

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.
Volume 20, Number 1
Year-End 2011

Connections That Create Greenways

Physical connections of land and trails. Goal-oriented connections among partners and volunteers. Inspirational connections with donors, neighbors and visitors. All of these connections make up the organization—and the resources—that together are the D&R Greenway.

This newsletter explores these connections. You'll read real examples of how these connections

are accomplishing dreams, forging friendships and ensuring a healthy natural environment.

As a holiday gift to you, we've included a special pull-out trail guide to some of the special places you can discover when you take a walk on a D&R Greenway preserve. Of the 15,000+ acres we have preserved, 5,000 are available for you to discover. Give yourself the gift of nature in the new year—explore and enjoy! ♣

A Home for Beagles and Wildlife: the Story of Preserving the Central Jersey Beagle Club



Trout lily, an early harbinger of spring, can be found on the Beagle Club land.

When I was a kid they called me 'Buggy Wallace, the Crazy Zookeeper,'" laughs George Wallace. "At 70 years old, I still am. I was always an outdoor kid and I've always been entranced by insects, animals, plants and trees. Nature is the thing that takes me *There*," he says, referring to his own connection with nature.

George's passion for the outdoors led

(above) Habitat for beagles and rabbits also supports grassland birds and other wildlife.

Land Preservation Update

Now Over 15,000 Acres!

Since our founding in 1989, D&R Greenway has preserved 239 properties valued at \$330,648, 011. These properties encompass 15,091 acres—the equivalent of 23.6 sq. miles—a land area larger than Manhattan and about the size of Boulder, Colorado. By the end of December, we will close on our 240th property adding 22 acres of permanently preserved land. D&R Greenway is responsible for the perpetual stewardship and management of the 53 properties we own and for monitoring 52 properties we protect by conservation and farmland easements.

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him to a lifelong involvement with the sport of beagle field trials, and ultimately inspired him to help preserve a unique 88-acre property along the Plum Brook in Hunterdon County owned by the Central Jersey Beagle Club, of which he is the Treasurer and a long-time member.

Beagle field trials developed out of the traditional rural activity of rabbit hunting. Nowadays, the sport is

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Beagle Club

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nonlethal; specially bred beagles nose out rabbits as their handlers supervise.

Rabbits thrive on sites that combine brushy understory for cover and open grassy areas for food, typical of rural agricultural fields traversed by hedgerows—a vanishing landscape. The Beagle Club has managed the property over six decades to maximize rabbit habitat on about half of its acreage. Long rows of native shrubs such as viburnum and dogwood alternate with grassy 6-foot wide open areas. Every 3-4 years some of the hedgerows are mowed down and planted with oats, clover and timothy, while open areas are left unmowed, to be colonized by new shrubs. As a result there is continual replenishment of the “early successional” shrub-scrub habitat.

This habitat, ideal for rabbits, is also excellent for birds and other wildlife. Jared Rosenbaum, D&R Greenway’s Associate Director of Stewardship, notes, “Most other early successional habitat is transient, by definition: trees eventually succeed the shrubs and grasses. But birds have gotten used to scrubland being here; migrants who’ve grown up here keep coming back to raise their own young.” The quality of the habitat, Jared points out, is remarkable. “There’s a rich store of biodiversity; an immense seed bank and incredible fruit production on the shrubs. There’s even a local genetic strain of native Big Bluestem grass.”

It is not only birds that develop an attachment to this property. In 1965, when George Wallace and his wife bought a house close to the Beagle Club site, the seller burst into tears. “I couldn’t understand how a man could cry over

property,” George says. “Now—I understand.” George’s active engagement with the site—years of walking in all seasons, observing the movements of wildlife, listening for birds, watching sunrises and sunsets—brought him an intimate sense of the landscape. “You learn the land the way a rabbit knows the land,” he says.

Other Club members shared George’s love for the property. Faced with financial pressures, the Club feared they could not care for the site forever. Unwilling to see it developed, the Club sought to preserve it; George led the effort.

For D&R Greenway, the site’s value as high quality rare habitat was amplified by its proximity to other protected land. It’s an important connecting piece in the evolving corridor of preserved natural and agricultural lands in the Plum Brook watershed. Mature deciduous woodlands and wetlands along the Plum Brook supply habitat for rare plants and wildlife and protect water quality. The combination of riparian woodlands and managed scrubland made preservation attractive to multiple partners.

D&R Greenway facilitated the formation of a public-private partnership to preserve the property, a transaction completed in August 2011. For the first time, one of D&R Greenway’s preservation partners was the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. Because the Plum Brook flows into the D&R Canal, the Authority saw preservation as an opportunity to protect the quality of a drinking water source. Land preservation and water quality protection are inextricably linked. D&R Greenway, together with the Authority and Delaware Township, acquired the wooded portion of the site as a nature preserve. The scrubland half was permanently protected through acquisition of a conservation easement. Hunterdon County and NJDEP’s Green Acres contributed open space funds. The Club will continue to use the site for field trial training.

Nearly a half-mile corridor is now protected along the Plum Brook, which the state ranks in its highest-quality stream category.

Henry Patterson, the Authority’s Executive Director, stated, “The Authority was pleased to help preserve this parcel using funds provided by its water customers and financing through the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program.”

For Delaware Township, the acquisition “could not have been a better one,” according to Jim Borders, Open



2011 Native Plant Nursery Intern Celestine Farrell learning about native plants and seed-collecting on woodlands similar to those in the Plum Brook Greenway.

Space Coordinator. “It’s a most unique property. We’re protecting a traditional sporting activity, which contributes to the Township’s rural way of life, as well as important natural habitat.”

D&R Greenway will manage the site as part of its Plum Brook Preserve, the northernmost of D&R Greenway’s preserves, now expanded to almost 260 acres. Linda Mead notes, “Plum Brook is one of those places where we especially seek to enhance conservation management and protect natural resource values through good stewardship. Our long-range goal is to create a Plum Brook Greenway as a mosaic of connected preserved public and private lands in the Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creek watersheds, connecting with greenways created by partner organizations.”

Limited public trails in the Plum Brook Preserve are under construction. Soon, everyone will have the opportunity to learn this remote land the way wild creatures know it. 🐾



Big bluestem
(*Andropogon gerardii*)

Connecting with our Core Values

Celebrating a Decade of Achievement at the 2011 Greenway Gala

Princeton resident Sophie Glover was honored with D&R Greenway's 2011 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award at the annual Greenway Gala, on September 11. More than 250 people attended the ceremony to celebrate Ms. Glover's personal commitment that inspires others. The author of *Walk the Trails in and Around Princeton*, Sophie has been recognized by the Princeton community for her efforts in sustainability. She was instrumental in raising funds for the preservation of the St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell, and through her leadership, Meredith's Garden of Inspiration was created at the Johnson Education Center.

A cappella singers, New Jersey Transit, opened the program with songs befitting the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001. D&R Greenway President & CEO, Linda Mead spoke about how, ten years ago, D&R Greenway's Board and staff recommitted themselves to making the world a better place through our work. Reflecting on that, Linda shared these important achievements of the last decade:

- **10 years = 10,000+ acres** of permanently preserved land
- **10 years = 20+ miles** of trails created on 10 preserves for the public to enjoy
- **The Johnson Education Center** opened in 2006 and has become a hub



Gigi Goldman and Linda J. Munson of the Charles Evans Foundation.



(l-r) The Jones family, including grandchildren and daughter, Stephanie Jones and wife Beverley Jones, with 2011 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award Honoree, Sophie Glover.

of activity for the community and for encouraging land preservation and stewardship throughout New Jersey. Art galleries and educational programs engage many people in caring about and for the land.

- A six-year effort culminated in 2010 with creation of the 395-acre **St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell**, a model that integrates sustainable agriculture, conservation and community use.
- Our **Native Plant Nursery** was established in 2009. Over 15,000 plants have been grown from seed collected on our preserves to enable stewardship of our regional biodiversity
- **Habitats have been restored** as models of our native landscape—at our Cedar Ridge Preserve, in the Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve, and most recently on our Cider Mill Grasslands Preserve.
- **Sowing Seeds for Life** kicked off as a pilot project with 13 native species and 25,000 plants farmed at St. Michaels in 2011. Enough seed to restore 25 acres annually will seed landfills in New York City parks, our partner in the project. A local seed mix may be developed for availability to local landowners in future years.



Curtis Glover and Fred Gaskin.

All photos for this article by Mary Michaels, Photographer.

- **Urban parks have been created** in Bordentown and meadows have been restored in Cadwallader Park in Trenton. These have led to two new projects for the Trenton community, currently underway.

The strength of D&R Greenway was recognized as its ability to bring together creative, innovative thinkers whose dedication and commitment enables impossible dreams to become reality. ♡

Connecting with the Work of Building Greenways

Trailbuilders enjoy Camaraderie and Accomplishment on the Trail

The Dry Run Creek trail begins on a ridgetop, descends gradually through a forest to the creek and climbs back to the crest. Along the way, the 1.2-mile footpath takes you to a sweeping prospect with views through the trees down to the creek below; you cross bridges hewn of logs that seem to have made themselves, and climb stone steps that seem to have fallen into place as the rocks tumbled downhill; you rise and fall imperceptibly, the trail taking you along like a stream. It is as if the woods created the trail to express itself to people.

But that, of course, is not how the trail came to be. People built it, with axes and pulaskis, loppers and saws,



(l-r) Members of the "Wednesday morning stewardship crew" Van Williams, Stewart Palilonis, Lenny Zemeckis and Toni Robbi.



(l) Jessica Penetar and Bob Heil (second from right) with volunteers.

crowbars and hammers. Over 18 months, contributing 1,082 person-hours, volunteer crews created a trail, the foundation for every hiker's experience.

If you're a hiker, the reasons for walking a trail are self-evident. To get out in nature. To be physically active. To be alone. To be with others. To think, to observe, take notes, take pictures. To get away from thinking and just indulge the senses.

But why *build* trails?

The volunteers who build trails for D&R Greenway have diverse reasons, all of which add up to the unique joy of trailwork, one that is attracting more and more people.

Alan Hershey, Chair of D&R

Greenway's Board of Trustees, came to trail building after hiking abroad. "In Europe, you can walk in settled places; you don't need to be in a wilderness to hike. But when I returned to New Jersey I realized there was no place to hike near home! So I began working with D&R Greenway to make more land accessible with public trails."

There are now over 20 miles of trails on D&R Greenway preserves, all of them built primarily through the sweat of volunteers.

D&R Greenway created the New Jersey Trails Association (NJTA), a voluntary partnership with other regional conservation organizations, in 2006 in order to expand public access to the outdoors and encourage people to enjoy nature. Linda Mead, President & CEO, notes that, "NJTA is an extension of our work that involves others in making the lands we preserve accessible, and that works on connected lands that are important linkages in a regional trail system."

Alan Hershey leads trail crews that work on D&R Greenway preserves on Saturdays. Another crew works with Jim Amon, D&R Greenway's Director of Stewardship, on Wednesday mornings. The crews carve trails out of the woods, using hand tools for the most

part. They help lay out the route, saw logs, cut brush, dig water bars (cross-trail troughs) for erosion control. A key task is "sidehilling," cutting a level path along an incline.

Bob Heil, a hiker and freelance photographer, has been working with the trail crews for 4 years. "At Dry Run Creek, we started from nothing, and now it's a really neat trail. For example, we built bridges from cedar trees right there on the site." Bob notes that trail-building's reward is not only the results, but the experience itself. "You meet great people, learn new skills—and it's great exercise outdoors. It's hard work! You're dripping wet, peeling off layers, and it's 30 degrees out." And, he continues, it's "easy to show up for. Finding the D&R Greenway trail crew was 'wow!' It's right here! I don't have to be up at the Delaware Water Gap at 8 in the morning."



Colm Humphreys, volunteer trail builder.

Toni Robbi volunteers for both crews—and for East Amwell’s trail-builders. Retired, he dedicates much of his time to environmental stewardship. Since 2009 he’s been working on trails. “I like to muck about in the woods, and this gives me something useful to do while I’m at it,” he laughs. Toni builds trails even though, he says, “I’m not a dedicated hiker.” Trailwork is a way to “make the woods more natural,” by removing invasive plant species and planting natives.

Trailbuilding enables volunteers of all ages to work side by side. Colm Humphreys, a junior at Lawrence High School, took up trailwork to get involved in community service connected to his love of hiking. “It’s a lot of fun!” he says. “I love working outdoors; the people are great. And I get a lot of satisfaction out of it. It’s cool to build a new trail. As a hiker, you don’t appreciate all the hard work that goes into making trails.”

Crews are not exclusively male. Jessica Penetar, a full-time environmental consultant, and a backpacker and hiker, began volunteering as a way to help make D&R Greenway’s preserves more accessible to the public. “It’s a lot of fun! Being outdoors, enjoying nature, and meeting interesting people from all walks of life. Plus ... it’s great to move really big rocks!”

Rock work—moving stones into place to build stairs or stream crossings, using 6-foot crowbars—is a task that trail crew members rave about. Especially for women and young

people, it is a particularly empowering skill to acquire.

Because most volunteers are new to trailwork, rock work is just one of many arcane skills that are learned on-site from more experienced members. Pride in teaching, and joy in learning, are part of the “camaraderie,” says

Bob, of working with “like-minded people who are all different.”

Much of rock work involves selecting the right stones. As Colm notes, “heated debates” can ensue about which stone is just right. It’s essential to select stones with the size and shape to stay in place for years despite frost heaves, rainstorms, and bootsteps. “A high quality stone structure is a monument,” Alan says.

The high quality of trails, one that makes for a enjoyable walk no matter the conditions, is a hallmark of D&R Greenway trailwork. A high quality trail begins with “selecting the right route, that goes through the right kind of land,” says Alan, who works with a professional consultant to finalize each route. Wet areas, steep grades, or slippery rocks are not ideal, though trails can be built there.

Esthetics are just as important in trail layout. “We route trails to go by interesting things, such as a beautiful old tree that captures the winter light, or an ancient vine that looks like a sculpture,” says Jim Amon.

When the job is done, crew members have the distinct satisfaction of sharing



Volunteer crew celebrating completion of a woodland bridge.

with their own community the trail experience they have helped build.

Trailwork, say volunteers, is life-changing. Trail builders come back, week after week, craving the exhilaration of outdoor physical labor for a shared goal, the joy of producing tangible results for the community, and the close bonds that form with fellow trail crew members. 🌲



Matt Wasserman (r) of Church & Dwight Co. Inc., presents support from the Employee Fund of Church & Dwight to (l-r) D&R Greenway Trustee Shawn Ellsworth, D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead, D&R Greenway Trustee Chair Alan Hershey.

Become a Volunteer

Send an e-mail with “trail building” in the subject line to Alan Hershey (ahershey@drgreenway.org) to join the weekend crew. E-mail Jim Amon (jamon@drgreenway.org) and let him know when you are available to help steward our preserves.

You may also download a volunteer form at www.drgreenway.org, and mail it to: D&R Greenway Land Trust, One Preservation Place, Princeton, NJ 08540. Thank you!

Connecting with Future Stewards of the Earth

Fourth-grader Madeleine Freundlich Assures the Charles Evans Children's Discovery Trail is a Fun Place for Kids to Interact with Nature

A tree breathes in air and water and sheds leaves that enrich the soil. When the tree dies, it becomes habitat for insects that, in turn, become food for birds. Lichen and mushrooms live on the dead tree, helping to break it down. It's all part of the interconnected web of life, and what children can observe on the Charles Evans Children's Discovery Trail, dedicated October 22nd.

The Children's Discovery Trail is designed to bridge connections to the future stewards of the earth. In order to create a child's eye view for the trail, who better to consult than a budding naturalist?

Madeleine Freundlich, a fourth-grader at Stuart Country Day School, demonstrated her exuberance for the natural world during a stream walk from the Johnson Education Center to the Stony Brook this past summer. She shared her ideas with D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead. For example, if a frog can jump 40 inches, Madeleine said, wouldn't it be interesting to measure how far a child could jump in comparison?

As they talked about the Charles Evans Trail, Madeleine suggested including a bench where visitors could sit and listen to the sounds of leaves rustling or birds singing. She envisioned



Led by Madeleine Freundlich, a group of children ready to explore the Charles Evans Children's Discovery Trail.

signs close to the ground where little kids could see them "near the grasses and rushes."

Madeleine wrote her ideas in a notebook, then met with Linda and Director of Stewardship Jim Amon to walk the trail. A junior Girl Scout, Madeleine caught a passion for the outdoors from her mother, Karen, a mechanical and ocean engineer who took her on camping trips and hikes.

"I especially love being outdoors in winter," Madeleine says. "It's so magical in the snow, when you can see animal tracks."

As insects buzz about in search of food on a warm fall day, Madeleine says, "I've learned to ignore flies because I like being in the woods. I enjoy the sounds and the feeling."

In school, science is her favorite subject "because you get to be outside. (It's good for kids to get) away from video games and into the woods, to exercise instead of ..." Madeleine pauses and mimes texting with her thumbs — "You see so much more being out here than when you're looking out a window."

"Being in the woods

helps kids develop executive function," says Karen, who grew up in Bucks County, spending all day in the woods behind her house. "Unpredictable elements in the natural world help kids develop coping skills. And your imagination is unlimited in the woods."

The trail includes meadow, woods and marsh; pictographs

describe habitats and ecosystems.

At the dedication, Madeleine saw the signs for the first time. "It was so much more than I expected," she says. "I think children will like it because it's designed for them — these signs are kid-approved."

At the halfway point is a fairy circle made of stones where children can take their picture and post it to a page at www.drgreenway.org. Fragrant spicebush and witch hazel create a sensory experience.

The trail is named in memory of Charles Evans (1927–2007), a philanthropist committed to preserving the environment for future generations. Emily Blackman, a masters student at Rutgers University selected as the 2011 Charles Evans Future Conservation Leader at D&R Greenway, played a lead role in designing the colorful, educational signs along the trail.

"You can come again and again, because it changes through the seasons," says Madeleine. 🍂



Groundbreaking ceremony for the Charles Evans Native Plant Butterfly Garden took place on December 2, 2011 in Trenton's Cadwalader Park. D&R Greenway's creation of this garden will provide an educational resource for Trenton children of the National Junior Tennis League of Trenton. (l-r) Rob Howland of the NJTL, Linda J. Munson of The Charles Evans Foundation, Linda J. Mead of D&R Greenway, Albert Stark of Stark and Stark, Trenton Mayor Tony Mack, and Landscape Contractor John Sowsian.



Happy Trails to You!

Your Guide to Experiencing the Lands you Have Helped to Preserve

This guide may be removed so that you can keep it in your car and take it with you when you want to enjoy a walk in the natural world.

D&R Greenway supporters have helped to protect these featured lands. For every mile of trail built, over 800 hours of staff and volunteer time has been dedicated.

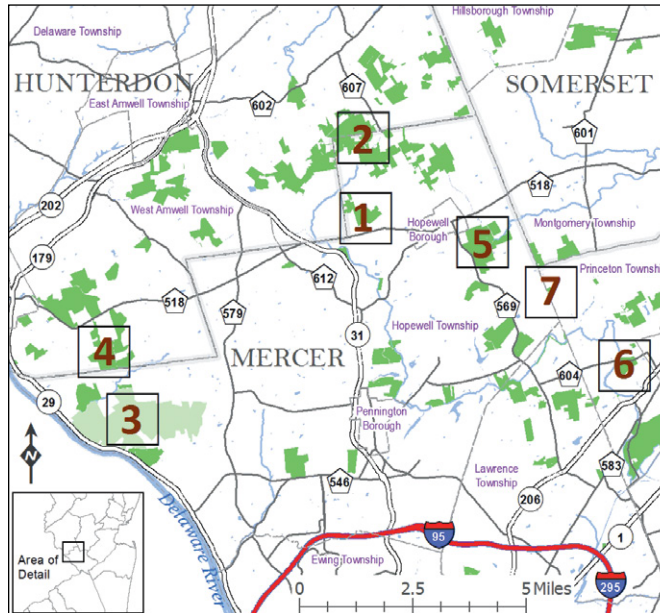
By visiting these highlighted trails, you'll experience various habitats, including meadows, young and old growth forests, marshy wetlands, and agricultural landscapes. You'll climb stone steps, enjoy beautiful vistas and listen to the sounds of nature as you take a peaceful walk.

Several times a year, we visit these trails in an effort to maintain them as storms wreak damage. We are always grateful for new volunteers to help with these activities. As we protect more lands, we carefully select areas for new trail development. Our goal is to enable YOU to enjoy the lands you have helped preserve, while protecting the critical natural resources on these lands.

Let us know what you find as you enjoy these trails by emailing us at info@drgreenway.org.

Tread Lightly, Be a Partner

Our first priority on all D&R Greenway preserves is to protect the critical natural resources that inspired us to



- D&R Greenway preserved lands
- Lands preserved by others
- P Parking

preserve the land. Take only pictures and leave nothing behind. Respect any special requests listed on the kiosk sign. Keep dogs on a leash at all times to protect critical ground nesting and ground feeding animals.

Be aware that some of our preserves are hunted for deer to control devastation of natural vegetation that leads to invasion by non-native plants. Deer hunting season extends from early September through mid-February. There is no deer hunting on Sunday. Wear an orange hat or bright colored clothing to protect yourself, and stay on the trail.

For more specific trail maps go to www.njtrails.org.

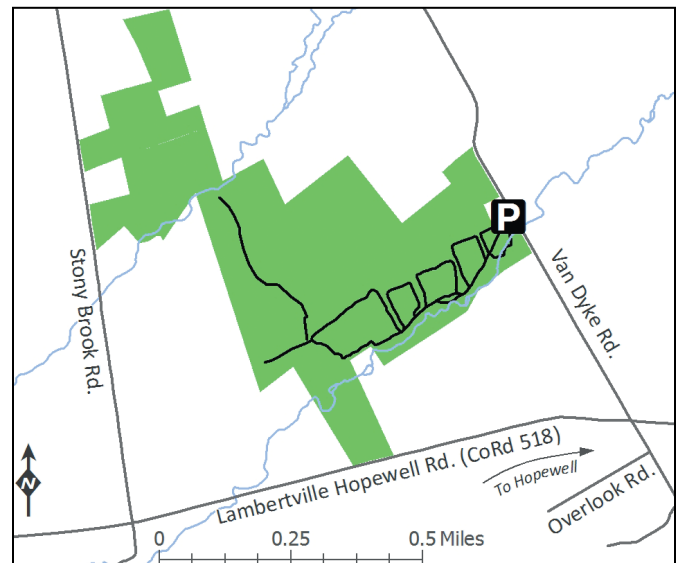
Your partnership in protecting the land is appreciated.

1. Cedar Ridge Preserve

Distance and Difficulty: 2.03 miles for the full loop; you can walk less by focusing on the meadow areas only. Allow 30–60 minutes for a roundtrip. (EASY)

Directions: From Princeton, take Elm Road/The Great Road north and turn left onto Route 518 west through Hopewell Borough; turn right onto Van Dyke Road. The trailhead and a small parking lot are on your left at the bottom of the hill.

Description: Peace is all around in this timeless rural landscape, a compact gem of a site at the edge of the Sourlands Mountains. A series of sunlit wildflower meadows along a tributary to the Stony Brook yield to intimate woods sheltering old stone walls. Among D&R Greenway's premier preserves, our stewardship has created enhanced habitats with vernal ponds and



1. Cedar Ridge Preserve

Eastern Red-cedar
(*Juniperus virginiana*)



plantings that attract birds and wildlife. Dark purple ironweed blooms in late summer creating a mass of color that attracts monarch butterflies.

2. Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve

Distance and Difficulty:

Ranges from 2.5 miles to 1.1 miles (Mountain Road Loop: 2.5 miles; Picnic Rock Loop: 1.7 miles; Double Crossing Loop: 1.1 miles; Foothills Trail: 1.1 miles). Allow 20 minutes to 2 hours, depending on your route. (EASY)

Directions: From Princeton, take Elm Road/The Great Road north and turn left onto Route 518 west to Hopewell Borough; turn right onto Greenwood Avenue.

Foothills Trail trailhead:

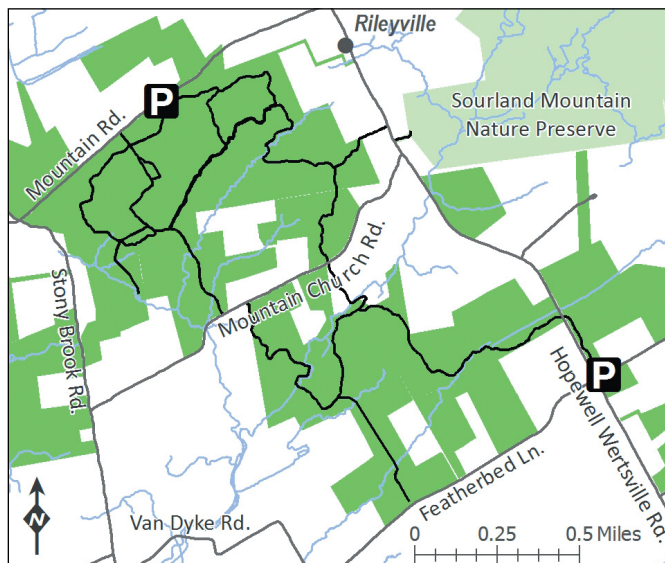
After 2 miles, turn right onto Featherbed Lane and park in lot immediately on right.

All other trails: After 3.1 miles turn left onto Mountain Road; the trailhead is .6 miles on your left from intersection.

Description: Plunge into the heart of a huge forest haven for birds, amphibians and other wildlife. Part of the 60,000 acre forest comprising the Sourlands Mountain Ecosystem, D&R Greenway's 700-acre preserve provides stellar opportunities to experience nature year-round. More than 150 bird species occur in the Sourlands forest.



Orange Jewelweed
(*Impatiens capensis*)



2. Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve

Listen for frogs and salamanders in the spring around vernal pools; watch butterflies atop summer wildflowers; enjoy the gorgeous fall foliage and quiet winter beauty of mature woods. Multiple connected loop trails provide a variety of routes through the preserve, all moderate woods walks. Each loop has different colored triangular trail markers.

The Mountain Road Loop (yellow, blue, orange) winds through meadows and woodlands on the first property purchased by D&R Greenway for preservation.

The Picnic Rock Loop (green) traverses deep forest with towering trees and thick understory, and connects to the Double Crossing Loop.

The Double Crossing Loop (green) crosses the Stony Brook twice as it meanders through the forest.

The Foothills Trail (orange) ascends the Sourlands ridge gradually, progressing from early successional woods to mature forest where it merges with the Double Crossing Loop.

Visit www.drgreenway.org and look at the Sourlands Ecosystem brochure for more information.

3. Baldpate Mountain, Mercer County Parks

Distance and Difficulty: 10 miles of trail; allow an hour for shorter hikes and 3–4 hours for longer hikes. (MODERATE)

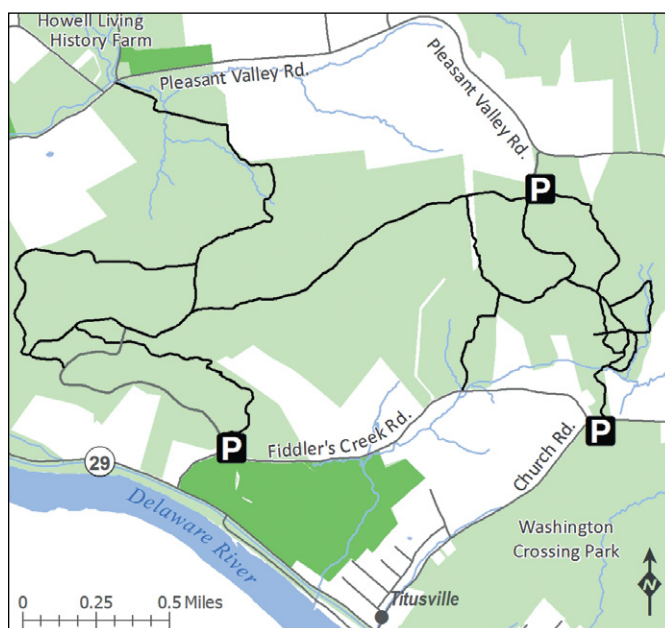
Directions: From Princeton, take Elm Road/The Great Road north and turn left onto Route 518 west to Lambertville, then Route 29 south. For access to Summit Trail and the west end of Ridge Trail, turn left on Fiddlers Creek Road and go about .3 mile to the parking lot on left. (For the Creek Spur

trail access, use shoulder parking, 1.1 miles from Route 29). The 121-acre farm across from the Fiddlers Creek parking lot was permanently preserved by D&R Greenway and partners in 2010; this land will be the site of future trails managed by Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space.

Description:

Baldpate Mountain provides some of the most rugged and rewarding walking in central New Jersey. The preserve stretches across almost 1,800 acres of a diabase ridge that runs east from the Delaware River. Densely forested, the preserve supports abundant wildlife. An extensive network of steep trails flank the ridge; a 2-mile path traverses its spine.

From the top—the highest point in Mercer County—enjoy long views across the river to the Philadelphia skyline. Crumbling 19th century ruins peek from shadows throughout the woods. Don't miss the impressive hand-placed boulder steps on the Summit Trail, exemplars of the trail-builder's art built by D&R Greenway and volunteers from the New Jersey Trails Association.



3. Baldpate Mountain, Mercer County Parks

4. Dry Run Creek

Distance and Difficulty: 1.2 miles; allow one hour. (MODERATE)

Directions:

To southern trail head: From Princeton, take Elm Road/The Great Road north and turn left onto Route 518 west to Lambertville, then Route 29 south, turn left on Valley Road, and after 1.4 miles turn left on Woodens Lane. The trailhead and four-car parking lot is 0.25 mile up Woodens Lane, about 200 yards past the entrance to Howell Living History Farm.

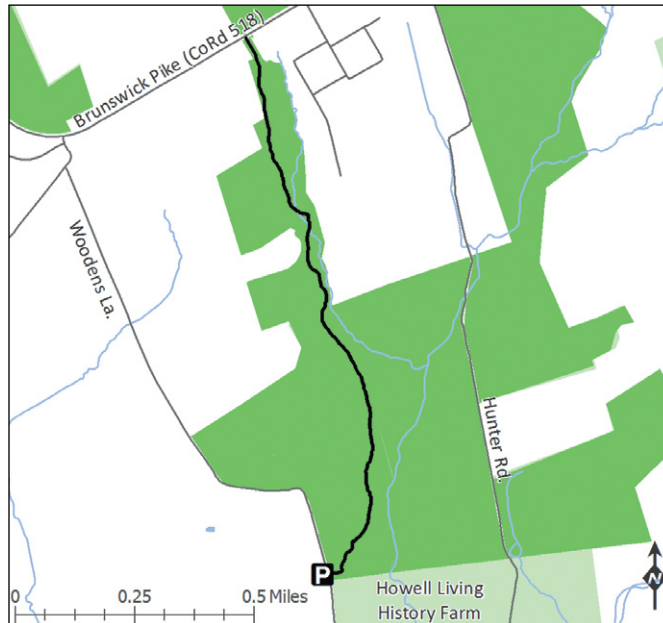
To northern trail head: From Princeton, take Elm Road/The Great Road north and turn left onto Route 518 west to the six-car parking lot on your left about 0.5 miles beyond Hunter Road.

Description: Experience the drama of small things unfolding on an ever-moving stage. The trail descends through woods into the steep-sided valley of the Dry Run Creek, a tributary of Moore's Creek. It gradually climbs north, sometimes skirting the charming ledge-bound creek, passing over three rustic bridges and an old dam. The trail ascends out of the creek valley, occasionally on stone stairways, to its north end at Route 518. You can continue onto the Rockhopper Trail, named for the huge boulders that it traverses, which begins directly across Route 518, and continues 2.3 miles to the edge of Lambertville.

5. St. Michaels Farm Preserve

Distance and Difficulty: 5 miles of trails available; allow one hour or more to explore all trails. (EASY)

Directions: From Princeton, take Elm Road/The Great Road north and turn left onto Route 518 west, to a left on Aunt Molly Road. Follow Aunt Molly until you see a gate on your right (street parking). Alternatively, take Carter Road toward Hopewell and park in



4. Dry Run Creek

the lot on your right (you will see the parking lot before you get to Hopewell).

Description: St. Michaels opens a window in time that frames both the heritage and

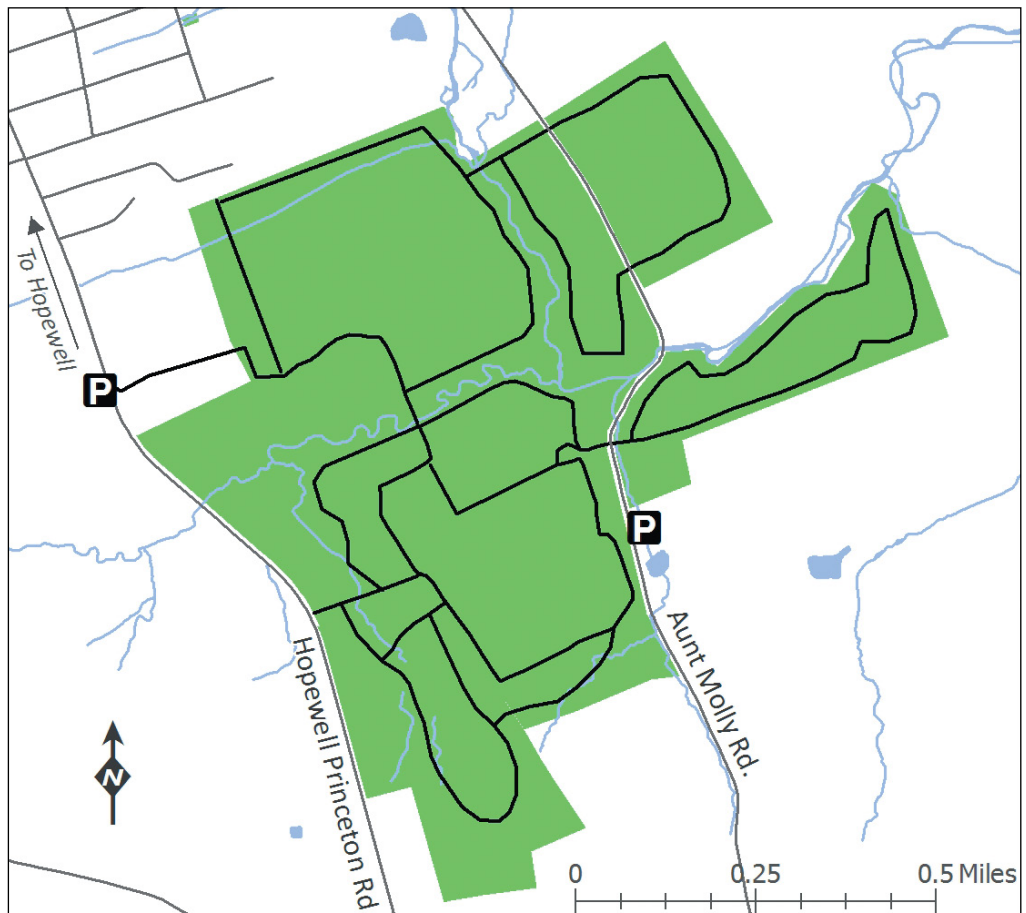
the future of the Hopewell Valley. To walk in the 395-acre preserve is to be transported to a place where dreams begin.

From Aunt Molly Road, head



Eastern Screech Owl
(*Otus asio*)

uphill to the Charles Evans Overlook with sweeping views across the fields to the Sourlands Mountain ridge. From there, follow old farm roads along the perimeter of agricultural fields dedicated to sustainable grass-fed livestock. Climb up through shrub-scrubland to a young woods, return via fields along the north side of Bedens Brook.



5. St. Michaels Farm Preserve



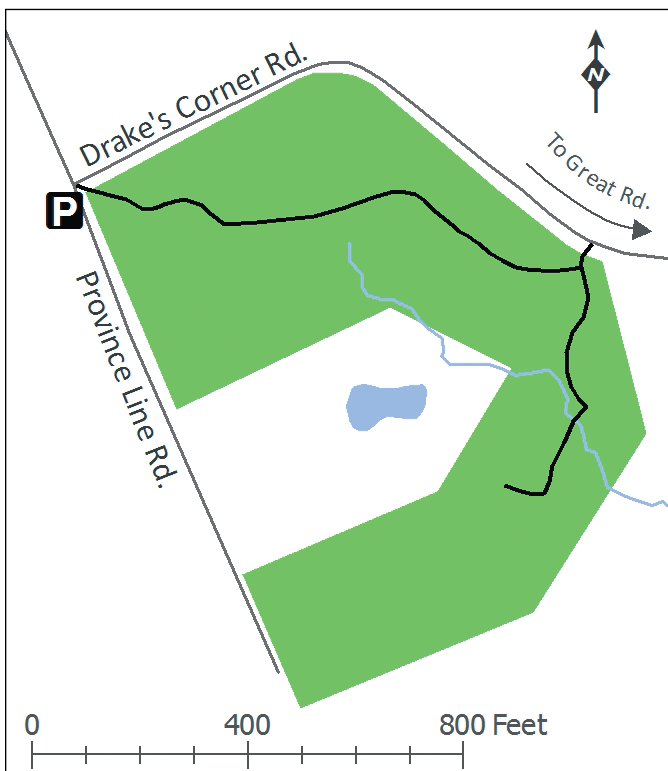
6. Greenway Meadows and the Scott and Hella McVay Poetry Trail

6. Greenway Meadows and the Scott and Hella McVay Poetry Trail

Distance and Difficulty:
Poetry Trail: 1 mile; allow one hour. (EASY)

Directions: From Princeton, take Route 206 south, turn right onto Elm Road and make a left on Rosedale

Road. Parking is available at the Johnson Education Center and at Greenway Meadows on your left. The Poetry Trail begins behind the Johnson Education Center and is easily accessed from the lower parking lot at Greenway Meadows. Walk up the path, past the playground and soccer fields.



7. Charles Evans Children's Discovery Trail

Look for an allée of large hybrid Sycamore trees to start exploring the Poetry Trail.

Description: Greenway Meadows, which surrounds D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center in Princeton, is a 60-acre park on the former Robert Wood Johnson estate. The park incorporates walking paths, playground equipment, picnic areas, playing fields and public restrooms into the rolling, natural landscape. D&R Greenway has installed gardens filled with native plants and nature-inspired sculptures. Stop in to the Johnson Education Center during weekdays, from 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., to view the art exhibits and learn more about our work.

The Poetry Trail begins at an allée of century-old hybrid sycamore trees, moves up the hill past newly planted American chestnuts and loops a meandering mile down through a meadow. Along the path, 48 poems feature the work of poets from 14 countries and cultures. The common thread is the poet's close read of some aspect of the natural world. Bring your notepad or camera; prepare to be inspired.

7. Charles Evans Children's Discovery Trail

Distance and Difficulty: 1 mile roundtrip, with some rocky areas; allow one hour. (EASY to MODERATE)



Purple Giant Hyssop
(*Agastache scrophulariifolia*)

Directions: From Princeton, take Route 206 south, turn right onto Elm Road and continue as it becomes The Great Road. Turn left onto Drakes Corner Road. Continue to the T with Province Line Road. Turn left and park along Province Line Road.

Description: This magical trail is the perfect place to spend an hour with your children or grandchildren discovering the natural world. Colorful, educational signs teach about habitats, plants, birds, and the growth of forests. Start in a meadow, climb over an old rock wall into an early successional forest, take a bridge across a stream and learn to jump like a frog, enter an old growth woods and rest at Halfway Point where you can take your child's photo and have it posted on D&R Greenway's website. Come again and again; there is always more to discover as children develop an understanding and love of nature. 🌿

D&R GREENWAY
LAND TRUST

at the
Johnson Education Center
One Preservation Place
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
Telephone: 609-924-4646
www.drgreenway.org



Connecting the Conservation Community

Gathering from Across the State to Celebrate Green Acres' 50th Anniversary at the Johnson Education Center

Surrounded by Greenway Meadows Park, preserved with Green Acres funding, D&R Greenway's circa-1900 barn was the setting for the 50th anniversary celebration of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program on October 20. This very special event was coordinated by D&R Greenway with assistance from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Keep It Green Coalition.

The first State-funded open space program in the country, Green Acres was established in 1961 to preserve conservation lands and expand public recreation opportunities. New Jersey's citizens have overwhelmingly supported Green Acres because they enjoy the benefits of hiking in the woods, fishing in a sparkling stream, relaxing at the beach, or scoring the winning run at the local playground.

The question of the evening was: *What would New Jersey look like today if we had not been bold enough to establish the Green Acres Program in 1961?*

The very location of New Jersey that made it important during Revolutionary times—that of the corridor between New York City and the City of Philadelphia—has made it a hotbed for development. The natural resources that cross our state—forests, waterways, marshes and grasslands—make it a desirable place to live. But without state funding to buy development rights and to buy land for parks and conservation areas, we would quickly lose these things that

we treasure about our state—and that give us a “sense of place.”

In New Jersey, *preservation of open space is not a luxury; it is a necessity* for the quality of life and health of our residents—and for the many values provided by the environment itself.

The *things we do NOT have today because of the 650,000 acres protected with Green Acres funding*, based on assumptions commonly used by municipal planning boards, are:

- 325,000 more houses on the land (based on one house for every 2 acres)
- 3.23 million more car trips per day, along with the resulting environmental impacts and traffic congestion (based on 10 daily trips per household)
- 113.75 million more gallons of water expended daily (based on 350 gallons per day per household)
- 715,000 more schoolchildren (based on 2.2 children per household) requiring educational services. At an average annual cost of \$12,000 per child, that's \$8.58 billion dollars of taxpayer expense avoided.

What we DO have, instead, is:

- protected water quality,
- decreased air pollution,
- conserved wildlife habitats,
- urban and suburban parks where children can play, and
- nature preserves with trails where the public can experience the natural world.



(l-r) Representative Rush Holt, D&R Greenway Vice Chair Mary Lou Hartman, and D&R Greenway Vice President, Jay Watson.



(l-r) Keep It Green Chair Tom Gilmore, with Isles' Chief Operating Officer Liz Johnson, D&R Greenway Chair Alan Hershey, and Green Acres Administrator Rich Boornazian, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

All photos for this article by Don Addison, Photographer.



It is astonishing to take a moment and picture how New Jersey would be built-out were it not for Green Acres.

In his remarks, NJ DEP Commissioner Bob Martin expressed appreciation to D&R Greenway for hosting the event and recognized the contribution of the land preservation community saying, “Thank you to all the partners who are here tonight. It is with your help that Green Acres has been able to preserve over 650,000 acres across the State.”

Connecting for Cooperative Stewardship

Public and Private Partners join together in Milestone Agreement to Protect the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh

Just think how difficult it is to get 10 people from different organizations in a room together at the same time, let alone to agree with one another. On October 3rd, ten organizations, vested in the natural, historic and recreational attributes of the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, came together to do just that—putting their signatures to the Cooperative Stewardship Agreement for the Marsh.

With multiple owners and users, coordination of stewardship for the Marsh can be a complex task. The milestone agreement on vision, goals and communication will ensure cooperation in protecting and preserving the Marsh. The Marsh will benefit with enhanced recreational activities and educational opportunities, and the partner organizations will help to establish a recognizable identity, celebrating its 13,000 years of history and promoting a sense of pride.

The signers, too, had a sense of pride, as they extolled the virtues of the agreement.



The marsh is an oasis of wilderness in an urban community that allows people to discover nature. Photo by MA Leck, Photographer.

“We are extremely proud to be a long-standing member of this partnership, which has made great progress in restoring the marsh,” said Eric Svenson, VP Policy & Environment, Health & Safety, PSEG. “Signing onto this agreement is a great opportunity for us at PSEG to live up the first two words in our name—public service. This pact brings together the right mix of stakeholders—environmentalists, government agencies and businesses—to preserve and protect this important natural and cultural resource. Together, these partners for the Marsh are connecting the dots to provide greater understanding and awareness of this environmental and educational jewel.”

“This agreement reflects what we can achieve when we pool our resources and work cooperatively,” said Mercer County Executive Brian

M. Hughes. “Mercer is very proud to have been the lead public agency in bringing together the many landowners and organizations that have an interest in this vital habitat. This plan will serve as a road map for the use and protection of the Marsh and its natural and historic resources so that generations of people to this region can benefit from its beauty.”

“We’re pleased to be partnering with these groups to ensure that this diverse landscape, home to more than a thousand species of plants and animals, and which holds so much historical significance to the State, is preserved,” said New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin. “The DEP will help to implement the Stewardship plan, along with providing expertise and technical support to facilitate its goals.”

“This is a significant partnership spearheaded by people whose life’s work has been to ensure that this treasure of a resource is recognized and protected,” noted D&R Greenway Land Trust President & CEO Linda Mead. “It is a project that’s been 20 years in the making. This agreement signifies the importance of the



Photo by Jeff Worthington, Photographer.

Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh as a bio-diverse, cultural and recreational site in the heart of our community.” D&R Greenway has been the lead initiator and organizer in ensuring that this urban resource receives attention.

“The Marsh is a critical scientific and educational resource,” remarked Mary Alessio Leck, Executive Committee, Friends for the Marsh, and biology professor emeritus, Rider University. Mary is also a trustee of D&R Greenway. “The Marsh is the subject of more than 60 scientific articles and book chapters dealing with ecology. Studies undertaken by archaeologists continue to improve our

osprey, great blue herons, butterflies, dragonflies and numerous plants live here. Even a beluga whale and harp seal stopped at this tidal freshwater marsh. Human visitors include grade-school, college and graduate students on field trips, hikers, cyclists, bird watchers, canoeists and kayakers, fishers and hunters, and photographers and artists.

The tidal wetlands are as biologically productive as a tropical rainforest. In addition to providing habitat for wildlife, the Marsh performs the essential services of containing floodwaters, recharging groundwater, and removing pollutants from the air and water. The Marsh has been designated a Very Important Bird and Birding Area by



Ten public and private partners sign a milestone agreement on October 3, 2011, to protect and preserve the marsh. Photo courtesy of PSEG.

understanding of the lives of Native Americans and colonists. Virtually all the leading archaeologists and geologists of the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries worked and observed excavations here.”

Additional signers of the Cooperative Stewardship Plan were: Marlen Dooley, Director of Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission; James S. Simpson, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Transportation; James Weinstein, Executive Director, New Jersey Transit; John Bencivengo, Mayor, Hamilton Township; and Tony Mack, Mayor, The City of Trenton.

An oasis of natural beauty, the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh is a unique urban wetland. Bald eagles,

NJ Audubon and a Natural Heritage Priority Site by NJDEP. It contributes to the Abbott Farm National Historical Landmark, a designation received in 1976 from the U.S. Department of the Interior, and it is within the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area. It has been featured in two NJN documentaries, *Turning the Tide* (2006) and *Bonaparte's Retreat* (2009).

A Nature Center, scheduled to open in 2012, will not only serve as an educational hub but will attract visitors who will patronize local businesses. Some areas of the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh can be reached by public transportation, others by car or on foot or by bicycle. ♡

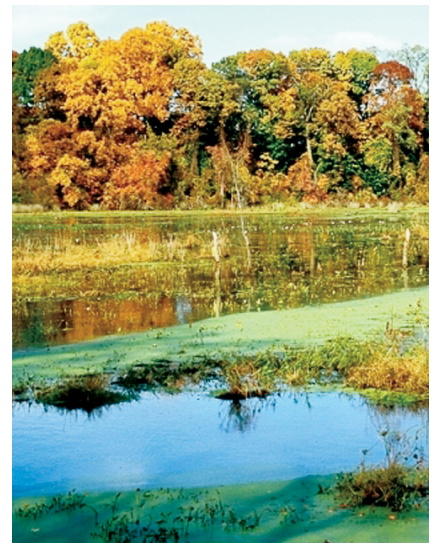


Photo by Jeff Worthington, Photographer.

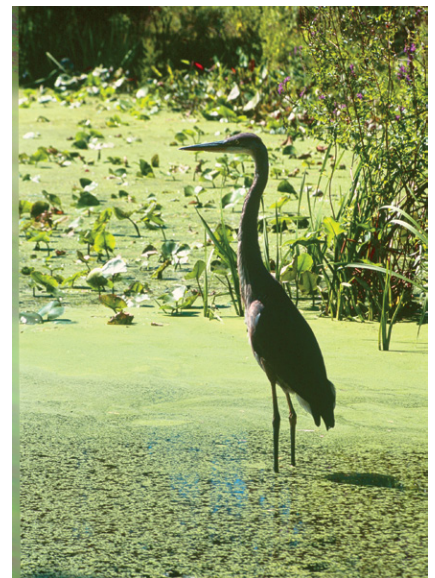


Photo by MA Leck, Photographer.

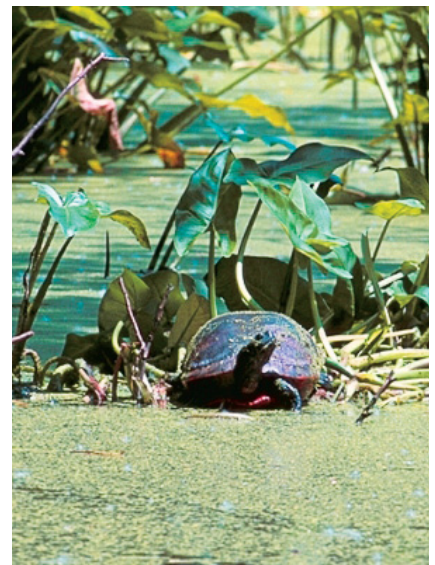


Photo by Jeff Worthington, Photographer.

Connecting to our Supporters and Friends

Words of Thanks and Inspiration

A Neighbor

"To the great people of D&R Greenway:
I own a home on Cider Mill Road with my wife Tuyet Le. You cannot imagine how happy we are about the Cider Mill acquisition. Quite frankly, having that beautiful piece of property preserved is like winning the lottery for us! Anyway, I walked by the property this afternoon and witnessed a double rainbow. Fortunately, I had a good camera with me. THANK YOU all for your super efforts and even better results!"

—Michael Abadie, a neighbor to a D&R Greenway preserve

A Visitor

"I was spending a rainy day in Princeton and had heard of D&R Greenway's walking trails and indoor art exhibits. With the help of the internet and my GPS, I found my way to the Johnson Education Center. Inside a beautifully restored barn I found a stimulating exhibit of nature photography and paintings. What an uplifting experience and a great way to spend an hour on a rainy day! I hope to return soon for another visit."

—Hugh L. Evans, a visitor from Hoboken, New Jersey

A Trail User

"Having grown up out west in northern California and southwestern Montana, I was surrounded by hundreds and thousands of acres to hike, snow shoe and get lost with our family dogs. In my 35 plus years in New Jersey, St. Michaels gives me the closest experience. Furthermore, my two year old yellow lab, Hudson, expects an almost daily sojourn to the property!

Thank God for all the great work of D&R Greenway and its many supporters and volunteers!"

—Todd Lincoln and Hudson, a trail user and his dog

A Donor

When Jay Vawter looks out of his window he is treated to a panoramic view of open space which expands into Greenway Meadows park. The scene is reminiscent to Jay of a physical challenge that he overcame by walking the park's hill up to the ridge daily until he recovered.

"My wife and I have always had a deep commitment to preserving nature and open space. D&R Greenway's connection of land preservation and art is especially meaningful to us. I attended an art exhibit at the Johnson Education Center where I purchased a beautiful painting by Charles McVicker of the actual hill that I walked to gain my recovery. Each time I look at the painting, not only do I enjoy its beauty, but I appreciate the health-based benefits of our parks and open land. Thank you, D&R Greenway Land Trust for preserving these special places for our communities to enjoy."

—Jay Vawter, a Taplin Circle donor

Thank you to our Individual Contributors,
Business and Preservation Partners!

You enable D&R Greenway to preserve and care for a permanent network of natural lands, farms and open spaces in New Jersey.

You inspire our daily work!

Please consider a tax-deductible gift to assist our ongoing work in 2012.

Contributions may be made at
www.drgreenway.org, or by contacting,
Leslie Davis Potter, Director of Development,
(609) 924-4646 ext. 121, lpotter@drgreenway.org.

Photo by Michael Abadie

Donors Making a Difference

Ted and Victory Chase Enable Preservation of Greenway Land

"Zray zray zray zray zee," sings the cerulean warbler.

Ted Chase is a bird lover. On a visit earlier this year to Stokes State Forest in pursuit of a cerulean warbler nest, he not only heard the song, he spotted three of these warblers that have a blue back and greenish tinge and that breed in deciduous forests and migrate to South America.

"The coal mines in West Virginia (on the migratory route) are destroying the habitat of the cerulean warbler," says Ted, who has been interested in birds since he was 7 years old.

Since retiring from Rutgers' Cook College four years ago, where he taught biochemistry for 38 years, Ted has had more time to pursue his interests in winged wildlife as well as preserving open space. He and his wife, Victory, can often be found at D&R Greenway's events and art receptions where they enjoy meeting others who share their interest in preservation.

Ted and Victory have been good friends to D&R Greenway ever since the preservation in 2000 of an 88-acre property across Old Georgetown Road from their home in Somerset County. Donors for over 15 years now, when the land that is now a bird sanctuary was preserved they made a gift of \$5,000 in gratitude.

Ted has served on the Franklin Township Environmental Commission and Planning Board since 1996. From his kitchen window he enjoys the view of open space he helped preserve. When Ted and Victory bought their home in 1969, their neighbor retained an ancestral home next door. The cottage was rented, and the owner paid taxes and mowed the grass. Over the years the owner began to consider alternatives to this responsibility.

Somerset County already owned the woods across the street, thanks to D&R Greenway, but no longer had a budget to purchase this land.

"We wanted to buy the woods," says Ted. "We worried it could be bought by someone who'd tear down the little

house and put in McMansions. But we didn't want to mow the grass or take care of the cottage either, so we made a gift to D&R Greenway to preserve it." The six-figure gift included enough money for both the purchase and an endowment to care for the land.

This is an important piece in the preservation puzzle, because it provides a wildlife corridor that stretches across Old Georgetown Road to the D&R Canal. "Perhaps some day the woods on the other side that belong to Trap Rock



Cerulean warbler

Quarry can be preserved," says Ted, who has a vision for an extended woodland preserve from the D&R Canal and Canal Road to Route 1. "The quarry has a restoration plan and is expected to finish in 2041, when it will become a pump storage reservoir. The canal is a drinking water source. We hope the wooded areas will become a state park."

Ted is no stranger to committing land for open space, having worked to preserve the 164-acre Negri Nepote Grasslands preserved by Franklin Township with assistance from D&R Greenway, and that connects to the Six-mile Run Reservoir site.

As a child growing up in Dover, Massachusetts, not far from Boston, his family gave 80 acres of farmland to the century-old Trustees for Reservations. He carried on his family tradition, giving a large gift to his alma mater to preserve adjacent land. Ted has been a lifelong member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. We're glad that Ted and Victory Chase chose D&R Greenway as their partner in preservation here in New Jersey. ♡

Native Plant Potting Shed Dedicated in Memory of Local Gardener Mary Jean Mollica

Thanks to a generous gift from Joseph Mollica, in memory of his wife Mary Jean, D&R Greenway will have a head start on spring seedlings for the Native Plant Nursery. D&R Greenway was in need of a facility to start seeds and to shelter volunteers from the elements. The Mary Jean Mollica Potting Shed is a fittingly unique way to remember Mary Jean, a passionate gardener, while building something that would have been near and dear to her heart.

Mary Jean Mollica's three grandchildren attended a private dedication of the potting shed on September 17th where they shared memories of their grandmother and assisted in the ribbon cutting.

D&R Greenway's native plant nursery

incubates trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns and grasses propagated from genetically diverse seed collected in the New Jersey Piedmont. The Mary Jean Mollica Potting Shed will help give new life to native plants that will, in turn, provide sustenance for hummingbirds, butterflies and other native fauna. ♡



(l-r) Mary Jean Mollica's sister; two daughters; husband, Joe; three grandchildren and son-in-law gather for the dedication.

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.

Simple Gifts

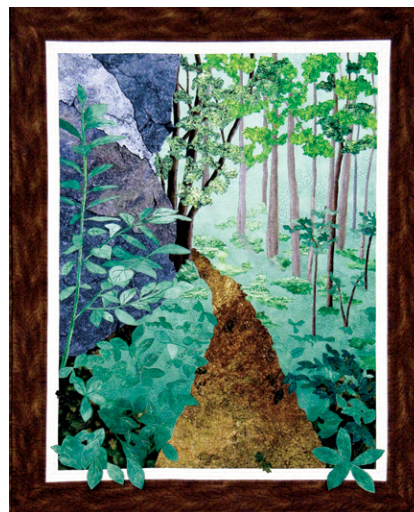
D&R Greenway's Holiday tree, highlighting preserved lands and farms, will be on display at Morven's Festival of Trees through January 8, 2012.

Textures and Trails

Generously sponsored by Church & Dwight, Co., Inc.
December 12, 2011–February 10, 2012
Artists Opening Reception:
Thursday, December 15, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

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

This exhibit features **Home for the Holidays**, a special room where all art can be purchased and taken home the same day!



Featured is a quilt: "The Summit Trail on Baldpate Mountain" by Deb Brockway.

Register for the Opening Reception on December 15 by calling (609) 924-4646, or by sending an e-mail to tiffanyso@drgreenway.org.

Winter Farmer's Market

Saturday, January 14, 2012
10 a.m.–2 p.m., at the Johnson Education Center

Featuring locally sourced food and textiles—beef, pork, lamb, baked goods, cheese, mushrooms, wine and more!

Artist Lecture

Presented by Aylin Green at the Johnson Education Center
Thursday, January 19, 7–8:30 p.m.

Aylin Green's art springs from the crusty tables of flea markets, the sewing boxes of fashionable women, and the button jars of bygone days. A recent interest in the use of metals such as iron relate to the sensual connection people have with the elements, with dreams, and with pattern-making which is often evocative of natural design. ♡

Visit the Johnson Education Center, weekdays, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Please call for accessibility to exhibit rooms prior to your visit.