



## News Release

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**For Immediate Release:**

**New Jersey Secretary of State Regena Thomas,  
Delaware & Raritan Greenway and The Delaware River Sojourn  
Sponsor A VIP Canoe Trip on the  
Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh**

**Hamilton, NJ, June 12, 2004** – Today, Delaware & Raritan Greenway, central New Jersey’s regional land trust, the Delaware River Sojourn and the New Jersey Department of State’s “History along the Delaware Journey” converged for a special event in the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh that highlighted both the environmental and historic significance of this natural, cultural and historic treasure.

Protection and stewardship of the 1,250-acre Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown has been an active initiative of D&R Greenway for the past 12 years. A unique natural oasis in the midst of a densely developed region, its wetland and upland habitats include a freshwater tidal marsh and swamp, ponds, tidal rivers and channels, floodplains, and steep-sided bluffs. Because of its diversity of habitat, the Marsh supports more than 850 recorded species of plants, 28 species of butterflies, 60 species of fish, 19 species of amphibians and reptiles, 237 species of resident or migratory birds, and 17 species of mammals.

Before European contact, the Marsh was home to many Native Americans who were sustained by the rich and diverse tidal marshes of this area. Prehistoric archeological sites dating back over 10,500 years ago indicate the Native Americans camped, hunted, fished and eventually settled and farmed in and around the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh.

The event on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> began at Bordentown Beach at 8:30 AM. Participants boarded canoes and kayaks and followed the beautiful Crosswicks Creek into the Marsh. Professor Mary Leck and other local experts spoke about the area’s history and the native plants and wildlife viewed along the way. The paddlers reached Watson Woods, adjacent to Roebling Park in the heart of the Marsh about noon and enjoyed an authentic Lenni Lenape meal prepared by Susan M. Plaisted, proprietress of Heart to Hearth Cookery of Morrisville Pennsylvania.

Lunch was followed by the dedication of a plaque commemorating the Abbott Farm Historical District, designated a National Historic Landmark and the presentation of a Proclamation from the Secretary of State of New Jersey honoring D&R Greenway on the occasion of their 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. After the program, participants reboarded their craft for the return trip to Bordentown Beach.

Public officials who planned on joining the trip included: Regena Thomas, NJ Secretary of State; Brian Hughes, Mercer County Executive; John Collom, III, Mayor, Bordentown City, Bill Bolger, Landmarks Coordinator, National Park Service and Jay Watson, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

### **About Delaware & Raritan Greenway**

Celebrating 15 years of land preservation success, Delaware & Raritan Greenway is central New Jersey's regional land trust. Their mission is to safeguard the water quality, environment and livability of our area by permanently preserving its watershed lands and large-scale landscapes. Since 1989 D&R Greenway has preserved 7,090 acres of land valued at \$133.1 million.

In 2005, D&R Greenway plans to open *The Greenway Center*, a focal point for land preservation in New Jersey. *The Greenway Center* will offer programs and resources to engage and strengthen the capacity of municipalities, grassroots organizations and other groups to protect and effectively manage land. D&R Greenway's staff will provide hands-on education, technical assistance and direct action to assist their preservation partners in achieving their goals. *The Greenway Center* will also provide a home for D&R Greenway.

For the second year in a row Charity Navigator, America's premier evaluator of independent charities, has awarded D&R Greenway four stars – their highest rating – for excellence in the area of strong fiscal management

For more information please contact Jo-Ann Munoz at D&R Greenway at 609-924-4646 or [jmunoz@delrargreenway.org](mailto:jmunoz@delrargreenway.org).