GREENWAYS

Newsletter of D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc. Volume 22, Number 2 Summer 2013

Land Preservation Update

Since 1989, D&R Greenway has placed a milestone 250 properties, approximately 17,349 acres valued over \$362,000,000 into permanent preservation — an area twenty times larger than New York's Central Park.

"The test of wildness"

Tidal marshlands: a place apart

nder a soft gray blanket, dark water shifts and sighs. Ripples, slight as the breath of babies, slip across the surface. Clouds blush pink and orange. Into the silence, a splash, a skitter of webbed feet, and the whistle of wings. The marsh is waking up.

Between the river and the mainland, a marshland is a place unto itself. This intersection of slow-moving water, low mud islands, and waving stands of wild rice, shares its beauty year round. It is a land of silence, some spots so quiet you can hear the tide turn. It is a land of expansive horizons magnified by reflections in the water, making you feel as if you're floating among the clouds.

Tidal marshlands, wherever they are, share a distinctive kind of beauty that no other habitat possesses: a shimmering, in-between quality that is created by the constantly moving water, pushed by tides, under a broad flat horizon. These marshes are incredibly

productive in terms of the amount and variety of plants and wildlife they support.

They also share a common quality, at least in North America: very few people call marshes home. Until the industrial age, people lived in marshlands, at least seasonally, taking advantage of the abundance of fish, game, and plants for food.

But nowadays, the people you encounter in the marshes are more likely to be there seeking sustenance of a different kind.

"The tides rise and fall in our blood," says writer Ken Carter. "We're intellectual beings, but we came from the earth. We need that direct experience of it. Until I went out into the marshes I didn't realize how bereft I was."

Ken was visiting the Johnson Education Center with his wife, Annette Haywood-Carter, to speak about *Savannah*, a new film that



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D&R Greenway previewed at a public showing in June. Ken wrote the film and Annette co-wrote and directed it. Based on the memoirs of Jack Cay, it tells the story of Ward Allen, an educated aristocrat who rejected plantation life to earn a living hunting ducks in the marshlands surrounding

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As Above, So Below (Photo by Ann Darlington). Awarded best in category - Natural Habitats, 2012 Voices for the Marsh Juried Photography Show

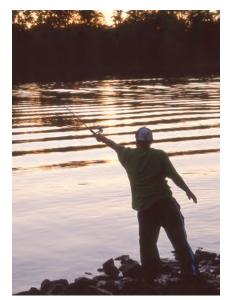
Tidal marshlands

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Savannah, a century ago. The story recounts tales Jack heard as a child from Allen's hunting partner Christmas Moultrie. Born a slave during the Civil War, Moultrie lived on Mulberry Plantation in the marshlands. He and Allen knew the watery territory better than anyone. They formed an unlikely but close friendship and business partnership. The film depicts the bond they forged through their shared love for the marshlands, and the challenges they faced together as their way of life became anachronistic.

Savannah, Ken explains, dramatizes Ward Allen's conviction that the human spirit is fired in "the test of wildness," the direct experience of nature that affirms our connectedness with the Earth. "Have you ever had your boots sucked off by marsh mud? We hope our movie (coming to theaters August 23) puts people in touch with that."

Like the rising and falling of tides, the scenes of the emotionally charged story oscillate between the brick-paved, claustrophobic intensity of the city, and the serene, light-filled beauty of the expansive tidal marshes that Allen and Moultrie loved. The marshland is the spiritual center of *Savannah*. As Annette says, "The landscape is a character in the film as much as the people."



Fishing in the Marsh (Photo by Mary Leck)

When Linda Mead, D&R Greenway's President and CEO, saw Savannah at a film festival, she knew immediately that it would resonate with those who care about the natural world. "The film powerfully conveys the emotional connection between people and land: how the place where you go, again and again, becomes a place that you love." She asked Ken and Annette to present their film to an audience that would recognize the landscape, even though the tidal marshes of Savannah are 800 miles south of Princeton. "D&R Greenway's community can connect their own experience with marshes — the Abbott Marshlands

Mannington Meadows in Salem County where D&R Greenway has preserved more than 2,000 acres

in Mercer County, and Mannington Meadows in Salem County."

D&R Greenway has worked to protect both of these huge expanses of tidal marshland. "In Salem County, we've preserved thousands of acres of farmland from development that would have threatened marsh habitat," explains Linda.

For 20 years, D&R Greenway has also protected, and celebrated, the Abbott Marshlands. Formerly known as the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, these 3,000 acres (half of them wetlands) in Mercer County meander inland from the Delaware River along the Crosswicks and Watson's Creeks, comprising the northernmost tidal freshwater wetlands in the Delaware River watershed. The Marsh is a nexus of natural beauty, diverse wildlife, and significant cultural and historic heritage sites.

Mary Leck, professor emerita of Biology at Rider University, first encountered the Marsh in 1975 while researching plant population ecology. Since then Mary, along with her husband Charles Leck, a renowned ornithologist and retired professor of ecology at Rutgers, have become two of the Marsh's most ardent champions. Mary continues to be astounded by its biodiversity: the Marsh is home to over 62 species of fish, 245 of birds, and an incredible 900 species of plants. "And that number keeps increasing," she remarks: "In 2012 Charlie and I found Scarlet Cup, a plant that hasn't been recorded in New Jersey for over 100 years." A scientist with the soul of an artist, Mary takes photographs that perfectly convey the Marsh's incomparable beauty that she sees so clearly when she visits this place she

Since her first visit Mary has been to the Marsh countless times, many of them as a volunteer leader of guided hikes and canoe trips. In answer to the question "How often do you go?" she answers: "Not often enough."

Since 1995, D&R Greenway has provided essential support for stewardship and conservation of "the Marsh." Because ownership is a mosaic of public and private entities spanning several municipalities, D&R Greenway has facilitated partnerships. The Marsh

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Stewardship Council, a coalition of ten stakeholders, completed a Cooperative Stewardship Plan for the Marsh in 2010. Since 2002, D&R Greenway has been the principal sponsor of the grassroots group, Friends for the Abbott Marshlands.

The Friends promote discovery of the Marsh through public tours and programs for school groups. Kay Widmer, a volunteer with the Friends since 2006, first discovered the Marsh when, as a high school environmental science teacher, she took a course with Mary Leck. That changed her life. "The Marsh is really beautiful," she says. "You can lose yourself in it." As a result of that experience, she began taking her AP ecology students to the Marsh. It was a transformative experience for them, she relates. It's one thing to read about ecological processes in marshlands, but, "When they see it, they're blown away."

The Marsh will soon become even more inviting for families, school groups and individuals to explore. Tulpehaking Nature Center, under construction at the edge of Roebling Park in Hamilton Township, is scheduled to open in 2014. D&R Greenway obtained funding, matched by Mercer County, to convert a residence into an education and interpretive building. The County will manage the center, providing education in conjunction with the Friends.

Tulpehaking Nature Center is unique in two ways, according to Lisa Fritzinger, Supervising Planner for Mercer County. It is designed to be "as green as possible," using renewable resources (such as bamboo flooring) and energy-efficient architecture. The designers adopted innovations to preserve the site's archeological value. The Marsh is one of the most important cultural heritage sites in eastern North America, containing evidence of 13,000 years of continuous human occupation. "Tulpehaking," a Lena'pe word meaning "place of the turtle," honors this heritage. Construction utilized footings that could be shifted if excavations, supervised by archeologists, revealed artifacts indicating important Native American sites.











The first person to identify the Marsh as a significant cultural heritage resource was Charles Conrad Abbott (1843-1919), for whom the Marshlands were recently re-named. "Charles Abbott was our Ward Allen," savs Linda Mead. Abbott was a medical doctor whose farm sat on a bluff overlooking the wetlands near Watson's Creek. An avid naturalist, he loved exploring the marsh literally his own backyard. Here, he discovered the first important artifacts demonstrating early Native American presence. Abbott garnered fame for his archeological and geological discoveries in the Marsh. In 1996, the U.S. Department of the Interior designated much of the Marsh as

the Abbott Farm National Historic Landmark.

To experience firsthand the wealth of historic sites in the Marsh, join a guided tour led by one of the Marsh's expert historians. Dan Aubrey is one of them. A writer and editor, Dan organizes 'History Weekends' for the Friends, in which guides take visitors to such sites as the 1708 Watson House (the oldest house in Mercer County), Lock No. 1 on the D&R Canal, and Point Breeze (the home of Joseph Bonaparte, once the King of Spain).

"People are just amazed when they discover this history in the midst of an area they thought they knew," Dan remarks. "Napoleon's brother, Revolutionary War era mansions, a major canal project and more. Peoples' jaws drop and their eyes glaze when they show up and discover what is there. I have had people on tours who have lived all their lives in the area tell me that they were never aware of the history in the marsh. It's a fascinating area."

To learn how you can discover the Marsh through Friends tours led by expert historians, archeologists, and naturalists, visit www.marsh-friends.org.

A Sense of Place

"The Abbott Marshlands is one of the most ecologically dynamic parks I know of in central New Jersey. There is always a natural event happening at the marsh, no matter what the season.

Three years ago, I was walking the trails on the 'island' portion of Spring Lake.... My heart jumped from the loud crack of dead wood being broken from a



Photo: Osprey by Terri VanKirk

tree. I looked in that direction to make sure I was not in danger. To my surprise, I witnessed an osprey flying above some of the trees on the edge of the marsh. These trees contained dead limbs, which the osprey was breaking off by grabbing them with its feet. It was collecting nesting material.

Later that morning, I found the nest that the osprey was building. I haven't seen anything else like this since."

— Jenn Rogers, Mercer County Naturalist

Lester Brown, International Environmental Expert, to Launch His Newest Book at D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center

Tuesday, October 29; Reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by Lecture, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Linda Mead, Lester Brown and Scott McVay at the Johnson Education Center, 2009

Lester Brown, one of the world's most influential thinkers, is best known for founding both the World Watch Institute and the Earth Policy Institute. He has written more than 50 books on global environmental issues and influenced U.S. presidents, the United Nations and leaders around the world.

The MacArthur Genius Award Winner with curly hair and blue eyes is often seen walking around in his tennis shoes. He will pay a visit to D&R Greenway to discuss his newest book, *Breaking New Ground: A Personal History*, that traces Brown's life as the son of a sharecropper to one who dines with heads of state.



Photo by Carolyn Edelmann

Brown's own life is deeply rooted in the soil of New Jersey. The book recounts the experience he had in his mid-teens: along with his younger brother, Brown borrowed a tractor to grow tomatoes on weekends. By 1958, that operation was producing 1.5 million pounds of tomatoes. Brown went to Cook College to study agriculture, with the sole objective of becoming a bigger and better tomato farmer.

Shortly after earning a degree in agricultural science, Brown spent six months living in rural India, seeing the huge disparity

between how the rich and the poor live. He observed first hand that decreasing crop production, global warming, population control, women's education, energy and water resource depletion are all connected. He was especially concerned about soil erosion, learning that it takes centuries to rebuild top soil.

Rather than focus on doom and gloom, Brown looks toward the solution. At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Brown prepared the first global food supply and demand projections to the end of the 20th century. He went on to advise governments internationally.

One of the world's most widely published authors, his books have been translated into 40 languages.

Brown last visited D&R Greenway in 2009 with his previous book, *Plan B* 4.0 (2009), a final warning call for the leaders of the world to begin mobilizing to save civilization. Brown stresses that time is of the essence.

Discover Your Own Sense of Place—Take a hike!

"The NJ Trails website has served the public well. I see it in action: two young ladies holding a NJ Trails map on Baldpate Mountain, explaining they use the website frequently to get out and get in shape ... the scout leader holding NJ Trails maps he used to create a 10-mile training walk for his troop ... and the man who passed us on a trail, explaining that as he recovers from a leg ailment he uses the website every week for rehab. We are reaching people as we intended."

— Alan Hershey, trail advocate and D&R Greenway Board Chair

Over ten years ago, D&R Greenway spearheaded development of a website where users can find maps and descriptions of trails to encourage their enjoyment of the outdoors. Many volunteers and partner groups helped assemble the 78 trail descriptions now found at www.njtrails.org.

Launching in September, an enhanced website will provide even more ways to search for trails and easily obtain driving directions tailored to location. Photo galleries will enable trail users' contributions. A mobile version will enable "Smart phone" access from the trail — saving trees!

Many thanks to the NJ DEP for



support through a Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails grant, the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and the 22 individuals whose financial support made the enhanced website possible.

Barn Celebration at the St. Michaels Farm Preserve!

Saturday, September 28, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., following the Hopewell Harvest Fair!

The barn project at St. Michaels Farm Preserve is almost finished. Beginning in Spring 2013, a new foundation was prepared and a circa 1840 timber frame barn, moved from 8 miles away, was sorted, fitted and assembled.

Come see the finished result on September 28!

- Tour the barn featuring accommodations for barn swallows and owls!
- Enjoy a guided walk!
- Your opportunity to purchase a bird or bat house made from St. Michael's barn wood!
- Discover Native Plants that you can purchase for your home landscape!
- Participate in a yoga class on the hill with Lara Yoga!
- Dance to music by Farm Manager Bill Flemer's Riverside BlueGrass Band!
- Bring a blanket and chairs. Pack your own picnic or buy food and drink from local food purveyors!















Stay tuned to www.drgreenway.org for additional information!

A Piece of Paradise Inspires Writers and Artists

n a 50-acre piece of paradise in West Amwell, five sisters were inspired to become serious writers. Martha, Jenny, Sarah and Laura McPhee, and their half-sister Joan Sullivan, all found their childhood home a significant influence on their writing careers.

The property, Pryde's Point, was preserved by D&R Greenway in 2002 and overlooks the Alexauken Creek Valley. A refuge for the Continental Army during the Revolution, the valley supported some of the area's early industries. Traces of old dams and mill races can be seen along the creek, where water tumbles across rock ledges on its course to the Delaware.

The McPhees' mother, photographer Pryde Brown, lives in her home on the property, and has recently moved her photography business here, to be surrounded by the place she loves. In more than 40 years of operating her Princeton studio, Pryde photographed President Clinton, Bill Bradley, Rush Holt and other politicians, professors, writers, musicians and actors. Her work regularly appeared in *The New Yorker, Harper's Bazaar, New Jersey Life, Time* and *Newsweek* to name just a few.

From her deck, Pryde sets the chairs to face the view: wide open land on the horizon, a ridge of trees defining a meadow just before another ridge. "I'm so lucky," she says. Massive trees cast a cooling shade on the house and stone patios, surrounded by potted begonias.

Pryde moved to this piece of paradise in 1972 with her second husband Dan Sullivan. The couple acquired the 50 acres with two cottages, a house and a 1920s hunting cabin at its core when "no one wanted to live in the country,

Help D&R Greenway save open spaces and favorite places in our community! To learn how you can make a difference through a planned gift, such as a Charitable Gift Annuity or Bequest, or to make a special contribution, contact Leslie Davis Potter at 609-924-4646, ext. 121.

and the house needed a lot of work," she says. Today the "hunting cabin" is a rambling home, with terracotta and heart-pine floors, antiques and hand-wrought pots, a Haitian art collection and of course Brown's black-and-white photographs.

A Hasselblad camera is propped on a red velvet daybed. It looks out a window at the property that abuts the 425-acre Alexauken

Creek Wildlife Management Area that D&R Greenway also played a role in preserving.

With *The Pine Barrens* author John McPhee, Pryde had four daughters, and Sullivan came with five of his own children. Together with their daughter Joan Sullivan, the compound accommodated 10 children along with sheep, horses, chickens and geese, and always a donkey.

"It was a gorgeous setting and I have used it in novels," says daughter Martha, who was stirred to become a novelist while growing up here.



Pryde Brown leading the inaugural walk along Pryde's Point Trail, 2012

Martha loved the animals, especially the chickens. "I loved collecting the eggs — each was a prize, it was like Easter every day," says Martha.

On a clear day, you can stand on the roof of Pryde's home and see the Empire State Building, and on the Fourth of July there are fireworks. Little towns on the ridge each send up a display of light.

"You buy a house to live in and then you discover just how extraordinary the place is," she says.

For directions to Pryde's Point Trail, visit www.njtrails.org.

Open Spaces, Favorite Places

Memories are a part of the human landscape. If you close your eyes, what do you see? If you were lucky enough to grow up around a woods, a farm or a stream, or even with a backyard full of trees, you understand why preservation is so important. Each of us has our special places, where we feel comfort and joy, that hold memories dear to our heart. These are part of the fabric of our lives, and create our individual "sense of place." By preserving these places, our future will hold our past — as they nurture us literally and spiritually.



"We bought the land that has become our family farm in 1976. We added to it in 1979 as an investment. With help from a neighbor, we learned to farm with cows, horses, chickens, tractors, hay equipment. Over the years we discovered the farm to be an ideal climate for raising children and so agreeable for living that selling the land, our original 'investment' plan, became a distasteful option. The true 'investment' we made all those years ago had been, in reality, an investment in our family and our lives. The land became integral to our family structure; it was no longer for sale."

Dr. Charlie Howard, who with his wife Edith is preserving the family farm with D&R Greenway

Johnson Education Center Events

Art Exhibits

The Feathered and the Field

Aug. 5 – Oct. 5

Celebrating the beautiful spirit of birds and the expansive fields and open spaces where they soar. A visual transition from summer to autumn depicting birds, barns, crops & flocks in a stunning variety of mediums.

The Fallen and Unfallen – *Trees in Peril*

Featuring Princeton Artists Alliance Oct. 14 – Dec. 14 Opening Reception Friday, Nov. 1, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



American Beech Tree (Photo by Jim Amon)

"I've always loved our natural surroundings. I lived on a farm during my very young years and later moved to West Chester, Pennsylvania. We lived in a big house on several acres, which had very tall trees, including a large purple beech that I climbed.

After Hurricane Sandy, New Jersey lost thousands of trees and I've been told by botanists that harmful beetles are imperiling our trees. Trees! Of all things we take for granted, trees are in peril."

— Lucy McVicker, exhibiting artist



Autumn Helenium – one last blaze of summer gold!

Native Plant Sale

Friday, Sept. 27, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Gardening *is* for the birds; autumn is a great time to plant native shrubs that appeal to them.

Poetry

The Nature of the Place Workshop

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. LEADER: Maxine Susman, Cool Women poet, with five published collections of poetry FOR: Novices and writers – All Welcome!

FEE: \$15, to benefit D&R Greenway LIMIT: 15 participants

Why not try something new? Connect with your own Sense of Place by exploring what Robert Frost calls "The Inner and Outer Weather." Published poems by Mark Doty, Mary Oliver, Robert Pinsky and Stanley Kunitz will inspire your own written explorations. There will be time for writing and sharing poetic thoughts.

Calling all Poets to A Sense of Place

Tuesday, Oct. 15. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Reading 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Reception until 8:30 p.m. Open to the Public SPONSORS: Hella and Scott McVay LEADERS: Lee and Lois Harrod

Share poems about your own "Sense of Place." Identify the specific place and attend the reading to take an amazing journey through the terrain that has meaning in our lives. Submission date for poems: September 27. For instructions, see www.drgreenway.org.

Save the Date!

The Gilded Tree: Painting Workshop with Karen McLean

Thursday, Nov. 7, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. FEE: \$40.00 covers all materials REGISTRATION required by September 20, along with submission of high resolution photograph CONTACT: Diana Moore at curator@drgreenway.org

Discover how to bring together the disciplines of photography and drawing/painting, with their different technical aspects and visual possibilities. Students will learn from the teacher's artistic methods as they alter their photographs, printed on archival watercolor paper prior to the workshop.

Renowned artist Karen McLean has lived and worked for over twenty-five years in the Princeton/Hopewell area. Well known as an artist, photographer, and teacher, she has a degree in Fine Arts from Cornell University. www.karenmclean.com

Champions Decoy Exhibit: Best of the Best

Friday, Nov. 8 Reception & Lecture 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. SPEAKER: Carver Pat Godin, Award

Winner 13 times with "Best in World."

A rare opportunity to meet this world-class

Canadian decoy carver.

Ducks and fall migrants walk

Saturday, Nov. 9, 10:00 a.m. - noon LEADERS: Charles Leck & Jenn Rogers

CONTACT: 732-821-8310
CO-SPONSORS: Washington Crossing
Audubon, Mercer County Parks,
D&R Greenway Land Trust

Meet at Spring Lake – Roebling Park (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton).

Unless otherwise noted, events are free to all. To RSVP for the programs & receptions, please send a message to rsvp@drgreenway.org or call (609) 924-4646.





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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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Join D&R Greenway Land Trust at

The Greenway Gala

In Meredith's Garden for Inspiration at the Johnson Education Center

Sunday, September 8, 4:00 p.m. − 6:00 p.m.

as we

Celebrate Partners in Preservation

and proudly present the 2013 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award to

The Honorable Brian M. Hughes, Mercer County Executive

for his

- Leadership in open space preservation
 - Dedication to stewardship of parks
- Commitment to protection and enhancement of the Abbott Marshlands

Please call D&R Greenway at 609-924-4646, or go to www.drgreenway.org to reserve your space now for this memorable occasion. Sponsorships are available.

Background image: Greenway Meadows