



HUNTERDON LAND TRUST
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Information filed with the attorney general concerning the charitable solicitation and the percentage of contributions received by the charity during the last reporting period that were dedicated to the charitable purpose may be obtained from the attorney general of the state of New Jersey by calling 973.504.6215 or at <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/charity/charfrm.htm>. Registration does not imply endorsement. The Hunterdon Land Trust is a tax exempt nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID is 22-3477465.



CONSERVATION MATTERS

HUNTERDON LAND TRUST
SUMMER 2016

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HLT Celebrates 20 Years of Protecting the Places You Love

For the past two decades, the Hunterdon Land Trust has worked passionately to protect the places you love. We've preserved more than 8,300 acres of fields, forests and farmlands; established miles of trails where anyone can hike, horseback ride, cross-country ski or simply enjoy the sweet sounds of nature; and protected vital drinking water sources, pollinators and wildlife. We've safeguarded one of the county's most iconic properties: the 48-acre historic Dvoor Farm. And in June, our Farmers' Market celebrated its 10th successful year.

We fully realize that not one of these accomplishments would have occurred without your faithful and enduring support. It is your passion and generosity that has allowed us to do your good work and to ensure that this – and future – generations can continue to enjoy this area's special places. The places that resonate deep inside us.

We all have such a place. A beloved forest where we embrace tranquility. A stunning mountain view that once stopped us in our tracks and compels us to revisit time and time again. A local landmark where we celebrate our uniqueness.

We cherish the places that remain, and lament the ones that have disappeared from the landscape. Perhaps our memories conjure up those vanished places and a tender ache arises from the most unlikely sources. A grainy black-and-white photograph on the internet reminds us of a local orchard where Dad held us in his outstretched arms as we tugged at that round ripe apple that dangled from a tree branch. Or maybe the faintest whiff of buttered popcorn floating in the summer breeze transports us back to the fairgrounds, where we pitched dimes onto plates or fired balls at stacks of bottles for the girl whose heart we hoped to win.

Losing that place which is unique to us means a loss to both our individual experiences and our collective identities. Conversely, when we preserve and protect our local land and resources, we nurture something within ourselves and our community. Something we can pass along to others.

This realization drives us all.

Our relationship with the land and our willingness to appreciate it, and to continue to work together on its behalf, will enrich us all for another 20 years, and another 20 after that – for as long as people treasure the Hunterdon County area and all it offers.



The Saeger Preserve in the Holland Highlands.

“Through all our efforts we strive to create a legacy worthy of our children by preserving all that we value dearly – the critical natural and cultural resources that give us a distinctive sense of place, provide us with a healthy environment, and make us proud to call Hunterdon our home.”

Patricia Ruby
HLT Executive Director



Join us Sunday, Oct. 9 at the Beaver Brook Country Club in Annandale. Chefs Matt McPherson of Mats Red Rooster Grill, Marc Visconti of The Fired Up Flatbread Company, and Julie Klein from Lovin' Oven will create an unforgettable full-course dinner with ingredients from our local farmers. The evening begins at 5 p.m. with a cocktail hour and silent auction. During the event, we'll present Roger Harris, HLT's first president, with our Treasure Hunterdon Award. Tickets are \$135 each, and proceeds benefit our work to protect the places you love.

Contact Christine Dimas at christine@hunterdonlandtrust.org or 908-237-4582 today to reserve your seat. You can also purchase tickets online at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org.

Come celebrate our 20th anniversary! Our annual Farm to Table Gala will feature mouth-watering farm-fresh food perfectly prepared by several top local chefs.

HLT's Farm to Table Gala Is Sunday, October 9

Thanks to Our Partners in Preservation

We want to thank our Partners in Preservation, who support our organization and play such a vital role in our efforts to protect the places you love in Hunterdon County:

Basil Bandwagon Natural Market

Tom McMillan with Weidel Realtors

McPherson & Newland Insurance

Farmers Insurance Company of Flemington

Brighton Financial Planning

Matt's Red Rooster Grill

Provident Bank Foundation

Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants

Gattuso Media Designs

NJ Environment News

ShopRite of Hunterdon County

Kelly Mac Interiorscapes

Peragrin LLC.

A Celebration for Everyone



As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, I'm reminded of the many steps it took to evolve into the successful organization we are today and how small incidents can have great repercussions. In August, a small fire confined to a corner of the Dvoor farm house caused minimal damage, but we had to close our offices for several weeks so the resulting soot which covered every surface in the house could be cleared away.

I am truly grateful for how the staff pulled together, how volunteers stepped forward to lend a hand, and how others called with kind words and generous offers to loan us space or equipment so we could continue to operate while we were displaced. The Hunterdon Land Trust has many good friends.

The challenges we have faced during the past few weeks brought my thoughts back to our beginnings 20 years ago. HLT got its start because citizens were deeply concerned about the future of a beautiful county losing its landscapes parcel by parcel to a patchwork of development. They worked together, confronting challenges as they arose.

Others have stepped forward during the Land Trust's two decades to lend valuable support. They've brought fresh ideas or strong hands, and helped protect the places we love.

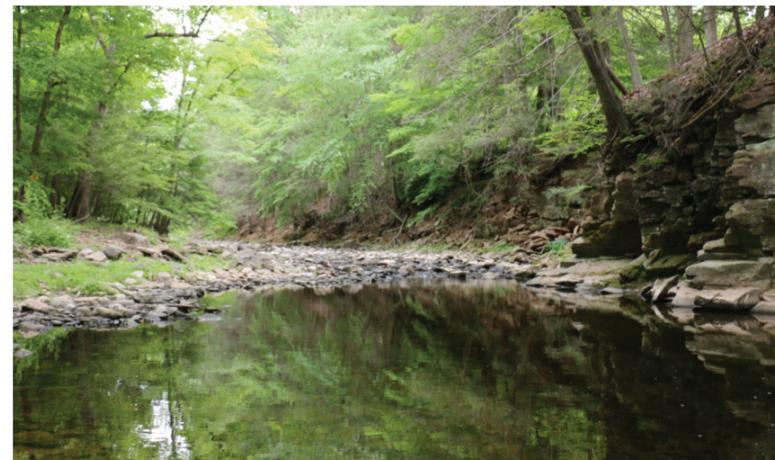
And each has left his or her indelible mark on our organization. We are better and stronger because of their contributions.

So, this celebration is for everyone who played a role in charting our successful course in the past 20 years. We hope you will join us at our Farm to Table Gala this Oct. 9, so I can thank you personally.

Because there wouldn't be a 20th anniversary to celebrate, if it weren't for you.

Patricia Ruby

Patricia Ruby, Executive Director, Hunterdon Land Trust

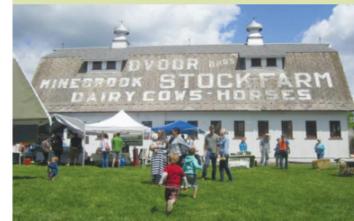


The Zega-Lockatong Preserve in Delaware Township.

Farmers' Market Celebrates 10th Anniversary

A decade ago, when the Hunterdon Land Trust decided to start a Farmers' Market as a way to help fulfill its goal to support agriculture in the county, Mark Canright sensed it was a ripe opportunity.

"I felt this was going to be a happening thing," the Comeback Farm owner said. "Then we found out it was going to be on



a complex of barns on a bona fide farm. I think there's something magical about having a Farmers' Market on a farm that's near the town of Flemington."

This year, our Farmers' Market celebrated its 10th anniversary, and we're honored that Comeback Farm, Phillips Farms, Sweet Valley Farm, and Blue Mist Hollow Farm have all been with us since the beginning.

But most of all, we're grateful to everyone who has visited our Farmers' Market through the years. We feel confident that the food our farmers offer have nourished you and your family. We hope your family greeted you with exclamations of delight when you returned home with your purchases.

We also know that besides offering the freshest local food around that we also offer great value. Not long ago, we

conducted a survey comparing a number of our products to stores in Hunterdon and Somerset counties and discovered that, when in season, fruits and vegetables --including peaches, apples, cauliflower, organic chard, onions, leeks, cucumbers, eggplant, organic kale, peppers, tomatoes and watermelon -- cost less at our market. Many other items cost about the same. And while a few others cost more, the products sold at our market were much fresher.

To stay true to our mission of supporting the local agricultural economy, we operate a producers-only Farmers' Market, which is rather unique in this area.

And the market benefits the local economy each year by generating more than \$2.3 million in income for local farmers and area merchants, according to a study conducted by the nonprofit group Market Umbrella.

So by shopping at our Farmers' Market, you can save money and support your local farmers, our agricultural legacy, our local economy and contribute to keeping the Hunterdon County area the beautiful place we all love.

Happy shopping!

Farmers' Market Hours

The Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market is open Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through November 20. Our winter Farmers' Market is now open every other Sunday from December 4 through early May. We're located on the Dvoor Farm, 111 Mine St. in Raritan Township.

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Looking Back: How HLT Got Its Start

First Preservation

In the late 1990s, Dr. David and Peggy Dondero decided to preserve their 36-acre West Amwell farm and approached the D&R Greenway. The D&R Greenway, in turn, came to the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance and suggested partnering on the project.

"To us this was a great opportunity because we didn't have any experience preserving land but here was an organization that did that was offering to work with us," Harris said.

The Dondero Farm was an ideal property for the Land Trust's first preservation effort. The farm dated back to 1750 and had once been the estate of Cornelius Coryell, who acted as a guide for George Washington during the American Revolution. This stunning property also seemed a microcosm of Hunterdon County with its rolling hayfield, forest populated with specimen ash, oak, sycamore, maple and hickory, and its stone farmhouse and barn.

Working with D&R Greenway and the New Jersey Green Acres Program, the property was successfully preserved. The deal was announced in the spring of 1999.

From that first success, the Hunterdon Land Trust has grown. With the help of many volunteers, we have preserved more than 8,300 acres of fields, farms and woods. We care for a number of properties, ensuring outdoor lovers have trails to hike, bike, bird, horseback ride or cross-country ski. We protect drinking water and air quality. And, we support our local farmers by running a Farmers' Market throughout the year.

Our organization -- and everyone past and present who has been involved with it -- has played an important role in our accomplishments during the past two decades. And, we look forward to future successes.

Host Your Next Event at Our Wagon House

In the past, the building known as the Dvoor Farm wagon house served as a storage shed, someone's home and even an ice house. Now, the beautifully restored structure has found a new purpose: as an ideal space for your next meeting or event.

Our wagon house offers a large open facility with a charming rustic look. The rear of the building looks out on the wetlands and farm fields of the Dvoor Farm. And there's ample parking nearby.

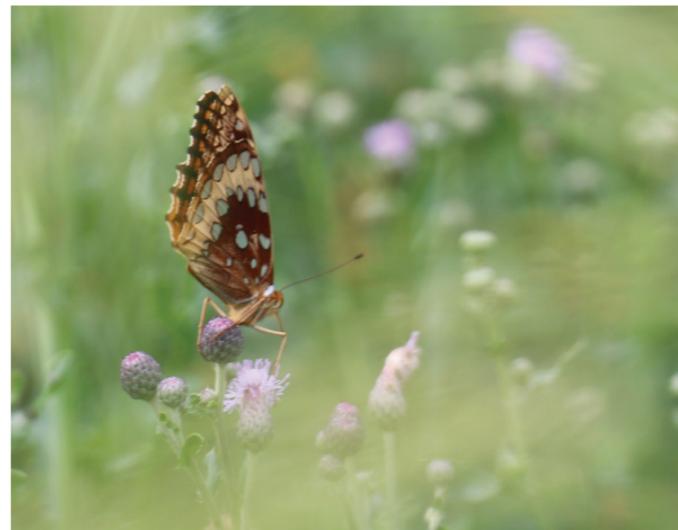
The wagon house can hold about 50 guests, and is perfect for meetings, programs and talks, or small private events. It's available during the spring, summer and fall.

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



HLT started using the wagon house earlier this year for its winter Farmers' Market, and since has hosted a number of programs there. We've also rented the wagon house to several organizations, who have raved about the building. Come check it out and see why it's perfect for your next event.

Donate and Protect the Places You Love!



Thanks to your kind-hearted support, the Hunterdon Land Trust has protected the county's most beautiful farms, fields and forests for the past two decades. Your continued generosity will allow us to continue to do your good work for the next 20 years and beyond! 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. You can also help with:

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 Hunterdon Land Trust in your estate plans. Bequests to the Land Trust through your will or through charitable gifts that provide you with income for life and lower your taxes help ensure that future generations will continue to appreciate the beauty and rural character of Hunterdon County.

If you have already designated a planned gift to the Hunterdon Land Trust, please let us know so that we can thank you for your generosity. For more information, contact Christine Dimas at christine@hunterdonlandtrust.org or 908-237-4582.

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

Preservation Victories!

Your constant support for our organization has enabled us to protect more than 8,300 acres in the Hunterdon County area. Thank you!

And to secure more preservation victories in the future, HLT worked alongside other members of the Keep It Green Coalition in a two-year effort to ensure a voter-approved measure to dedicate public funding for land and historic preservation was enacted.

Here are two recent preservation victories we're thrilled to tell you about:

The United Reformed Church Property Horseshoe Bend Road, Kingwood Township

The four-year-old orphan arrived at the Kingwood farm from war-torn Europe with her only two possessions in the world: a tattered teddy bear and a 2-lb. magnesium incendiary bomb case.

The bomb case had dropped from the sky but failed to go off. An air raid warden dumped the thermite inside and gave it to her – a keepsake at a time when the whole world seemed to be on fire.

The girl lost everything during the Battle of Britain in 1940 when German bombers blew her secure world to smithereens – killing her parents and destroying her home. Renowned journalist William Lindsay White, covering the Nazi blitz for American newspapers and radio, adopted the child, Barbara, and brought her across the ocean to the 100-acre bucolic farm he owned with his wife, Kathrine Klinkenberg White.

In 1964, the Whites left Kingwood, selling the farm for \$1 to the United Reformed Church in Somerville, who for several decades used the property as a nondenominational retreat center. The church cherished the land, and wished to see it preserved. That's how the Hunterdon Land Trust became involved.

Working with Kingwood Township, HLT sought to preserve the farm because it bridged other preserved properties.



Protecting contiguous parcels over time creates greenways that support critical wildlife habitat corridors, recreational activities and water purification. The Copper Creek and its tributaries flow through this richly forested land. HLT worked with a number of partners to facilitate the preservation of the property and Kingwood Township ultimately assumed ownership of it. The township renamed the property Horseshoe Bend East.

Preservation partners: New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the state Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Staff, the Hunterdon County Freeholders, the Kingwood Township Committee and Department of Public Works, and several church property neighbors: Lary Aasheim, Mark Blecher, and Michael and Lisa Overington.

The Mary Smith Property Bellis and Cyphers Roads, Holland Township

Mary Smith is a bona fide country girl at heart. She milked cows for 38 years and loved working on her family's dairy farm. When the time came to decide the future of her 50 acres in Holland Township, she was determined to see it preserved.

"My late husband was a farmer, and he didn't want to see houses on the property," she said. "It's just a great place – beautiful and very scenic."

The Hunterdon Land Trust saw the property as an ideal target for preservation because of its numerous benefits: it's contiguous to the Musconetcong Gorge Preserve and would add acreage to the county-owned park; a tributary to the Musconetcong River – an important source for drinking water – runs through it; the forested wetlands along the stream enhance the riparian habitat because the trees help keep the water temperature down. A cooler stream means the water has more oxygen which makes it more suitable for trout production.

And the views are magnificent.

HLT Land Acquisition Director Jacqueline Middleton walked the property several times and was amazed. "This is a terrific piece of land to preserve; the park is beautiful and the views are absolutely stunning," Middleton said.

Bill Millette, Hunterdon County's open space coordinator, said the Student Conservation Association will create a trail on the newly preserved land to hook up with the Highlands Trail. A parking area will be added too.

The preservation was a true collaboration of several organizations working together. Working with HLT were the Heritage Conservancy, the Musconetcong Watershed Association, the Victoria Foundation, the William Penn Foundation, Hunterdon County (who now owns the property), the New Jersey Green Acres Program and the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Program.

"It's so key that we all worked together on this," Middleton said. "I don't think this property would have been preserved without all this collaboration."

Discover the Amphibians at the Idell Preserve



Do you hear a chorus of chirping in the evenings? If you live near wetlands, you may not be hearing crickets – frogs chirp too! Wet, marshy forest areas like the Hunterdon Land Trust's Idell Preserve make great habitat for amphibians like frogs and salamanders, which play many important roles in the ecosystem. In addition to helping keep the water clean, amphibians are a source of food for other animals like turtles, owls, raccoons, and foxes, and they also help keep the mosquito population down by eating mosquito larvae before they have a chance to mature into pesky, biting adults.

Each year around springtime when the snow begins to melt, frogs and salamanders migrate to vernal pools to breed. For some species, the breeding season lasts as little as 2-3 days. However, since the pools only hold water for a limited time, newly hatched amphibians must rush to complete their metamorphosis before the pools dry up. Many amphibians will return each year to breed in the same pond where they were born; however, if their pond is destroyed they may no longer breed at all.

In New Jersey, there are two species of frogs and five species of salamanders that can only breed in vernal pools. Among them are the Eastern Tiger Salamander and the Blue-spotted Salamander, which are both endangered. Many other species do not rely on the pools as their only place to breed, but nonetheless use the pools for breeding, habitat, or feeding. If vernal pools are destroyed, it's a huge loss for the entire ecosystem.

Experts disagree on whether Hunterdon County is included in the range of the endangered Blue-spotted Salamander, but the Hunterdon Land Trust's Idell Preserve hosts habitat potentially suitable for them, including the vernal pools they rely on for breeding.

Come explore the pools along the trails at Idell – you never know what you may find!



Amphibians also play an important role in conservation by serving as indicators of environmental health. Most are very sensitive to changes in their environment, such as fluctuations in rainfall or temperature due to changing conditions. Many frogs and salamanders also have permeable skin, which means that any pollution in their environment gets absorbed directly into their bodies. Because amphibians are so heavily affected by environmental conditions, when there are many amphibians present in an ecosystem we can tell that that ecosystem is relatively healthy.

Many amphibians' life cycles take place both on land and in water. One special kind of ecosystem where land and water meet is called a vernal pool. Vernal pools are small ponds that are filled with water for at least two months out of the year, but seasonally dry up. Because they are periodically dry, they cannot contain fish that would otherwise prey on amphibian eggs, making vernal pools vital amphibian habitat.

If You Visit...

The 57-acre Idell Preserve features old growth trees, pine forests and vernal pools. Enjoy a pleasant hike on its .8-mile trail, and don't forget to take along your smartphone or iPad and share your discoveries on the HLT Community Map (www.hltcommunitymap.com). You can also download an Idell Preserve trail guide by visiting the "Visit a Preserve" section of our website. Idell Preserve is located on Barbertown-Idell Road in Kingwood, just past Tumble-Idell Road. Park by the Hunterdon Land Trust sign.

Looking Back: How HLT Got Its Start

The Hunterdon Land Trust celebrates its 20th anniversary this October thanks to the foresight of a number of concerned citizens who respected our county's past and deeply cared about its future. They saw how developers were gobbling up our farms, fields and scenic vistas, and were determined to do something about it.

They sought to create a structure, an organization that would not just fight specific development projects, but would also be proactive and work toward the goal of protecting all that is special about this area and why we love to call it home.

How It All Began

Anyone flipping through their local newspaper in 1994 must have felt alarmed over the continual drumbeat of headlines: "Developer Seeks Larger Market," "Board Delays Hearing on 66-House Plan," "County's Housing Gain Is Largest in 4 Years." The Thursday, Oct. 13 1994 Hunterdon County Democrat featured an article, part of a series, on how changes were threatening farms throughout the county. And, on page one, readers learned of a meeting to discuss a proposal to rezone Sergeantsville. About 200 residents flocked to Delaware Township's planning board meeting, which was moved to a firehouse to accommodate the crowd.

Among the attendees was Roger Harris. "Delaware Township was under a lot of pressure and a couple of things came together simultaneously that got people up in arms, myself included," Harris said recently. "There was a huge amount of development proposed for Sergeantsville and that's when I started to notice the big problems."

Harris then volunteered to serve on Delaware Township's planning board where, he says, he "very quickly learned that it's not easy to zone your way to preservation." Harris recalled a land trust in his native Massachusetts; he and a number of others concerned about preserving land began meeting and researching. A phone call to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation helped Harris connect with residents from Kingwood, Readington and East Amwell.

Among those involved early on in the efforts were: Bill Rawlyk, John Mathieu, Tom McMillan, Alison Mitchell, Pam Thier, Barbara Wolfe, Ruth and Lloyd Gang, Sandra Madon, Julia Allen and Howard Parker.

This group of was worried about the impact of continued development on our drinking water and air quality and that the loss of farmland, woodland, and country vistas was forever damaging our rural heritage.

They met several times, eventually forming a coalition, the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, considering itself an alliance of smaller land trusts working together. This initial plan changed because the group incorporated as a single entity. (In 2008, "Alliance" was dropped from the name.)

The group conducted an incredible amount of research before drafting bylaws and incorporating in October 1996. Harris became the land trust's first president.

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Roger Harris to Receive First Treasure Hunterdon Award



The Hunterdon Land Trust is pleased to announce that the recipient of its first-ever Treasure Hunterdon award is Roger Harris, HLT's first president and a founding member.

Harris will be honored during our 20th anniversary celebration at our Farm to Table Gala on Sunday, Oct. 9 at the Beaver Brook Country Club in Annandale. Harris is being recognized for his steadfast support and many years of leadership and volunteerism.

"We hope everyone will come out to celebrate Roger's accomplishments," said Patricia Ruby, HLT's executive director.

The Treasure Hunterdon Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to protecting and caring for the natural and cultural treasures that define and contribute to the high quality of life in Hunterdon County.

To join us at the dinner, contact Christine Dimas at Christine@hunterdonlandtrust.org or 908-237-4582. You can also purchase tickets online securely at www.hunterdonlandtrust.org.



HLT's first preservation: The Dondero Farm.