

Third boy winner: Brooks Dahl

First girl winner: Sara Howard

Second girl winner: Summer Goldstein

Third girl winner: Emily Allen



Winners in the children's Fun Run at the St. Michaels Farm Preserve on June 4, 2011. Photo credit: Richard Grant

Thanks to Hopewell Valley Trail Run Sponsors

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP;
Blue Ridge Mountain Sports;
BOT Beverages; Music Together;
Pennington Market and
Pennington Bagel.

Thanks to co-chairs Sundi Culbertson and Ian Goldstein

Event co-chair Sundi Culbertson spoke to the crowd gathered at the St. Michaels Farm Preserve for the race: "While you're running through here, remember it could have all been houses. We are so thankful for what D&R Greenway is doing for our community." 🌿

Stretching Dollars through Private-Public Partnerships

Remembering Greenway Meadows, Coventry Farm and Carson Road Woods

To a community, the challenge of preserving a large tract of land can seem insurmountable. Without a leader to organize the tremendous upswell of energy and translate it into the funds necessary to strike a deal, the community's desire to save land will be frustrated.

Time and again, D&R Greenway has been lauded for creating preservation partnerships: bringing private donors together with public funders to make preservation happen.

A stellar example is the 2001 series of transactions in which D&R Greenway put together private-public partnerships to preserve three tracts of land that are now community treasures: Greenway Meadows and Coventry Farm in Princeton and Carson Road Woods in Lawrence. D&R Greenway raised a total of over \$9 million in private funds to leverage Green Acres and other public funds, effectuating the purchase of over 400 acres for more than \$25 million.

Greenway Meadows on Rosedale Road is now familiar to friends of D&R Greenway. The 60-acre former Robert Wood Johnson estate, with its historic barn, now hosts the Johnson Education Center surrounded by open space and Princeton Township recreation fields. To accomplish the \$7.4 million purchase, D&R Greenway put \$3.2 million in private donations together with funding provided by Green Acres, Princeton Township, Mercer County, and Friends of Princeton Open Space.

Coventry Farm on The Great Road, at 160 acres the largest tract of open space



Summer at Coventry Farm

then remaining in Princeton, was acquired to preserve farmland and woodland, and to provide active recreation areas. To preserve the \$9.5 million property, D&R Greenway again raised over \$3 million from private sources that complemented funds from Green Acres, Mercer County, Princeton Township and Borough. Almost 100 acres were placed under conservation easement; 28 acres added to Princeton's Mountain Lakes Preserve; 22 acres purchased by the Township for recreation now called Farm View Fields; and 11 acres purchased by Princeton Day School for open space and education.

The 183-acre Carson Road Woods was the second largest open space left in Lawrence Township. To help the Township acquire the property, now a public natural area, D&R Greenway raised \$3 million in private donations—including \$1 million from Bristol-Myers Squibb—and brought together funds from Green Acres, Mercer County, and the Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation.

Phyllis Marchand, former mayor of Princeton Township who worked on these and other preservation projects, observes, "D&R Greenway was an absolute joy to work with. Their help was paramount in saving important properties in Princeton. They're really good at leveraging the dollars: combining private contributions together with public money—and all in short timeframes." She continues, "The community of Princeton wouldn't be the same without their help. Preserving properties as important as Greenway Meadows and Coventry Farm, as well as the Institute Woods, changed the streetscape and the landscape of our town. We've been able

to realize the land preservation goals in our master plan because of working with D&R Greenway."

In recognition of the tremendous value of forming these preservation partnerships, D&R Greenway's Linda Mead was given The Conservation Fund's prestigious National Conservation Award in 2002. Lawrence Selzer, President of The Conservation Fund, stated, "The award demonstrates the positive value of cooperation, rather than confrontation, in protecting habitat and open space." He praised Linda's "vision, leadership and dedication" that "showed how much can be accomplished through partnerships and collaboration."

D&R Greenway's success in leveraging private donations with Green Acres funds continues to lead to more preservation opportunities. Known for its ability to make these types of complicated, high value deals happen, D&R Greenway has become the "go-to" organization in central New Jersey. The St. Michaels Farm Preserve, protected in 2010, is a more recent example of this leveraging success.

Recognized by Green Acres for its ability to achieve results, ten years ago D&R Greenway led all nonprofits in total funds awarded by Green Acres. That is still true in 2011.

"D&R Greenway is one of the most active nonprofit conservation partners we have in New Jersey," comments Martha Sapp. "They are involved in preservation projects from the time of inception, through the challenge of leveraging funding, to the day the public can start enjoying the land. Green Acres is proud to partner with D&R Greenway." ❧



Carson Road Woods

Experience the Natural World at D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center

A Sense of Wonder: A Family Picnic and Exploration on the Stony Brook at Greenway Meadows

Wednesday, July 6, 5:30–8 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Picnicking on the Carroll K. and Frederick P. King Terrace at the Johnson Education Center. Bring your own picnic food; drinks and dessert provided through support from the Edward T. Cone Foundation.

6:30–8 p.m. Family Exploration of the Stony Brook

Explore the interaction between children and waterways through this unique collaboration of D&R Greenway Land Trust and the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. Following an evening repast on the King Terrace with a view of the bucolic Greenway Meadows park, Jeff Hoagland, Education Director at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, will lead a family-friendly guided exploration of the Stony Brook. You'll also have the opportunity to view the illuminating exhibit *Born of Wonder—Childhood and Nature* in D&R Greenway's Marie L. Matthews Gallery.

On the walk, you'll meet some of the Stony Brook's many inhabitants. Participants will learn how and where to find stream life, and using small nets, will have the opportunity to meet some creatures up close. Old sneakers (or boots) are ideal for this nice, ambling exploration, allowing participants to explore the shallow water.

Preregistration and a \$5.00 donation is requested to support the education program of the SBMWA.



Green Darner
(*Anax junius*)



Orange Jewelweed
(*Impatiens capensis*)

Poetry and Literature: U.S. 1 Summer Fiction Issue Reception & Reading

Thursday, August 18, 5 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Meet the writers and poets who contribute to this popular annual literary event sponsored by U. S. 1 newspaper. Come early and enjoy a walk along the Scott and Hella McVay Poetry Trail through Greenway Meadows park beforehand, or stroll the trail after the reading until dusk. Wine, beer and light refreshments provided. Free and open to the public.

The Garden State in Step with Nature

August 15–October 14, 2011

Friday, August 19, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Opening Reception.

A juried art exhibit of the Garden State Watercolor Society.

Friends in Field and Forest: Celebrating Partners in Preservation

October 24–December 2, 2011

Sunday, November 6, 4–6 p.m. Opening Reception.

An art and photography exhibit highlighting partnership lands protected by D&R Greenway in Princeton: Greenway Meadows, Coventry Farm and Farm View Fields, and the Institute for Advanced Study lands.

Includes a special exhibit in celebration of the New Jersey Green Acres Program's 50th anniversary: Plein air paintings created on Green Acres protected lands, incorporating natural materials.

Textures and Trails

December 12, 2011–February 10, 2012

Thursday, December 15, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Opening Reception.

An art exhibit exploring trails and nature through uncommon media. Landscape quilts, sculptures, iron, textiles and objects from nature will be combined to celebrate the many paths that wind through the New Jersey landscape.

Special Feature: "A Landscape Quilt by Deb Brockway of the Summit Trail on Baldpate Mountain" that was built by D&R Greenway volunteers, including Deb who was inspired to create this quilt and donate it to D&R Greenway.

Exhibit art pieces will make special holiday gifts—mark your calendar!



Eastern Screech-Owl
(*Megascops asio*)

Call 609-924-4646 or send e-mail to cedelmann@drgreenway.org to register for ALL events.

D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.

D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc., is a regional, 501(c)(3) nonprofit land conservancy dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of open space throughout New Jersey.

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Mahlon Lovett, design, Heather Lovett, illustrations, Susan Charkes and Ilene Dube, writing. Printed on recycled paper.

Mark your calendars for *The Greenway Gala*

A garden party at D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center in Princeton

Sunday, September 11, 2011, 4–6 p.m.

The 2011 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award will be presented to Sophie Glover, author of *Walk the Trails In and Around Princeton*.

A Princeton resident, Sophie has been recognized by the local community for her efforts in sustainability. She lives her beliefs, planting native trees and shrubs on her own land to encourage wildlife habitat, and installing solar energy and composting systems at her home.

A member of the Garden Club of Princeton, she is currently partnering with D&R Greenway on a book about native landscaping. Sophie worked to raise funds that resulted in preservation of the St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell and has gathered her own neighbors to support land preservation in Princeton.

Through her leadership, Meredith's Garden of Inspiration was created at D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center. This lovely garden will be the setting for this very popular garden party event. 🌿

Fall Native Plant Sale
September 16–17, 3–6 p.m.



Sophie Glover from *Walk the Trails In and Around Princeton*.
Photo credit: Bentley Drezner