

# GREENWAYS

Newsletter of  
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc.  
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Summer 2005

## A Record Greenway Gala Benefits Land Preservation Mission

Over 260 partners in preservation spent a glorious early summer evening enjoying the *Greenway Gala*, D&R Greenway Land Trust's annual fundraising event. Hosted by Educational Testing Service at their Chauncey Conference Center, this year's theme was *Celebrate Greenways! Pathways connecting people to the natural world*. Guests were invited to "walk" through our area's Greenways as they toured an exhibition of D&R Greenway's preserved lands. Since 1989, D&R Greenway Land Trust has preserved 8,168 acres valued at \$167 million, representing 134 separate properties.

The 2005 *Greenway Gala* raised over \$137,000 in support of D&R Greenway's mission to establish an interconnected system of permanently protected natural lands called Greenways throughout central New Jersey. Greenways safeguard the water quality, biodiversity, and quality of life in our region.

The highlight of the *Greenway Gala* was the presentation of the Donald B. Jones Conservation Award. Donald B.

Jones was a determined preservationist who spent much of his time and resources saving the land and historic buildings that give our region its special character. D&R Greenway Land Trust established this annual award in 1995 to honor someone who has displayed selfless generosity in his or her commitment to conservation efforts.

The 2005 Award was presented to the Hartman family in honor of the late **Charles M. Hartman**, in recognition of his accomplishments as a leader of D&R Greenway Land Trust and his passion for the preservation of the natural world. In his remarks, current Board Chair Rich Goldman commented on Chuck's contributions, "Chuck set the stage for D&R Greenway's emergence as a leading land preservation organization in New Jersey. A member of our board of trustees for 10 years, Chuck served as chair from 2002–2004. Under his guidance as chairman, D&R Greenway preserved 3,382 acres of land and secured the funding to establish the *Johnson Education Center*."

According to D&R Greenway's



D&R Greenway Trustee Thomas Moore presents the Donald B. Jones Award to Mary Lou Hartman in honor of Charles M. Hartman. (Photo by Richard A. Grant)

### Land Preservation Update

As of July 31, 2005 D&R Greenway Land Trust has preserved 134 separate properties representing 8,168 acres of land valued at \$167 million.

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Executive Director Linda Mead, "The *Johnson Education Center* will be a unique resource for the community that will provide landowners, municipalities, grass roots organizations and our partners with tools and techniques they can use to preserve as much land as they can, as quickly as they can. It will also serve as D&R Greenway's home in Princeton." (See pages 8 and 9 to learn more.)

During the 2005 *Greenway Gala* a new named gift for the *Johnson Education Center* was announced. The **Charles M. Hartman Preservation Hall** was donated by D&R Greenway Trustee Tom Moore and his wife Avril in honor and memory of their dear friend. The **Charles M. Hartman Preservation Hall** will be the

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## Remembering Chuck Hartman

Many knew Chuck Hartman as a great friend of the environment and champion of the cause of land preservation in our region.

When I first met Chuck in 1997, I was impressed with his understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing a nonprofit land preservation organization. As D&R Greenway's new executive director, Chuck provided me with this advice:

- Motivate people to achieve significant land acquisition goals.
- Develop a strong constituency.
- Measure each activity against desired results.
- Understand how each Trustee contributes to the mission of the organization.
- Build an endowment for financial stability.
- Focus on two or three complex projects and do them really well—creating models that showcase and inspire successful approaches to land preservation transactions.

Together, the trustees and staff of D&R Greenway Land Trust achieved all of these goals, and more.

In a letter written to the trustees and staff of D&R Greenway shortly after Chuck's passing, Swep Davis, Chair of the Stony Brook

Millstone Watershed Association commented, "... I was struck by his deep commitment to the environment and to D&R Greenway."

Chuck's influence reached around the world. He was joined by D&R Greenway staff and trustees on a trip to Mexico and Guatemala to meet with international conservation colleagues. As a result, D&R Greenway established the first International Sister Land Trust Partnership with the Amigos de Calakmul.

Federico José Fahsen, President of the *Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala*, wrote of Chuck, "In the days we spent together in Calakmul, he showed a great deal of leadership and we all shared our regional and even global ideas of conservation and appropriate management of natural resources."

Chuck's strategic vision for our organization endures as his lasting legacy to D&R Greenway Land Trust. We will continue to build on this vision at the *Johnson Education Center* where we invite our partners to join us in preserving and protecting New Jersey's natural lands.

—Linda Mead  
Executive Director  
D&R Greenway Land Trust



Chuck Hartman visiting the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve in Mexico on a trip with trustees and staff that established our International Sister Land Trust Project with the Amigos de Calakmul.

## A Record Greenway Gala

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public reception area for visitors to the *Johnson Education Center*. It will contain an art gallery and an interactive presentation highlighting D&R Greenway's preserved lands. This soaring space will stand as a tribute to Chuck and inspire all who visit the *Johnson Education Center* to work as tirelessly and persistently as he did to preserve our region's open spaces and natural lands.

The 2005 *Greenway Gala* included a wonderful exhibition of art inspired by nature, created by the Greenway Artists and sold at a silent auction, with proceeds benefiting D&R Greenway. The silent auction also included a "Lobster Bake for 25" generously donated by Tiger's Tale Restaurant in Princeton. Guests availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase tickets to the *Good Time Galas for the Greenway*, a series of 15 special events held throughout the year. (To sign-up and join the fun, see page 14).

We are grateful to all of D&R Greenway's sponsors and supporters who helped to make this year's *Greenway Gala* such a wonderful success.

We would like to especially thank:

- D&R Greenway's Vice-Chair Eleanor Horne and Educational Testing Service for underwriting the event.
  - *Gala* Committee members for their commitment and creativity in organizing the *Greenway Gala* Art Exhibition and this year's *Good Time Galas for the Greenway*, and the Greenway Artists for their contribution of time and talent.
  - The hosts and sponsors of the *Good Time Galas for the Greenway* for sharing their time, talents and resources to create wonderful fundraising and "friend-raising" events throughout the year.
  - Dale Schierholt of Acadia Marking for his expertise in designing the *Greenway Gala* invitation and program and the *Good Time Galas for the Greenway* book.
- Together, we will continue to achieve the common goals held by Chuck Hartman and all of our partners in preservation—the protection of our region's water supply, wildlife habitat and quality of life for all of us who live in central New Jersey. ♣

# Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh Nature and Interpretive Center Will Enrich the Experience of All Visitors

In partnership with Mercer County, the New Jersey DEP Green Acres Program and the grassroots organization Friends for the Marsh, D&R Greenway Land Trust has secured a home for the Nature and Interpretive Center at the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. The Center will be located on the edge of Mercer County's 406-acre John A. Roebling Park, which encompasses Watson Woods and Spring Lake and provides access to miles of hiking, canoe and kayak trails.

A 1.3-acre property adjacent to Roebling Park was acquired in April 2005 by Mercer County. The property included a ranch house that will be renovated into the Nature and Interpretive Center. A main goal of the Nature and Interpretive Center will be to foster an understanding of the contributions wetlands make to regional biodiversity and the resources they provide to surrounding communities. Stimulated by a \$250,000 grant from the New Jersey Green Acres Program to D&R Greenway, Mercer County took the lead on acquiring the property. D&R Greenway will use their initial Green Acres grant plus an additional \$250,000 grant awarded by the State this spring to support renovations.

According to D&R Greenway Executive Director Linda Mead, "By using the Nature and Interpretive Center to help establish an identity and build awareness for the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, we hope to inspire public 'ownership' and a desire to protect this environmental treasure."

The Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh is unique because of its natural, historical and archaeological significance. The Marsh's 1,250 acres of wetlands as well as 1,600 acres of surrounding undeveloped public lands provide diverse habitats that support more than 1,400 identified plants and animals. Since 1973, more than 50 published scientific studies have been focused on the Marsh, leading to a better understanding of the importance of tidal freshwater marshes worldwide. It is also an important educational resource for teaching about the role of wetlands in urban landscapes, ecological prin-



*Sturgeon Pond in the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh.  
(Photo by Jeffrey Worthington)*

ciples and the correct procedures for "hands-on" field research.

Native American use of the region dates back approximately 8,000 years. Due to its archaeological significance, most of the Marsh was designated the Abbott Farm National Historic Landmark in 1976 by the US Department of the Interior. The first Europeans settled here in 1681 and Watson House, the oldest building in Mercer County, was built in 1708. In addition, Revolutionary War boats were sunk in Crosswicks Creek and Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother, lived on the bluffs near Bordentown from 1816-1838. An important local figure was Charles Conrad Abbott, naturalist and archaeologist, who is widely known for his many books and articles about wildlife and for his contributions to archaeology.

The local community has been invited to participate in a collaborative public process to create the new Nature and Interpretive Center. In June, D&R Greenway Land Trust, Friends for the Marsh and Mercer County hosted an Open House for the neighbors, to familiarize them with the project and solicit their ideas and feedback. County Executive Brian Hughes was in attendance along with Lisa Fritzinger of Mercer County Planning who provided

technical support for the acquisition and Kevin Bannon, Mercer County Director of Parks, D&R Greenway's Linda Mead and Friends for the Marsh representative Herb Lord presented the County Executive with a commemorative photograph of the Marsh to thank him and officials of Mercer County for their support of the Marsh Nature and Interpretive Center.

During the event, Mary Alessio Leck, Ph.D., D&R Greenway Trustee, former Rider University Professor and co-founder of Friends for the Marsh commented, "The Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh Nature and Interpretive Center will help make the 'science' of the Marsh accessible to non-scientists—particularly schoolchildren and residents of the surrounding urban centers—and will help them understand the connections between our natural and cultural heritages. We are all very grateful to the State, Mercer County and D&R Greenway Land Trust for bringing this wonderful project to life."

For more information regarding the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh and the Nature and Interpretive Center please contact D&R Greenway at [info@drgreenway.org](mailto:info@drgreenway.org) or 609-924-4646 or visit [www.marsh-friends.org](http://www.marsh-friends.org). ♣

## State Partnership Results in an Expanding Sourlands Greenway

**D**&R Greenway's highly successful partnership established in 2002 with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Green Acres Program is quickly resulting in a critical mass of protected lands in the Sourlands—a region comprising over 90 square miles of significant habitat and natural resources in the heart of central New Jersey.

Over the past three years an effective process has evolved that allows for maximum efficiency in structuring and executing preservation projects. D&R Greenway identifies priority Sourland properties and engages landowners in preservation. The State provides the financial and technical support to bring the projects to closing. D&R Greenway secures any partnership funding needed from counties, municipalities and other non-profit organizations and negotiates landowner donations and bargain sales. This process has resulted in the preservation of over 1,000 acres by D&R Greenway and the State in the past three years alone. In the first half of 2005, six Sourlands properties have been preserved and as many more are under contract for preservation. Parcel by parcel, we are assembling enough protected land to make a difference.

Since 1992, D&R Greenway has preserved 2,500 acres in the Sourlands through other preserva-

tion transactions, in addition to the 1,000+ acres preserved through this unique partnership with the state. Our combined total of preserved lands in this region stands at over 3,500 acres.

In 2004 the State awarded D&R Greenway their Environmental Excellence Award in Open Space Protection and Preservation for our leadership in the Sourlands.

### East Amwell Lands Expand D&R Greenway's Northern Stony Brook Preserve

A 15-acre property was acquired on the northern edge of D&R Greenway's preserve, connecting with other protected lands on the forested ridge. A glorious large double oak tree on this property grows in an unusual shape creating a bench for tired hikers. This land was in our sights for over six years and was targeted for construction of a new home. Residential development in the deep forest is a serious concern, as it opens the forest canopy. This creates forest edge that allows sunlight to penetrate and encourages growth of invasive plants in sunny, open areas. For example, clearing a 2-acre building lot would degrade at least 20 acres of the deep forest habitat required by native plants and wildlife in the surrounding woodland.

The timing for this acquisition was finally right, and this land is

now permanently protected in State ownership.

Another 20 acres of newly acquired forest provides a hilly wooded buffer alongside important grassland bird habitat. The adjacent farm is protected under the State Farmland Preservation Program, and is the last known breeding site for the endangered upland sand piper in East Amwell. D&R Greenway is working with adjacent landowners to encourage stewardship of grasslands that will provide the right habitat for these birds to return.

The Sourlands have been the subject of many tales and ghost stories. Located on a 14-acre property acquired by the State with D&R Greenway's help, is a rock known locally as "Dinosaur Rock" because it resembles the head of a dinosaur. This rocky land in the deep forest is typical of the Sourlands with large exposed boulders that are made of diabase rock. Visitors can observe that the rock on this property has been quarried and cut with chisels, evidence of 19th century mining activities using hand tools.

The new Rosmarie Dursch Preserve along Mountain Road is a wonderful example of best stewardship practices by Sourlands landowners. Fred Dursch and his wife Rosmarie bought their 14 acres of Sourlands in 1972 and built a mountain house set carefully in the woods. Built like a treehouse, the wooden structure is completely surrounded by the forest that Fred carefully protected, ensuring that the woods grow and mature without any timber harvest. Today, this magical forest, with its 100-foot-tall tulip trees and many forest birds, is serving as the catalyst for surrounding neighbors who are protecting their lands under conservation easement. Fred made a generous contribution to D&R Greenway Land Trust through a bargain sale of his land so that D&R Greenway would have an endowment that would enable us to be good stewards in perpetuity. East Amwell Township joined with D&R Greenway in partnership to support the preservation of this and neighboring lands.

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*Springtime in the Sourlands – second growth forest of Tulip Trees and May Apples in McBurney Woods, part of D&R Greenway's Northern Stony Brook Preserve.*

# What Do New Jersey's Sourland Mountains and Mexico's Mayan Forest Have in Common?

*Over 65 Species of Neotropical Migratory Birds and Two Sister Land Trusts Working to Preserve Their Habitat.*

In 2003, Amigos de Calakmul of Mexico joined with D&R Greenway Land Trust to create the first International Sister Land Trust Partnership between regional land trusts. This new model for land preservation, education and stewardship has as its goal the protection of summer and winter habitats for the birds that depend on our North and Central American forests. Research has shown that there are over 65 species of neotropical migratory birds that breed in the Sourland Mountains of central New Jersey and that winter in the Mayan Forest spanning Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and neighboring Guatemala and Belize.

The part of the Mayan Forest that provides a winter home to these birds was designated by the Mexican Government in 1989 as the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and is recognized as such by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization). The Sourlands of central New Jersey have recently been included in the first round of designation by New Jersey Audubon Society as an Important Bird and Birding Area because of their high level of significance.

Protection of the habitats and biodiversity of the Sourlands is among D&R Greenway Land Trust's primary goals. Through a State partnership, and in concert with the three counties and five townships that make up the core Sourlands forest, D&R Greenway has acquired over 3,500 acres of land. These natural lands protect headwater streams, contiguous forest and surrounding grasslands. A recent partnership between D&R Greenway and The Nature Conservancy is focused on expanding preservation of critical lands.

Field visits to the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve have strengthened this International Sister Land Trust Partnership. D&R Greenway advisor and ecological landscape biologist Leslie Sauer recently joined D&R Greenway's Naturalist Bill Rawlyk on a field visit to Calakmul meeting with Federico José Fahsen, President of the *Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala*. The visit was timed to celebrate the inauguration of a biological research station in Guatemala's Mayan Forest. D&R Greenway presented our Guatemalan colleagues with the first book for

servicing Santo Tomás Pachuj coffee at its events.

The Beneficia Foundation has awarded a grant to D&R Greenway Land Trust in support of the International Sister Land Trust Partnership. This grant will help D&R Greenway's efforts to promote the Partnership and raise awareness of the global importance of the Sourlands. A workshop planned for next spring will invite our region's educators and officials to hear first hand from the Amigos de Calakmul. We hope to encourage educational programs about neotropical migratory birds and the important environmental connection between Central America and central New Jersey in the classroom and at community events.

D&R Greenway is also raising funds locally to support construction of a biological research station in Mexico that will enable ongoing gathering and sharing of data on bird migration and species survival.

The International Sister Land Trust Partnership is a replicable model of international conservation cooperation that will be presented in October at the 2005 Land Trust Rally in Madison, Wisconsin. D&R Greenway and Amigos de Calakmul will share their innovative vision with representatives of approximately 1,400 regional land trusts from across the United States and international representatives.

If you would like to learn more about how you can participate and support the International Sister Land Trust Partnership between D&R Greenway Land Trust and Amigos de Calakmul, please contact Elika Molayi at (609) 924-4646 or [emolayi@drgreenway.org](mailto:emolayi@drgreenway.org).

D&R Greenway is supporting this ecologically sensitive operation by



*D&R Greenway's Bill Rawlyk presents A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America to Federico Fahsen, President of the Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala.*

their research library commemorating our shared goals to protect bird habitat.

Federico Fahsen and his family live in Guatemala where they own and manage shade grown coffee plantations that enable sustainable agriculture to coexist with ecological goals. The Santo Tomás Pachuj Reserve is a Rainforest Alliance Certified reserve. Wood thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers and other neotropical migratory birds that breed in the Sourlands find safe haven in the forests of shade grown coffee plantations in the winter. D&R Greenway is supporting this ecologically sensitive operation by

# D&R Greenway Expands Preservation Vision to Include Urban Landscapes

D&R Greenway Land Trust's mission is to establish an interconnected system of permanently protected natural lands called Greenways throughout central New Jersey. Greenways safeguard the water quality, biodiversity, and quality of life in our region. The majority of these preserved acres are found in central New Jersey's rural and "wilderness" areas—the forests and headwaters of the Sourlands, the valleys and fields of Hunterdon County and the agricultural lands of Monmouth County. We also preserve significant suburban open spaces such as Coventry Farm and Greenway Meadows Park in Princeton and Carson Road Woods in Lawrence, helping to maintain a healthy environment in townships facing intense development pressure.

Recently, however, D&R Greenway has undertaken a series of preservation projects in densely populated urban centers. In some cases, the actual acreage preserved is quite small, but all linked together these projects represent a unique opportunity to restore and maintain natural habitats and recall the historic character of these highly developed areas.

## Blacks Creek Greenway in the City of Bordentown

The City of Bordentown is located south of Trenton on Blacks Creek. Bordentown covers less than one square mile (615 acres) but has a total population of over 4,000.

Blacks Creek flows into the Delaware River at Bordentown, a tributary of both the Delaware River

and the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. Bordered by Lime Kiln Alley, a thoroughfare named for the eighteenth century lime furnaces that operated in the area, Blacks Creek was central to life in Bordentown during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Historically, fishing was an important industry to the residents of Bordentown. Delaware River fishermen brought their boats up Blacks Creek, unloaded the catch and spread the nets to dry on racks along its banks. But the fishing industry disappeared as the Delaware River and Blacks Creek became more polluted and the supply of fish, including shad, dwindled. The Blacks Creek waterfront deteriorated.

D&R Greenway Land Trust has permanently preserved two key properties along Blacks Creek in partnership with the NJDEP Green Acres Program, The Nature Conservancy and the City of Bordentown. Both are extremely small properties—less than half an acre in total—that typify the opportunity of urban land preservation. They have become important catalysts for the preservation of other lands along Blacks Creek. Landowners of contiguous properties have indicated a commitment to preserve their land and extend the *Blacks Creek Greenway*.

These lands will protect water quality by establishing a buffer between the community and Blacks Creek. Their preservation will enable re-establishment of natural habitat and biodiversity. Equally important, the acquisition of these properties will help transform a blighted area into a community asset. The protected land will provide passive recreation opportunities for the residents of Bordentown City and the surrounding region through the creation of public access and new parkland—Lime Kiln Alley Park.



*The Drezner property directly borders the D&R Canal in the heart of Trenton.*

Bordentown City's Mayor John W. "Bill" Collom has expressed his gratitude to D&R Greenway Land Trust for preserving the land that is making Lime Kiln Alley Park a reality. He insists it couldn't have happened without us. Mayor Collom expressed his thanks in a letter to D&R Greenway, "The reality for our small town is simply that without assistance from your organization, our hopes would be going nowhere. We are really happy that D&R Greenway Land Trust understands our dreams and shares our goals."

In addition to our work in the City of Bordentown, D&R Greenway has been active in Trenton, preserving the Drezner property along the D&R Canal in partnership with the New Jersey Green Acres Program. And in partnership with Friends for the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, D&R Greenway has been working to protect and manage this 1,250 acre urban wetland. (Please see the related article on the newly acquired Marsh Nature and Interpretive Center on page 3.)

D&R Greenway Land Trust is committed to land preservation throughout our region. Our goal is to create a healthy and vital environment for the enjoyment of everyone in central New Jersey. ♣



*The emerging Blacks Creek Greenway in Bordentown.*

## Rogers Property Preserved in Famed Grovers Mill, West Windsor Township

This summer's remake of 'War of the Worlds' brings to mind the site made famous by the historic radio broadcast of the same name. Grovers Mill gained national notoriety on Halloween Eve 1938 as the setting for Orson Welles's adaptation of the H.G. Wells science fiction novel. The sleepy hamlet was the supposed site of a Martian invasion that caused countrywide chaos until it was finally understood that the broadcast was only a play about a fictional event not a live news bulletin. This summer, thanks to the leadership of the Friends of West Windsor Open Space (FOWWOS), with assistance from D&R Greenway Land Trust, Grovers Mill took center stage once again, this time as the site of a significant land preservation effort where over \$1 million was raised to protect the Rogers Christmas tree farm.

Ronald Rogers, who passed away in 1999, was a co-founder and director of FOWWOS. His family chose to honor his preservation goals rather than succumb to development offers. The 12.7-acre property, surrounded by residential development, was preserved through a public-private partnership consisting of Friends of West Windsor Open Space (FOWWOS), D&R Greenway Land Trust, Mercer County and the New Jersey

Green Acres Program. In a strong show of support, 22 neighborhood families raised over \$110,000 to supplement public funds. D&R Greenway contributed grant funds from The William Penn Foundation to support the acquisition of this land as permanent open space. The Rogers family sold the land below market value in order to be able to see it preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

According to Mike Schuit, President of Friends of West Windsor Open Space, the land will be used for passive recreation and FOWWOS will eventually build low-impact trails to connect the property with other preserved open spaces in the township. Mike praised D&R Greenway trustee Shawn Ellsworth, a former resident of West Windsor, who helped galvanize the support of local residents to preserve this beautiful and environmentally sensitive open space. Shawn shares FOWWOS's goals for West Windsor, "I grew up in West Windsor and my father served on the Mercer County Park Commission for over 10 years. I remember when and how the vision for open space in West Windsor and Mercer County was formed. My commitment to land preservation and my current involvement with D&R Greenway is a result of these

memories. I was especially pleased to be able to help Diane Rogers, Ron Rogers's widow, find a successful preservation option for her land."

The Rogers property provides a magnificent viewscape across from Grovers Mill Pond and is an essential "missing link" in the Big Bear Brook Greenway. Big Bear Brook forms the northern border of the preserved land. Much of the property is planted as a Christmas tree farm, visited annually by many local residents during the holiday season. Mike Schuit recalls that his son enjoyed his first job at the farm, under the tutelage of Ron Rogers.

Robert E. Murray, former Mayor of West Windsor Township and Vice-Chair of Friends of West Windsor Open Space adds, "Ron was well-known about town for his encouragement of tree planting and caring. He was a significant influence in our ability to get and maintain the Tree City USA Award each year. The preservation of his land is a lasting tribute to the man and his dedication to the protection of our local environment."

For more information about D&R Greenway's preservation activities, please visit our website [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org) and click on News. ♣

## Sourlands Partnership

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### Sourlands Foothills Preserve Expanded in Hopewell

On the edge of the Sourlands is a transition area where the woods end and the farms begin. Leading from the ridge southward toward Hopewell Borough is a 60-acre property acquired by the State that protects the headwaters of the Stony Brook and creates a linkage to this transition area. Catherine Drake of the New Jersey Green Acres Program and Emily Goldman of D&R Greenway worked together to secure protection of this property completed early this summer. At the closing, Emily Goldman commented, "We would like to

thank the landowner and her family for their commitment to protecting this magnificent piece of woodland. This was an important property to preserve as it completes the linkage between our Sourlands Foothills Preserve and the Northern Stony Brook Preserve. D&R Greenway's vision of interconnected greenways is now a reality in this part of the Sourlands."

Below Featherbed Lane and north of Hopewell Borough, land owned by Stephanie and Bob Harris has been permanently protected through a conservation easement with D&R Greenway. Stephanie is the President of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA), and has dedicated the fields on this property to organic farming. Bordered by woodlands that link to other protected property, the care and management of land

demonstrated by this farm's owners provides another outstanding example of stewardship in the Sourlands.

All of these afore-mentioned lands add up to over 130 new acres of critical habitat and historic landscape permanently preserved in and around the Sourlands. Their protection has served to inspire additional land preservation and provides important links to expand existing Greenway preserves. D&R Greenway is appreciative of the State's support in prioritizing this region for protection.

If you would like more information about preserving your land, in the Sourlands or anywhere in central New Jersey, please contact Bill Rawlyk, Director of Land Preservation at 609-924-4646 or [brawlyk@drgreenway.org](mailto:brawlyk@drgreenway.org). ♣

# Johnson Education Center Renovations Preserve a Part of Princeton's History

Visitors to Greenway Meadows Park on Rosedale Road in Princeton may be wondering what's going on at the old barn. The century-old post-and-beam structure that has been a part of Princeton's agricultural landscape for over 100 years is undergoing a transformation. Although it will not look much different on the outside, the *Johnson Education Center*, as the barn is now known, is being renovated into a vital resource for the future of land preservation and stewardship in New Jersey.

Named through a generous contribution from members of the Johnson Family, the *Johnson Education Center* will be a model of adaptive reuse that helps preserve the rural heritage of Princeton. Located on land that was part of the lower farm of the Edgerstoune estate, later the Robert Wood Johnson estate, the barn was originally built in the shape of a "U". The center courtyard contained a corn crib and watering trough supplied by a spring. The structure had space for eighteen cows, eight calf pens and a bull pen, standing stalls for thirteen work horses and eight box stalls for mares and foals. The barn's hayloft had room to store approximately two hundred tons of hay.

The 60-acre property, now known as Greenway Meadows Park, was preserved in 2001 at a



*Princeton Township Mayor Phyllis Marchand speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Johnson Education Center in October 2004.*

enway spearheaded the model public/private partnership, which included the State of New Jersey, Mercer County, Princeton Township and Borough and numerous private individuals whose personal generosity made the preservation of this magnificent open space in the heart of Princeton Township a reality. The remaining 14 acres of the Robert Wood Johnson estate, located directly across Rosedale Road from the barn, was purchased by D&R Greenway and the Friends

The *Johnson Education Center* will retain many of the barn's structural details including the hand-hewn timber frame. Noted architect Jeremiah Ford III of Ford 3 Architects LLC is the designer of the *Johnson Education Center* and E. Allen Reeves, Inc. is the project's contractor.

According to Jerry Ford, the *Johnson Education Center's* barn conversion is unique because its future use does not require substantive changes to the original details. "Unlike barn-into-home conversions, there was no need to add windows or divide large spaces into rooms. The first floor office space will use the window openings that were present in the original barn. The large second floor meeting rooms, originally the hayloft, have no need to have windows added. The wide-open upstairs interior with its exposed timber and wood framing and sheathing will look pretty much as it did when the structure was a working barn."

Typical of barns in central New Jersey, D&R Greenway's came with its own resident bats. "Bats in the belfry" took on significant meaning this summer when a sizable maternity colony re-populated the previously cleaned out structure



*The main barn of the Edgerstoune lower farm as it appeared in a 1923 edition of Country Life. The left wing comprising a two story and a one story structure is all that remains today – and will soon become the Johnson Education Center.*





*The renovations to the second floor of the Johnson Education Center. Formerly the hayloft, this area will become the RWJ Auditorium. The original architecture, including the exposed timber and wood framing and sheathing, will be retained.*

an asset for the land preservation community and other like-minded organizations as well as our neighbors in central New Jersey. Through programs and activities at the *Johnson Education Center* we hope to establish land preservation and conservation as fundamental priorities for all who live and work in our region.”

A public campaign to complete the *Johnson Education Center* will be launched in late 2005. Several named gift opportunities are also available. If you are interested in learning more about the *Johnson Education Center*, please contact Linda Mead at 609-924-4646 or lmead@drgreenway.org. ♣

Visit  
[www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org)  
 to learn more

after it had been opened up for construction. Little brown bats, a species that are not endangered but are protected in New Jersey, took up residence in the rafters where they gave birth to a new generation. D&R Greenway accepted the job of protecting the bats from harm while keeping the project moving forward. Executive Director Linda Mead commented, “I was directly involved in the preservation of the second largest bat hibernaculum in the State of Pennsylvania, located in upper Bucks County. Bat Conservation International proved a helpful resource, and once again we are consulting with them and local officials to develop a conservation plan.”

Bats are important elements of the food chain as they eat insects and thus control insect-spread disease. While this may delay the opening of the *Johnson Education Center*, D&R Greenway is committed to serving as a good steward of all the elements of our natural environment.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Rich Goldman expressed D&R Greenway’s goals for the new center at this summer’s *Greenway Gala*, “We hope the *Johnson Education Center* will become

*“The combination of Greenway Meadows Park and the Johnson Education Center represents Preservation with a capital ‘P’—the protection of both our beautiful Princeton open space and our township’s historic agricultural character. We are delighted to have D&R Greenway as part of our community and to have a facility like the Johnson Education Center located here.”*

—Princeton Township Mayor  
 Phyllis L. Marchand



*The Johnson Education Center as it will appear when renovations are complete.*

# Stewardship Is the Critical Next Step for Land Preservation

The responsibility for preserving land doesn't end with the acquisition of the acres. Land needs to be "managed" to maximize its viability as habitat and for biodiversity. Land management is often called *stewardship*. As more and more land is preserved in our region, stewardship becomes an increasingly important priority.

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management defines *stewardship* as "caring for land and associated resources and passing healthy ecosystems on to future generations." We at D&R Greenway Land Trust embrace this definition of stewardship and have positioned ourselves to take a leading role in developing and implementing effective stewardship practices.

A new position, Director of Stewardship, was filled by James C. Amon in April 2005. As Executive Director of the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission for 30 years, Jim was responsible for overseeing both a State Park and a water resource for over 1 million people. His success, in part, was due to the development of the master plans that regulated and managed the use of lands surrounding the Canal, thereby protecting both the quantity and quality of its water supply. This experience will translate directly into the creation of stewardship plans and practices for D&R Greenway's lands, in partnership with D&R Greenway's Director of Land Preservation and Naturalist, Bill Rawlyk.



*D&R Greenway's Director of Stewardship Jim Amon.*



*This beautiful field in Hopewell Township is part of 74 acres preserved by D&R Greenway in 2000. It is an excellent example of proper stewardship and land management that will provide superior habitat to support a variety of grassland birds.*

Currently Bill and Jim are working with leading botanists from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to assist Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve in the development of an innovative new tool, the Plant Stewardship Index (PSI). The PSI was designed to measure the plant species present in the landscape by identifying the level and status of invasive and native plants. By using this index, the relative ecological quality of each plant community can be rated and this rating used to guide the land's stewardship. Maximizing the health of the environment by reducing the spread of invasive plants and increasing the proliferation of natives is the ultimate goal. D&R Greenway plans to create demonstration areas to use as "outdoor classrooms" to educate community stewardship volunteers and the general public about native plant habitats.

Concurrently, our National Congress has charged the State of New Jersey with developing a statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy to set a vision and a plan of action to address the entire diversity of wildlife habitats found within the State. Together with plans

from the remaining 49 states this will set, for the first time, a cohesive nationwide approach to wildlife conservation. The types of strategies to be included are: improvement or restoration of habitat to support endangered species protection; deer management (a critical threat in central New Jersey); eradication of invasive species that destroy wildlife habitat; and encouragement of grassland bird habitat and native forest habitat.

Using the newly developed PSI and other tools, Jim is in the process of assessing D&R Greenway's preserved lands and working with Bill to customize stewardship plans for each preserved property, consistent with the State's strategies.

To further sound stewardship practices on private lands, D&R Greenway hosts an annual "Landowner Forum" in the fall to highlight land management practices that protect the integrity of the natural community.

If you have any questions about land preservation or stewardship, please feel free to call Bill Rawlyk or Jim Amon at 609-924-4646. ♣