GREENWAYS

Newsletter of D&R Greenway Land Trust Volume 29, Number 1 Spring 2020

Land Preservation Update

Since 1989, D&R Greenway has permanently preserved 309 properties, approximately 20,903 acres valued at over \$400 million dollars.

Connecting ~ People ~ Wildlife ~ Community ~ Land

An Unbroken Circle: Growth, Harvest and Renewal

D&R Greenway completes preservation and finds a farmer for its inaugural Revolving Land Fund property

he 52-acre historic farm on Route 518 in Hopewell Township could have yielded a bumper crop of houses. Instead, its sun-drenched fields, plump with prime agricultural soil, will nourish row upon row of fruits and vegetables. This produce, grown by the farm's new owners Otto and Maria Zizak, will be served at their new neighborhood farm-to-table restaurant.

D&R Greenway purchased the farm in 2016 to preserve it, but not to own it forever. The objective was to put a perpetual easement on the farm and re-sell it to "conservation buyers." Four years later the plan has come to fruition. "Otto and

Maria are the perfect partners," says D&R Greenway President & CEO Linda Mead. "They were worth the wait while we orchestrated the details of an agricultural easement that will protect the land as a farm forever."

It was written in the stars

For Otto and Maria, purchasing the farm from D&R Greenway is like completing a circle that began an ocean away and decades ago. As a child, Otto spent his summers on his family's farm in Slovakia. He and Maria met as 2nd-graders in Poprad, a Slovakian mountain resort city. The two were inseparable until 8th grade, when, in 1990, Otto emigrated to New York with his parents. It wasn't until Otto



Inside

- 2019 Donors, Volunteers and Business Partners
- IMPACT: Preserving Land and Community
- Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day with D&R Greenway Events

visited Slovakia in 2000 that they reconnected. And what a connection! Their best-friendship blossomed into a romance, and Otto convinced Maria to move to New York.



Otto and Maria Zizak's historic farm fields in Hopewell Township, permanently preserved and ripe for cultivation. (photo: Thomas Marshall)

Unbroken Circle

Continued from page 1

The Zizaks' 20-year journey from the Big Apple to the Hopewell Valley was driven by a shared passion for cooking. In New York, they established restaurants featuring creative takes on Central European specialties. At Korzo, in Brooklyn, Maria showcased her acclaimed deep-fried burger wrapped in Hungarian bread, featured on the Food Network. All along, their dream has been to cook from local ingredients, grown sustainably. As Otto says, "the way I experienced it as a child." And to do that, they realized, they had to buy a farm. So they went looking for one.

Otto recalls, "Our kids and I took an early walk through St. Michaels Farm Preserve last spring. It reminded us of open fields along the Danube River in Slovakia. It was there when Maria and I chatted and joked informally that our new restaurant was 'conceived along the Danube but will be sourced around the Delaware.'"

Welcome to the community

What the Zizaks found in their search was more than land. They found kindred spirits, a welcoming culture that embraces sustainability and supports a local food economy. In Hopewell, Otto says, "We found a community of like-minded people for

whom traditional farming is a normal way of living, not a hip catch phrase."

They found a farm whose history speaks to their dreams. The prior owners of the farm, the Muscentes, owned the Merry Go Round restaurant in Lawrence for many years.

And the Zizaks found a partner in D&R Greenway. Farmland preservation makes sustainable agriculture economically viable, by ensuring affordable farmland that benefits both farmers and the

community that depends on farms for sustenance. "Much is disposable out there," observes Otto. "It is amazing to feel like we are helping make something as essential as farmland permanent."



The Zizaks will farm using biodynamic principles. Biodynamics, a century-old organic agriculture system, draws on holistic, ethical and ecological perspectives. Otto notes that they are continuing a farm, not starting from zero. "The farm has been in family ownership, has been farmed respectfully and will allow us to achieve our biodynamic goals. Additionally it is beautiful, with good energy, a place we want to spend our time, working long days."



A traditional Korzo burger.

They'll grow produce for their restaurant (tentatively named "Ottoburger"), opening on Main Street in Hopewell this summer in the former location of the Peasant Grill. The menu will feature Maria's traditional Korzo burgers and a vegan beet burger, topped with beet ketchup and served on bread baked in an Otto-built brick oven. Dishes will include "hard-to-find Central European staples" like horseradish, stinging nettle, Jerusalem artichokes, and sea buckthorn; elderberry, gooseberry, and currants. Otto will keep bees to pollinate the crops—in the tradition of his grandfather, a prominent beekeeper in Slovakia.

Revolving Land Fund

The farm was the first property that D&R Greenway acquired using its Revolving Land Fund, established in 2016. The RLF's purpose is to enable D&R Greenway to preserve land without having to permanently invest the full price of the property. The ability to buy land with the intent of re-selling it as conserved property enables D&R Greenway to counter the financial pressure developers can put on a landowner to sell before preservation can be funded. In some cases, the RLF provides "upfront" funds that enable the purchase and are reimbursed later from public funds. When the property is re-sold to a conservation buyer, or reimbursements are received, the proceeds come back to the RLF.



Otto and his grandfather, a farmer and beekeeper in Slovakia.

The Taplin Circle

Celebrating more then 30 years of Accomplishments Together

The Taplin Circle was introduced in 2004 to commemorate D&R Greenway's 15th Anniversary and honor the life and vision of preservationist Frank Taplin and those who follow in his footsteps—our Taplin Circle donors. Frank Taplin's leadership resulted in the permanent protection, led by D&R Greenway, of two signature Princeton landscapes: The Institute Woods and Coventry Farm.

Our dedicated Taplin Circle group demonstrates their love of preservation by contributing \$1,000 or more to D&R Greenway's

annual fund and are invited to an exclusive gathering to celebrate the lands they helped to preserve. Their consistent, significant support has enabled D&R Greenway's vision to grow benefitting all of us — forever.

Taplin Circle members who have made a multi-year pledge are listed here at their most recent gift level. Multi-year pledges in effect in 2019 are noted on page 16.

To request a correction to this donor list, please call D&R Greenway at 609-924-4646.

Note: This Annual Report reflects giving from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. In preparing this publication, D&R Greenway Land Trust has attempted to recognize all those who contributed so generously. We apologize for any errors and request that corrections be brought to our attention.

Donations Received January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

+ First time donor

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Bristol-Myers Squibb Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Larson Land Foundation Piper Sutton Foundation, Inc./ Harbourton Foundation The William Penn Foundation

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Ellen and Brann Wry



Steadfast Stewards

Steadfast stewards identify strongly with D&R Greenway's mission. Their sustained annual support shows their confidence in our work. We especially want to thank those who

joined us in the early years for establishing what has become one of the leading land trusts in New Jersey — D&R Greenway Land Trust.

Donations Received January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

STEWARDS FOR 30 YEARS

Mary Owen Borden Foundation Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Alan Hershey and Phyllis Frakt The William Penn Foundation

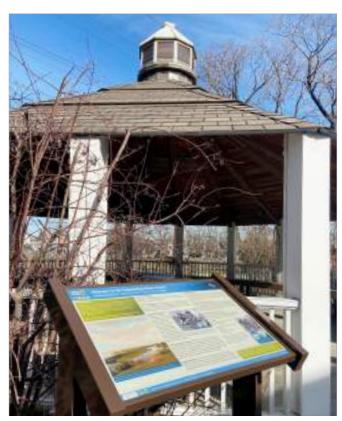
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New interpretive signage created by D&R Greenway tells the preservation story of the Tulpehaking Nature Center.



(l-r) Cindy Taylor, Assistant Director of Land Stewardship, Alan Hershey and Deb Brockway lead the way to Dry Run Creek.

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Director of Land Stewardship Tina Notas works hand-in-hand with volunteer Toni Robbi to install secure fence posts surrounding the vernal pond at St. Michaels Farm Preserve.

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Continued from page 5

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Douglas Blair and Ann Reichelderfer

Sheila Geisler learns all about Cider Mill Preserve's natural resources

Sheila Geisler learns all about Cider Mill Preserve's natural resources and trails through an informative new kiosk on the trail.

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The Evergreen Circle

People who make a planned gift to D&R Greenway are recognized as members of our Evergreen Circle. This important group of foresighted people have thought about how they can have a lasting impact on their community long

after they are gone. Thank you to these dedicated supporters for leaving a legacy of land for our wildlife and for future generations. To join them, contact D&R Greenway President & CEO, Linda Mead at 609-924-4646.

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Iron Mike Trail

In 2019, the family and friends of the late Michael "Iron Mike" Snyder embarked on a successful journey to envision, fund and build the new "Iron Mike Trail," accessible from a trailhead along Rosedale Road.

More than 200 donors, and 40 volunteers, came forward to clear the trail and plant trees. They created a lasting legacy that will be appreciated, in perpetuity, by everyone who walks the land.



Family and friends of the late "Iron Mike" Snyder gathered to help build the new trail.

Gifts in Memory of Michael A. Snyder

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2019 Volunteers

D&R Greenway Land Trust thanks each of our volunteers for their unique partnership in our mission. This year, volunteers contributed nearly 2,000 hours of service. Over 30 years, their collaborative contributions have been significant, inspiring and invaluable to the growth and success of D&R Greenway.

AMERICAN CHESTNUT RESTORATION PROJECT: The American Chestnut Foundation and local partners have joined with our volunteers to nurture American Chestnut seedlings in our native plant nursery and in a grove at St. Michaels Farm Preserve.

EXPERT BIRDERS: D&R Greenway is fortunate to have expert birders who regularly identify and count bird species on D&R Greenway preserves. This data is submitted to eBird.org at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a rich data source for basic information on bird abundance and distribution.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS: Corporations and organizations offer "volunteer workdays" to employees in lieu of time in the workplace. These employees volunteer their time to remove invasive plants, clear trails, mulch soil, assist with the Native Plant Nursery and gardens at Capital City Farm.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY: Volunteers plant, learn about and care for native plants. They assist with spring and fall plant sales throughout the summer.

New Jersey Trails: From October to May, led by former Board Chair Alan Hershey, volunteers from age 16 to 80+ move boulders, clear brush and build charming and challenging trails to create special places for people to connect with the land. See www.njtrails.org.

Photography and Graphic Design: A talented group of photographers and designers dedicate their time and expertise to contribute to D&R Greenway's public outreach, website and interactive trail apps.

Stewardship: Volunteers multiply the work of our staff, enjoying community spirit as they ensure this important work gets done. They remove invasive species, restore habitats with native plants, and maintain trails.

WILLING HANDS: Volunteers inspire a conservation ethic by assisting with education and art events at the Johnson Education Center, help with mailings, and provide information at local community festivals to spread the word about D&R Greenway.

To learn about volunteer opportunities with D&R Greenway Land Trust, please email us at volunteer@drgreenway.org, or visit our website, www.drgreenway.org. Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.



Food display created by Willing Hands volunteers for our event guests. (photo: Kelly Taylor)

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

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Trails to Table

Thank you to our volunteers and the restaurants who participated in our 30th Anniversary "Trails to Table" events. We accomplished our goal of cultivating community conservation and strengthening our mission to Preserve and Care for Land and Inspire a Conservation Ethic, Now and Forever.

Marcello's It's Nutts on the Canal ChambersWalk Cafe Boro Bean The Gingered Peach Red Barn Milk Company The Bent Spoon

IMPACT: Preserving Land and Community

A beloved family farm...a
National Historic Trail...land
for an African American museum...a
large farm in the "garden basket"
of our Garden State. These are a
few of the properties preserved by
D&R Greenway Land Trust in 2019,
totaling seven properties and over
400 acres all told.

Each has a story, with a past that led to a moment of decision about the future.



The beautiful Stony Brook Creek meanders along Cedar Ridge Preserve on newly preserved land.

Alongside our popular Cedar Ridge Preserve, a fire that destroyed a home led to preservation. Instead of rebuilding, or selling the property for a "McMansion," the owners agreed to sell their streamside land to D&R Greenway. Our ability to sweep in quickly, thanks to our Revolving Land Fund, allowed the owners to move on with their lives.

D&R Greenway partnered with the Ernest Schwiebert Chapter of Trout Unlimited, whose members cleaned up debris from the burned home site. Chapter president J. Steward Van Oehsen shares, "The confluence of this tributary with the Stony Brook is one of the most prolific fishing holes on the Stony Brook with trout, blue gill, creek chub, small-mouth bass and even some large-mouth bass." In 2020, volunteers will assist our stewardship staff by planting canopy trees and shrubs to further protect and care for this treasured waterway.

In Bridgewater, it was a 100-year-old veteran and a fourth grader who joined forces to advocate for preservation of a Revolutionary War site. The horse trough used by French and Continental soldiers can be seen in a video we created about this property, purchased in recent years by a developer. Fortunately, D&R Greenway's past work with this same developer resulted in protected land, and cemented a relationship that led to a moment of decision: instead of building fifteen houses on the historic site, the developer trusted D&R Greenway to create a partnership to fund the acquisition. In 2020, we will help the local community locate a trail where hikers can walk through history on the newly preserved land.



WWII veteran Bob Vaucher and Jillian Burns joined together to preserve historic land in Bridgewater.



Members of the Ernest Schweibert Chapter of Trout Unlimited with the "fruits of their labor" from cleaning up the burned-out homesite on a newly expanded preserve.



The permanently preserved Matthews family farm. (photo: Clem Fiori)



(l-r) D&R Greenway Chair Christopher DeGrezia at the 2019 Greenway Gala with award recipients; Land Preservation: Brendan Burns, Bob Vaucher and David Stempien; Land Stewardship: John and Elaine Buck with Beverly Mills; Inspiration: Margee Harper; Donald B. Jones Conservation Award: Alan Hershey; Linda Mead, President & CEO (photo: Carl Geisler)



Jo Allen exploring the great outdoors at the Delaware Water Gap.

The future linked back to the past in a recent public talk at our Johnson Education Center. Lucky attendees heard from former residents of the St. Michaels Orphanage, realizing through their eyes the meaningfulness of our work. Tearfully thanking our supporters, Jo Allen shared that being outdoors on the orphanage farm, seeing bats and cows and raccoons at age six, made her into a lifetime explorer. Another former resident of the orphanage told stories about the multi-cultural baseball team, saying "before people talked about diversity, we were all friends." Everyone laughed and cried together at the stories that were told, recognizing how place shapes all our lives and belonging is something we all need. You can hear stories about the past and see into the future using our new TravelStorys audio tour, dedicated to the former residents of the orphanage.

Our 30th anniversary year has now turned into our 31st year of preserving land and community. At this moment in time, we can look back and see the benefits of our work, with 21,000 acres of preserved land that exists because of D&R Greenway. All who walk our trails, meet over art and programs at our Johnson Education Center, and who explore our newly enhanced website to discover videos and stories of preservation, are enriched by our past achievements. We are excited about the new lands we are preserving now and what they will mean to our community in the future.

Come along with me to a future of common ground.

President & CEO

D&R GREENWAY LAND TRUST

Unbroken Circle

Continued from page 2

Says Linda, "Since we initially established our Revolving Land Fund and purchased this farm, we have added new dollars to the RLF from our own assets and new donations. And, we have protected three additional properties by supplementing public funds with RLF dollars to bridge gaps in funding." The State grant for the agricultural easement and the sale of this farm to the new buyers adds more dollars for preservation back into the RLF. "This will allow us to do even more," she shares, "leveraging our donor's gifts to keep giving.

"I am happy to talk with anyone who would like to find out how they can become a part of this legacy work with a contribution to our Revolving Land Fund, a forever gift that ensures that the dream of preservation becomes a reality."



Otto and Maria Zizak on their preserved family farm.

It comes back to love of land

Every farm's preservation creates an opportunity for farmers to nurture a lasting commitment to the land by caring for it and cultivating it, until it is time to pass the land on, continuing the unbroken circle of growth, harvest and renewal.

"A relationship with a piece of land is ultimately a very real one," says Otto. "The land can be the piece of puzzle which completes your life. I think we have found ours."

What goes around comes around—from land to land, from family to family, heart to heart. ❖

Partners in Preservation

D&R Greenway's Partners in Preservation realize preserved open space is good for us with clean water to drink, fresh air to breathe and fresh, local foods to eat. They know that green spaces in nature have a positive effect on health including reducing stress, lowering risks from asthma, and creating opportunities to strengthen muscles and healthy lives.

Perhaps the most significant benefit of preserving the natural and agricultural landscapes surrounding and within our cities, towns and villages is that it supports our community by providing, quite literally, "common ground" — a shared

continuity of experience with the land that extends across generations.

We thank our partners in preservation and extend a warm welcome to our first-time donors. We are also grateful to the families and individuals who have provided steady support for D&R Greenway's work through the years—see page 4 for acknowledgment of our Steadfast Stewards.

To request a correction to this donor list, please call D&R Greenway at 609-924-4646.

Donations Received January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Stefan and Laura Ochalski

+ Denotes first time donor

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Contact D&R Greenway to get your own free buff! Wear it as a hat or around your neck to keep warm while biking, hiking or skiing. This buff traveled to Yellowstone National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway thanks to Vicky Kent of TravelStorys.

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At our April "Trails to Table" gathering, over 100 guests walked in Joseph Bonaparte's footprints on his Point Breeze estate where they viewed the priceless Peter Tucci collection of Bonaparte artifacts.

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Continued from page 13

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(l-r) Wendy Kvalheim, Christopher DeGrezia, Esq. as "Father Time," Linda Mead, Patrick McDonnell, and James and Jess Fiorentino having fun at the 2019 Masquerade Ball. (photo: Carl Geisler)

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the quality of life for their families and employees and future generations. In return, D&R Greenway provides visibility for this select group of businesses and corporations as encouragement for our supporters to patronize them.

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(l-r) Community Conservation Fellow Nadeem Demian with eager volunteers from The Center for Faith Justice's ServiceworX program, who worked to clear the path for new explorers on the Charles Evans Children's Discovery Trail.

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Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day with D&R Greenway Events

Events are free to attend unless otherwise indicated. RSVP required as indicated. For gallery hours and to RSVP: rsvp@drgreenway.org or call (609) 924-4646



Grey Rocks along the Delaware River in Morrisville, Bucks County, PA will be among the geologic wonders you will hear about on May 28.

ANNOUNCING

Stories of Preservation and TravelStorys Tours

Healing Trails: Greenway Meadows

Children and Nature: St. Michaels Farm Preserve

Paddling and Walking: Abbott Marshlands (in English and Spanish)

Now available on our newly enhanced website: drgreenway.org



Spring 2020



Native Plant Sales at the Johnson Education Center

Friday, May 15, 3–6 p.m. Saturday, May 16, 9–12 noon

Shop an expanded selection of pollinator-friendly natives.

Lectures

Roadside Geology of the Delaware River Valley

Thurs., May 28. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Lecture 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. RSVP

Co-Sponsor: Delaware River Greenway Partnership as part of their Delaware River Heritage lecture series

Location: The Riverside Ballroom, Lambertville Station (ADA Accessible) Speaker: David P. Harper, author, Roadside Geology of New Jersey Fee: \$10.00 donation includes geology field guide, light refreshments and parking More information: drgreenway.org

Gather overlooking the sunset on the Delaware River to learn how geology and time shaped our landscape. This popular talk will include fascinating features including the Falls of the Delaware at Trenton, Grey Rocks, Scudders Falls, Spring Lake and the Delaware & Raritan Canal. The speaker has spent over 40 years immersed in New Jersey geology, and his book, Roadside Geology of New Jersey, is among the most popular of the State guides. You will learn how the Delaware River has changed over the past 70 million years.

Art Exhibits

Trail of Breadcrumbs: Nature and Fairytales

March 16 – April 24 Opening Reception: Friday, March 20 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. RSVP

Walk in the footsteps of nature in fairytales and mystical forests. Discover extinct and disappearing species. Learn how caring for nature ensures our own survival.

Walks with Friends

Seeing the Sourlands

Sunday, May 3, 9:30 a.m. RSVP Co-sponsor: Sourland Conservancy Leader: Jim Amon

Meet at Mountain Road parking lot at the Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve

Climb Every Mountain Woosamonsa Ridge Preserve

Saturday, June 6, 9:00 a.m. RSVP Leaders: Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and D&R Greenway

Flowers and Fireflies: Sunset Walk

Greenway Meadows

Thursday, July 16, 6:30 p.m. RSVP Leader: Juanita Hummuel

Decoys: Carvers by the Pair

Prize-winning decoys compare and contrast the art of world-class carvers.

Art exhibit coming in May

Mother Nature: Women and Conservation

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote with stories of heroic women who have forged paths in conservation, near and far.

Poetry

The Natural Art of Poetry

Tues., March 31. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Workshop, 7 – 8:00 p.m. RSVP

In this writing workshop, led by poet Maxine Susman, we will celebrate Spring with original poems inspired by the artwork on D&R Greenway's gallery walls. All levels welcome.

A Spring Poetry Workshop

Wed., April 22. Doors open 11:30 a.m. Workshop, 12 noon – 2:00 p.m. RSVP Join poet & teacher Lois Marie Harrod

Join poet & teacher Lois Marie Harrod to read and write poems celebrating Earth Day — inside and outside the Johnson Education Center. Everyone welcome. No experience necessary. Brown bag lunch.





One Preservation Place Princeton, New Jersey 08540 Tel (609) 924-4646, Fax (609) 924-5577 www.drgreenway.org

D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.

D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc., is a regional, 501(c)(3) nonprofit land conservancy dedicated to preserving and caring for land, and inspiring a conservation ethic.

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** Greenway Gala ** Saturday, May 9, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Meredith's Garden for Inspiration ~ Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Place, Princeton



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ANNOUNCING

The 2020 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award

CO-AWARDEES

Phyllis Marchand & John Rassweiler, Ph.D.

Community Conservation Award

The Family & Friends of Michael "Iron Mike" Snyder

Tickets: \$100 pp. supports our mission to preserve and care for land. A special rate of \$50 pp. is available for our next generation of supporters, those born during or after our founding year of 1989.

Call 609-924-4646, or visit drgreenway.org for information.