

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.
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Common Ground

Connecting People with the Land

D&R Greenway's contribution to preserving the natural lands, farms and open spaces of central New Jersey goes beyond statistics about numbers of acres—as impressive as those statistics are. The commitment to connecting people with the land, in so many different ways, is what makes D&R Greenway an outstanding conservation organization.

— Representative Rush Holt, D&R Greenway's 20th Anniversary Celebration, September 13, 2009

Creating a personal connection between people and the lands we preserve is vital. This connection “closes the loop” between *what* we do and *why* we do it. By connecting people with the land they come to understand the many advantages generated by preservation including:

- A healthier environment that supports a clean and abundant water supply.
- Unspoiled habitat where plants and wildlife thrive.
- Access to locally-raised food.
- Possibilities for recreation and more

active lifestyles, through time spent outside in the natural world.

It makes sense; the more opportunities there are for people to experience the benefits of our work, the more likely they will be to support our mission.

But there is another, even more important reason to foster a connection between people and the land.

Directly engaging people in the preservation and management of land helps generate a more comprehensive conservation ethic that spans genders and generations, geography and economy. It triggers

Land Preservation Update

Since our founding in 1989, D&R Greenway Land Trust has led the preservation of 220 properties, valued at \$304,759,248. These properties encompass 13,969 acres—the equivalent of 21.8 square miles—an area about the size of Manhattan. D&R Greenway is responsible for the stewardship and management of the 49 properties we own and for monitoring 54 properties preserved by conservation easement.

thoughtful conversation about personal responsibility in deciding what natural resources to use and how to use them.

The end result is a greater awareness of the need to protect and steward all our natural resources.

D&R Greenway is fortunate to have many volunteers and supporters who connect with the land in many different ways—through their association with our organization. We have devoted this issue of *Greenways* to their stories. ♣



Stone Wall at D&R Greenway's Cedar Ridge Preserve. Watercolor by Fred Gardner, fall 2009.

Ted Thomas

*Volunteer Trail Builder
Supporter since 1995
Trustee, 2008–present*



“On trails, people can get out into nature, find new places to go.”

Ask Ted Thomas about trail-building and he will give you many reasons why the work is so satisfying. He works on trails as a member of the New

Jersey Trails Association, the Friends of Princeton Open Space, and with D&R Greenway’s Director of Stewardship Jim Amon on D&R-Greenway-preserved lands, mostly in the Sourlands.

“You learn new skills—yes, you can teach old dogs new tricks. Alan Hershey (D&R Greenway’s Vice-Chair and Treasurer and founder of the New Jersey Trails Association) is a great teacher, and we have all learned from an expert trail-building consultant, as well. I’m not a golfer, and this is one of the reasons; for me, trail building is a lot more fun! We work about a half a day or so, usually starting in the morning. There is such a feeling of accomplishment in having helped to build a trail—and in having made a small contribution to the overall good.”

Ted added that, “Many of the trails we work on are linkages connecting other trails, so that people can walk longer distances and be out in nature longer.”

Building trails is step one. Step two involves monitoring and maintaining them. Ted continued, “For example, I will go out to walk a trail for pleasure, but I will also be checking for wet spots or other

areas we need to work on. We build, rebuild and improve as well as monitor.”

Ted’s family recently made a contribution to D&R Greenway in honor of Ted’s 80th birthday and in support of the trail-building work he enjoys so much. This gift made possible the installation of an educational kiosk at the head of the Dry Run Creek Trail in Hunterdon County, a newly-completed trail created by NJTA volunteers, including Ted. The trail traverses D&R Greenway-preserved lands to the north of the Howell Living History Farm. The inscription reads:

THIS KIOSK CONSTRUCTED WITH A
GIFT FROM
THE FAMILY OF TED THOMAS
IN HIS HONOR AND IN APPRECIATION
FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS
WHO HAVE SHARED HIS PLEASURE
IN BUILDING TRAILS

If you are interested in becoming a stewardship or trail building volunteer, please contact Jim Amon, Director of Stewardship, at 609-924-4646, ext. 124 or jamon@drgreenway.org.

About the New Jersey Trails Association

The New Jersey Trails Association (NJTA) is a volunteer-supported group operating under the aegis of D&R Greenway, founded by D&R Greenway Vice-Chair and Treasurer Alan Hershey. A cooperative project of land preservation and conservation organizations, the group’s mission is to make accurate trail maps and guides, as well as information on preserved lands, accessible to the public through their website: www.njtrails.org. The NJTA also works with the state and county, non-profit land preservation groups, and parks agencies to plan more trails.

Currently, the website contains maps and guides for 68 trails and parks throughout Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset counties.

Volunteers spend most weekends from September to April creating trails and pathways through public and preserved lands. Their work involves designing trails, clearing brush, and in some cases, moving and arranging large boulders into steps and *sidehilling* along slopes to create long-lasting trails. D&R Greenway GIS Specialist Doug Carmody plots the trails on maps that are posted on the

NJTA website along with accurate and comprehensive trail guides that are compiled by D&R Greenway Outreach and Stewardship Associate Mary Penney.

Mary develops these trail guides with information provided by volunteers (including Ted Thomas). Content for each guide includes the history of the preserved land, descriptions of the seasonal flora and fauna that will be found along the trail and other sights and highlights that

will make the walk more interesting and fun. Parking directions and hiking tips (duration, child, pet or stroller-friendly, wheel-chair accessibility) are also included in the trail guides.

To date in 2009, 805,660 requests were processed by the website. All maps and guides are provided free of charge.

For more information, please visit www.njtrails.org or contact Mary Penney at 609-924-4646, ext.127 or mpenney@drgreenway.org.



NJTA volunteers Benjamin Burghardt and Mary Penney sidehilling to create a trail on the Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain.

Eleanor Horne

Supporter since 2000

Trustee, 2001–present

Vice-Chair, 2003–present



Eleanor Horne (left), with Avril Moore, enjoying D&R Greenway's 20th Anniversary Celebration, September 2009 (Photo by Valerie Ford)

"D&R Greenway has kept thousands of people aware of the value of preserved land. We are continually offering landowners an effective alternative to selling land to developers. We're showing people that open space is by no means a luxury. It's a necessity in our state."

Eleanor Horne chose to become involved with D&R Greenway because she was impressed by the quality of the volunteers she had met and impressed by Linda Mead (D&R Greenway's Executive Director since 1997). "You know, D&R Greenway developed very quickly as a very strong organization," Eleanor observed. "Thanks to Linda, it's made enormous strides in the preservation of

open space, which is important in its own right, but also as a children's issue. This land that we work together to save will be available to be enjoyed by generations to come."

Eleanor believes that a significant strength of D&R Greenway is the many ways it finds to connect people with the land—and not just through walks on preserved open space.

"First of all, we've created a place, the Johnson Education Center, where people who care about land can gather for restoration of the spirit. We marry our love of art with our passion for saving the land. We don't just have occasional exhibits—art on our walls has become a regular part of who we are and a way to illustrate our mission. And we don't just showcase professional artists—the artwork of children in the Olivia Rainbow Gallery is as important in its message. I just love the artwork of those children."

Eleanor shared her unique perspective on D&R Greenway as a long-standing member of the Board of Trustees. "Board meetings as very well run. The leadership—both of the board and the staff—has a clear vision for D&R Greenway's path forward in terms of land preservation and stewardship and all the skills necessary to implement this vision. The board and the staff are totally in synch, which is quite rare and makes it a pleasure to serve as a trustee."

In a state with so many development pressures, Eleanor feels confident that preservation will prevail. "It's important that we've protected so many parcels of land—about 14,000 acres in all. But also, we have built a sustainable organization. D&R Greenway will be here fifty years from now, preserving and caring for the land, because its foundation is so strong."



The Johnson Education Center



Children's art is exhibited in the Olivia Rainbow Gallery at the Johnson Education Center.

To learn more about the work of D&R Greenway please visit our website, www.drgreenway.org or the Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Place, Princeton, NJ, Mon.–Fri., between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Or call us at 609-924-4646.

New beginnings...

D&R Greenway would like to recognize Eleanor Horne as she retires from Educational Testing Service, Inc., the organization she joined in 1969. Throughout her career, Eleanor dedicated much of her energies toward community-oriented projects designed to improve people's access to educational opportunities and improve the quality of schooling. Since 2006, Eleanor has served as vice president of ETS' Social Investment Fund and she is responsible for ETS' community outreach, service and volunteer activities.

Eleanor will continue to serve as a trustee for many organizations including D&R Greenway.

We congratulate you Eleanor and thank you for your many years of service to enhance the quality of education, and of life, for all.



D&R Greenway Trustee Oye and Judy Olukotun preserved this 19-acre property in Hopewell Township, December 2008—the 200th property preserved by D&R Greenway.

Marie and John Respass

Willing Hands Volunteers
Supporters since 2004



"It's so interesting to volunteer as Willing Hands at D&R Greenway events because we're interacting with others who love nature, who thoroughly enjoy it on a regular basis, and who work to preserve it."

The Willing Hands are D&R Greenway's "indoor volunteers" who support the organization's administrative work, and help organize and run our educational and art events at the Johnson Education Center.

When asked how their experiences as Willing Hands helped connect them to nature, John explained, "Through the indoor events, I met the outdoor people!" John has also become an active stewardship volunteer.

Marie continued, "By helping out at the programs, art and otherwise, we learn of interesting issues, such as the connection between water quality and preserved land in our region. We especially enjoyed Mira Nakashima's talk and the educational exhibit highlighting the history of the D&R Canal."

Marie continued, "The art on the walls is always a beautiful depiction of the outdoors. It's as if the Johnson Education Center itself brings nature inside."

Asked how their service at indoor events deepens their connection to nature, John quickly responded, "It localizes it. We hike all the time—out West, and the Appalachian Trail. D&R Greenway gives us the local experience."

Marie added: "New Jersey is a beautiful state and central New Jersey is a beautiful PART of the state. Thanks to D&R Greenway, many of these special, natural places still exist. And the trails! We've learned about so many beautiful trails since coming to D&R Greenway."

John says, "Nature does so much for us in our lives. Volunteering with D&R Greenway is an opportunity to give back."



Willing Hands volunteers help organize and run a variety of educational events and art exhibits at the Johnson Education Center. Pictured, the opening reception for *The Land That Feeds You – Celebrating New Jersey Farms and Farmers*, which was held September 25, 2008.

Both Marie and John agree, "We deeply appreciate the work D&R Greenway is doing. It really improves the quality of life in this region."

If you would like to become a Willing Hands volunteer, please contact Carolyn Edelmann, Arts and Education Associate at 609-924-4646, ext. 131 or cedelmann@drgreenway.org.

Vanessa Sandom

Mayor, Hopewell Township

"Without D&R Greenway's leadership and expertise we wouldn't have been able to execute our vision for land preservation in Hopewell Township."

Protecting natural lands, farms and open spaces is a priority for the citizens of Hopewell Township. According to Mayor Vanessa Sandom, "Hopewell is such a desirable location and developable land is at a premium. We re-zoned the Township because of our concerns about protecting our natural resources, especially our aquifer and water quality. We had to preserve our land in order to preserve these resources."

Mayor Sandom continued, "We knew what we wanted to do, what we needed to do—but we didn't know how to do it. But D&R Greenway does know how to preserve land, how to get the job done. They negotiate with landowners to create



a win-win solution for everyone. Then they find the funding—some public, some private, to acquire the land or a conservation easement. Thanks to their efforts we have preserved farmland in our valley and

preserved forests and perched wetlands in the Sourlands."

To date, D&R Greenway has led the preservation of 43 properties, encompassing 2,173 acres, valued at \$31,141,895 in Hopewell Township, with many more projects pending.

"D&R Greenway also provides the members of our community with access to preserved lands," added Mayor Sandom. "They create shared places and build trails that allow individuals, friends and families to really connect with the land. Recreational opportunities—the ability to take a walk or hike outdoors and to appreciate nature—are a big part of what makes our community such a great place to live."

For information about preserving your land, or land in your community, please contact Bill Rawlyk, Director of Land Preservation at 609-924-4646, ext. 122 or brawlyk@drgreenway.org. D&R Greenway is available to work with individuals, municipalities and counties to develop land preservation solutions.

Sophie Glover

Author, Walk the Trails
In and Around Princeton
Community Volunteer
Supporter since 1998
Trustee, 1998–2005



Sophie Glover with her son, Clay
(Photo by Sheila Bodine)

“Biodiversity is in severe danger here in central New Jersey. Without native plants, we lose our native insects and native birds and other creatures. Despite the best efforts of D&R Greenway and other organizations, we cannot preserve enough land to sustain native wildlife, unless we, as gardeners, put native species into our own gardens.”

In 2009, D&R Greenway celebrated the inaugural year of our Native Plant Nursery, with 4,500 plants propagated from over 80 species of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and ferns. Twenty volunteers built the hoop house on the grounds of the Johnson Education Center, planted



Bee Balm (also known as Bergamot) is a beautiful addition to any garden. Its decorative flowers and aromatic foliage attracts pollinators and some predatory/parasitic insects that hunt garden pests.



Conservation Committee Chairs from the twelve Garden Clubs of America in New Jersey visit D&R Greenway's Native Plant Nursery. The Committee provided D&R Greenway with a grant to support the Nursery in 2009.

and tended the seedlings, and helped organize our first Native Plant Sale.

According to Sophie, “We are so very fortunate to have D&R Greenway’s Native Plant Nursery. This is the first native plant nursery launched by a New Jersey land trust. The nursery, and the uses made of its plants, now serves as a model for other organizations elsewhere. Until now, there was no local source for true native plants. What is otherwise sold as ‘native’ tends to come from the Carolinas.”

Sophie goes on to explain the importance of using true native species. “Planting native species in the home garden is something everyone can do. Each individual can really make a difference. When we take home native plants, this change is tangible, easy and immediate. Plus, they’re tough as nails. Just listen to the names, ‘Ironweed’, ‘Indian Grass’—this tells you something about how hardy they are.”

***Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*, by Douglas W. Tallamy, Ph.D.**

“As gardeners and stewards of the land, we have never been so empowered—and the ecological stakes have never been so high.”

On November 12, 2009, Douglas W. Tallamy, Ph.D., visited the Johnson Education Center to present a highly informative and interesting lecture on the importance and benefits of using native plants. In his view, “If we designed our buildings the way we design our gardens,

Native species are proving increasingly interesting to corporate landscapes. For example, Bristol Myers-Squibb has meadows now, where there used to be mowed lawns. Native grasses cut way down on maintenance costs—they don’t require pesticide and they’re drought-tolerant, so there’s far less need to water. They’re not mowed—just cut once a year. Sophie comments, “Yes, it’s about sustainability—but the bottom line speaks clearly in the corporate world.”

Using native plants around your home and business is a very personal and significant way to connect with the land—nurturing the ecosystem with plants that will provide the most benefit.

To learn more about our Native Plant Nursery, or become a volunteer, please contact Jared Rosenbaum, Associate Director of Stewardship at 609-924-4646, ext. 126 or jrosenbaum@drgreenway.org.

with only aesthetics in mind, they would fall down. Just as buildings need support structures—girders, I-beams, and headers—to hold the graceful arches and beautiful lines of fine architecture in place, our gardens need native plants to support a diverse and balanced food web essential to all sustainable ecosystems. Increasing the percentage of natives in suburbia is a grassroots solution to the extinction crisis.”

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants is available for purchase at the Johnson Education Center. For more information, or to order, please call Jeanette Hooban at 609-924-4646.

Lynn and Tom Ebeling

Landowners

Supporters since 1996

Tom is the volunteer site steward for the Cedar Ridge Preserve.

The Ebelings' 19-acre property in Hopewell is surrounded by lands in the process of being preserved by D&R Greenway. Our Cedar Ridge Preserve is nearby their property. They value having so much open space around them. Tom explains, "It's what's kept us here. When I



"The Sourlands are a little pocket of sanity in New Jersey. We can ride our horses all day and not see another person. It's very important that there are so many trails available to walk on."

taught in Hamilton Township, the school used to have cornfields and soybean fields on all sides. Now, all you see are houses. We went looking to buy as much land as we could afford, so we could grow our own food, raise our own animals, ride our horses. Had houses filled the land around us, we would have had to leave."

Tom pointed out: "Here, in New Jersey, we have more *accessible* open space. What's really nice about D&R Greenway is that they not only preserve land, but build and maintain all those trails. They see to it that the open land is truly open to the public."

As a volunteer site steward for D&R Greenway's Cedar Ridge Preserve, Tom monitors the property and helps control invasive species. As neighbors, the Ebelings have a very personal connection with the Preserve and the plants and wildlife that make their home there. "On Cedar Ridge, last fall right about now, Lynn and I were out with the dogs on their leads. And they were agitated, more than they are when deer are about. Then, we came to the ridge. Well, I guess that's where the name comes from. All those cedars. And there was this coyote, standing on the ridge, studying us. We see foxes all the time, and a small creature recently—a mink or a fisher—sleek and dark red."

Lynn continued, "We see red-tails (hawks) all the time. We go every year

to Cape May for the Bird Migration Weekend, and to Hawk Mountain. But, we see more hawks right here."

Tom added, "Last year, we saw a pair of red-tail parents teaching their young to fly. They were calling to their little ones to coast out over the field. If this land were all houses, this wouldn't be happening."

A couple of years ago, the Ebelings hosted a *Preservation Party* for their neighbors. Bill Rawlyk, D&R Greenway's Director of Land Preservation spoke to the group about preserving their land—properties that are adjacent to one another and to Cedar Ridge. According to Tom, "As a result of meeting Bill and hearing about how important it would be for the environment and for wildlife, two preservation transactions are in the works and two more are under discussion."

The Ebelings intend to leave their land as a legacy to D&R Greenway, through a bequest in their will.

If you would like more information about bequests, or other planned gifts to benefit D&R Greenway, please contact Scott Sheldon, Director of Gifts and Grants at 609-924-4646, ext.121 or ssheldon@drgreenway.org. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer site steward, please contact Jim Amon, Director of Stewardship at 609-924-4646 ext.124 or jamon@drgreenway.org.

Fred Gardner

Artist

Supporter since 2000

"As a landscape painter, I'm looking for land unencumbered by housing projects. I like farmscapes in particular, because farm buildings are wonderful offsets for fields and hills. Barns give structure, serve as focal points. Preservation is essential, because, unless those barns are used, they disappear."

Fred Gardner is a landscape artist who paints for enjoyment. "It's fun, but other things get in the way. Once I started my D&R Greenway project, I stopped postponing painting."

This summer, Fred attended an art reception that included works by children focused upon native species. Fred realized that "art passes through D&R Greenway on a regular basis—and through art, visitors can gain a better understanding of the importance of preservation." It occurred to

Fred that "there should be a visual record of properties that D&R Greenway has preserved."

After sharing his idea with Executive Director Linda Mead—and obtaining a list of preserves with directions and parking instructions—Fred went to work. To date, he has finished eight watercolors, expecting to complete an even dozen. "D&R Greenway's preserved lands are an inspiration. The properties I've visited are beautiful landscapes with interesting focal points, such as the boulders in the Stony Brook and the volunteer-built bridges over small streams."

Painting entirely *en plein air* is rare for this artist. "I would say my paintings are launched *en plein air*. I work out the composition on the property, then return to my studio to do the actual painting."

Like so many of his artistic colleagues, Fred connects with the land through close observation, capturing his vision on canvas or paper for a wider audience to enjoy. "I hope that this work will inspire people to safeguard the natural world that surrounds them."



If you are interested in submitting work for inclusion in a future show at the Johnson Education Center, please contact Jack Koeppel, Curator, Marie L. Matthews Gallery, at jlkoepel@comcast.net. To view current exhibits, visit the Johnson Education Center, Monday–Friday between 9:30 am and 5:00 pm.

Barbara and Barney Straut

Event Hosts

Supporters since 1999

"We so believe in what D&R Greenway is doing to help preserve land—in our community and in our state. This is our bottom line in terms of giving."



Barbara and Barney Straut hosted a reception for D&R Greenway that honored David Allen Sibley, highly-acclaimed author and illustrator of books on bird identification and behavior in October 2008. Pictured left to right: David Sibley, Barbara, Charlie and Barney Straut.

We asked Barbara and Barney Straut to share why they have chosen to support D&R Greenway. They explained that it is because D&R Greenway focuses on "the big picture." Barney elaborated: "Many of our friends are caught up in a crisis approach to problems of our region, such as feeding the hungry. And of course that is important. But, without farmland, we can't feed anyone. It's just so

important that D&R Greenway preserves New Jersey farms, as well as other lands."

D&R Greenway has been increasingly active in farmland preservation—particularly our work in Salem County, where to date we have led the preservation of 2,222 acres. These farms grow the grain and produce crops that supply local and regional markets.

The *Greenway Walks* series, sponsored

by the Edward T. Cone Foundation, provides the Strauts—and all interested supporters—with the opportunity to visit D&R Greenway preserves. Barbara commented, "Going on a Greenway Walk gives us an opportunity to *see* the land that has been protected and to experience how D&R Greenway is managing it. What's happening with the trails, the restoration of habitat, seeing those processes first-hand is important to us."

Barbara and Barney Straut have graciously hosted events in their home on behalf of D&R Greenway. "We are happy and willing to offer our home for events. We like meeting others who share our interests. Our grandson joined us for the David Allen Sibley talk. A senior at Princeton, Charlie was just blown away to spend time with Sibley and to hear how he had come to birds and birds to him."

If you would like to host an event for D&R Greenway, please contact Linda Mead, Executive Director at 609-924-4646, ext. 120 or lmead@drgreenway.org.

Katharine Hackett

Associate Director

Princeton Environmental Institute

According to Kathy Hackett, the programs that the Princeton Environmental Institute (PEI) has sponsored in partnership with D&R Greenway have been very positive. "To date, our collaborations at the Johnson Education Center have included six speaker events involving topics relating to land use, ecology and other environmental issues. For example, Stephen Pacala, Ph.D., Director of PEI and the Frederick D. Petrie Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University, led a lecture and discussion on climate change and community ecology. David Wilcove, Ph.D., Professor of Public Affairs and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the Woodrow Wilson School and Director of PEI's Program in Environmental Studies, presented his research on measurement of conservation success and the importance of applying similar metrics to real-world situations."

Martin Wikelski, Ph.D., Princeton

University Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, presented a program entitled *Migratory Corridors – The Birds' Key Pathways*, explaining the mysteries of migration with insights into the neo-tropical migratory birds that stop-over or breed in the Sourlands. The fourth program featured Kimberly Smith, Ph.D., Princeton Environmental Institute Visiting Professor, who spoke about environmental justice. "Environmental justice, at its heart, involves issues of land preservation and land management," commented Ms. Hackett.

Timothy Searchinger, Ph.D., Associate Research Scholar at PEI, and Xenia Morin, Ph.D., lecturer in the Princeton University Writing Program, presented perspectives at the intersection of agriculture, climate change and land use.

As a result of the partnership between D&R Greenway and PEI, our supporters and the public at large will have a deeper connection to the significance and importance of land preservation at the local level.

"There is no separating the local from the global," explained Kathy Hackett. "Local outcomes produce global results."

Information about upcoming programs at the Johnson Education Center may be found on D&R Greenway's website, www.drgreenway.org.



"The collaboration between the Princeton Environmental Institute and D&R Greenway began in 2006, when the Johnson Education Center opened its doors. We at PEI were excited to find a new venue and outlet to share our knowledge, scholarship and expertise with a broader audience."

Hella and Scott McVay

Supporters since 1994

Hella McVay, Trustee, 1994–2002

Vice-Chair, 1997–2000

Trustee, 2005–present



Photo by Mark Czajkowski, The Princeton Packet

“The Roots of our Passion”

Through fortuitous circumstances, we have been privileged to have traveled the earth as board members of the World Wildlife Fund, the W. Alton Jones Foundation, the Smithsonian, Bat Conservation International, the Population Institute, and on our own. From Nepal to Papua New Guinea, from China to India to Australia to Latin America to Madagascar to Indonesia, we have seen how overpopulation, food and energy needs have ravished once beautiful landscapes containing species not to be seen again. Often, the soil, water, and air are so contaminated in some places that no crops should be grown there nor should people live there. For example, one-sixth of the vast Soviet Union was so

abused when the Wall came down 20 years ago that biologist Alexei Yablokov said it was unfit for plants or people.

We have also been blessed to have lived in this remarkable university town for half a century, where both of us worked in four different jobs at Princeton University, and where we continue to have many vibrant links related to who we are and where our interests reside.

Also, through nearly four decades in organized philanthropy, we have had direct exposure to hundreds of not-for-profits: national, international, regional and local.

New Jersey is aptly called the Garden State, and we know it from the Highlands to Cape May Point, from Philadelphia to New York City, the places and people who define its character and possibilities, the changes of the seasons, the migrating hawks in fall and shore birds in spring.

With Hella as a founder of the Whole Earth Center (on Earth Day in 1970), a regular volunteer with Planned Parenthood, and an engaged member of the D&R Greenway Land Trust for nearly two decades, she understands the critical value of land in central New Jersey, the farmers, and stewardship of that land.

As a consequence of these converging factors and the rising star of D&R Greenway, with a dedicated staff and devoted board, we have chosen not only to stretch in our annual and regular gifts, but also to complete at this time an irrevocable charitable gift annuity to advance our convictions in the enduring mission of preserving open space, farmland, and providing long-term stewardship thereof. We also cherish walking the trails, biking the towpath, and the growing availability of local farm markets.

—Scott & Hella McVay



The Plum Brook Greenway. D&R Greenway established this eight-mile greenway in Hunterdon County to protect this important stream corridor and surrounding forest habitat. The 47-acre property pictured here was preserved in May of 2009.



*Eastern Hemlock
(Tsuga canadensis)*

The EverGreen Circle

Hella and Scott's generous gift, in the form of a charitable gift annuity, will one day support the upkeep and maintenance of the Scott and Hella McVay Poetry Trail at Greenway Meadows park along the hill above the Johnson Education Center. In 2010 and/or 2011, the McVays plan to contribute additional funds to buy wooden benches and signage for a poetry trail to traverse the upper edge of the meadows along the woods with its view of the Sourland Mountains.

By making the annuity gift, the McVays become Founding Members of D&R Greenway's EverGreen Circle.

The EverGreen Circle recognizes donors who inform us they have made a bequest or planned gift to D&R Greenway. If you have made such arrangements, or want additional information about our EverGreen Circle, please contact Scott Sheldon, Director of Gifts and Grants at 609-924-4646, ext.121 or ssheldon@drgreenway.org.

Farms are Alive and Well and Being Preserved in Mannington Township

This summer, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) provided D&R Greenway with grants to purchase the development rights to two farms in Mannington Township, near the Delaware Bayshore. The SADC's funding came from the Garden State Preservation Trust and the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The preservation of the Carpenter and Sparks farms follows the preservation of the 1,931-acre Seabrook Farms in 2008—a cooperative project funded by the SADC, Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program, Salem County and Mannington Township. D&R Greenway acted as advisor to the Seabrook family throughout this project.

The 176-acre Carpenter Farm is owned by Samuel Preston Carpenter and his wife Molly. The land was purchased over 300 years ago by Samuel Carpenter, a Deputy Governor of colonial Pennsylvania and friend to Governor William Penn. Preston farms his family's multi-generational land, growing a range of rotated crops including vegetables, wheat and soybeans.

Three-quarters of a mile away is the 142-acre Sparks Farm protected by Mildred Sparks. Former Township Committeeman George Wright, father of Mannington Township Deputy Mayor Joanne Wright, farmed the Sparks land. Wheat and soybeans are the primary crops cultivated on the Sparks Farm.



Sparks Farm bordering Mannington Meadows

"We were pleased to fund the preservation of these two farms, which builds on the substantial investment already made in protecting important farmland, other unique resources and the rural character of Salem County," said Secretary Douglas H. Fisher, chair of the State Agriculture Development Committee that administers the Farmland Preservation Program. "With each farm we preserve, we are protecting the best of the Garden State and helping ensure our children and grandchildren will be able to appreciate all agriculture has to offer for years to come."

Environmental as well as Agricultural Importance

In addition to protecting rich, fertile farmland and investing in the agricultural economy of the region, preserving these lands also provides a significant environmental benefit. The Carpenter and Sparks Farms (as well as the Seabrook Farm) border the 18,593-acre area known as Mannington Meadows.

Originally, Dutch settlers constructed dikes around Mannington Meadows to farm salt hay and wild rice. A hurricane in the 1920s destroyed most of the impoundments, which were never rebuilt. The resulting land-and-waterscape is one of the top areas in the state for waterfowl diversity. It has been designated an Important Bird Area by NJ Audubon. Mannington Meadows provides critical habitat for breeding populations of imperiled species such as bald eagle, pied-billed grebe, king rail, Caspian tern, sora and clapper rail.

According to D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda J. Mead, "Preserving both the agricultural heritage and environmental integrity of this region is critical to the future of South Jersey and a priority for D&R Greenway. Mannington Township officials invited D&R Greenway into the community and asked us to lend our 20 years of expertise to help preserve farms and other lands. We are grateful to The William Penn Foundation who provided



At the September 3, 2009 press conference announcing the preservation of the Carpenter Family Farm are: D&R Greenway Director of Land Preservation Bill Rawlyk, Molly, Ben and Preston Carpenter, and D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Mead.

operational funding to support our work in this region where there is so much opportunity for preservation. Projects like the permanent protection of the Sparks, Carpenter and Seabrook farms benefit both the landowners and the citizens of New Jersey."

For more information about D&R Greenway's approach to land preservation, visit www.drgreenway.org. If you have land that you are interested in preserving, please contact Director of Land Preservation Bill Rawlyk at 609-924-4646, exr. 122 or brawlyk@drgreenway.org.



Historic Carpenter Farm

Cedar Ridge

Restoration of a Natural Landscape

Jim Amon, Director of Stewardship

A neighbor of the Cedar Ridge Preserve told me that when he was a boy he would go to a high point on the property on warm spring evenings to meet one of his school chums. He said they would sit and look out over the Hopewell Valley and talk about their lives and their future. That evocative image—two twelve-year-old boys sitting on a stone wall and allowing the expanding landscape to expand their ideas about who they would become and what they would do—beautifully represents what we would like present-day visitors to the preserve to enjoy.

I don't know exactly where those daydreaming boys sat, but there is a high point where two stone walls cross and the former owner has tacked a sign on a tree that simply says "REST." I like to think that this rest area is the location the boys used. The vista at the rest area is limited now, because trees have grown around it in the fifty or so years since the boys came, but the walls have been rebuilt and they make fine benches. Alien invasive plants have been removed from the vicinity. Native trees, shrubs and ferns were planted, making it a lovely spot for contemplation of any kind.

Cedar Ridge is one of the premier preserves among the almost 50 preserves that D&R Greenway owns. It is a real beauty. It has wildflower-filled meadows, flowering trees and shrubs in hedgerows, a corridor along the Stony Brook and ephemeral vernal pools that fill in spring where salamanders and frogs lay eggs. It has groves of Red cedars that house owls,



Spring Meadows

a remnant patch of ancient forest with one of the best White oak trees in central New Jersey, and an amazing maze of early 19th century stone walls.

Cedar Ridge is a haven for wildlife. By late summer when the meadows are in full bloom the butterflies seem to be drunk with nectar. Red-tailed hawks regularly circle above, looking for mice and voles. Blue birds live in the bird boxes. Back in one of the more secluded corners, along the Stony Brook, there is often a Great Blue heron, sometimes a pair. There are, of course, too many white-tailed deer for the health of the preserve, and—for that matter—for the health of the deer. Raccoon tracks mark the stream banks. I have seen red foxes and signs that a bear has visited.

This splendor has not happened by accident. The stewardship team and a small army of volunteers have spent hundreds of hours improving this wonderful preserve, both as an ecological gem and as a place for public recreation. The hedgerows and stream corridors were once so choked with thorny Multiflora rose and

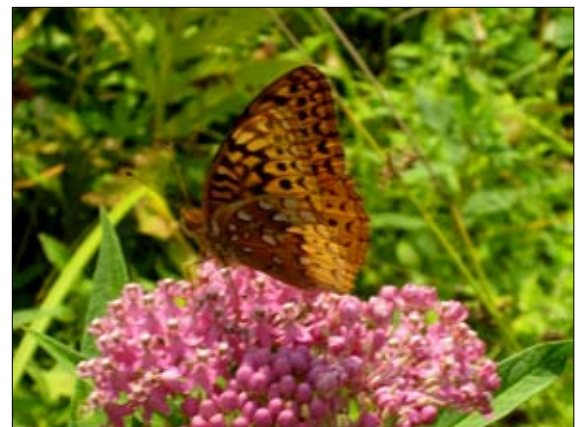
Autumn olive that native plants could not grow. We have removed most of those alien invaders. The cedar groves were too dense and had become overtopped with Red maples and white ashes. They were in danger of fading away and losing their value as owl habitat. We removed many of the deciduous trees, girdled others and removed the smaller cedars so that the big cedars could grow fat and hide owls.

The meadows are mowed every two or three years to make sure that they remain meadows. We created eight vernal ponds that will dry by mid-summer, making them inhospitable for fish and therefore ideal habitat for amphibians to lay eggs. Those ponds—only a year old—have already witnessed the birth of hundreds of frogs and salamanders. We have cleared invasive plants and planted native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers along the streams because the three things that wildlife need to survive are shelter, food, and water—all of which can be found in a healthy stream corridor.

I would like to step back a moment and explain why the removal of alien invasive



Vernal Ponds host frogs and salamanders.



Great Spangled Fritillary sipping nectar from a swamp milkweed.



Autumnal Splendor

plants is an important part of stewardship work. Most of these alien plants were brought to this country from Asia for horticultural reasons, but the insects and diseases that keep them in check in their native lands were not brought with them. Therefore the plants can flourish unchecked in this country, in some cases occupying all of the space and consuming all of the nutrients that a healthy, diverse landscape needs. The native animals—the mammals and birds, and even the insects which provide such an important source of food for birds—usually do not eat the alien plants. The result is a diminished number of both animal and plant species. The wonderful, infinite complexity of nature is diminished when species are lost.

D&R Greenway's stewardship staff and volunteers have also developed a couple of miles of recreational trails on Cedar Ridge. Building trails involves more than simply finding a route that takes people to the preserve's special features. Often

those features have to be cleared of the brambles that so easily take over a natural area. We have built bridges over streams and drainage ditches, boardwalks over marshy areas and strategically placed stepping stones at wet areas. We built a small parking lot to accommodate visitors. We rebuilt about a quarter of a mile of the stone walls that were falling apart after 50 years of disuse.

D&R Greenway has acquired this preserve in pieces, starting with a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fullam, who owned most of it at one time. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mason gave us some adjoining land to increase the size of the preserve. We anticipate acquiring more land in the future, with a goal of expanding this preserve further and connecting it to the land we have preserved in the Sourlands to the northeast.

Starting with the gift of the land from the Fullams, D&R Greenway has been the recipient of a wonderful amount of

generous help in managing Cedar Ridge. Tom Ebeling, a neighbor, managed the land for the Fullams and has continued to mow the meadows and paths, to clear encroaching vegetation and to pitch in whenever there is a job to do. (See interview with Lynn and Tom Ebeling on page 6.) The person who hunts the property, Robert Baron, built the parking lot, drove a brushhog for a week cutting Multiflora rose, built a number of bridges, laid out and cleared a new trail segment and is also available for any task asked of him. He and several colleagues have helped immensely by controlling the size of the deer herd on Cedar Ridge. D&R Greenway has a crew of volunteers who meet every Monday morning to work on our preserves and they have spent many Monday mornings here. An Eagle Scout candidate built a trail segment that included a long boardwalk through a marshy area and he built the trailhead kiosk. The sixth graders at Princeton Day School came here three times to clear invasives and plant natives. Seventy men – the hunters on all of our preserves – rebuilt the stone walls. The next door neighbor keeps an eye on the preserve and notifies us of what she sees.

Have I described an Eden? I hope so because that is what Cedar Ridge is to me. I go there frequently to enjoy a walk in the natural world, bird watch, and sometimes even to sit on a stone wall and think about my life and my future. Do the same. While each passing season has its special qualities, there is never an off-season at Cedar Ridge; you will always find something there to make you glad that you came.

To visit Cedar Ridge, please go to www.njtrails.org, where you will find directions, maps and information about the trails.



Sixth-graders lend a hand.



Stone wall built in the 19th century...rebuilt in the 21st century.

The 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. We would particularly like to acknowledge the members of the

Taplin Circle who have contributed to D&R Greenway for five or more consecutive years.

All members of the Taplin Circle are invited to a special reception each fall. We are grateful to Glenmede Trust, who has generously underwritten the Taplin Circle receptions for the past four years.

Please note that Taplin Circle members who have made a multi-year pledge are listed here at their most recent pledge payment level. Their total pledge amount is acknowledged on page 19.

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.

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20th Anniversary Celebration: Phyllis Frakt and D&R Greenway Vice-Chair and Treasurer, and a founder of the New Jersey Trails Association Alan Hershey (Photo by Valerie Ford)

EverGreen Circle

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

Donors who made planned gifts prior to or during 2009 have the added distinction of being Founding Members of the EverGreen Circle.

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20th Anniversary Celebration: Julius and Ria Gross of Julius H. Gross Painting and Decorating (Photo by Valerie Ford)

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20th Anniversary Celebration: D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Mead, Representative Rush Hold and D&R Greenway Board Chair Rich Goldman. (Photo by Valerie Ford)

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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 enables our mission to:

- Preserve and protect a permanent network of natural lands, farm lands, and open spaces, creating the conditions for a healthy and diverse environment to flourish.
- Provide the public with 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 families, individuals and partners who have supported D&R Greenway's work for five or more consecutive years. We are grateful for your unfailing generosity each and every day.

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20th Anniversary Celebration: D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Mead at the podium with Beverly Jones and D&R Greenway Board Chair Rich Goldman. The Donald B. Jones Conservation Award was established in honor of Beverly's late husband. Since 1995, it has been presented annually to an individual who has displayed selfless generosity in his or her commitment to conservation efforts. Representative Rush Holt was the 2009 recipient. (Photo by Valerie Ford)

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20th Anniversary Celebration: Former Princeton Mayor Phyllis Marchand (seated), David Blair, D&R Greenway Founder and Trustee Rosemary Blair and Representative Rush Holt enjoy the Carroll K. and Frederick P. King, Jr. Terrace at the Johnson Education Center. (Photo by Valerie Ford)

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20th Anniversary Celebration: Linda Munson and D&R Greenway Founder Sam Hamill during the presentation of the Donald B. Jones Conservation Award to Representative Rush Holt. Artist Mary M. Michaels is recording the ceremony. (Photo by Valerie Ford)



20th Anniversary Celebration: Glenmede's John Phillips and Kitty Lou Phillips (Photo by Valerie Ford)



20th Anniversary Celebration: Steve Gonzalez and D&R Greenway volunteer Diana Moore (Photo by Valerie Ford)

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20th Anniversary Celebration: D&R Greenway Board Chair Rich Goldman and Cheryl Goldman (Photo by Valerie Ford)



20th Anniversary Celebration: Anne Degnan & Joseph Caglianone (Photo by Valerie Ford)

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 In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Caiola: Thomas & Adrienne Caiola
 In memory of Esme Asay Flynn: Nancy & Donald Asay
 In memory of Eugene Haring: Barbara Delafield
 In memory of Kathryn Harris: Thomas Harris
 In memory of Chuck Hartman: Margaret Hartman
 In memory of Claire Kilbourne: Pat Flores
 In memory of Olivia Michelle Kuenne: Janet Kuenne
 In memory of Marianne M. Marquardt: Wayne Marquardt
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 In memory of Mary Jean Mollica: Mary & Robert Bahrke, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Baldino, Jr., Christine & Ted Balistreri, Biotechnology Council of NJ, Robert Chefitz, Susan Costalas, Mary Ann Komorowski, Jeanne Conerly & David Venturo, Salma & Wilbert Cuadrado, Domain Associates, LLC, DOR Biopharma, Inc., Neville Ford, Barbara & Keith Gardner, Kevin Gorman, Audrey Gould, Walter Greenblatt & Starry Schor, Joan Grey, Edward & Jane Groth, Joyce Jakimczyk, Joan & Dale Jennerjohn, Bob & Lynn Johnston, Jerry & Marinna Kolaitis, Kevin & Tamara Kinsella, Arlene &



20th Anniversary Celebration: D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Mead (far left) and members of the Jones family, from left Mia Jones, Caroline Kuster, Beverley Jones, Stephanie Jones and Leslie Jones Sauer. The Donald B. Jones Conservation Award Plate, designed and created by artist Erica Haba, is in the foreground. (Photo by Valerie Ford)

Leonard Lippman, Ginger & Murray Loecher, Kevin Lokay, Patricia & James Marino, Men's Senior Tennis Group of Princeton, Ross & Deborah Moosen Miller, Joseph Mollica, Margaret Mullen, Eve Noon, Vivian & James Quinn, Susan Rodney, Ann & Ed Snape, Dorothy Sellers, Pete Taft & Mara Connolly, Wylie Vale, Margaret Valeur-Jensen
 In memory of Elizabeth Jane Gibby ("Lib") Osborne: William Osborne
 In memory of Stephen Rawlyk: Peter Sockler
 In memory of Tess Strong: Bill Strong
 In memory of Wherry Zingg: Elizabeth Zingg

HONORARY GIFTS

In honor of Miriam Avins: Styra Avins Eisinger
 In honor of Sophie Glover and Bentley Drezner: Sheila Bodine
 In honor of Alex Hanson: TGS Management Corp. Charitable Gift Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
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20th Anniversary Celebration: Artist Grace Previty Johnston and D&R Greenway Trustee Bob Johnston (Photo by Valerie Ford)

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20th Anniversary Celebration: Callie, Richard and Brenda Considine. Callie was presented with a special junior Donald B. Jones Conservation Award in 2008 for her community fundraising efforts for the preservation of the St. Michael's property in Hopewell. (Photo by Valerie Ford)



20th Anniversary Celebration: Peter and Barbara Westergaard (Photo by Valerie Ford)

Kathy Orchen
Jay Ottinger
Shawn Parks
Stewart Paulonius
Tom Poole
John Respass
Ramon Rhiney
Toni Robbi
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2009 INTERNS

Alex Brady, Princeton University
Joshua Crossley, Rider University
Yuri Larrabee, Princeton
University
Tiffany So, Rutgers University



20th Anniversary Celebration: A toast to 20 years and 22 square miles of land preserved! Left to right: Steve Mead, D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Mead, NJDEP Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources Jay Watson, and Debra Watson. (Photo by Valerie Ford)

Save the Dates!

Monday, January 25, 2010

Faith Perspectives: Caring For the Natural World

A conversation led by a multi-faith panel of religious congregational leaders.
Johnson Education Center
7 p.m.–9 p.m. *Doors open at 6:30 p.m.*

Saturday, April 24, 2010

D&R Greenway's Down-to-Earth Ball

Hosted by Robin and Jon McConaughy at Double Brook Farm in their sustainable, solar barn.

Multi-Year Outstanding Pledges for Special Projects

As of January 1, 2009

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

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*Christmas Fern
(Polystichum acrostichoides)*

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. Printed on recycled paper.



Keeping it Green

Voters Approve Funding for Land Preservation

On September 9, 2009, Lester R. Brown, President and Founder of the Earth Policy Institute, visited the Johnson Education Center to discuss his latest book *Plan B. 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*. From career beginnings as a tomato farmer in southern New Jersey, some 50 years later Brown is described by *The Washington Post* as "one of the world's most influential thinkers."

While at the Johnson Education Center, Mr. Brown also added his enthusiastic support for the Keep it Green Campaign—the Green Acres, Clean Water and Farmland Preservation Act.

On November 3, New Jersey voters passed this legislation, which will finance the New Jersey Green Acres and Farmland Preservation Programs for the next several years. These programs, in turn, provide grants to D&R Greenway to preserve our natural lands, farmlands and open spaces.

With this infusion of public funding—we need *your* support now, more than ever before. Here's why: in order to

qualify for a non-profit grant from these state programs, D&R Greenway must provide matching funds in the same amount. These matching funds can be sourced from county or municipal open space funds—and they can also come from private donations. Your contributions also support the staff resources needed to preserve new properties and to steward and manage lands entrusted to our care in perpetuity.

In the current economy, land prices are low and landowners find that preservation presents an attractive financial prospect. There will never be a better time for us to preserve the land.

If you have already made your year-end gift to D&R Greenway Land



Pictured, left to right: D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Mead, President of the Earth Policy Institute Lester Brown, Founding Director of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Scott McVay, and State Director of The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey Barbara Brummer.

Trust—thank you for your support! If you have yet to make a contribution, please be as generous as possible in your donation.

With your help, together we will preserve and protect the lands that both safeguard our natural resources and the beautiful places we love. ♻️