

GREENWAYS

Newsletter of
D&R Greenway Land Trust
Volume 29, Number 2
Winter 2020

Land Preservation Update

Since 1989, D&R Greenway has permanently preserved 313 properties, 21,126 acres, almost as large as Theodore Roosevelt Lake, the largest body of water contained entirely within Arizona (21,490 acres).

Connecting ~ People ~ Wildlife ~ Community ~ Land

“Fit for a King”—Point Breeze Preserved

Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte’s Estate in Bordentown

A majestic New Jersey landscape and Delaware River overlook—fit for a King—will be permanently preserved in the City of Bordentown by year-end. This revolutionary acquisition secures forever protection of the City’s last unprotected large landscape, on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the Crosswicks Creek with the Delaware River. In the 1800s, Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon’s older brother and the former King of Spain and of Naples, lived on a palatial estate on the property, known as Point Breeze, for seventeen years. The former king owned the largest library in the United States, as well as an unparalleled collection of European art, and created one of the finest picturesque gardens in America. The property, sixty acres on Park Street, is at Bordentown City’s gateway. It has been under the ownership of Divine Word Missionaries since 1941.

This impactful preservation is a

dynamic cooperative partnership among the City of Bordentown, D&R Greenway Land Trust and the State of New Jersey, all of whom are providing funding. The property’s sixty acres will remain as open space, with walking trails and outdoor and indoor recreation opportunities. Existing buildings will be repurposed for the City’s municipal use.

Announcing the preservation at a public meeting in October, the Mayor of Bordentown City James Lynch, said this is the most important action to take place in Bordentown: “This day is among the most important in the City’s history. On behalf of the residents of Bordentown City and our governing body, we are grateful to for our partners D&R Greenway and the State of New Jersey for making this vision a reality. Our future is bright and secure, and protected with our rich history.”

The Gardener’s House, the only remaining structure on the site from the time of Bonaparte, will be managed



Inside

- Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of St. Michaels Farm Preserve
- Characters and floats at our first Masquerade Parade
- A century of family history preserved forever

by D&R Greenway, with support for docent-led tours from the Bordentown Historical Society. The collective vision is to open the Gardener’s House, and restore the gardens, providing an educational opportunity to learn about the property’s history that goes back to Native Americans. Interpretive exhibits on Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte’s era through Divine Word’s stewardship

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Painting by Thomas Birch, 1779–1851, View of Point Breeze at Bordentown, NJ, the Country Estate of Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte

Bordentown

Continued from page 1

of the land will include displays of artifacts from a private collection. The connection to the Delaware River, and the location as a gateway to the community of Bordentown, will bring people to this site of great national, even international, significance.

The State of New Jersey owns the land on the bluffs surrounding the newly preserved 60 acres of land. Working remotely during the pandemic, Terry Caruso and Fawn McGee of the NJ Green Acres Program spent countless hours with City and D&R Greenway staff to ensure this historic property would be permanently preserved.

Across Park Street from the Point Breeze land is the site of the former Ocean Spray plant, which will be converted into 296 loft-style apartments and mixed-use commercial space called Cranberry Park, with bicycle and walking access to the downtown.

Peter Tucci, a member of the Board of Trustees of both the Bordentown Historical Society and D&R Greenway Land Trust, will exhibit his premier collection of Joseph Bonaparte artifacts to educate visitors and students of history. Tucci, who played an important role in facilitating this transaction, explains, "My collection includes furniture, gold and silver

coins, letters, maps, books, and art having to do with Joseph and his brother Napoleon. I can't think of a better place to exhibit these treasures than at the preserved Point Breeze, where all who are interested can learn what life was like in a small town for an exiled King."

According to historian Patricia Tyson Stroud, the Bordentown years were the happiest of Joseph Bonaparte's long life. Throughout the Point Breeze years, Joseph hosted politicians, diplomats, artists, famous authors and naturalists at his Point Breeze estate. Highly respected in many fields, "everyone from former President John Quincy Adams to the Marquis de Lafayette to Mexican revolutionaries visited Joseph Bonaparte and solicited his counsel."

"Few people know that John James Audubon, the great bird illustrator who raised awareness about conservation through his drawings, created sketches of birds here as a young man," says Linda Mead of D&R Greenway. "Audubon was friendly with Joseph Bonaparte's nephew, Charles Lucien Bonaparte, a naturalist." Charles Lucien would earn the title of "father of American descriptive ornithology," due to species he discovered at Point Breeze and named in learned papers.

The homes of Joseph and Charles Lucien no longer stand. Tunnels do exist, leading from Crosswicks Creek up to the former dwelling area.



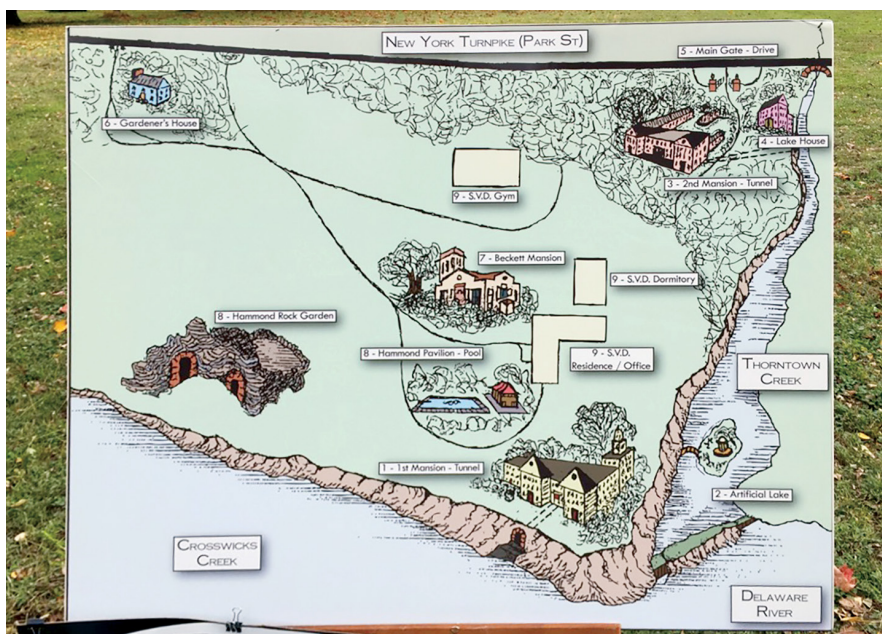
The gardener's house is the only remaining historic structure on the Point Breeze estate.

These tunnels connect the property to the Delaware River, and the expansive Abbott Marshlands and the Abbott Farm National Historic Landmark.

Richard Veit, Ph.D., of Monmouth University, has conducted significant archeological excavations on the site. In the *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, Veit reveals that "Joseph Bonaparte's Point Breeze estate was one of the finest country houses in the Delaware Valley. ... Although only traces of the original Point Breeze mansions in Bordentown, New Jersey, remain, extensive archaeological deposits survive to reveal their grandeur during Bonaparte's American sojourn (1815–1839)."

Divine Word Missionaries purchased the property in 1941, acting as its steward for almost 80 years. They have used the property for education and mission activities and as a retirement home for priests. Father Jefferson Pool oversees the Mission's work and care of the property. As resident numbers declined, it became apparent that the land would have to be sold and the Mission moved off the site. Father Pool entered into exploratory discussions with D&R Greenway and partners, The State of New Jersey and The City of Bordentown, all of whom wanted to see this property preserved.

The site's permanent preservation is a testament to the resident priests' interactions with the community for many years and their care and love for this land, along with the commitment of the preservation partners to ensure this national treasure remain for the benefit of future generations. 🌿



Illustrated map showing the historic features of Point Breeze

Family Honors Father by Preserving Land that Expands Plum Brook Preserve

What is behind the decision to preserve land? For Patty Cisek Kulita, who represented her mother and siblings, it was a deep love for her father and memories of the enjoyment he found on his 58 wooded acres in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County.

Speaking of the family's decision to preserve this land, Patty says, "... this is exactly what Dad would have wanted. He loved nature. I am sure he is smiling down. Dad is happy, Mom is happy and we are all happy that these acres of our homeland will never be developed."

The Cisek land expands D&R Greenway's Plum Brook Preserve to 311 acres. Near Stockton, this natural haven includes five permanently preserved neighboring parcels, including the Beagle Club.

Plum Brook's recent expansion was achieved through the generosity of the Joseph Cisek family. His widow, Joan, fulfilled the family mission of permanent protection of their bucolic land by selling the property to D&R Greenway and gifting "a partial donation of value," says Linda Mead of D&R Greenway.

Agriculturally, the Cisek property dates to the late 1700's. Farm fields and pastures stretched to its boundaries into the early 1900's when farming ceased, allowing natural succession to woodland. Foresighted, Joseph Cisek, following his purchase of the land in 1951, worked with state and local foresters to ensure the healthiest woodland management. Today, historic remnants of stone walls that separated pastures can be found among the stands of shagbark hickories and walnut trees in the forest.

Danielle Dobisch, D&R Greenway's Director of Land Preservation, worked closely with Patty Cisek Kulita. "Walking the Cisek land brings you back in time," Danielle explains. "There are stone house ruins, probably from the 1800's. A strong sense of true Garden State history is apparent in stonewalls built by generations past."

A bequest from Gene Gladston enabled closing while waiting for public funds. His legacy lives on in the three properties preserved in 2020 with his gift.

—Linda Mead



Pileated woodpecker (photo: Brenda Jones)



Gene Gladston (photo: Wendy Claflin)



An old rock wall and shagbark hickory trees take visitors back in time.

The property's wooded habitat, particularly its old-growth sections, supports crucial birdlife, including species identified by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection as 'Species and Communities of Management Concern' within the Garden State. Among the property's significant birds are hairy woodpecker, pileated woodpecker and red-bellied woodpecker. Carolina wren, tufted titmouse, and white-breasted nuthatch thrive here. Its healthy woodlands include deciduous upland and wetland forest with red, white and pin oak, eastern red cedar, tulip poplar, red maple, American beech and the distinctive shagbark hickory. Shrubs include viburnum, hop-hornbeam and ironwood.

This successful acquisition involves the partnership of significant regional
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Plum Brook

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partners. The preservation purchase was accomplished through Delaware Township with support from NJ Green Acres funds, and with support from a Hunterdon County nonprofit grant. Township Mayor Charlie Herman declares, "The Delaware Township Committee is very excited about this latest addition to the Plum Brook Preserve. We appreciate the collaborative efforts of everyone involved, including the Cisek Family and D&R Greenway Land Trust. Partnerships like these are essential in preserving our valuable open spaces. The Township Committee is committed to the conservation and maintenance of the beautiful rural character of Delaware Township so that all residents and visitors can enjoy the beauty of this community for generations to come."

D&R Greenway recently benefited from a land-preservation bequest from former trustee Gene Gladston, who lived in Bucks County, Pennsylvania with his wife Wendy. This 23-year supporter and dedicated birder passed away in February of 2020. A portion of his timely bequest enabled this 58-acre crucial addition to be finalized on June 30, 2020, a fitting culmination to New Jersey Open Space Month.

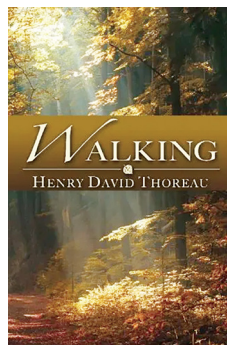
Linda Mead, recognizing the visionary legacy, says, "Our good friend Gene Gladston believed that the most important freedom we can exercise is to preserve the only planet we inhabit. A birder and artist, happiest with binoculars or a paintbrush in his hand, Gene would appreciate the beauty and ecological significance of this land he helped preserve."

Patty Cisek Kulita talks of her parent's love of the land, "You can't help but be in awe of nature when you look around and see the big open sky and the variety of trees, plants, birds and animals. The property has always brought a sense of peace. The family thanks D&R Greenway for promising to uphold the tradition to respect and protect the land that meant so much to Dad. It will continue to be a beautiful place with many more people creating their own happy memories." 🌿

Notes from the Woods

Toni Robbi, Author
From East Amwell VIP News

The better part of a year into the covid pandemic, we are adapting somehow to living alone or in small groups. Perhaps not happily, but coping somehow until a vaccine helps us back to the good old days. Living isolated reminds me of hermit stories, Jack London novels, *Swiss Family Robinson*, and Henry David Thoreau's two-year sojourn on Walden Pond in the mid-nineteenth century. These memories were triggered by the apt Thoreau quotation recently sent out by D&R Greenway in their weekly email, from Thoreau's *Reflections on Walking*,



"Walking" by Henry David Thoreau

"My vicinity affords many good walks; and though for so many years I have walked almost every day, and sometimes for several days together, I have not yet exhausted them. An absolutely new prospect

is a great happiness and I can still get this any afternoon. Two or three hours' walking will carry me to as strange a country as I expect ever to see."

Walden Pond, in Thoreau's famous hometown of Concord, MA, was the site of a one-room cabin he built for himself. Imagine building a cabin in the woods near Amwell Lake and cultivating a garden to provide most of your victuals. Unlike Amwell Lake, the Pond is a natural kettle hole left behind in the last ice age, perhaps 100 feet deep. So Thoreau ate fish, and the produce he raised on a substantial vegetable plot he created. He shared the Pond with local fisherman, who provided some social contact. But there was no electricity, phone or screens of any sort to distract. He was within 2 miles of Concord village, so he sometimes walked there for provisions and some limited human interaction, much like our behavior in the pandemic.

The last word in the Thoreau quote above is important. He is quoted as observing, "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see." So when cabin fever overtakes you, and you go for a walk in the woods or meadows around here, try to see something new each time, whether it's a little clump of late-blooming asters, the red leaves of dogwood shrubs, a little flock of robins, a toad jumping aside, whatever.

You don't have to be a naturalist to see interesting things. If you see something odd you can use an app, called iNaturalist,



Black-capped Chickadee
(*Parus atricapilla*)
Heather Lovett

on your phone/camera, to help identify curiosities. It's excellent for flora and insects that hold still long enough. For birds there are many choices, including Merlin Bird ID from Cornell for visual clues and BirdGenie for song.

We set out our squirrel-proof sunflower seed feeder a couple of weeks ago and the first visitor I noticed was a white-breasted nuthatch. The feeder hangs outside a kitchen window, so we look at it fairly often. Not long after the nuthatch visit we observed titmice and chickadees, and an odd solitary bird that looked to us like a large sparrow. It sort of made the feeder its home, perched there for minutes at a time. Eventually, with the help of Juanita Hummel, we identified it as a female purple finch, the only finch we have noticed so far. It has since disappeared, and still, unusually here, no finches at all. Looking at a feeder can be interesting, but it's what you see that counts. 🌿

Toni and Glorianne Robbi are long-time D&R Greenway supporters and volunteers. They have helped preserve township lands, build trails and enhance habitat. Juanita Hummel provides bird data to D&R Greenway to inform land stewardship.

10th Anniversary of St. Michaels Farm Preserve

Proves Power of Land to Create Community

Once upon a time, a large, brick Victorian orphanage presided over four hundred acres of expansive farm fields and richly forested land. From 1896 until 1973, children lived at and attended classes in St. Michael's Orphanage and Industrial School in Hopewell, NJ. After the orphanage closed, the land laid in wait of its fate.

In fall of 2005, D&R Greenway President and CEO Linda Mead received a call from the attorney for the Diocese of Trenton. "He told me that D&R Greenway would have the last chance to preserve this land; otherwise, it would be developed." A special overlay zone allowed for 1,050 houses and a 30,000 square foot shopping center to be built on the land. The Diocese, who had owned the land since the 1880s when it was purchased for the orphanage, offered to sell it to D&R Greenway for \$11 million dollars.

Rising to the challenge, D&R Greenway negotiated the acquisition and went about the business of raising public funds. With \$8 Million secured from the State farmland and Green Acres programs, Mercer County and Hopewell Township and Borough,

\$3 Million was still needed to meet the goal. Through extensive grassroots fundraising events and the generosity of individual gifts, the challenge was met by the deadline of March 15, 2007. It took another three years to complete all the technical work to bring the preservation to fruition. Finally, in January 2010, the land was saved. Over the past decade, D&R Greenway has invested another million dollars in caring for the land and making improvements that include trails, parking lots, signage, a working barn and a sturdy bridge that carries the farm tractor and pedestrians across the Bedens Brook.

The importance of D&R Greenway's role in our community is even more prevalent today. At this time, as nature affords us the getaway we all long for, the preservation of our most valuable natural resources has an even greater impact upon us all. One thing we can't do is make more land.

— Jim Baxter, Baxter Construction, Business Partner in Preservation



(l-r) Linda Knights, Betty Wold Johnson and Liza Morehouse at the dedication of David Knights Memorial Bridge at St. Michaels Farm Preserve. (photo: Tasha O'Neill)

In the ten years since the land was preserved forever, St. Michaels Farm Preserve has become a community treasure.

The very process of joining together to save this land created strong community ties. The first action

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Linda Mead, President & CEO of D&R Greenway and David Knights (center, behind photo poster) with partners and community leaders celebrating the preservation of St. Michaels Farm Preserve in 2010.

St. Michaels

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that D&R Greenway took upon preserving the land was to create the Charles Evans Overlook with sweeping views of the landscape. An open space celebration that first June, in 2010, included a community run, a plein air painting exhibit, farm animals and music by the Hopewell Chorus. When the dilapidated barn was razed and a new barn with historic beams was constructed, an old-fashioned barn-raising celebration brought out hundreds of members of the community. Dedication of a new bridge, named in memory of former borough council member David Knights, included a ribbon-cutting and community walk.



Enjoying the sunshine while learning gardening skills



(photo: Tasha O'Neill)



A community gathered to celebrate and officially open the Preserve in June 2010.



Finding joy in a bountiful harvest



All of our groups have had to reimagine ourselves and we miss being together. It is good to hear about Marchand Meadows and to see things moving forward.

— Garden Club of Princeton

Since that time, purple martin and bluebird houses, a TravelStorys audio tour and the newly seeded Marchand Meadow in the footprint of the orphanage location provide greater opportunity to experience the landscape and its significance.

Every day, walkers can be seen—with dogs, bikes and strollers—enjoying the six miles of trails that follow old farm roads and extend into the woodlands. Sunny days find parking areas full, even as community residents respect each other's social distancing needs by wearing masks and providing a wide berth. Friends and families walk together. Birders raise binoculars to watch a pair of harriers flying over the field and to watch the return of grassland birds. Artists set up easels, and poets create prose inspired by this land.

Expansiveness and peace are the Preserve's natural gifts to its countless visitors in all seasons.

Summer 2020 proved the perfect time to address food security and create a place to grow community connections with new 'Victory Gardens' established in the 8-acre fenced field above the red barn. Thirty-two plots were plowed with 10-foot-wide rows in between for social distancing. A source of healthy, local food and welcome fellowship, seven Victory Garden plots were set aside for charity. Led by Corinne Egner and supported



A box full of healthy vegetables delivered to Aunt Chubby's for families in need



The weathervane on the rebuilt historic barn commemorates the children who once lived in the orphanage.



A group of gardeners safely collecting vegetables from the seven charity plots



An end-of-season socially-distanced get together for gardeners in celebration of a successful harvest

by a dozen of the gardeners, boxes of tomatoes, squash, lettuce, sweet and white potatoes and other fresh vegetables were delivered three times a week during the height of the season to Aunt Chubby's Luncheonette in Hopewell. This fresh produce was used in box lunches and to provide bags of groceries to families in need.

Yet another new activity in this 10th anniversary year was the offering of yoga classes on the St. Michaels land by Fyrefly Yoga. Long views of sunsets added to the spiritual nature of the yoga classes.

On Halloween, D&R Greenway provided an alternative to trick-or-treating with a drive-through parade

through the farmland. Surrounded by peak foliage, ten 'floats' were presented by organizations who gave meaning to the theme, "I Love LAND because...." Victory Gardeners created a scarecrow garden and 170 carloads of families and individuals, young and older, enjoyed a sense of belonging, community and fun as they experienced the parade.

Earlier this year, before the pandemic began, Josephine Allen told how she rediscovered St. Michaels thanks to the preserve, and she shared her personal story with a packed house at D&R Greenway's Johnson Education Center. The youngest orphan at St. Michaels before the orphanage closed its doors, nature was a life-saver for her. As Cheryl Makin's article in the *Bridgewater Courier News* attests, "Life has left Josephine 'Jo' Allen with many battle scars, but she found healing in the land which once held turmoil for her." The audience laughed, cried and went away with a story they'll not soon forget. 'Jo' is now a volunteer at D&R Greenway who is happy to tell everyone about the benefits of preserved land.

St. Michaels Farm Preserve has become a community resource, cared for and increasingly expanded over its first decade, thanks to D&R Greenway and its generous donors. Day-to-day management of the preserve and the Victory Gardens benefits from the passion that Bill Flemer brings to his job as preserve manager. D&R Greenway's stewardship team, under the leadership of Tina Notas, ensures informative signage, attractive entrances and habitat improvements. It takes a village—of staff, volunteers, and donors—to ensure that this land remains a welcoming place for the many people that love it.

Visitors are reminded to make use of the TravelStorys audio tour that, once downloaded to a smartphone, is automatically triggered upon passing points of interest on the preserve. Stories tell of the orphanage and its shrine, the natural features of the preserved land, and the people and community who ensured this land would be here for all generations. 🌿

Masquerade Parade at St. Michaels Farm Preserve

Halloween 2020

Over 170 carloads of families and D&R Greenway friends drove through the preserve with (socially-distanced) parade-goers treated to an array of colorful floats set against the beautiful backdrop of this signature preserve.



Suffragettes Linda Mead and Florence Wharton celebrate the 100th Anniversary of women's right to vote. (photo: Philip S. Getty)



"We Love Land – Especially the Abbott Marshlands" (photo: Tasha O'Neill)



Welcoming signs at Victory Gardens (photo: Kelly Sullivan)



Garden State Watercolor Society's banner explains how land and its creatures inspires their artists (photo: Tasha O'Neill)



Masquerade Parade Art by Patrick McDonnell (creator of the nationally syndicated daily comic strip MUTTS) was prominently displayed at the event entrance.



Goody bags for all!



Baha'i Virtues Class float celebrates diversity (photo: Kelly Sullivan)



Dressed for the occasion with a mask and goody bag (photo: David Anderson)



Garden Club of Princeton's display showcases a vintage El Camino overflowing with flowers (photo: Tasha O'Neill)



Bill Flemer and Friends filled the air with live music on D&R Greenway's float.
(photo: David Anderson)



Princeton University Concerts Phantom of the Opera (photo: Mary M. Michaels)



Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund's colorful and cultural float
(photo: Kelly Sullivan)



Fyrefly and Glenmoore Farm's float came alive with stunning peacocks and butterflies.
(photo: Tasha O'Neill)



Master woodworker Bill Flemer's rendition of American Gothic at D&R Greenway's Masquerade Parade (photo: David Anderson)



Trenton Thunder's Boomer learned to walk like an Egyptian with King Tut and Cleopatra.



Victory Garden scarecrows kick up their heels! (photo: Mary M. Michaels)

D&R Greenway Recognized Nationally for Accessibility Model

Trails Provide Easy Access and Special Features Invite Meditation and Wellness

The national Land Trust Alliance chose D&R Greenway, from land trusts throughout the country, to feature in their *Saving Land* magazine article, “*Interpreting the Land: Helping More People Benefit from Conservation.*”

D&R Greenway’s use of TravelStorys audio tours, created for Greenway Meadows in Princeton, St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell, and the Abbott Marshlands nearby in Trenton, was showcased in the national magazine as a model for enabling broader access to nature.

Speaking about D&R Greenway, the author says, “When it comes to telling a preserve’s story, sometimes a sign isn’t enough. The story’s too complex, and many hikers would rather move than stand and read anyway. As one solution, the accredited D&R Greenway Land Trust in Princeton, New Jersey, turned to a device that hikers are rarely without: their smartphones.”

Designed to be used outdoors from a smartphone, the best aspect of these tours during today’s pandemic is that they can be enjoyed as ‘armchair tours’ from a home computer, with easy access on D&R Greenway’s website.

Inspirational stories telling how people have traversed life’s challenges are found in D&R Greenway’s ‘Healing Trails’ tour of Greenway Meadows park. Important advice especially appropriate during today’s challenging times has been downloaded by viewers from across the US. These stories highlight the power of nature to uplift and heal minds and bodies.

Greenway Meadows is accessible to people of all abilities, with a paved trail that traces the former driveway of what was once General Robert Wood Johnson’s estate. People with wheelchairs, walkers and canes, pushing baby strollers and on bicycles, regularly use this accessible trail. Visitors enjoy the peace found by picnicking in the gardens, enjoying outdoor sculptures and reflectively walking the meditative labyrinth.



Paved and unpaved trails can be seen from the top of the hill at Greenway Meadows, accommodating visitors of all abilities, bicyclists, and families with strollers. (photo: Olga Svibilsky)

During this year’s pandemic, D&R Greenway partnered with local groups that offered yoga, poetry and meditation, and Tai Chi classes on its preserved lands in Princeton and Hopewell. In total, D&R Greenway maintains 40 miles of trails on its preserves throughout central New Jersey.

Susanna DeRosa of Innerspace Taijiquan, a therapist who uses nature to promote wellness, led outdoor Tai Chi classes in front of the Johnson Education Center, surrounded by Greenway Meadows park, this summer and fall. She shares these thoughts that explain the positive impacts of walking in nature.

“The D&R Greenway locations provide safe, nourishing and beautiful surroundings for such adventures. Walking outside in fresh natural surroundings reduces anxiety, increases relaxation and instills an overall sense of well being. There is a measurable beneficial influence on blood pressure, oxygen intake, heart rate and secretions of feel-good hormones

I have a friend who has suffered a stroke, so is in a wheelchair. Thank you for making the trail at Greenway Meadows wheelchair-accessible.

— Trail walker

Thank you so much for writing to say that the Labyrinth is accessible. I will come by on the next sunny day, and walk the Meditation circle, as I pray for normality in our circumstances once again. Thank you for all you offer.

— Email subscriber

(specifically — serotonin, dopamine, and endorphins).

“Trail walking improves balance by activating the proprioceptors in the muscles, tendons and joints as they spontaneously adjust the body’s movement to the unevenness of the

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Bordentown Beach where Crosswicks Creek meets the Delaware River, looking toward the Thomas Paine Bridge. (photo: Susan Van Dongen Grigsby)

Celebrating the Delaware: 2020 American River of the Year

I literally grew up on this River, whether it was fishing or docking my first boat at Bordentown Yacht Club. The River had a huge impact upon my life. Losing my father at age 12 was not easy. The River became my outlet, with great family support. What was once a River with many challenges of neglect and pollution has blossomed into the Gem it once was. It's through D&R Greenway's efforts and many others that this award is well deserved and long overdue. THANK YOU.

—Mayor James Lynch, City of Bordentown

I find this project...very important to the Latino community because it welcomes our students' creativity, allowing them to forget the pandemic...The workshops made it possible for the FUTURO students to think and talk about what water means to them, and what it would mean to our community to be without it. The project opens a door to people who were only outside. Their voices can be heard..... Our FUTURO students are happy to be involved in this forever project.

—Tulia Jimenez-Vergara, Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund

My husband and I drive down just to sit and watch the water and light. We need its beauty and tranquility in these insane times.

—Susan Van Dongen Grigsby, Photographer



FUTURO high school students work on a project while enjoying the outdoors at the Johnson Education Center.



Mural at Bordentown Beach painted by local artist Marlon Davila for a project designed to bring together our diverse community and culture in celebration of the Delaware River, named the American River of the Year for 2020.

A Century of Family History Preserved in Land Legacy Gift on 100th Anniversary

One hundred years after her grandmother acquired a farm in East Amwell, Dr. Elizabeth Kloner gifted the remaining 13 acres to D&R Greenway Land Trust.

“Our property included the corner lot on the northwesterly side of Wertsville and Lindbergh Roads. Joseph Dranitsky had acquired it on June 6, 1918, transferring it to his sister, Anna Dranitsky Stein, my maternal grandmother, two years later, in 1920.” Dr. Kloner, who lives in New York City and spent her career teaching at the City University of New York (CUNY), describes this picturesque farm as having “played a very large role in my life. It was the place for the whole family to gather to savor rural life in East Amwell, which we knew as ‘Wertsville’.”

The farm was known for growing and selling grains and vegetables. In addition to living quarters on half of both floors, the farmhouse also contained a large general store, “Stein’s” named for Elizabeth Kloner’s grandparents, Louis and Anna Stein.



Artist rendering by Paul McConaughy of the original house, more recently known as Peacock's General Store

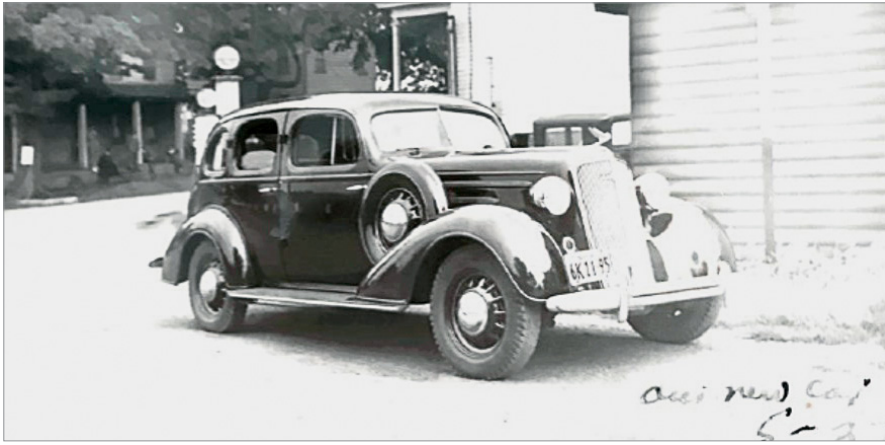


High-quality Category-1 stream on Stein-Kloner Preserve.

Its welcoming pot-bellied stove warmed local famers as they exchanged local news in cold seasons. There was a community lending library on the first floor. The second story dance hall was regularly used for community events and dances. This corner gathering place was a hub of activity.

During a virtual D&R Greenway Happy Hour celebrating preservation of this family land, Dr. Kloner shared stories of community and farm life from the Depression until 1966 when the farmhouse and store were sold. Speaking of significant changes with the advent of the automobile, she tells that, “An Esso gasoline pump was installed outside the store, the area’s first gasoline station. The front part of the general store evolved into an automobile parts emporium, where neighbors could buy fan belts, oil and automobile tires.”

Significant to the community, a small adjacent property held two homes, one of which was a one-room schoolhouse.



An Esso gas station stood on the corner of Lindbergh and Wertsville Roads, circa 1930's.



(r) Dr. Elizabeth Kloner and her mother stand in front of their farm, close to Buttonwood Farm named for its owner's history in button making. (Historic photos courtesy of Dr. Elizabeth Kloner)

I attended an outdoor auction in 1968 when the contents of the Stein store were displayed on the porch. Old bottles, patriotic posters and other memorabilia attracted a small crowd, including me holding my infant daughter. Thank you for this wonderful program. We are delighted to know the background of the 13-acre family land and the nearby "Buttonwood" property.

—Glorianne Robbi

If it hadn't been for D&R Greenway, I'd never have known about the preserves-it truly is a life changing experience.

—A Supporter

"My mother, Myrle Stein Tuby, graduated from that school, going on to graduate from Hopewell High School. My mother rode her horse four miles to Hopewell to take her piano lessons."

Among many stories about the farm that belonged to the Stein-Tuby family at the corner of Wertsville and Lindbergh roads, is one that involved "a brush with a notorious moment in history."

It was in March 1932 when the baby of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh was taken from his nursery, just 2 miles up the road from the farm. Law enforcement officers searched all barns and garages in the area for anything that might offer clues to finding the perpetrator of the crime. A report that the kidnapper's automobile bore out-of-state license plates led officials to the Stein family farm, where the barn held a car with New York State license plates. It belonged to Joseph Tuby, boyfriend and future husband of Myrtle Stein, daughter of Louis and Anna Stein.

Stored on blocks in the barn while he attended medical school in Baltimore, Joseph's studies provided both car and driver with an unassailable alibi.

In the 1960s, the farmhouse was sold to Paul and Wilda McConaughy, parents of Hopewell farm-to-table entrepreneur Jon McConaughy—owner with his wife Robin of Brick Farm Market and Tavern and DoubleBrook Farm. Jon was born here and lived in the house until he was 8 years old. Paul was an artist who used the former dance hall as an art studio, creating art of bucolic country life. Later, the farmhouse became Peacock's General Store. It was lost to fire in the 2000s.

Dr. Kloner remembers fondly the farm's barn and chicken coop. "When farming was discontinued, those structures were taken down. The entire parcel reverted to its undeveloped state. As the granddaughter of Anna and Louis Stein, I gradually acquired the other family members' ownership shares." She is particularly pleased now, that "Our pristine property adds to the preservation of rural New Jersey, protected under the enduring stewardship of D&R Greenway."

The 13 acres gifted to D&R Greenway provides important wooded habitat along a Category-1 stream, designated for its ecological value. Sloping from the ridge of the Sourland Mountain toward the Wertsville valley, birds that can be observed here include, among others, warbling vireo, Carolina wren, Baltimore oriole, white-throated sparrow, blue-gray gnatcatcher, American kestrel and Coopers hawk.

"In the future, we hope to install a bicycle rack for those who ride along the Wertsville Road popular biking route. Our stewardship team is enthusiastic about the opportunity for trails and an interpretive sign to share the rich history of the land," announces Linda Mead, President and CEO of D&R Greenway. "We are grateful to Dr. Elizabeth Kloner for preserving this important piece of history and ecology that tells a story about days gone by." Dr. Kloner shares, "I was so happy to come back and see that the rural, bucolic character of the area remains, thanks to the preservation work of D&R Greenway." 🌿



In appreciation of your keeping your sites open, I have just made my first donation to D&R Greenway. I live close to Greenway Meadows on Rosedale Road. Since the start of the pandemic shut-down, I have walked the Meadows every day. It's a huge benefit to me and to the others I see there (all of whom are keeping socially distanced!)

—New Donor

With all the beautiful and inspiring messages D&R Greenway has shared over the past few months, it's been impossible to feel really 'isolated.' So grateful for everything you all are doing, and glad to be able to contribute in a small way.

—Taplin Circle Friend

You are role models of how to turn an adverse environment into a positive outcome.

—Long-time Supporter

Happy Birthday, Margee Harper!

In honor of a special birthday, Margee's son Tom, daughter-in-law Carol and her grandchildren donated a sentinel tree—a native redbud with heart-shaped leaves—to grace the labyrinth and Edward T. Cone Grove. The commemorative plaque shares Margee's philosophy: "Bloom where you are planted!"

To make a donation for a special occasion and enhance our preserves with a special feature, contact Deb Kilmer at dkilmer@drgreenway.org or call 609-578-7470. 🌱



(l to r) Grandchildren Adam and Lily with Margee Harper and her son Tom and his wife Carol Harrington. Missing from photo is grandson Noah.

Accessibility Model

Continued from page 10

natural gradations of soil, vegetation, rocks and tree roots. As the body begins to feel more grounded and stable, a pleasant sense of security is gained. As the body becomes more balanced, so does the mind. Consequently the mind is freed of unconscious and conscious stresses which trigger adverse emotional states.

"Innate variations in natural terrains necessitate awareness of one's surroundings in order to prevent mishaps. Increased consciousness becomes essential. This is one of nature's tricks to awaken us!

"Soothing colors of nature nourish our vision and instill both serenity and intrigue. Blues and greens have a calming influence. Earthy tones of

browns, grays and muted colors are grounding. The warm tones of pinks and yellows subtly stimulate the heart and imagination.

"While outside in nature, the senses become heightened. Fragrances of flowers, fresh air and greenery stimulate deeper breathing and the consequential oxygenation cleanses the body, while purifying the blood stream. When walking along nature trails, the eyes naturally alternate between looking near and gazing into the distance, which functions spontaneously to improve one's vision. Sounds of nature awaken an innate musical appreciation and the breeze moving through the trees reveals Mother Earth's wind instrument. The songs of birds delight our exploration of space and sound while insects and frogs resonate like mantras, creating

a steady or rhythmic vibration to calm the mind, body and emotions. Air currents and temperatures magnify spatial delineations. As the senses become more fully engaged, effortless centering occurs.

"Perhaps the most beneficial aspect of nature hikes is the ease with which one embraces the present moment. Emotions and thoughts—and the knots they tie to each other—start to vanish. Instead, peace and freedom from thought take over. A sense of simply being is spontaneously enjoyed. The spirit delights. Nature's influences integrate and harmonize all parts of oneself."

Susanna T. DeRosa
Innerspace Taijiquan
TaiChiPrinceton.com

*Give a Unique Holiday Gift and
Celebrate the New Year!*

Wines for Preservation

*Labels Feature Stunning Landscapes
of Preserved Lands*

Three special wines—with colorful labels of popular D&R Greenway landscapes painted by renowned artist James Fiorentino—are ready for holiday gift-giving and New Year's celebrations.

"Bring the beauty of the outdoors in with these wines on your table!" invites Linda Mead, D&R Greenway President and CEO. "Through our partnership with Old York Cellars, you can enjoy a glass of our red, white or rosé wine—its label providing smiles as you reflect on your favorite places to walk. These wines make a unique, special gift that can be enjoyed in the moment and that will provide on-going memories as an artistic keepsake."

Old York Cellars in Flemington boasts twenty-five acres of preserved farmland and thirteen acres of rolling vineyards. Planted in 1979, these vines were the first to produce wine under the New Jersey Farm Act of 1981. David Wolin, owner of Old York Cellars, declares, "We are proud to support D&R Greenway with the sale of each of these special edition bottles."

St. Michaels Red, Sourlands White and Goat Hill Rosé are available for \$25 each, or in sets.



A handsome gift-boxed set includes all three of these special wines. Proceeds benefit D&R Greenway's land preservation mission. Delivery is available in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Purchases may be made at www.drgreenway.org.

2020 Tax Incentives Enhance the Opportunity to Support D&R Greenway's Mission

Our mission to preserve and care for land, keep our trails open, and inspire conservation among landowners and community, can only happen through the generosity of our donors.

The CARES Act makes supporting D&R Greenway Land Trust more advantageous to you in 2020. There is a new above-the-line deduction for all taxpayers for total charitable contributions of up to \$300.

The CARES Act also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions if you itemize, raising the cap from 60% of

adjusted gross income to 100%. This means that more of your charitable contributions are deductible this year than at any other time.

Other ways to benefit D&R Greenway and stretch the value of your giving:

Direct gifts from IRAs are not considered as contributing to your income.

Gifts of appreciated stock provide a tax deduction at their current value, without realizing the capital gain.

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors to our legacy work.



*American Holly
(Ilex opaca)
Heather Lovett*

I have been trying to be a lot more generous over the last couple of years, looking for good organizations whose work I appreciate. I selected you as one of them. What you do is local and such a benefit to me and to our community.

—New Donor



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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May You Find Peace in the Gift of Nature During this Holiday Season ❄️ ❄️

"Yesterday for the first time I went to the Cedar Ridge Preserve. The trails were well marked and the maps on posts were a great idea—it gave me confidence that I wasn't going to get lost. This preserve amazed me with its diversity, the woods, the meadow, the Stony Brook—the trails were laid out in such a way that it was one surprise after another. It was such a glorious day that when I got to my car I didn't want to leave."

During these tumultuous times, one's head is spinning in so many directions and it's hard at times to keep grounded. I'm so happy that the preserves are open to give us all a "time out" from life. I was so in the moment at the preserve and given the times we're in that's quite a miracle. I haven't been so happy in such a long time—this preserve was the Rx I needed."

—New Visitor



Eastern Screech Owl
(photo: Brenda Jones)