



# Hunterdon Land Trust

PROTECTING THE PLACES YOU LOVE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Trail Created at Muddy Run Stewardship Saturday Event**

KINGWOOD -- The Muddy Run Preserve received a little tender loving care recently (Saturday, Jan. 21). Hunterdon Land Trust's first-ever Stewardship Saturday event brought out a team of volunteers who spent several hours beneath a cloudy January sky clearing invasive plants such as multiflora rose and autumn olive, which can outcompete native species and harm the overall health of the preserve.

Volunteers also marked a hiking trail in honor of Kingwood Township conservationist Todd Kratzer, who passed away back in 2012. Kratzer was instrumental in getting the Muddy Run property preserved.

Blazing that trail was Todd's wife, Debbie Kratzer, and daughter, Alie. They cleared the trail and nailed red diamond-shaped HLT markers on trees along the path. (Their son, Samuel, helped remove invasives.) "I think Todd would be really pleased that we think about him when we come out here, and his message would be to enjoy time with your family, and to get out here, enjoy nature and do what you can to improve the environment," Debbie said.



"We are so grateful for all of the volunteers who joined us at our first-ever Stewardship Saturday workday," said HLT Stewardship Program Manager Emily Dunn. "Their enthusiasm and hard work allowed us to mark a new trail system in honor of Todd Kratzer, and to make significant headway in removing invasives from the property. Our team is excited to continue to expand stewardship efforts at all of our preserves, and hopes that more volunteers will continue to join us at upcoming Stewardship Saturdays."

Volunteering that day were Steve Armbruster; Benjamin Burghardt; Leia Cybulski; Ray and Richard Dodds; Fred and Jeanne Gladis; Erika Kaufman; Debbie, Alie and Samuel Kratzer; Jack MacConnell; and Namita and Ravi Potluri.

Stewardship Saturday workdays will be held once a month at HLT's various preserves throughout the county. The program aims to get more people engaged in caring for our properties, so everyone can enjoy them. Visit [www.hunterdonlandtrust.org](http://www.hunterdonlandtrust.org) for future Stewardship Saturday dates.

To register for our next program at the Idell Preserve (50 Barbertown Road) on Feb. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., please contact Dunn at (908) 237-4582 or email [\*\*emily@hunterdonlandtrust.org\*\*](mailto:emily@hunterdonlandtrust.org).

No prior knowledge or experience is required to participate in a Stewardship Saturday – just enthusiasm to care for our natural lands.

The Muddy Run Preserve, 178 Kingwood Locktown Road, is comprised of 66 acres of hayfields, forested areas and wetlands. The Lockatong Creek, a tributary of the Delaware River, hugs the northern border of the property.

Work at the Muddy Run Preserve also supports the goals of the National Park Service's Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Program, whose aim it is to protect the natural, historic and recreational resources that earned this stretch of the river the Wild and Scenic designation.

