

A whopper of a thunderstorm did not dampen the spirits of D&R Greenway Land Trust's supporters and friends who joined together on Saturday (June 14) to "Celebrate Open Space!"

Proceeds from this festive evening benefited D&R Greenway's mission to preserve and protect an interconnected network of natural lands, open spaces and agricultural lands throughout the region.

The theme of this year's event was "Lighting the Path to Preservation," and a silent auction of Colonial-inspired lanterns, designed by local luminaries, helped to raise additional funds.

According to Avril Moore, who along with her daughter Diana Moore co-chaired event, "The Colonial theme acknowledges the 225th anniversary of the residency of the Continental Congress in Princeton in 1783."

The Colonial theme was further enlivened by re-enactors, D&R Greenway staff and "Celebrate Open Space!" committee members, who attended in period costume.

Lantern contributors included Wendy Benchley; Robert S. Bennett, Architect; T. Jeffery Clarke; Ford 3 Architects; George Gallup Jr.; Richard S. Goldman, Esq.; Maximilian Hayden, Architect; J. Robert Hillier and Barbara Hillier; U.S. Rep. Rush Holt; Susan Hoover; Lasley Brahaney Architecture + Construction; Alison Lorenz; Princeton Township Mayor Phyllis Marchand; James & Patricia McPherson; Avril Moore; Lawrence Township Councilwoman Pam Mount; Paul Muldoon; Kurt Schulte, Schulte Restorations, and Sarah Bodine, Sans Serif Studio; Jennifer Shue; Bryce Thompson, and Anne Weber.

At the event, D&R Greenway presented retired PSEG executive James A. Shissias with the 2008 Donald B. Jones Conservation Award.

Mr. Shissias, who has been a conservation and corporate leader in New Jersey for more than 20 years, was recognized for his leadership with projects and organizations such as PSEG's Salem Restoration Project, New Jersey's Keep it Green Campaign and The Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area. Tributes to Mr. Shissias from Congressman Holt and NJDEP Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson were read during the award ceremony.

During the program, Richard S. Goldman, Chair of D&R Greenway's board of trustees, announced the successful completion of D&R Greenway's latest preservation project — the acquisition of 114 acres in Delaware Township along the Plum Creek Greenway.

"With this closing, D&R Greenway has led the preservation of 10,704 acres valued at \$250,953,562, an area slightly larger than Princeton Township," he noted.

"Celebrate Open Space!" corporate leaders and benefactors include Educational Testing Service, PSEG, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, DrinkerBiddle & Reath LLP, The Glenmede Trust Company and Legg Mason Investment Counsel.

To learn more about D&R Greenway Land Trust, visit www.drgreenway.org or call (609) 924-4646.



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