



HUNTERDON LAND TRUST

CONSERVATION *matters*

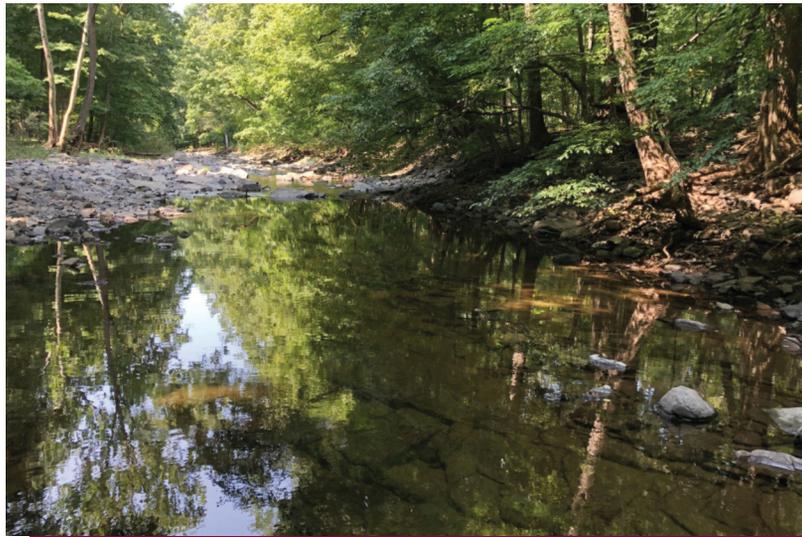
FALL 2020

HLT's Efforts Benefit All – in Good Times and Bad

Though it sometimes feels as if we're drowning in a sea of bad news, good things do bubble to the surface. We're particularly fortunate here in Hunterdon County to have seen these headlines recently:

- Hunterdon County Is the Safest Place in America to Raise a Kid*
- Delaware River Hailed as a 'National Success Story'; Named 2020 River of the Year*
- Hunterdon County Ag Standing #1*

These glimmers of good news remind us that not only is this place we call home special, but also that Hunterdon's accolades are not simply the result of a happy accident. These honors happen thanks to the compassion and hard work of individuals and organizations who recognize the importance of protecting our natural, cultural and agricultural heritage.



The Zega-Lockatong Preserve in Delaware Township.

Hunterdon Land Trust plays a pivotal role in these achievements by fulfilling its mission: To preserve the integrity of the rural landscapes in the Hunterdon County region by protecting and enhancing natural resources, and the cultural landscape of the historic Dvoor Farm, for public enjoyment and education.

HLT formed organically in 1996 by a group of citizens passionate about our county's legacy at a critical juncture in its history. Back then, the headlines were not so cheery. Readers perusing our local newspapers were pounded with relentless stories of farms being subdivided for housing developments, and of concerns about increased traffic and pollution.

Through the years, the organization morphed into a professional staff that has preserved 9,784 acres of forests, fields and woodlands. HLT has focused its efforts on protecting land near rivers and streams to ensure clean drinking water for everyone, and on farmland preservation so our rich agricultural tradition in Hunterdon County can continue to provide us with fresh, nutritious local food.

The efforts to protect and care for our special places has moved forward ceaselessly because of you. Your deep-rooted passion to invest in our local resources when times were good,

has ensured that these special places are available to all of us during these difficult times.

And never has this been more evident than in recent months during the pandemic when everyone sought some respite from confinement by visiting open greenways and fields. One could visit the Zega-Lockatong

Preserve in Delaware Township recently on a Tuesday

afternoon and see a number of hikers – practicing safe social/ physical distancing – walking along the trail, a family playing soccer in an open field, and others exploring the Lockatong Creek that flows sedately through the property.

The importance of HLT's successful work becomes more evident during these times of need. Besides protected land, perhaps the most noticeable example of HLT's work benefiting the community during these challenging times can be found in our Farmers' Market.

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HLT Earns Accreditation Renewal



Hunterdon Land Trust's nearly quarter century of work, dedication to professional excellence and commitment to maintaining the public's trust in land conservation has earned it reaccreditation from the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

"Renewing our accreditation demonstrates HLT's unwavering mission to protect clean drinking water, farmlands and forests, and to honor Hunterdon County's unique cultural heritage," said Patricia Ruby, executive director of HLT. "Because we have gone through this rigorous reaccreditation process, we are a stronger organization, and that means the public can be assured that the places they love will be protected forever."

To earn reaccreditation, HLT provided extensive documentation and was subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation prior to achieving this distinction. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded renewed accreditation, signifying its confidence that HLT's lands will be protected forever. Accredited land trusts – about 400 nationwide – now steward almost 20 million acres across the United States.

"Receiving accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission is the gold standard for land trusts across the country," said Nancy Cunningham, president of HLT's Board of Trustees. "HLT is proud to join five other New Jersey land trusts who have received reaccreditation in recent years."

HLT first received accreditation in 2014. Since being incorporated as a nonprofit organization, HLT has preserved 9,784 acres in Hunterdon County. HLT is one of 1,363 land trusts across the United States, according to the Land Trust Alliance's most recent National Land Trust Census.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



During these unprecedented times of COVID-19, it's not surprising that good news is drowned out by news filled with calamitous health reports, social upheaval, and uncertainty. Amidst such chaos, it's a relief to look no further than your own little corner of the world to find plenty to feel good about – things you made happen. In this newsletter, you'll read, for instance, about newly preserved lands that will help protect clean drinking water and natural habitats; how our work to improve access to the Dvoor Farm continues despite the pandemic; and how our Farmers' Market adapted to today's challenges so everyone could continue to enjoy safe access to nourishing local food.

All this reminds us of the value of forging ahead despite the adversities that come our way. And how, by doing so, we can learn, grow and perhaps benefit.

Back in 2016, Hunterdon Land Trust confronted a terrible situation when a fire broke out at our Dvoor Farm headquarters. Though the structural damages to the building were minimal, our staff was forced to work remotely for weeks during the cleanup and restoration process. The fire compelled us to adapt – for example, ditching our on-site computer server to store data in favor of a cloud-based solution. It was difficult, but in the end, a tragic event made us a more resilient organization.

Little did we know that a few years later a pandemic would have us again working from home, but the transition was seamless because of that past experience. We were prepared and have ceaselessly continued to do your good work protecting the places we love.

Speaking of those special places, one of the best ways to stay positive during these trying times is to appreciate the little things in life and remember we're all in this together. Savor the small joys with your family. Get outside, visit a preserve and lose yourself in nature. If you visit our website at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org, you'll surely find one near you where you can explore nature alongside a stream, hike through woodlands and fields, or check out the butterflies and bees in a pollinator meadow. Each has an important role to play in a much larger system, just as each of us belong to a community in which many are facing the same challenges you are, sharing the same worries and hopes for the future.

Together we can weather these difficult times to grow stronger, and please know that we will continue working hard to protect and steward the Hunterdon County area's special places.

I sincerely hope you and your family stay safe and healthy!

Patricia Ruby

Patricia Ruby, Executive Director, Hunterdon Land Trust

PS: We are quickly nearing our goal of preserving 10,000 acres by year's end. Please keep an eye on our website or sign up for our electronic newsletter, as we look forward to sharing with you some exciting news.

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HLT's Efforts Benefit All – in Good Times and Bad

The COVID-19 pandemic started kicking in midway through HLT's winter Farmers' Market season. Realizing the importance of providing the community with access to fresh, local food and an alternative to indoor grocery shopping, HLT established safety protocols, moved the market outside to allow for proper social distancing, and increased the number of winter markets from twice a month to almost every Sunday.

The market – like our work to protect and care for Hunterdon County's vital spaces – helps promote a thriving community with access to nutritious food and the safe spaces critical for physical and mental refreshment.

If you care about protecting the places you love, so they may serve us in good times and bad, we ask you to help us continue to do your good work. Learn how by visiting us at: <http://www.hunterdonlandtrust.org/donate-volunteer/>

Also, if you'd like to learn more about our preserves, please visit our website at: <http://www.hunterdonlandtrust.org/visit-a-preserve/>. And, for more information about our Farmers' Market, please go here: <http://www.hunterdonlandtrust.org/farmers-market/>.



Protecting the places you love in the Hunterdon County region.



Hope Hill Farm in Franklin Township. Photo by Maria Valentina

HLT Helps Preserve Franklin Township Farm

Serendipity, hope and a lot of hard work led to Hunterdon Land Trust's latest preservation effort.

The charming 71-acre Hope Hill Farm in Franklin Township attracted HLT's attention for a number of reasons, including its location within the South Branch Raritan Watershed, the two tributaries running across the property, and the high percentage of important statewide and prime soils on the property, noted HLT Land Acquisitions Director Jacqueline Middleton. (The farm is composed of notable quantities of Penn silt loam, Bowmansville loam and Raritan silt loam, which are all great for crop production.)

This story begins back in 2012, when New York City gallery operators and newlyweds Sarah Christian and Jason Vartikar accepted an invitation from a friend, Gary Snyder, to visit his historic East Amwell home. They were enchanted by Hunterdon County, traveling its back roads, exploring its scenic views, and even visiting HLT's Farmers' Market.

"We fell in love with Hunterdon County that weekend," the couple agree. "After a few more visits and lots of cruising around, we spotted a for-sale sign at the bottom of a long gravel driveway on one of the prettiest roads in the county."

They purchased the farm that fall. Originally a 10-acre island parceled off from surrounding farmland, the property was increased by more than 60 acres when adjacent land became available for purchase.

"We couldn't bear to see the land developed, and the natural setting destroyed," Christian and Vartikar said about their reason for adding to their farm. "In the process, we learned that the land had once been a fruit orchard and a cow pasture."

The preservation means the couple will own the land and continue to farm it, but the property must remain as farmland in perpetuity.

The couple sought to preserve the land for a number of reasons, chief among them that the nearby hillside sloping upward along the Raritan River, known as "Sunnyside," is a recreation destination for fishing, walking and biking.

"Along with adjacent county preserves, there are several farms which give 'Sunnyside' its splendor. But our farm was the missing piece with more than

1,500 feet of frontage on River Road in two separate stretches. The farm truly protects the natural and agricultural feel of the area, as well as the integrity of the watershed," the couple said.

To learn more about preservation, they reached out to neighbor Lora Jones, who at that time served as secretary of Franklin Township's Open Space Advisory Committee. Jones was well aware of the farm's environmental importance and natural beauty.

"River Road attracts hikers and cyclists year round; many of them have cited the calming effects of the landscape," Jones said. "Come see it and you will know the feeling."

The process took several years and involved a number of twists and turns. In 2016, Jones contacted Hunterdon Land Trust for help securing funds for the property's preservation.

"It just so happens that HLT and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority had jointly applied for a federal grant with the Natural Resources Conservation Services called the Regional Conservation Partnership Program," Middleton said. "HLT had federal money to use in specific watersheds including the South Branch." The State Agriculture Development Committee, Hunterdon County and Franklin Township also played key roles in this preservation effort.

Christian and Vartikar also noted that HLT, SADC, the county, Franklin Township and NJWSA worked together to secure federal and state funds to preserve the land. "It was another two and a half years until we got to sign on the dotted-line, but the wait was worth it," the farm owners agreed.

To understand why, all one has to do is to travel along River Road.

"The meadows and adjacent woodlands are brimming with life. There are bald eagles, hawks, bears, turkeys, foxes, geese, unusual ground-nesting birds, amphibians, mushrooms, and old growth trees. The hillside also enjoys long views in every direction, from which to watch summer storms, hot air balloons, and the little planes that land at Sky Manor," Christian and Vartikar said.

Thanks to Our Partners in Preservation

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Partners in Preservation:

Basil Bandwagon Natural Market, Northfield Bank, Thomas McMillan – Callaway Henderson Sotheby's International Realty, Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, and Matt's Red Rooster Grill.

Please support the businesses that support HLT!



The Davis Family Left an Indelible Imprint on the Case-Dvoor Farmstead

By valuing our historical legacy, we honor those who came before us. We travel about Hunterdon County with a deeper understanding of this special place we call home. Their stories remind us of the challenges they confronted and overcame, and help instill in us the fortitude to do the same.

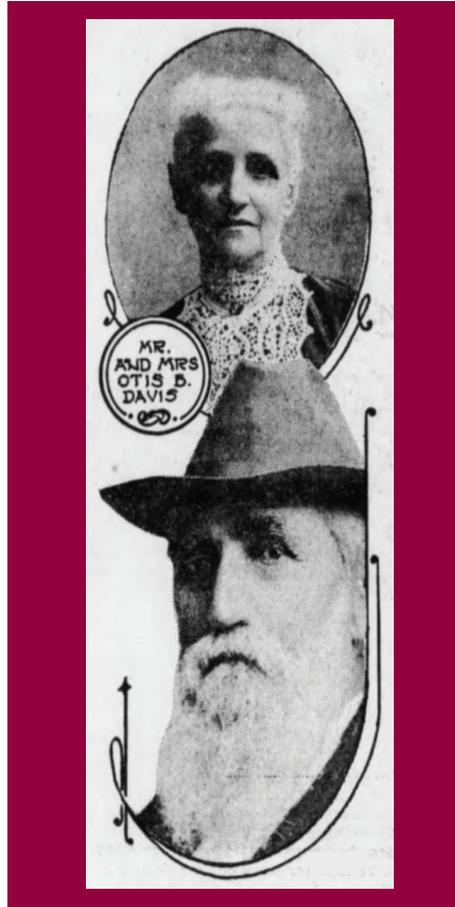
The historic Case-Dvoor Farmstead gets its name from two well-known families that lived on the property for many years. We have copious records of the Case family, who were among the early European settlers to this area and first farmed the property and built the historic farmhouse. And many people are familiar with the Dvoor family, who owned the farm for about 80 years, starting in 1920.

But there was a third family, the Davises, who also owned the farm for decades. While the Davises left an indelible imprint on the farm during their residence – from 1870 to 1910 – they left behind few records, and little was known about them. What follows is an effort to change that.

One wonders if Sandown, New Hampshire was a place where people preferred piety and precision – but were practical enough not to get too caught up in such matters. When Otis B. Davis was born on March 21, 1830, Sandown's best-known feature was its meeting house, built in 1773. When planning its construction, a surveyor was directed to find the exact center of town. He did, but it fell right in the middle of a swampy meadow. The local deacons consulted each other, and “moved” the center of town to a nearby hilltop, which is where the meeting house stands to this day.

We know little of Otis's youth, but can presume he loved to travel. Early on, he left Sandown and found work as a salesman with the Fairbanks Scales Company, driving about New England in a horse carriage.

During one of his trips to Massachusetts, he met Elizabeth Davis; they married on Nov. 29, 1855, and their union lasted 62 years. Otis's feelings for “his Lizzie” decades later were “still as young as upon their wedding day,” as recorded in the *Brooklyn Eagle* in 1915.



Lizzie and Otis Davis

Otis and Lizzie moved to New York City, where their son, Charles, was born in 1857. Otis is listed as working in “scales,” in the 1857-1859 NYC Directory. Then, the story gets a little murky.

Otis disappears from the 1860 directory. Records in the National Archives (and confirmed by the 1890 Veterans Census) show Otis volunteered in 1862 to serve in Company B of the Confederate Guards Regiment of the Louisiana State Militia fighting for the Confederacy. Why he traveled to Louisiana is a mystery.

Otis served under Captain George W. West and can be found in the muster rolls from March 8 to April 30, 1862. This unit was likely among the volunteer state militia that Louisiana Governor Thomas Moore transferred to Confederate Major General Mansfield Lovell for the defense of New Orleans.

Most of these men went into camps around the city for drill and discipline, according to Arthur Bergeron Jr., author of *Guide to Louisiana Confederate Military Units, 1861-1865*. New Orleans fell to the Union Army in April 1862. When Union General Benjamin F. Butler arrived, “the officers and men [in New Orleans] were arrested as prisoners of war, paroled, and those who did not take the oath, were exchanged,” noted Napier Bartlett's *Military Record of Louisiana*.

Otis eventually returned north. Tax records for 1865 and 1866 indicate he was living in NYC, but didn't stay long. His wife's uncle, John Moses, a retired New York businessman, had purchased the Case family farm. (Case had sold the property a few years earlier to individuals interested in copper mining; the mines were on the neighboring property now owned by St. Magdalen Church.)

Consider Hunterdon County around 1871. Take away the supermarkets, fast food joints and gas stations. Strip away the strip malls and four-lane highways that cleave the county. Clamber aboard a two-seated family carriage – a compact conveyance in which the knees of both driver and passenger would smack against the dashboard – for the journey to the stone farmhouse.

The unpaved roads can best be described as haphazard. Perhaps Otis had heard about the time in May 1868 when the muck was so deep on one Raritan Township road that a horse broke its back. As the carriage lurches toward the farm, there's no traffic circle, but a road that bends north and east from Sergeantsville to Flemington. We aren't sure which barns you would have seen riding up the incline toward the old Case family farmstead, but the Horse, Bank and Ell barns, and the farm office had not yet been built.

Otis arrived at the farm expecting to die soon.

Physicians had diagnosed Otis with consumption (tuberculosis), the leading cause of death in the United States between 1870 and 1910, when it killed three to four million Americans. Victims suffered from hacking, bloody coughs, and debilitating pain in their lungs.



Protecting the places you love in the Hunterdon County region.

Almost 50 years later, Otis shared a laugh about that prognosis with a young *Brooklyn Eagle* newspaper reporter covering the Davis's 60th wedding anniversary party.

On May 19, 1871, Moses conveyed the farm and a lease for three adjoining houses to the Davis's. Though Otis may have been thinking about the grave, he evidently wasn't going to let the grass grow beneath his feet. He got busy building several outbuildings to support his dairy business, including the large Bank and perpendicular Ell barns and wagon house, which all still exist. The Davis's also worked on the interior of the farm house, removing a wall between two downstairs living areas to create one large room to the left of the front entrance.

Taking advantage of the farm's streamside meadows and nearness to Flemington's train station, by 1880 Otis had, by a wide margin, established the largest dairy operation in Raritan Township. The 1880 agricultural census records that the farm consisted of 70 acres of tilled land; 30 acres of permanent meadows, pastures and newly planted orchards; and three acres of woodlands. Otis had a herd of 30 cows producing 23,000 gallons of "milk sold or sent to butter and cheese factories" in 1880.

As if that weren't enough, the farm produced 60 tons of hay from 40 acres mown, 100 bushels of corn from 10 acres planted, 90 bushels of oats from six acres, eight bushels of wheat from 12 acres and 10 bushels of potatoes. The three-acre orchard had 100 apple-bearing trees. Otis's livestock included 30 "calves dropped," two horses, two mules, four swine and 50 barnyard fowl.



The stone farm house as it looked in 1918, just eight years after Lizzie and Otis Davis moved to Brooklyn.

By 1888, Otis appears to have cleared all his farmland except for a small patch of woods known as the Old Growth Forest at the intersection of Route 12 and Old Croton Road.

Otis also became a pillar of the community. He joined Darcy Lodge No. 37, Free & Accepted Masons in Frenchtown, and soon became an officer. He hosted picnics for the Croton Baptist Sabbath Sunday School. During the 1880s, he was very active in the Hunterdon County Agricultural Society, serving a number of roles on its fair committee, including superintendent of the sheep and swine departments.



The bank and ell barns on the Case-Dvoor Farmstead were built while the Davis family lived on the farm.

On March 14, 1898, the Davis's were entertaining long-time friends Joseph and Mary Pressey at their farmhouse, when Otis pulled out a sheaf of papers. "I've been making my will, and I want you to witness it," he told them, laying the papers upon the dining room table. Not surprisingly, Otis left all of his assets to his wife.

Old age was creeping up on Otis, who continued to run the farm for another decade. His son had left years ago, embarking on a prestigious military career, beginning service in 1880 as a private in Company A of the 13th Regiment, Coast Artillery, and rising to colonel commanding the 13th. This left the Davis's by 1900 living on the farm with two servants, Edward Berger and his wife, Catherine.

In 1910, the Davis's sold the farm to Gregor Moser, and moved to Brooklyn to be closer to their son. They likely settled into the Hotel St. George. In 1913, 83-year-old Otis accompanied his son to Bermuda, returning before year's end on the S.S. Bermudian. Otis returned to Hunterdon County too, visiting friends in Flemington. A photo taken around this time shows Otis with a long beard that would have looked appropriate on a box of cough drops.

He was in robust health until the end. He passed away at the Hotel St. George on Feb. 21, 1918, and is buried at Brooklyn's Greenwood Cemetery. "He was progressive in farming, a man of much intelligence and refinement," the *Hunterdon Democrat* lauded upon his passing. "Farming was more of a pastime than an occupation, but with his use of intelligent methods he always made it a successful pastime."

Otis's beloved Lizzie followed him to the grave on Jan. 26, 1931.





CRITTER CORNER

Skunks – The Little Stinkers!



Like most wild animals, the skunk is good at staying away from humans, so how do we know when one's around? That skunky smell, of course! The skunk's infamous odor, caused by a compound called thiols, can be detected up to 1.5 miles away. This is the skunk's only significant defense, but it's effective. Unless food is in short supply, predators will choose a less odiferous meal.

Skunks are nocturnal and occasionally can be spotted when they're out searching for food. They are omnivores and eat plants and fallen fruits; many kinds of insects, including Japanese beetle grubs, worms, eggs, small reptiles, garbage, acorns and pet food left outdoors. (So bring in that pet food at night). Skunks can dig up and eat yellowjacket wasp nests. They are also immune to snake venom and can eat rattlesnakes! Skunks are often considered to be beneficial animals since they eat many of the insects and rodents, including crickets and grasshoppers, that may destroy crops.

Until recently, skunks were classified as members of the Mustelid family (which includes weasels, otters, minks, and badgers), but are now recognized as a separate family: Mephitidae. Skunks live throughout North and South America, including 10 species in North America. New Jersey's only skunk

species is the striped skunk, *Mephitis mephitis*. The word Mephitis means, appropriately, "foul smelling."

Skunks can sport a variety of patterns – striped, spotted, and swirled – but their black-and-white coloring is a hallmark of the species. Male and female skunks look alike. They are generally the size of house cats with large bushy tails, and the

females are usually about 25 percent smaller than the males. Our local-striped skunk has jet black fur and two distinctive lateral white stripes running down its back, along with a narrow stripe down its forehead. It also has long curved claws that are good for digging for food. Skunks have poor eyesight but a strong sense of smell and hearing. The eastern spotted skunk, *Spilogale putorius*, found throughout central portions of North and Central America, is the only skunk that can climb trees.

Typically solitary animals, skunks may sometimes den together in a group called a surfeit to keep warm in winter. They do not hibernate. Skunks give birth every spring to two to 10 offspring called kits; males are called bucks and females does. The young leave the den at two months. Skunk dens are usually the abandoned burrows of other animals, but may also be under decks, buildings or large rocks or in woodpiles, dumps and hollow logs. Skunks generally only use the dens during cold weather and to raise their young, and they may frequently change their den location.

Skunk residences may be partially identified by a lingering musky smell, but since fox dens may have a similar smell, look for additional skunky clues like small holes in a lawn (made by skunks digging for grubs),

damage to plants' lower leaves or disturbed trash cans. Skunks have readily adapted to suburban and urban settings, but can reside in woodlands and grasslands. They only live about three years in the wild (seven or eight in captivity) and are unfortunately one of the four wild animals considered by the Humane Society to be primary carriers of the rabies virus, along with foxes, raccoons and bats.

Although skunks are not typically aggressive, when feeling threatened they will send a warning by charging, stomping their front legs, clacking their teeth, fluffing their fur, growling, spitting or hissing. Some skunks may do a handstand on their front paws as a warning. Our local-striped skunk curves into a U with its head and tail both pointed toward its perceived enemy. If the warning is not heeded (a common and unfortunate mistake of pet dogs), the skunk shoots an oily substance from glands underneath its tail with amazing accuracy up to 15 feet away. The spray can cause eye irritation or even brief blindness, but no lasting harmful effects. The noxious smell lasts days or even months. Commercially available products and homemade remedies can safely neutralize the molecules and eliminate the odor; tomato juice baths just mask the smell - and require a lot of tomato juice!

Skunks are unique and reclusive animals. If you see a skunk just leave it be. They (and you) will be glad you did.





Protecting the places you love in the Hunterdon County region.

Dvoor Farm Plans Continue Despite Pandemic

COVID-19 may have slowed down our efforts to convert the Dvoor Farm into a destination site, but it certainly hasn't stopped it!

HLT has worked tirelessly to maximize the Dvoor Farm for public use, creating a place where the past, present and future merge, where families and friends can make new memories celebrating life's milestones or enjoy an array of educational or recreational activities.



The historic Case-Dvoor farmstead.

HLT has focused on raising the necessary funds to achieve our shared vision of the farm's future. Our goals are to improve the farm by sensitively rehabilitating the barns to create event spaces for public and private use (including an educational center); adding safer ways to enter, exit and move about the property; adding amenities like restrooms and signs; and improving the farm's natural resources with better stormwater management strategies, restoring pollinator meadows, and rejuvenating the old-growth forest.

So far, we have raised a little over \$2 million toward our ultimate goal of \$3 to \$3.5 million to reinvigorate the historic farm.

HLT has assembled a team of design professionals – including an architect, engineer and a construction management company – to help shepherd this project. And with the schematic design completed, we anticipate starting the barn rehabilitation and site design phase of work this fall. Construction of the project will take about nine months; our goal is to be operational by spring/early summer of 2022.

HLT has already begun some of the natural resource restoration work on the farm. It removed about eight acres of invasive Callery pear trees and replaced them with 200 native trees and shrubs to improve the Walnut Brook's riparian buffer. We are working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development on a plan to improve stormwater management by continuing to strengthen the bank and facilitate the absorption of flood waters from the Walnut Brook.

When completed, this project will reap a host of benefits to the public and HLT. Visitors can enjoy an array of recreational and educational activities on the farm. Rehabilitating the property will allow us to take a major step toward building our future financial stability, providing us with additional revenue streams to do more to protect the places you love in the Hunterdon County area. And, with a revitalized destination site in the heart of Hunterdon County, we'll be better able to grow our community and engage our audience with our mission.

And the economic benefits will rebound to surrounding communities, aiding Hunterdon County's Economic Development Strategy. Our Farmers' Market already has a \$3 million annual impact on nearby communities and increasing public use of the Dvoor Farm will certainly grow that. Plus, the public, local businesses and community organizations can all utilize the barns, which are currently used by a tenant.

Exciting times at the historic Dvoor Farm are coming. Stay tuned!

How You Can Help Protect the Places You Love

During these uncertain times, we can all find comfort in Hunterdon County's open fields, woodlands, farms and waterways.

Special places we truly treasure. Places nearby where we can escape to for refreshment and rejuvenation.

Your generosity allows Hunterdon Land Trust to protect the places we all love. Your compassion helps ensure clean drinking water; that our farms and fields are protected, our plant and wildlife habitats are safeguarded, and that our county's cultural heritage will be lovingly cared for and handed down for the next generation to enjoy.

Please make a gift to HLT by enclosing a check in the envelope included in this newsletter, or make a secure online donation at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org/donate-volunteer/

Other ways you can protect the places you love include:

- **Matching Gifts:** Make the most of your gift to Hunterdon Land Trust. Many companies will match the charitable gifts of its employees, so be sure to check with your employer to see if it has a matching gift program. Most corporate procedures are simple: Just request a Matching Gift Form from your company and submit it to Hunterdon Land Trust, along with your gift.
- **Planned Giving:** Create a lasting legacy by including HLT in your estate plans. You can make a gift through your will or outside your will and even make a gift that gives you income for life. Planned giving mechanisms include bequests, gifts of appreciated securities, IRAs, life insurance, real estate, charitable remainder trusts and charitable lead trusts.

If you have already designated a planned gift to HLT, or if you would like to learn more, please contact our Executive Director Patricia Ruby at pruby@hunterdonlandtrust.org or call 908-237-4582.





HUNTERDON LAND TRUST

Farmers' Market: Locally Grown Food in a Safe Environment

Now more than ever, having safe access to nutritionally rich, locally grown food has never been more important.



Our Farmers' Market is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until Nov. 22 at the Dvoor Farm.

When the COVID-19 pandemic stuck, Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market Managers Robert Reid and Devin Cornia reacted quickly by doing the following:

1. They established a list of safety protocols to protect customers, vendors and market volunteers.
2. They redesigned the layout of the market to ensure additional space between vendors.
3. They provided shoppers with PPEs if needed.
4. And, along with our crack team of volunteers, they carefully monitored market traffic and helped visitors find what they needed safely.

We know having a Farmers' Market outside in an open field is an important factor in being able to provide everyone with a safe shopping experience. And though the pandemic has compelled us to curtail our programming and music, we are now hosting yoga sessions outside beside the Walnut Brook, as well as other outdoor programs like our bird walks and upcoming photography exhibition.

While safety's vital, HLT takes special pride in running a producers'-only market. This means our vendors only sell products they have grown or made with their farm-fresh ingredients. It also means no second-hand products, no middle men, higher quality products and more potential profits going to local farms.

So, visit our safe, producers'-only Farmers' Market every Sunday through Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dvoor Farm. Our winter Farmers' Market dates for 2020-2021 are: Dec. 6 and 20; Jan. 3 and 17; Feb. 7 and 21; March 7 and 21; April 18; and May 2. The market runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Discover the difference local food makes!

HLT Upcoming Events

Though COVID-19 has forced us to cancel many of our 2020 Farmers' Market events, we do have several great programs on the horizon:

Oct. 11, 10 a.m.: Join us for a nature photography workshop with Marissa Jacobs. Walk the Dvoor Farm trail and learn how to take beautiful photos outside. Jacobs is an award-winning nature photographer and National Geographic Certified Educator and Mentor who holds a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation and Management with a focus in art. During the guided photo walk, participants can ask questions about both nature and photography topics and take their time capturing the perfect shot of any scenic landscape, animal, or plant.



Join us Oct. 11 for a nature photography workshop.

Oct. 15, 7 p.m.: Ten Crucial Days with William L. Kidder: Join us online for a gripping account of George Washington's desperate effort to lead his winter patriots across the ice-choked Delaware River to attack Hessian troops in Trenton. Kidder taught high school history for 40 years and has been a volunteer interpreter and historian for Howell Living History Farm in Hopewell for 30 years. An author and frequent speaker; his books on the American Revolution include: *A People Harassed and Exhausted: The Story of a New Jersey Militia Regiment in the American Revolution*; *Crossroads of the Revolution: Trenton 1774-1783*; and *Ten Crucial Days: Washington's Vision for Victory Unfolds*.

Programs are free, but please register in advance by emailing beth@hunterdonlandtrust.org.

Also, don't forget we have Farmers' Market Yoga outdoors by the charming Walnut Brook every Sunday at 9 a.m. Join Lauren Theis or Beatriz Velasquez for a moderately paced class suitable for all levels. Cost is \$15.

Grants Help Fund HLT Events

Our Farmers' Market programming and Conservation Conversations and printing of our events brochure was provided by The Tyler Foundation. Our Historic Delaware River Series featuring Larry Kidder was supported by the National Park Service's Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Program, which aims to protect the natural, cultural and historic value of the Delaware River.

