

CONSERVATION
matters

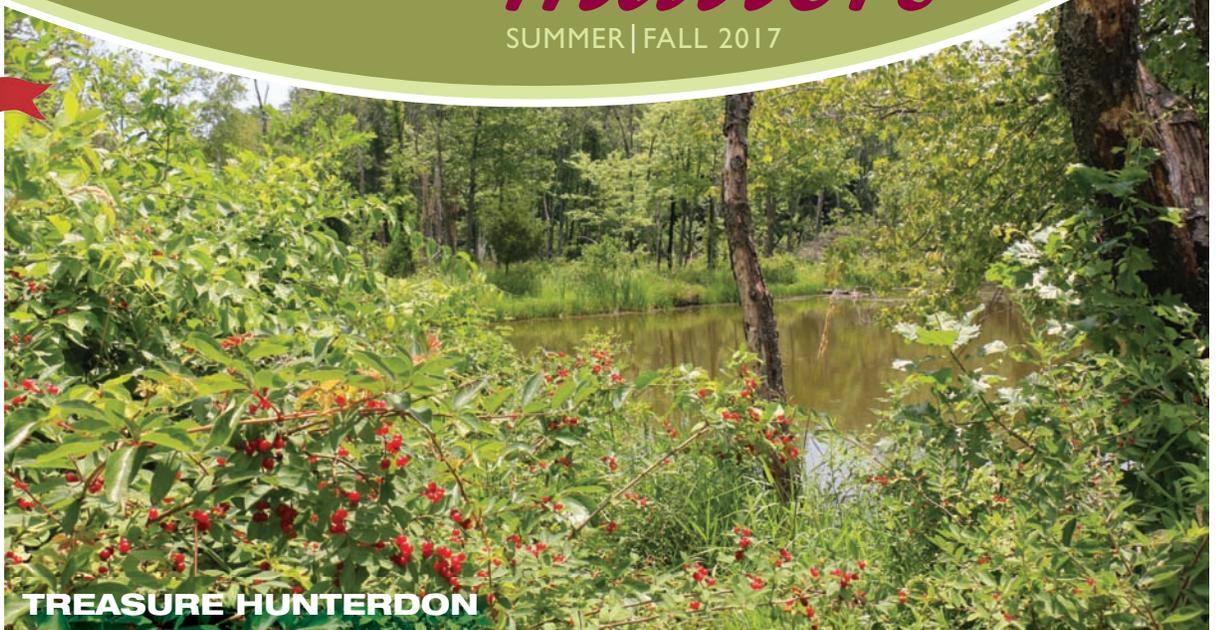
SUMMER | FALL 2017

Celebrating 20 Years

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.



One of the several ponds that can be found at the Crystal Springs Preserve.

Crystal Springs: A 'Noisy' Slice of Heaven in Hunterdon County

Tucked away in the northern-most part of Hunterdon County is a 291-acre tract that you helped protect: The Crystal Springs Preserve. It's breathtakingly beautiful, a hiker's dream and – surprisingly – quite noisy.

Arrive early in the morning and the birdsong reminds one of an orchestra tuning up before a concert: The hum of bees, gurgling waters, croaking frogs, tall grasses swishing in the summer's breeze, and the splashing of an industrious beaver (or two) adds to the symphony of sound.

You can best enjoy nature's serenade while hiking one of several trails on this preserve that stretches across Hunterdon and Morris counties. You can explore the forested area off Pleasant Grove Road or enter via Califon Road and hike alongside one of the trails that skirt the ponds.

The five ponds are fed by natural springs that form the headwaters of Spruce Run Creek, a category one trout production stream and one of three waterways that flow into the Spruce Run Reservoir; a vital source of drinking water in the area. Anglers will love fishing these ponds for bass, catfish and sunfish.

Walk along one of these trails and you'll likely spot a blue heron on a nearby tree limb, scanning the waters for frogs. A bend in the trail leads uphill to a 40-acre meadow that is managed as a bird habitat. Bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, red-winged blackbirds, indigo buntings and vesper sparrows flit about, making this clearing an emerald slice of paradise for birders. Continuing upwards, the trail eventually leads you to an enchanting forest of mature hardwoods, and a hemlock grove that supports migratory songbirds.

The preserve, acquired in 2004, is yet another success story thanks to you and the efforts of several organizations working together, including NJ Green Acres Program, NJ Water Supply Authority, Hunterdon County, Lebanon Township, Washington Township Land Trust and Hunterdon Land Trust. Hunterdon County manages the preserve.

You could spend hours at Crystal Springs, in Lebanon Township, or make a day trip out of exploring all the beauty northern Hunterdon County offers. When you go, don't forget to share your discoveries on our HLT Community Map at www.hltcommunitymap.com.

Thanks to our Partners in Preservation!

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our Partners in Preservation, and ask you to support the businesses that help protect the places you love in the Hunterdon County area: **Basil Bandwagon Natural Market, Matt's Red Rooster Grill, ShopRite of Hunterdon County and Peragrín LLC.**



New Video Offers Bird's-Eye View of Dvoor Farm



See the Dvoor Farm from the skies in our new video.

Enjoy the beauty of the Dvoor Farm from the skies and learn about its importance as a cultural and ecological resource in this beautiful new video. You can watch it on our website at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org.

You'll tour the farm meadow that supports important pollinators like butterflies and bees; view the old growth forest -- with trees that date back three centuries -- where Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned hawks nest -- and explore the restored wetlands that help prevent floods and filter pollutants that might otherwise enter the Walnut Brook.

HLT hopes the video will inspire the community to help care for our treasured landscapes. Special thanks to Bill Ivie of CinematicEye for creating this video, and to NJ Keep It Green Coalition for providing funding for it.

Astle-Alpaugh Grant Furnishes Wagon House

During the past year, anyone walking past our wagon house might have overheard giggling girl scouts making bird nests, conversations among artists or an historical presentation about life in 19th century Hunterdon County.

A number of groups are enjoying our recently refurbished wagon house. And, thanks to a grant from The Astle-Alpaugh Family Foundation, we have beautiful new wooden tables and chairs, and a projector that all our guests can use.

Our wagon house can seat 46 people comfortably and is ideal for programs, meetings and small events!

To learn more about renting our wagon house, visit www.hunterdonlandtrust.org or contact Catherine Suttle, our director of cultural resources, at 908-237-4582 or catherine@hunterdonlandtrust.org.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Creating a Legacy at the Dvoor Farm

What a difference a year makes!

Last summer we were sifting through the ashes – literally – after a fire damaged the back entrance to our headquarters, the historic Dvoor Farm House. The next several months turned out to be challenging, but we learned quite a bit about the history of the house during the reconstruction and were deeply touched by the outpouring of support that came our way.

Since June, we have a beautiful new back entrance to the house that's warm and welcoming, while adhering to its historic character. We invite you to stop by and see it!

As we faced the difficulties that occurred last year, our goal wasn't just to get back to where we were before the fire, but to forge ahead toward our goal of enhancing the Dvoor Farm as a public destination site.



Completed reconstruction of the back entrance to the Dvoor Farm House.

Within the past year, the barns have received a fresh coat of paint, and we repainted the iconic "Dvoor Bros." advertisement on the roof of the horse barn. We've also been working toward replacing the slate roof on the bank barn and insulating it to prepare for future conditioned uses of the structure. We installed a new "Hunterdon Land Trust" sign near the entrance to the property, and are in the midst of adding interpretive signs that inform visitors of the farm's historical significance: its wetlands, old-growth forest and other ecological features, and its recreational opportunities.

We've worked hard to care for the land by removing invasive plants – including a swath of Callery pear trees – which threaten the biological diversity of the farm. Replacing these invasives with native plants will help us improve the existing bird habitat.

And we continue to make progress in our efforts to create a continuous trail that will link to Mine Brook Park and other nearby preserves.

These are exciting times at the Dvoor Farm! We encourage you to visit the farm and enjoy the improvements we're making. We hope you will continue to support our efforts to make the Dvoor Farm a model of responsible stewardship and a showplace that preserves Hunterdon County's cultural and agricultural legacy for generations to come.

Patricia Ruby

Patricia Ruby, Executive Director, Hunterdon Land Trust

CRITTER CORNER

Why Bats in the Belfry Might Not Be Such a Bad Thing

What usually comes to mind when you think about bats? Halloween? Dracula? Ghosts and graveyards? Bats give lots of folks the heebie-jeebies, but the truth is our way of life in New Jersey would not be the same without them.

New Jersey is home to nine species of bats, six of which live here year-round. The ones we see most often are the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) and the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). These, in addition to the less-common small-footed bat (*M. leibii*), like to roost in manmade structures during the summer. The tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*), and federally endangered Indiana bat (*M. sodalis*) prefer to roost beneath the peeling bark of trees like shagbark hickory or in the cavities of dead trees. All six of these species spend the winter hibernating in caves or mines, though some may overwinter in buildings. The hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), the eastern red bat (*L. borealis*), and the silver-haired bat (*Lasionycterus noctivagans*) are migratory bat species found in New Jersey during the summer that travel south for the winter. HLT's Zega-Lockatong Preserve has been identified as potential habitat for both the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat.

What makes bats so important to New Jersey is their impact on agriculture. New Jersey's bats are

insectivores, meaning they eat mainly insects. Bats are the only major predator of nocturnal insects, and they eat a massive amount of them each night. Many of the bugs they munch on are agricultural pests, like the green stink bug that inflicts major damage to soybeans, peas, tomatoes

and corn. Without the bats to reduce the populations of pests like these, farmers would need to use a lot more pesticides each year to protect their crops. Bats save agricultural producers across the U.S. \$22.9 billion on average each year, just by eating bugs!

Besides habitat destruction, the greatest threat to cave-roosting bats is a disease known as White Nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS is caused by a fungus that manifests as a powdery white substance on the face, ears, and wings of bats, typically while they are hibernating. WNS has killed over 5.7 million bats in the eastern United States, but according to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, bat

populations may be starting to recover.

Bats will not

intentionally "dive-bomb" humans; however, they occasionally do get stuck in houses, and fly frantically around trying to escape. If a bat enters your home, remain calm and close doors to isolate the bat in one room. Open all the windows and remove the screens. Turn off the lights, and stand quietly in the corner of the room until the bat flies out. Do not attempt to handle a bat.

If you are interested in helping conserve bat habitats, consider installing a bat box on a tree or pole. See wildlife.rutgers.edu for information on construction and proper placement.



Seen any bats around lately? Be sure to post it to our HLT Community Map!

How You Can Preserve Our Past and Protect Our Future!

Thank you! Your generous gift to Hunterdon Land Trust ensures clean drinking water for everyone in the Hunterdon County area. It protects our treasured farms, fields and forests. It preserves our agricultural and cultural heritage for your children and your children's children.

Your continued generosity will enable us to continue doing your good work! **To make a gift**, please send 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:

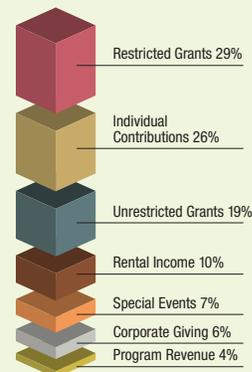
Matching Gifts: Make the most of your gift to the Hunterdon Land Trust. Many companies will match the charitable gifts of their employees. Check with your employer to see if it has a matching gift program. Most corporate procedures are simple: Just request a Matching Form from your company and submit it to the Hunterdon Land Trust, along with your gift.

Planned Giving: Create a lasting legacy by including HLT in your estate plans. Bequests to the Land Trust through your will or through charitable gifts provide you with income for life and lower your taxes while helping ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy the beauty and rural character of Hunterdon County.

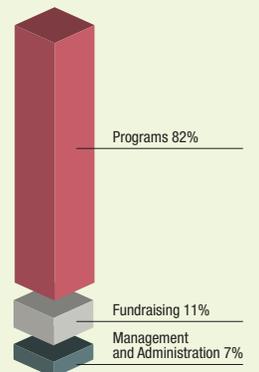
If you have already designated a planned gift to HLT, please contact Director of Development Christine Dimas at christine@hunterdonlandtrust.org or 908-237-4582, so we can thank you!

For more information on donating to help protect the places you love, please visit our website at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org/get-involved.

2016 Revenue



2016 Expenses





HUNTERDON LAND TRUST

Join Us for a Celebration of Local Food at Our Farm to Table Dinner

Join us Sunday, Sept. 24, at the Beaver Brook Country Club for an unforgettable full-course dinner that celebrates local and seasonal foods. It's a tasty way to support the places you love in the Hunterdon County area.

Chef Matt McPherson, of Matt's Red Rooster Grill, will create culinary magic with food provided by our local farmers. Julie Klein, chef and owner of Lovin' Oven restaurant in Frenchtown, will cap off the exquisite meal with a delicious dessert.

Ron Subber and Martha Wood are dessert and first course sponsors. "We are glad to support the work of the Hunterdon Land Trust," Subber and Wood noted.

The celebration includes a cocktail hour featuring wines from Beneduce Vineyards, delicious appetizers and live music, and a silent auction with a one-of-a-kind selection of beautiful items and experiences. Enjoy a toast at dinner with Ironbound Hard Cider, and plenty of scintillating conversation with people like you who care about clean drinking water, beautiful landscapes and supporting our local farms.



Come celebrate with us at our Farm to Table dinner on Sunday, Sept. 24!

Tickets cost \$150 each. This signature fundraiser, which begins at 5 p.m., benefits the Hunterdon Land Trust's efforts to protect the places you love in the Hunterdon County area.

You can reserve your spot online at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org or by calling our offices at 908-237-4582. The Beaver Brook Country Club is located at 25 Country Club Road in Annandale.

Fall: The Perfect Season to Visit Our Farmers' Market

Summer may be drawing to an end, but that doesn't mean you won't find plenty of delicious local food at our producers-only Farmers' Market.

Sure, you'll find all the standard fall produce – root vegetables, broccoli, garlic, pumpkins and apples, for instance – but did you know you'll also find tomatoes and peaches and, as the leaves change colors, an encore appearance of spring greens like kale, spinach, arugula and lettuce?

Life in the fall can get incredibly hectic: Children return to school – begrudgingly – then need to be shuttled to soccer practice or scouts, work gets crazy busy and, well, you get the idea! Your active schedule makes it extra important to take care of your family's health. And, one of the best ways to do that is to eat the nutrient-rich, fresh foods you'll find at our market.

Besides organic, fresh-from-the-farm fruits and veggies, you'll find grass-fed beef, pork, chicken, milk, eggs, cheese, artisan breads, kombucha and so much more.

The Hunterdon Land Trust takes great pride in running a producers-only Farmers' Market. This means farmers and vendors sell only products they grow, raise or produce themselves. This is the key to guaranteeing authenticity, freshness and quality in everything you see every Sunday.

On a larger scale, our producers-only market supports the local economy by guaranteeing all farmers and vendors are from the Hunterdon County area, and by attracting day trippers who shop at local businesses.

Our market's Second Sunday Program Series continues throughout fall with plenty of fun events for the whole family:

Oct. 8: Celebrate great local food with an apple tasting, local food experts, a food scavenger hunt and children's book author Felicia Chernesky.

Nov. 12: Learn all about health and nutrition with several special guests.

And, on **Nov. 19**, don't forget to join us for our annual holiday market! Our Farmers' Market is open every Sunday through Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Dvoor Farm, 111 Mine St. in Raritan Township.

Winter Farmers' Market Schedule Announced

Our winter Farmers' Market will run on the **second and fourth Sundays** (except for Dec. 24) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in our wagon house.

Dates are: Dec. 10, Jan. 14 and 28, Feb. 11 and 25, March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22, and May 13.