

# GREENWAYS

Newsletter of  
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.  
Volume 16, Number 1  
Fall 2008

## 1,900 Acres of Farmland — Preserved!

A timely phone call from D&R Greenway supporter Elizabeth Stetson to long-time family friend Jack Seabrook set the stage for one of D&R Greenway's most significant preservation projects ever—the permanent protection of Seabrook Farms in Mannington Township, Salem County, New Jersey. The agreement was announced during a press conference at Seabrook Farms on November 12, 2008.

D&R Greenway served as an advisor to the Seabrook family during the process and helped structure a preservation solution through a cooperative effort among four public entities: the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program, Salem County and Mannington Township. As a result, the SADC will purchase the development rights on approximately 1,770 acres of farmland and the DEP Green Acres

Program will purchase outright another 120 acres that will be managed by the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Both Salem County and Mannington Township contributed funding to the project.

According to New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus, "This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve such a sizable portion of South Jersey's agricultural land base. We are thrilled this land will remain productive for future generations of farmers and for all New Jerseyans who will be able to continue to enjoy the fruits of their labors."

The land is owned by the Salem Farms Corporation, formed in the 1940s by Jack Seabrook. By the 1950s, Mr. Seabrook and his brothers managed the world's largest farming and freezing operation. At the time, the Stetson family lived in the area. Mrs. Stetson used to drive four-in-hand carriages over the  
*Continued on page 2*

## Land Preservation Update

Since our founding in 1989, D&R Greenway Land Trust has led the preservation of 206 properties encompassing 12,827 acres, valued at \$274,060,041. This is equivalent to 20.04 square miles, an area slightly larger than Princeton Borough and Township combined.

## Inside

- 200th Property Preserved!
- Historic Stony Brook stream corridor permanently protected
- Spotlight on stewardship – update on recent achievements
- *Thank you* to our individual and corporate donors from January 1 – November 15, 2008
- Celebrate D&R Greenway's 20th anniversary – 20 years of service to the land



*A view of Mannington Meadows from the Seabrook property in Mannington Township, Salem County. The agricultural land surrounding Mannington Meadows is some of the richest and most productive in New Jersey. According to Bill Rawlyk, D&R Greenway's director of land preservation, "The Seabrooks are real leaders. They stepped up and said, 'We're going to do something really important that will define this region.' And they did!"*

*Continued from page 1*

rolling farm fields, enjoying picnics in the countryside with the Seabrook family.

“When I heard that the family was planning on selling the land, I called Jack and told him he should talk to D&R Greenway about how to preserve it,” Mrs. Stetson recalled. “This land is beautiful and peaceful. It has incredibly good soil, plentiful water and a long growing season. It just *had* to be kept in active farming — and I told Jack that D&R Greenway could help him do just that.”

During the press conference, NJDEP Deputy Commissioner, John J. Watson, recognized D&R Greenway’s contribution to the Seabrook acquisition as well as the more than 150+ other properties that D&R Greenway has protected with the Green Acres Program, citing our ability to “make the connections and open



*D&R Greenway supporter and family friend of the Seabrooks, Elizabeth Stetson, is greeted by New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus at the press conference announcing the preservation of the Seabrook farmland.*

the doors” — building relationships with landowners and forming partnerships in order to achieve preservation goals.

### **A Region of Preservation Opportunity**

Part of the Seabrook lands overlook the 18,593-acre area known as Mannington Meadows, bounded by the Salem River and the Mannington Creek. Historically, the Meadows were diked by Dutch settlers who farmed salt hay and wild rice. A 1920s hurricane destroyed most of the impoundments, which were never rebuilt. The resulting land and waterscape, neither a lake nor a bay, is one of the top areas in the state of New Jersey for waterfowl diversity. Mannington Meadows provides critical habitat for breeding



*Seabrook farm field*

populations of imperiled species such as: bald eagle, pied-billed grebe, king rail, Caspian tern, sora and clapper rail. In fact, Mannington Meadows has been designated an Important Bird Area by New Jersey Audubon.

Most of the lands that comprise and surround Mannington Meadows are in private ownership. Situated in sight of the Delaware Memorial Bridge, with the city of Wilmington, Delaware only a 20 minute drive away, this open landscape invites development consideration.

D&R Greenway has been working closely with Mannington Township officials and the Mannington Preservation Citizens Committee to identify properties for preservation. We are in active negotiation on several farms and conservation properties. We are also collaborating closely with our partners, the NJDEP Green Acres Program, the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee and with New Jersey Audubon to identify funding sources and land management plans. As many of the landowners come from third or fourth

generation farming families, we are working toward preservation solutions that will keep the land in productive agriculture.

Linda Mead, D&R Greenway’s executive director commented, “We’re honored to have helped preserve this wonderful farmland for the benefit of future generations. If New Jersey is *The Garden State* then Mannington Township is *The Garden Spot* in *The Garden State*. We look forward to working with local officials, local residents and, most importantly, the landowners to achieve many more preservation successes.”

We owe a debt of gratitude to Elizabeth Stetson for opening this pathway to preservation by introducing D&R Greenway to the Seabrook family. We express our sincere thanks to the Seabrooks for their legacy decision of preservation over development. Through this action, the agrarian history and character of Mannington Township been preserved — forever. ♣



*Elizabeth Stetson is surrounded by (left to right) NJDEP Deputy Commissioner John S. Watson, Jr.; SADC Director Susan Craft; NJ Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus; D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Mead and Director of Land Preservation Bill Rawlyk.*



## Celebrating our 200th Property Preserved!

When are 20 acres of land not just 20 acres of land? When the 20 acres in question are the 200th property to be preserved by D&R Greenway! In December we will close on a beautiful expanse of open meadow and pasture, situated at the base of the Sourland Mountain in Hopewell. This property, owned by D&R Greenway Trustee Oye Olukotun and his wife, Judy, will add a loop of the Sourlands Foothills Trail, which extends from the St. Michael's property in Hopewell Township, through Hopewell Borough to the Sourlands. The new section will provide hikers with panoramic views of the Sourland Ridge and the Hopewell Valley.

The Olukotuns are selling these 20 acres to D&R Greenway at 50% of the fair market value. In 2004, they sold a conservation easement on their 22-acre homestead, Pear Tree Farm,

to D&R Greenway. A portion of the Sourlands Foothills Trail also crosses this property. According to Bill Rawlyk, D&R Greenway's director of land preservation, "Oye and Judy are remarkable stewards of their land and their generous actions benefit the entire Hopewell community."

Judy Olukotun commented, "The concept of putting trails on private land is similar to what the English do. It's a wonderful thing; otherwise, we would all be closed off from access to woodlands and grasslands. This way, everyone gets to enjoy the natural world."



*Landowner Judy Olukotun and D&R Greenway's Director of Land Preservation Bill Rawlyk take a walk across the Olukotun's field — now D&R Greenway's 200th preserved property!*

*D&R Greenway thanks Judy and Oye Olukotun for their farsighted support of land preservation and open space in their community. 🌿*

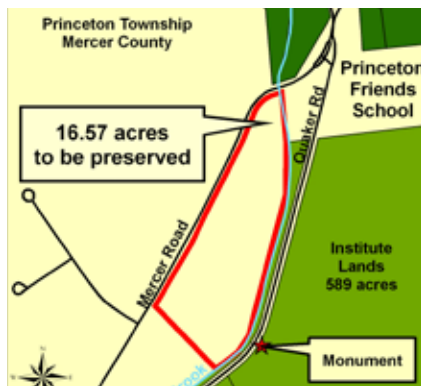
## Stony Brook Preservation Safeguards Princeton History

The night following the Second Battle of Trenton, General George Washington's army marched toward Princeton and stopped at the Stony Brook. Because the existing Quaker Bridge was not strong enough to support the army's cannon and ammunition carts, another bridge was hastily built. On January 3, 1777, Washington's army crossed the Stony Brook and defeated the British at the Battle of Princeton, a turning point in the Revolutionary War.

This historic location on the Stony Brook is identified by a stone pillar along Quaker Road, adjacent to the 589-acre Institute Lands, preserved by D&R Greenway and partners in 1997. The 16.5 acres immediately opposite this marker will be preserved by D&R



*This stone monument, located along Quaker Road on the Institute Lands, stands opposite the 16.5 acre property along the Stony Brook about to be preserved by D&R Greenway. It commemorates the route taken by General George Washington's army to the battle of Princeton.*



Greenway by the end of 2008, with the generous support of a private, local foundation.

In addition to preserving Princeton history, this property adds to the trail along the Stony Brook currently being developed by Princeton Township. In July, D&R Greenway preserved another property along the Stony Brook that provided a crucial link in Princeton's Stony Brook trail and allowed for the construction of a handicapped accessible footbridge over the water.

An important source of drinking

water for central New Jersey, the Stony Brook travels 30 miles from its headwaters in the Sourlands to the D&R Canal. The preservation of this property will buffer the stream and expand the *Stony Brook Greenway*, which extends from Princeton north through Hopewell, where it connects to the *Sourlands Greenway*. The first two conservation easements D&R Greenway acquired were in the *Stony Brook Greenway*. Protecting lands along and surrounding the Stony Brook was, and remains, a priority for us. 🌿



# Spotlight on Stewardship

*Preserving land is the first step; caring for it is an ongoing and permanent responsibility.*

Under the guidance of D&R Greenway's Director of Stewardship Jim Amon, our stewardship staff and a host of dedicated volunteers monitor and care for 94 D&R Greenway preserves and private properties protected by conservation easement. Stewardship activities include controlling invasive species and restoring native habitat as well as building and maintaining trails to provide people with safe and appropriate access to lands that public funds have helped preserve. Our work on these lands increases their conservation value and contributes to an overall healthier environment. Here are some highlights.

## Trail Development

Over 10 miles of trails have been created and maintained throughout our preserves—by clearing brush, removing invasive plants, building bridges and walkways and installing signs and markers. To find maps, directions and other information about trails in our area, please visit our website [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org) and click on *Find a Place to Walk*, or visit the New Jersey Trails Association website [www.njtrails.org](http://www.njtrails.org).



*Volunteers building bridges for a new trail. Pictured from left to right: Lynn Ebeling; D&R Greenway Trustee Ted Thomas; Remy Danahey; Tom Ebeling; Robin Schore; Stephen Highcock; D&R Greenway Trustee Alan Hershey and Bob Heil. This trail will pass through some of the most historic and scenic lands in our region, winding north from Mercer County's Howell Living History Farm up to the 400-acre United Water Property in Hunterdon County (preserved by D&R Greenway and partners in 2003) then heading west to Lambertville.*

D&R Greenway would like to thank Home Depot of West Windsor for donating the construction materials for building this and one other bridge.

## Native Plant Nursery

D&R Greenway Site Steward Jared Rosenbaum and volunteers Carol Critchlow and Bill Flemer conceived the vision for D&R Greenway's Native Plant Nursery. This unique undertaking was designed to provide high-quality plants for our preserves, for the conservation community and for homeowners. These plants are propagated from responsibly collected seed and cutting stock indigenous to central New Jersey and are well-adapted for its ecology. Native plants are easy to care for. They will attract and sustain birds, butterflies and other beneficial wildlife and will help create backyard landscapes of harmonious natural beauty.



*D&R Greenway Stewardship and Education Associate Mary Penney helps to prepare a slope of the Ted Stiles Preserve at Bald Pate Mountain for the installation of stone stairs.*

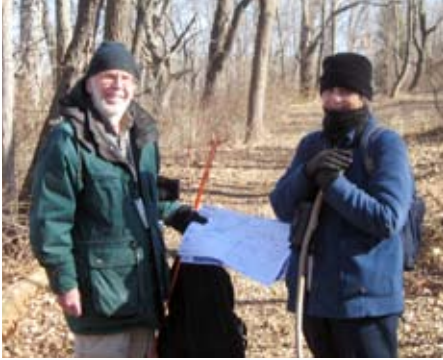


*D&R Greenway volunteer Carol Critchlow selling a native plant to supporter Penny Thomas during D&R Greenway's Agricultural Event held in October 2008. If you are interested in purchasing native plants, please call our office at 609-924-4646.*



## Volunteer Site Stewards

Neighbors who live nearby D&R Greenway preserves have made a commitment to help us care for them — from monitoring easements to removing trash. They, along with other volunteers, provide a tremendous service. We are very grateful for their commitment to the land.



*Jim Goodman and D&R Greenway Trustee Mary Leck monitoring one of the 94 preserves and conservation easements held by D&R Greenway. Each property is monitored at least once a year to ensure the terms of the preservation agreement are being followed.*

## Youth Volunteers

From the sixth grade science students at Princeton Day School to juniors at Stuart Country Day School, the trend has been for the youth of our community to get active—out on the land.



*High school juniors from Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Princeton volunteered to construct a trail through D&R Greenway's Drake's Corner Road Preserve in Princeton. They also cleared litter, removed invasive plants and planted native ferns on the property. Pictured front to back are: Beki Dripps, Christina Cuneo and Kathryn Rogers.*

*Sixth graders from Princeton Day School helping to care for D&R Greenway's Cedar Ridge Preserve in Hopewell.*



*Volunteer site stewards Ray and Barbara Hallows remove debris from D&R Greenway's Pyne Woods Preserve. These 33 acres in Lawrence Township were permanently protected in 2000.*

## Corporate Volunteers

Local businesses have organized work days to provide their employees with the opportunity to give back to the community while enjoying a day of camaraderie out on the land – a break from the daily office routine!



*Stewardship volunteers from Educational Testing Service spend a day on the land.*



## **Visit the Stewardship blog**

To learn more about how to manage natural lands, visit a newly-formed blog that local land stewards have recently started. It can be found at <http://stewardshiproundtable.org>.

If you would like to join our stewardship volunteers, please contact Jim Amon at 609-924- 4646 ext. 124 or [jamon@drgreenway.org](mailto:jamon@drgreenway.org).



## The Taplin Circle

Frank Taplin was a well-known and respected philanthropist who championed the cause of land preservation. His vision and leadership resulted in the permanent protection of two signature Princeton landscapes, the Institute Woods and Coventry Farm.

In 2004, D&R Greenway Land Trust honored Frank Taplin's memory and his wife Peg's continuing support of land preservation by creating the **Taplin Circle**, to recognize individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to support D&R Greenway's critical work. Members of the Taplin Circle clearly demonstrate that they share Frank's commitment to preserving the land, the historic character and the natural resources of central New Jersey. We would particularly like to acknowledge the

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

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

Please note that Taplin Circle members who have made a multi-year special project pledge are listed here at their most recent pledge payment level. Their total pledge amount is acknowledged on page 11.

We would like to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to the members of the Taplin Circle for their leadership in supporting the work of D&R Greenway Land Trust.

### Donations Received January 1, 2008 – November 15, 2008

- \* Denotes donor for the last 5 consecutive years
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*Celebrate Open Space 2008 – Lighting the Path to Preservation. Pictured left to right are: Carl Fritzing, uniformed as a sergeant in the 3rd Pa. Light Infantry; Celebrate Open Space Co-Chair Avril Moore; D&R Greenway Board Chair Rich Goldman and Executive Director Linda Mead; 2008 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award recipient Jim Shissias; Juliette Moore; NJDEP Green Acres Deputy Commissioner Jay Watson; Celebrate Open Space Co-Chair Diana Moore and D&R Greenway Land Steward Jared Rosenbaum dressed as colonial naturalist William Bartram. (photo: Richard Grant)*

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The trustees and staff of D&R Greenway Land Trust sincerely thank all our donors. Your investment in D&R Greenway Land Trust enables our mission to:

- Preserve and protect a permanent network of natural lands and open spaces, creating the conditions for a healthy and diverse environment to flourish.
- Provide the public with appropriate access to these areas, encouraging active lifestyles and a greater appreciation of the natural world.

- Inspire a conservation ethic promoting policies, educational programs and partnerships that result in a public commitment to land preservation and stewardship.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the families and individual partners who have supported D&R Greenway's work for five or more consecutive years. We are grateful for your unflinching generosity each and every day.

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Guests at Celebrate Open Space included (left to right): Christine Solomon; D&R Greenway Trustee Mark Solomon; Lucien Marchand; Princeton Township Mayor Phyllis Marchand and D&R Greenway Trustee Cate Litvack. D&R Greenway salutes Mayor Marchand, who retired in November 2008, as a champion of open space whose legacy will benefit future generations well beyond the Princeton community of today. (photo: Richard Grant)



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*David Allen Sibley, noted author and illustrator of The Sibley Guide to Birds, visited D&R Greenway in October 2008. Here he leads a group of D&R Greenway supporters on a walk through the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. Mr. Sibley is pointing towards the sky at right of picture. (photo: Wendy Gladston)*

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*In Memoriam – Stephen Rawlyk*

*People who help protect something are cast into history as participating in something much greater than themselves.*

On September 30, 2008 Stephen Rawlyk, father of D&R Greenway's Director of Land Preservation Bill Rawlyk, lost his battle with cancer. A second-generation farmer in Hunterdon County, Stephen was also a Township Committeeman and Mayor of Kingwood Township. As a young man, he loved flying his own airplane from the airstrip on the family farm.

Stephen realized a lifetime dream of caring for his family and his land when, in 2006, he sold most of his family farm to the state of New Jersey to establish a permanent nature preserve. Bill, working with his father and D&R Greenway Land Trust, designed a vision for managing the property to demonstrate to others how land can be restored to create a home for wildlife and birds, and a place of beauty for all.

*We at D&R Greenway extend our deepest sympathy to the Rawlyk family. Stephen was a champion of the land both publically and privately and he will be greatly missed.*



*Willing Hands Volunteers help host D&R Greenway's events and art openings at the Johnson Education Center. Pictured left to right are: Phyllis Suber, Valerie Meluskey, JoAnne Stransky and Cynthia Goble. If you would like to join the Willing Hands volunteers please call Carolynn Edelmann at 609-924-4646 ext. 131.*

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**Holiday Green-ings.** Representatives from Church & Dwight Co., Inc. present an \$8,000 grant from their Employee Giving Fund to D&R Greenway. This grant will support the expansion of the Sourlands Foothills Trail, which connects Hopewell Borough with the Sourlands. The new linkage will pass through the newly-preserved Olukotun property (see page 3 for related story). Pictured left to right are: Matt Wasserman, Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund; landowner Judy Olukotun; D&R Greenway Trustee Mary Lou Hartman and Executive Director Linda Mead; and Dave Worrell, Church & Dwight Associate General Counsel.



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We would like to thank our Business Partners in Preservation, who share the same concerns about protecting our local environment, water supply and wildlife habitat as D&R Greenway's individual supporters. Through their financial contributions sponsoring our work in communities including Princeton, Hopewell, Millstone, Lawrence, West Windsor, Bordentown, Hillsborough, Skillman and Montgomery, these local businesses and corporations clearly demonstrate their

appreciation for the natural lands and open spaces and the quality of life in our region.

We would particularly like to thank those businesses who have supported the work of D&R Greenway for five or more consecutive years.

D&R Greenway encourages our supporters to patronize these businesses in appreciation for the investment they, in turn, have made to the quality of life in our communities.

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## 20 Years of Service to the Land

Please join us as we mark a very special milestone. In 2009, D&R Greenway will commemorate our 20th anniversary with a year-long series of events entitled *Seasons of the Land*. Plans include:

- **Voices of Vision** – programs by leaders in environmental protection and conservation
- **Pathways to Preservation** – stories of the land told by landowners
- **Greenway Walks** – intimate, informal hikes through D&R Greenway preserves led by staff and trustees
- **A festive anniversary celebration**



*McBurney Woods, pictured here, was the first property acquired and preserved by D&R Greenway and the first transaction in New Jersey completed with a NJDEP Green Acres non-profit grant. Located in the heart of the Sourlands Greenway, these 180 acres have been added to over the past 18 years. To date, D&R Greenway has led the preservation of over 4,500 acres in the Sourlands, creating an oasis of biodiversity in a rising sea of development.*

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. Mahlon Lovett, *design*; Heather Lovett, *illustrations*. Printed on recycled paper



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www.drgreenway.org

### Join Us!

Plan a program... host a hike... we are looking to you to help make our 20th Anniversary celebration a huge success. If you would like to get involved, please call Barbara Simmons at 609-924-4646 ext. 130.

Four art exhibits, including a very special showcase of lands protected by D&R Greenway over the past 20 years, will be a focal point of the celebration.

Information about upcoming events will be posted on our website [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org) and will be available in our next issue of *Greenways* in March of 2009.

D&R Greenway would like to thank each and every one of our members for their constant support over the past 20 years. Thanks to all of you, since 1989, D&R Greenway has led the preservation of 12,827 acres — 20.04 sq. miles — an area larger than Princeton Borough and Township combined.

We look forward to celebrating with you! ♣

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