

CONSERVATION *matters*

SUMMER 2018



Look up in the sky! The inventory team studies a tree at the Thomas A. Saeger Preserve to determine whether it's an ash.



Volunteer Maria Marks (left) and HLT Land Steward Stefani Spence measure the diameter of an ash tree.

A Tiny Bug That's a Giant Killer

Hunterdon Land Trust Prepares for the Onslaught of the Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer is a torpedo-shaped invasive beetle, native to parts of Asia, metallic green, and 3/8 to 1/2 inch long – about the size of a cooked grain of rice.

It's also a giant killer, posing an extinction-level threat to the roughly 24 million ash trees in New Jersey.

Emerald Ash Borers munch on ash trees, laying eggs in bark crevices. The larvae tunnel into the tree, disrupting its water and nutrient transport systems, causing the tree to girdle from the inside. This silent, hard-to-detect killer works ruthlessly: An infested tree survives three, maybe four, years.

Hunterdon Land Trust is preparing for the inevitable onslaught in the best way possible. We hosted a well-attended information session to teach locals how to identify ash trees and help them evaluate options to deal with the EAB threat. Options include removing trees that could pose a public safety hazard versus treating ones that offer inherent natural benefits and are irreplaceable.

We instituted an action plan to inventory and mark all ash trees near the trails on nine preserves. And we actively sought – and continue to seek – volunteers to help inventory our preserves.

On a Saturday morning with a blanket of mottled gray stretching across the horizon, a cheerful band of volunteers, led by HLT Land Steward Stefani

Spence, prepare to set out on the trail at the Thomas A. Saeger Preserve to identify, measure and mark ash trees. Identifying ash trees isn't a simple task. They are often difficult to distinguish from other common Garden State tree species. Ash trees have opposite branching (a pattern where side branches, leaves and leaf scars grow from the stem directly across from each other) and compound leaves of five and seven or nine leaflets. The bark is often diamond shaped, but not always.

As the group ascends the trail further into the Holland Highlands, one can almost taste the rain. They hike single file; heads swivel, eyes dart upward studying the trees. A volunteer stops, pointing at a gray sentinel standing tall amidst a clump of nearly identical trees. Everyone reaches for the binoculars draped about their necks, raising them to the tree tops, squinting to examine the leaves.

No, this one isn't an ash tree. The search continues until, just around a bend in the trail, an ash tree is identified. A volunteer picks her way through five yards of brush to reach its trunk and measure its diameter. The tree's diameter is measured to help determine whether to treat the tree or cut it down to protect hikers walking the trail. Spence follows, hammering an identifying tag into its trunk, while another volunteer records information about the tree on a spreadsheet.

The process of successfully identifying and marking trees repeats itself for another two hours.

Sometimes the group will have to fight its way through a tangle of grapevine or plunge into the foliage to reach a tree. Along the way, the group encounters fuzzy caterpillars, spittle bugs and a variety of interesting plants. The effort is invigorating and the splatter of raindrops on the leaves fails to dampen the enthusiasm of the volunteers.

"The ash trees we found at Saeger appeared to be in good condition," Spence said, "although it's very difficult to tell if a tree has EAB in it until it's almost too late."

Once all surveying is completed, HLT will evaluate what to do next. "We might be able to treat some of the really nice, healthy ash trees to keep EAB from attacking them, but the treatments are expensive and need to be repeated," Spence noted. "Any tree not treated will most likely be cut down if it could cause damage or injury when it fell. Trees killed by EAB become extremely dangerous, and need to be cut while still alive to minimize risk."

Meanwhile, miles of trails and many trees still need to be surveyed.

Want to Help?

We're seeking volunteers to help inventory ash trees. Call Stefani at 908-237-4582 or email stefani@hunterdonlandtrust.org to learn more.





OUR MISSION

To preserve and protect the places you love in the Hunterdon County region.

You reap the rewards when donating to the Hunterdon Land Trust because you enjoy what we all treasure most about our beautiful county: its emerald green meadows that beckon to be explored, its crystal-clean waters that sparkle like diamonds, its breathtaking hillside views where we can marvel at the rich golden hues of a setting sun.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Shared Vision of an Exciting Future



With so much of what we do here at Hunterdon Land Trust, we realize that the little things do mean a lot. Those little things can range from having good governance policies and financial controls that ensure we meet accreditation standards to scanning the classified ads in a local newspaper to learn about the sale of an intriguing parcel of land. Vincent Van Gogh once said “great things are done by a series of small things brought together.” We experience that truth each day as, steadily and consistently, we piece together the small successes that lead to a sustainable organization and to achieving our shared vision of protecting and honoring this special place we call home.

In the upcoming year, we'll seek re-accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. This is a rigorous process that reviews all facets of our organization. Re-accreditation guarantees that Hunterdon Land Trust is a good investment and that we're meeting the highest national standards for excellence.

And it demonstrates our unwavering commitment to you, our way of validating the faith and trust you have bestowed upon us.

We seek to reaffirm that faith in other ways, too. Within the past several months, we have actively participated in projects that helped preserve acreage in Kingwood and Lebanon townships.

Thanks to your dedication, we have preserved lands totaling 9,210 acres. Our long-term goal to preserve 10,000 acres by 2020 is well within reach. We're making fast and furious progress on a host of other projects too, fueling our optimism that we'll reach our target goal.

We've also made consistent progress with our efforts to ensure the public enjoys such places, especially at the Dvoor Farm where a complex of facilities offers opportunities beyond passive outdoor recreation.

We took our first small steps in this process years ago when we established a producers'-only Farmers' Market at this iconic property. And in another instance where the little things make big differences, we invested time in developing a Master Plan and Historic Site Management Plan to strategically create a shared vision and implementation schedule for the long-term evolution of the farm into a place where history, the arts, tourism, recreation and environmental stewardship intersect. After more than \$1M worth of capital improvements and restoration projects, the farmhouse serves as HLT's offices and the refurbished wagon house provides space for programming and events. With your support, additional facilities will be made available for public use to complement the recreation you currently enjoy on the trails, in the meadows, along the wetlands restoration site, and at the market.

We're very excited about the future and look forward to sharing our plans in more detail with you. On Oct. 11 at 4:30 p.m. I'll be leading a tour of the Dvoor Farm followed by a presentation about this significant initiative. RSVP Judy Wilson, our director of administrative and cultural affairs, at judy@hunterdonlandtrust.org or 908-237-4582. I hope you will join me!

Patricia Ruby

Patricia Ruby, Executive Director, Hunterdon Land Trust

Thanks to Our Partners in Preservation

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Partners in Preservation for playing such a vital role in protecting the places you love in the Hunterdon County area: Basil Bandwagon Natural Market, Northfield Bank and Matt's Red Rooster Grill.

PRESERVATION VICTORIES IN HUNTERDON COUNTY!

Hudson Grant Group Property in Kingwood Township

Even in land preservation, little things can mean a lot.

Take, for example, the 15 acres now preserved by Hunterdon Land Trust and Kingwood Township. Both entities have worked to preserve much larger pieces of property, but this new acquisition offers several unique benefits.

"The property was acquired as a bridge between a small three-acre orphaned property owned by the state to the north and the 220-acre Kugler Woods to the south," said Kingwood Township Mayor Richard Dodds. "This expands the park along the Delaware Bluffs and includes a dramatic waterfall in the middle of the property that descends over 100 feet."

The forested property, purchased from Hudson Grant Group, also sparked interest because of its proximity to the Delaware River:

"There's always an incentive to preserve property that is along the Delaware River for scenic and recreational use, and for its habitat," said Jacqueline Middleton, land acquisition director for Hunterdon Land Trust. "I hiked up past the waterfall, and it is a beautiful property with gorgeous views of the river:"



While there's currently no trail on the land, that will likely change in the future.

"The property will become part of the larger Kugler Woods with a proposed ridge trail running from the boat ramp entrance just north of Bulls Island to the top of the falls (on the newly acquired property)," Dodds said.

"That old mantra about 'location, location, location' certainly holds true in this preservation," said Patricia Ruby, HLT executive director. "This property is strategically located amidst significant preserved acreage to lengthen a green corridor that safeguards clean water and

provides unfragmented woodland habitat for many species, including neo-tropical songbirds that need deep forested areas to breed."

Vernal ponds on the neighboring Kugler Woods Preserve also provide habitat for numerous rare plants including wild comfrey, Missouri gooseberry and hairy lip fern. The woodlands are also habitat for a variety of wildlife, including hawks, owls and coyotes.

The preserved land is within the Delaware River Scenic Byway, and is also along the stretch of river designated as Wild and Scenic by Congress which recognizes its outstanding recreational as well as natural and cultural resource values.

Funding for this acquisition came from a Hunterdon County cooperative grant to Hunterdon Land Trust and the NJ Green Acres Program. Kingwood Township owns and manages the land.

"Kingwood Township would like to thank Hunterdon Land Trust for all their help in closing on this property," Dodds said. "Without its help, the property would have never been preserved."

Pelio Property in Lebanon Township

The old adage that persistence pays off definitely proved true in the case of the preservation of the Pelio Property in Lebanon Township. The 244-acre parcel -- connecting the Point Mountain Reservation and Teetertown/Crystal Springs Preserve -- will become Hunterdon County's newest park.

The land was just preserved by a public-private partnership spearheaded by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and Hunterdon County. HLT helped facilitate the acquisition as well as contributed funding. Many partners played a critical role in supporting this preservation: William Penn Foundation, the New Jersey Green Acres Program, Lebanon Township, The Nature Conservancy, Victoria Foundation, 1772 Foundation, Leavens Foundation and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.



The new park links existing preserved lands to create a greenway of nearly 2,600 acres stretching across northern Hunterdon County. It features rolling farm fields, forests and wetlands along Mount Lebanon, Sharrer and

Turkey Top roads. It will be open to the public for passive recreation like hiking, birding, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and nature observation.

The property is within a sub-watershed ranked the highest for quality by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority and is crossed by streams flowing into the Spruce Run Reservoir; a water supply source for central New Jersey.

On July 19, Hunterdon County purchased the Pelio property for \$2 million, but it's been a long haul to bring this project to its completion. Hunterdon Land Trust has records targeting this property for preservation that date back more than a decade.

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Margaret Waldock to Receive Treasure Hunterdon Award

*This year, Hunterdon Land Trust will honor **Margaret Waldock** with the Treasure Hunterdon Award at our annual Farm to Table dinner on Sunday, Sept. 30. Margaret served as our organization's first executive director from 2003 to 2011. At the dinner, we will also recognize the important achievements of Meg Metz and Beryl Doyle.*



Back in the fall of 2003, Margaret Waldock got an offer she couldn't refuse.

Margaret was living in Frenchtown and working as a program specialist for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres program, and Hunterdon County was her territory. She got to know a number of the HLT's founders including Roger Harris, Bill Rawlyk, Alison Mitchell and Martin Rapp, and shared their concerns about the future of Hunterdon County.

"We felt very much like we were in this together because this was not just our work, but where we lived and what we cared about," Margaret said.

At some point, she made an off-the-cuff remark to Rawlyk that if HLT ever needed an executive director to let her know. A short

time later, Margaret left Green Acres to work for The Trust for Public Land. She'd been working there about a year, when her phone rang.

"There wasn't any other job that would have made me leave TPL except for the Hunterdon Land Trust," Margaret laughs. "Sure enough, I get a phone call and I'm told HLT is near the point where they're going to hire a director, and was I interested. The job was an opportunity to make a difference where I lived, and that mattered to me."

Upon being hired for the position, Margaret started doing what she knew best: conservation real estate projects. HLT had several land deals – including the Zega-Lockatong Preserve – that were already underway thanks to groundwork laid by Rob Eberhardt, a part-time HLT land acquisitions specialist.

"Those early successes were really important because it gave us momentum to build off," Margaret said.

During her tenure, HLT preserved more than 5,000 acres in Hunterdon County, and strengthened the local food movement by starting a Farmers' Market. She credits Meg Metz for playing a pivotal role in bringing the market to life. "She was the brainchild behind the Farmers' Market," Margaret said.

"Meg drove around the county, talking to farmers and convincing them to take a leap of faith and do this."

Margaret's association with Beryl Doyle stretched back to her time at Green Acres. "Beryl was a force of nature in Flemington," Margaret said. "She did so much – you couldn't even list all the good things she's done for Hunterdon County. The Dvoor Farm is definitely one of them."

Margaret departed HLT in the fall of 2011 to work for the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, having left an indelible impression upon our organization.



A favorite memory of Margaret's was in 2006 when HLT members climbed the hill of the newly protected Frenchtown Preserve and took this Christmas card photo.

Pelio Property in Lebanon Township

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"For many years, Hunterdon Land Trust has held a deep interest in seeing this important property preserved," said Patricia Ruby, executive director of Hunterdon Land Trust. "Now, thanks to the persistence and dedication of the many partners working together, we have added significant parkland to a greenway protecting clean water, air, and wildlife for all to enjoy. It is always exciting when a long-awaited preservation project comes to fruition."

This preservation protects the watershed of the Musconetcong, one of only three federally-

designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in New Jersey, and furthers efforts of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI), which receives funding from the William Penn Foundation.

"We thank NJ Conservation Foundation – one of our partners under the DRWI – for spearheading this effort," said Jacqueline Middleton, HLT land acquisition director.

Hunterdon County provided the bulk of the funding through grants to Lebanon Township and New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Green Acres was also a significant funding

partner, providing grants to Lebanon Township and Hunterdon Land Trust. The Nature Conservancy, Victoria Foundation, 1772 Foundation and Leavens Foundation also chipped in, and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority helped with closing costs.

"We are thrilled to help secure the preservation of the Pelio property, and we thank all our partners," said Michele S. Byers, executive director of NJ Conservation Foundation. "Preservation of these lands reaffirms the importance of public-private partnerships in achieving land preservation goals."

CRITTER CORNER

Busy Beavers a Boon to Wildlife Habitats

The North American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) was once hunted to near extinction in New Jersey for its fur. Nowadays their population has recovered and beavers can be spotted at Crystal Springs Preserve and throughout Hunterdon County. Beavers are often considered a pest, but they play an important role in environments along stream banks.

Beavers are often called “ecosystem engineers” for the way they modify their environment to suit their needs, like humans do. If there isn’t already a pond where beavers want to build their lodge, they will make one. Using their front teeth, they fell trees to make dams, eating the bark and leaves for food. The beavers dam the stream by placing vertical poles across its berth, filling the gaps with branches, weeds, and mud. The stream becomes a pond, where they then build their lodges out of mud and branches, digging out underwater entrances so predators like coyotes and bears can’t get in.

Beaver dams cause drastic changes to the environment, but end up creating more habitat for other species. For this reason, beavers are a keystone species, or a species that has a critical impact on the structure of its ecosystem. Beaver dams slow the flow of water in the stream, which creates pools and riffles that are essential for fish like salmon and trout to reproduce. The ponds created by beaver dams can drown trees, but this creates standing dead wood that serves as habitat for insects, birds, and mammals. The wetlands created by beaver ponds are excellent habitat for waterfowl like the Great Blue Heron and Wood Duck, as well as turtles, amphibians, and aquatic plants. In torrential rainfall events the wetlands also help contain stormwater and capture sediment, reducing flooding and pollution of rivers and streams.

Unfortunately, beavers and people don’t always get along. Beaver dams can flood people’s properties upstream, and beavers frequently plug culvert pipes, which leads to flooding that can damage roads. For those dealing with unwanted beaver activity, non-lethal measures exist. Humane trapping and relocation has a high failure rate due to resettlement by new beavers, but there are numerous ways to mitigate unwanted flooding while preserving the ecosystem benefits beavers provide. Simple options include fencing around culvert openings to prevent beavers from plugging them. More complex methods may involve drainage pipes or submerged intake devices to control the water level in the beaver pond. These are only effective when installed with

measures to muffle the sound of moving water, which otherwise alerts beavers to the source of the drainage and prompts them to plug the pipes or build a new dam further downstream.

In New Jersey, where many of our rivers are in dire need of restoration, beaver dams can help restore degraded riparian systems. Slowing stream flow, creating backwatered areas, and reconnecting a stream with its floodplain are objectives accomplished by beavers and river restoration projects alike, though the beavers get it done at a fraction of the cost. Restored river systems mean less flooding during storms, better water quality, and better fishing and birding for us, and better habitats for New Jersey’s native species. When you look at it that way, busy beavers might not be such a bad thing!



Upcoming Hunterdon Land Trust Programs

The Dvoor Farm and our Farmers' Market is the place to be this fall for delicious local food and entertaining and enlightening programs. All events below are free, so mark your calendars and join us!

Sunday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.

The Dark Side of the Sourland Mountains: Up until recent times the Sourlands were not only inhospitable, but downright dangerous to wander around in. They did not get the nickname "the hills of missing men" or "the Bermuda Triangle of Central Jersey" for nothing. East Amwell Historian Jim Davidson knows where all the bodies are buried up there, and will share fascinating tales of missing men, bootlegging and murders. You'll hear about the infamous Put's Tavern, the murders of Richard Wyckoff and his housekeeper, and learn why local Charles Sutphin warned Charles Lindbergh not to build his home in the Sourlands.

October 14

Farmers' Market Second Sunday Program Series: Local Artists and Artisans – Check out the stunning creations of local painters, woodworkers, poets and jewelers; Nature Photography Workshop; North Hunterdon High School students' art exhibition.



Second Sunday Program series events included a stream exploration for kids in the Walnut Brook.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m.

The Native American Indians of the Flemington Area: The story of Chief Tuccamirgan and the Native Indians of the Flemington area will come to life. Archaeology archivist Jim Wade will discuss the local Lenni Lenapes, autumn activities of Native Americans and more. The Dvoor Farm is the perfect site for this presentation, as it is believed Chief Tuccamirgan lived on the hill north of the Walnut Brook.

November 11

Farmers' Market Second Sunday Program Series: Local History Session II – Hunterdon County Servicemen of World War I with Historian Brian Anderson. Presentation will begin at 11 a.m. marking exactly the 100th anniversary of the day and time of the cease fire that ended fighting on land, sea and air. Also, at 9:30 a.m. HLT staff member and local historian Dave Harding will discuss the 1803 murder at the Case-Dvoor Farmstead.

November 18

Holiday Market – Join us for great gift ideas and everything you'll need for the perfect Thanksgiving dinner.

Winter Farmers' Market Schedule

Our winter Farmers' Market runs the first and third Sundays of every month starting Dec. 2 until May 5, 2019. (There will be no Farmers' Market on Easter Sunday, April 21.)



You'll find all your local favorites at our Farmers' Market every Sunday through Nov. 18.

Visit the Dvoor Farm this fall and discover the difference an authentic Farmers' Market makes!

Hunterdon Land Trust takes special pride in running a producers'-only Farmers' Market. This means our vendors only sell products that are locally derived, ones that they have grown, produced or made with their farm-fresh ingredients. It ensures our growers and vendors meet a high standard for authenticity and guarantees top-quality products that help support our local economy.

Our market offers an ideal gathering place – a 40-acre farm on the outskirts of Flemington – where you can connect with your neighbors and your local farmers. You know the guy who cuts your hair and the woman who fixes your car – doesn't it make sense to know the farmer who grows your garlic and green beans?

Our producers'-only market fosters a strong sense of community. You'll learn about new foods and the best way to prepare them, enjoy local musical talent, and embrace a healthier lifestyle by taking a yoga class or going on a hike. You can connect with our agricultural heritage by attending an historic presentation or touring the 220-year-old Dvoor Farm House (HLT's headquarters) or our collection of 18th- to early 20th-century barns. (See the accompanying list for remaining 2018 Farmers' Market events.)

We believe our Farmers' Market solidifies, subtly, a deep-rooted and inherent need to be a part of something greater, to have both a sense of place and a sense of belonging. At a time when life seemingly revolves around spending hours staring at computer screens, our need for authentic experiences cannot be understated.

So, come to our producers'-only Farmers' Market every Sunday through Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We have fun activities for children and adults that we're sure you'll enjoy. And you'll see why real food with real flavor grown by real farmers makes a real difference!

Grants Help Fund Farmers' Market Events

Our robust Second Sunday Program events at this year's Farmers' Market would not have been possible without the support of the Astle-Alpaugh Family Foundation. Additional funding for our Second Sunday Programs, our recreational and stewardship programs, Conservation Conversations and the printing of our events brochure was provided by The Tyler Foundation – PNC Charitable Trusts. *We thank them both for their generous support!*

A Bright Future Blossoms at the Dvoor Farm

A new morning sun is ascending at the Dvoor Farm.

A beloved community landmark, HLT's Dvoor Farm headquarters is already well known for its Farmers' Market, recreational trails, historic house and barn tours, and educational programs. But in recent months, work to ramp up the farm as a destination site is truly blossoming.



The Dvoor Farm's old-growth forest in the fall.

"It's exciting to see us make steady progress toward achieving the goals in our strategic plan and our Historic Site Management Plan to convert the farm into a place where history, arts, tourism, recreation and environmental stewardship merge," said Patricia Ruby, HLT's executive director.

HLT took its first giant step toward this goal two years

ago when it refurbished the Dvoor Farm wagon house as a space available for public use. If you'd like to learn more about renting the wagon house – which seats 46 comfortably – for your next event, call us at 908-237-4582 or email Catherine Suttle, our director of cultural resources at catherine@hunterdonlandtrust.org.

Other farm buildings are currently not available for public use, however, HLT is working to change that.

Work to restore the roof and foundation of the farm office – the small building beside the stone house -- was completed recently. Projects to construct a ramp to the back entrance of the Dvoor Farm House to allow anyone with mobility issues to enter the building is wrapping up. An ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant bathroom, and the dismantling of the current bathroom beneath the stairs, will happen in the immediate future. That work, once completed, will restore the 220-year-old Georgian vernacular-style home to its original appearance with a center hallway running from front to back.

To further improve use of the site, we are planning for the next building conversion to support additional programming and larger events. A number of infrastructure improvements are necessary to support this additional use. These include connecting to the municipal sewer system, installing public bathrooms, and enhancing signage. To improve circulation and safety, plans also include relocating the farm's entrance from the Route 12 traffic circle to Old Croton Road.

All this work requires funding, and HLT has been working diligently to make this vision – that aims to honor and protect significant natural and cultural resources in the region – a reality.

Get Involved!

Join us for a tour of the Dvoor Farm followed by a presentation about our future plans on Thursday, Oct. 11 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. RSVP Judy Wilson, our director of administrative and cultural affairs, at judy@hunterdonlandtrust.org or 908-237-4582.



How You Help Protect the Places You Love

Butterflies are free, but caring for their habitats isn't.

Your generosity allows Hunterdon Land Trust to care for the habitats of butterflies, birds and all kinds of pollinators and native wildlife. Your compassion for protecting the places we all love ensures clean drinking water and safeguards our treasured farms, fields and forests. It guarantees 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/get-involved.

Other ways you can protect the places you love include:

Matching Gifts: Make the most of your gift to the Hunterdon Land Trust. Many companies will match the charitable gifts of their employees. 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 the Hunterdon Land Trust along with your gift.

Planned Giving: Create a lasting legacy by including HLT in your estate plans. You can make gifts through your will or outside your will and even gifts that give 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 Director of Administrative and Social Affairs Judy Wilson 908-237-4582 or judy@hunterdonlandtrust.org.



Farm to Table Dinner Is a Great Night for a Great Cause

*L*ocal food takes center stage at our annual Farm to Table dinner on Sunday, Sept. 30. It's our signature fundraiser that offers you a delicious way to protect the places you love!



A toast to preservation.

Join us at the Beaver Brook Country Club in Annandale at 5 p.m. for a cocktail hour featuring live music and appetizers. Sip a little wine from Beneduce Vineyards while you check out our unique selection of beautiful silent auction items and experience packages.

Then, head over to the main dining room for an unforgettable feast of local fare perfectly prepared by Chef Matt McPherson of Matt's Red Rooster Grill and Ronald Rittenhouse of Basil Bandwagon Natural Market. Susan Peterson of Teaberry's Tea Room will complete the evening with a delectable dessert. Most of the ingredients for the dinner are provided by the familiar faces you see each week at our Farmers' Market, making this a true celebration of seasonal, local food.



Meet up with friends at our Farm to Table dinner who care about protecting the places we love.

This year, HLT honors former executive director Margaret Waldock with the Treasure Hunterdon Award. We will also recognize the achievements of Beryl Doyle and Meg Metz.

Tickets to this enchanting evening cost \$150, and again, all proceeds benefit HLT's efforts to do your good work: to ensure clean drinking water; to protect our farms, fields and forests; and preserve our agricultural legacy.

You can reserve your seat online at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org or by calling our offices at 908-237-4582.

Also, you can congratulate Margaret in our Farm to Table program! For a contribution of \$50 or more, your personal message will be included in the program. Email your message to Judy Wilson, our director of administrative and cultural affairs, at judy@hunterdonlandtrust.org.

