

PROTECTING LANDS, ENRICHING COMMUNITIES

GREENWAYS

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

You've never before seen a book review in our newsletter. However, I can't miss the opportunity to share my enthusiasm for a popular nonfiction book I picked up recently in an airport bookstore.

Sweetgrass by Mary Alice Monroe, published in 2005 by MIRA Books (www.MIRABooks.com) tells the story of a landowner and his family as they wrestle with the future of their beloved plantation. Set in South Carolina, it's an easy read with good characters and storyline. But what surprised and delighted me was that it references quotes about land preservation throughout and even included an explanation of a conservation easement!

This book explores some of the topics that we deal with everyday at D&R Greenway as we work with landowners to balance the financial value of the land against the emotional connection and meaning of the land to the family. It's always been my belief that the more we create awareness about these issues and solutions and incorporate this thinking into our culture, the more we will be able to do to protect our planet. Let me know what you think!

—Linda Mead, *Executive Director*



Students from Princeton's Johnson Park Elementary School standing at the school's "Tile Mural of the Princeton Community." The mural was created in 2010 under the direction of artist-in-residence Terri Herring and art teacher Linda Gates. The students are pointing to a tile representing the Johnson Education Center, created by D&R Greenway's Executive Director Linda Mead and Director of Operations Laurie Emde.

The Gulf Oil Disaster: Protecting Fragile Ecosystems

April 20, 2010 began the environmental crisis now known as the Gulf Oil Disaster. Now into its third month, the tragedy continues to grow into a catastrophe unparalleled in U.S. history. Recent photos of oil-laden shorebirds much like the blue herons, egrets and terns we see in our own marshes are heartbreaking.

Just as Rachel Carson rang the bell that began the modern environmental movement with her exposé on DDT in *Silent Spring*, today's crisis makes us all more aware of the need to do what we can to protect our fragile natural world.

Some of the world's most important migratory bird flyways cross the Gulf Coast. D&R Greenway preserves similar habitats, including Mannington Meadows and the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh. The birds that breed or stopover here will instinctively return to the Gulf region before their long, overwater flights

to winter havens in Mexico and Central America. What will they find? How will they survive?

The preservation of marshes and wetlands that provide habitat for waterfowl, and the continued expansion of protected greenways along the streams and rivers that serve as migratory flyways, is critical. The bell has rung once again.

Your support of D&R Greenway makes you a part of the solution. Thank you.



A salt marsh in Mannington Meadows

Art and Inspiration

The purpose of D&R Greenway's Marie L. Matthews Gallery at the Johnson Education Center is to showcase diverse art surrounding themes that create a tangible connection to our mission of land preservation and stewardship. Past exhibits have highlighted birds and their habitats, trails, trees, agricultural and historic landscapes among others.

Educational programs during the run of each exhibit teach about the value of protecting these resources and showcase new perspectives and ways of thinking about preservation. Local and well-recognized artists, poets and skilled experts have enthralled audiences with beauty, inspiration, groundbreaking new research and "behind-the-scenes" stories. For instance, during our exhibit about the Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, we learned that an exceptionally good shad run in the Delaware River saved General George Washington's troops from starvation and boosted morale following a difficult Revolutionary winter. As such, nature itself had a direct impact on the successful formation of our country!

The Marie L. Matthews Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., every Monday-Friday except holidays. Come visit us at the Johnson Education Center to learn and be inspired with a fresh perspective on nature and the environment.

Preservation of an Integrated Landscape: Where Farmland and Conservation Meet

Including a special exhibit of the Artists of Salem County
September 12 – October 15

The Greater Sourlands Eco-Region: Celebrating Wilderness in our Midst

Including a special exhibit of D&R Greenway Preserves by artist Fred Gardner
October 25 – November 26

Seasons Greenings: Natural Gifts for the Holidays

December 6 – December 31

A Legacy for the Future: Seeing Nature through Childrens' Eyes

January 10 – February 18

Enjoy the Art Box Derby in Greenway Meadows

Saturday, September 25

Co-sponsored with Princeton Arts Council. For more information or an entry form, visit www.artscouncilofprinceton.org.